





# Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Mike Roden BSc NPQH

Welcome to the Chronicle for the 2012–13 academic year at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. It has been another hectic and successful year in which the boys have continued to take full advantage of the breadth and quality of the education provided by the dedicated and caring teaching and support staff. Perhaps the highlight of the year for me was the second 'House Festival' which took place on Wednesday 3 October 2012. This was a day in which all involved (boys, staff and parents) came together to celebrate the one hundred and fifth year of our wonderful House System. Many thanks to Mark Duncan for the tremendous effort and organisational skills he demonstrated to allow all members of our community to enjoy this unique event (no boys, we can't have one every year ...).

At Camp Hill Boys we are proud of the achievements of all of our students. The examination results in August were, once again, amongst the best of any school in the Midlands and the north of England although, at GCSE, we were once again affected by the on-going inconsistency of the national assessment system.

The Year 11 achieved another excellent set of GCSE results. 82% of all GCSE's were at A\*/A grades and a staggering 52.2% were at A\* grade. Three students achieved 10 straight A\* grades, and nine achieved 9 A\* grades. 34 out of a year group of 93 achieved straight A\*/A grades. 86 students in the year group achieved at least 5A\*/A grades (84 in 2012, 90 in 2011, 87 in 2010 and 84 in 2009). These results meant that the school was prominent, once again, by being ranked sixth place for %A\* and elev-

enth for %A\*/A for state schools (published by *The Times* newspaper). We expect these results to improve following the remarking of English Literature and re-moderation of Resistant Materials!

At A Level, it has been, in fact, a record breaking year. 35.2% of all entries (excluding General Studies) were passed at A\* grade and 93.6% A\*/B. Some 76 pupils achieved at least one A\* grade. 12 students achieved three A\* grades, 9 achieved 4A\* grades, 4 achieved 5A\* grades and one student, an astonishing 5A\* grades and 1 A grade. 69 boys achieved straight A\*/A grades at A Level, 107 boys achieved at least ABB grades (excluding General Studies). The %A\* result placed the school second in the national league tables for state schools (published by *The Times* newspaper). Thirteen students achieved entry into Oxford and Cambridge. 93 students achieved entry into their first choice university and 7 into their second choice university. 84% of students will be going on to attend Russell Group Universities.

Our Graduate Trainee Programme Students, Klaudia Schwenk and Scott Evans both successfully completed their course. At the end of the summer term we said farewell to seven members of staff, Julie Jackson, Rebekah Lockyer, Richard Surr, Teresa Mpofu, Jayne Williams, Terry Law and Alistair Bulloch. Their contributions to the life of the school are recognised later in the magazine.

I would like to finish by thanking Nathan Hill and Daniel Wilkins for their endeavours in ensuring the successful production of what I'm confident will be another impressive chronicle of school life.

■ **Mike Roden**, Headmaster

# Editorial

Since joining Camp Hill Boys in September of this year I have been struck by the range of activities the boys are involved in. Much is (rightly) made of the school's outstanding exam results, its excellent reputation and rigorous academic standards. But the reason the school is so important to current students and old boys alike is the variety of experiences on offer. This, of course, could not be sustained without the application and commitment of the boys, who are interested and interesting in equal measure, and the dedication and hard work of the school's leadership group and staff.

So, first, I thank the boys who have contributed to this publication for their work. Their reports on sporting achievements, school activities, trips domestic and foreign, and their manifold extra-curricular interests provide the best advertisement imaginable for the school. Thanks are also due to the members of staff who have encouraged and cajoled the students to put pens to paper and fingertips to keypads, while also giving up their own time to write articles, compile photographs and advise on layout. Their help and support have been invaluable.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's Chronicle, which I think goes some way towards capturing the vitality and enthusiasm of the characters that bring life to King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. And I hope that I have gone some way towards filling the shoes of my predecessor, Bex Lockyer, whose hard work on previous editions of the Chronicle has set a high standard to live up to.

■ **Daniel Wilkins**, *Editor*

## Acknowledgement

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# The Chronicle 2013

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# Leavers

## Alistair Bulloch 1974–2013



At the end of the summer term the school lost someone who is, and has been, for thirty nine years an outstanding classroom practitioner. I can quote Mike Southworth, his mentor, colleague and great friend who wrote once, “his A Level History teaching has been simply inspirational to generations of Sixth Formers”. They, along with the redoubtable Rachel Turner and latterly with Giles Hill, have built and maintained a popular and highly successful department. The numbers taking GCSE and A Level History, and then moving on to university, are quite staggering considering the pressures felt by boys and their parents to follow the STEM carpet to success...

In spite of the many and increasing pressures on his time over the years, Alistair has always maintained his commitment to his teaching. His love of his subject is clear in the way he ‘brainwashes’, sorry, ‘inspires’ his students. They have responded with relish to his obvious command of his subject and enthusiasm for teaching it.

I completed Alistair’s final performance development review in July. At the conclusion of the meeting Alistair said to me how much he had enjoyed working at Camp Hill Boys, and how thankful he was to my predecessors for, as he put it, ‘looking after him’. Well I have to say right away that although I’m sure some were acting philanthropically, I doubt that was the main reason why he has, on a number of occasions, been offered a series of increasingly key roles in school. From Housemaster, to Head of Department, the first Head of Middle School, Head of Sixth Form and, since 2007, Deputy

Head Pastoral. Quite simply, my predecessors recognised the personal qualities of a sharp intellect, fierce loyalty, unrivalled capacity for hard work, the ability to simply ‘get things done’ along with a total commitment to his old school.

He has built a strong and loyal pastoral team of Form Tutors and Heads of Year/Section who are well placed to maintain the momentum generated by AJB’s leadership. As he retires at the end of this academic year, he should know that not only has he made a long lasting contribution to the on-going success of this outstanding school, he has the respect and admiration of his colleagues, the students and the parent body for the level of care and dedication he has demonstrated throughout his distinguished 39 year career at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

However, I am led to believe by a source I cannot reveal (KGP) that his pastoral work didn’t always match the highest standards of care and judgement we all have learned to recognise and expect today. One of his first acts as the new Head of Middle School was to ‘metaphorically’ tear a strip off one of his charges. We can imagine the scene where, despite Alistair’s kind and supportive manner, being always aware of the fragile self-esteem of our Year 10’s, he forgot all of that rubbish and simply let rip about the state of this young man’s dress. Well, of course, the boy in question went home and ‘squealed’ to his mum. Mum was one of those rare parents at Camp Hill Boys (present company excepted of course) who wasn’t going to sit back and take this. Next morning she got on the telephone to Alistair and tried to ‘give him what for’ as it were. Now Alistair, as you many know, doesn’t take such abuse kindly; after what seemed like an age listening intently (or otherwise) to this lady, Alistair cut in and uttered what I believe should be recognised as one of the great pastoral sayings Alistair said (allegedly) “Does stupidity run in the family”?

He is one of the few people I have seen who can engender both fear and genuine affection in the boys. Generations of students have benefited from his wisdom, kindness and experience. His greatest strength I feel as a pastoral leader has been his commitment to be the advocate of the student body. Whilst he is still frustrated at the lack of progress that has been made by the School Council for instance, his work on their behalf has simply been staggering. He has delivered many interesting and well prepared assemblies on a variety of themes. I could not let the occasion of his retirement go by without recounting the look of horror and fear as his Year 8 form were made to stand and recite the ‘Ode to Haggis’ in a memorable gathering earlier this year. On top of this cultural indoctrination which almost matches Alex Salmond’s waving of the Scottish Saltire at Wimbledon recently, has been his recounting, every Monday morning from September to May of

the fortunes (or otherwise) of his beloved Dunbar Town. This settlement, a jewel of the far, far, north of our islands is recognised by the boys in Year 7 for its importance. When asked in the recent Geography examination to name a settlement in Scotland (I think they were meant to write Glasgow or Edinburgh, those relatively inconsequential hamlets), of course the most popular default answer was, you guessed it, Dunbar!

At his very core is a belief in the importance of consistency and fairness. Through his various roles and especially latterly as Head of Sixth form and Pastoral Deputy, Alistair has displayed his ‘tremendous generosity of spirit’ by giving his time endlessly to support and improve the life chances of literally thousands of our students. His calmness in a crisis has been particularly invaluable to me. Not only for the crises caused by me, but also, for the ones down to others. He has also been, I know, an important and highly respected member of the Senior Leadership team. He has given of his time to the staff freely and without favour. I admire his ability and willingness to listen sympathetically, to be a good shoulder to cry on, or a person to whom staff can vent their spleen, anger or frustration and be treated with the same degree of equanimity.

I am also indebted, amazed and thankful for the tremendous range and quality of Alistair’s contribution to this school. Alistair has been a keen supporter of school sport, coaching rugby, cricket and football over the years. He has also accompanied many, many extra-curricular trips and visits. He has accompanied Mike and others on many pilgrimages to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium. He has also, of course, on the occasions where the bunch of naive so called ‘actors’ have inflicted their lack of talent on audiences over the years, played the slightly typecast ginger-haired, aggressive and kilted Scotsman. All of those involved know what fun those productions are for those taking part – the audiences are very much incidental to the evening of drinking, dancing and shouting.

Alistair was also a teacher governor for twelve years where he represented the interests of his colleagues with care and conviction. In the last five years he has done a fantastic job as Chair of the Pastoral Board, Health and Safety Committee and, has been instrumental in developing the role and function of the Governors’ Pupil Liaison Committee.

He was instrumental in the setting up of the Year 8 residential week. This took place for approximately 10 years at Bockleton in Worcestershire and then for the last twenty years in north Wales. It is Alistair we have to thank for the many happy times spent at the Pontin’s Camp in sunny Prestatyn.

As well as taking on a variety of new roles in school, Alistair has never been one to shirk a challenge beyond the confines of the site. His



doughty spirit was tested in his first couple of school ski trips he attended. One of my favourite memories however, was on one of the first days he left the safety of the ski lessons to take to the slopes with the staff group. I was very thankful for this because it meant that the skiing we did was more leisurely – Alistair never let me down (unlike Mr Holland this year who, finding it hard going, took the opportunity to have a half day's rest and thus leave me to the mercy, and there wasn't any shown, of Messrs Bruten, Cookson, Downing, Hardy and Nash).

Well this lovely, cold and icy morning we were making our day down the mountain and after cresting a little ridge we noticed we'd lost Alistair. So we moved to the side and lined up neatly. A little time passed, we were almost on the point of starting to think about getting concerned about Alistair. Then we heard him long before we could see him. With a mixture of fear in his eyes and issuing various expletives, Alistair appeared over the ridge like a bullet. He was heading straight down the slope in a snow plough position. We, of course, burst out into fits of laughter before we realised he was starting to veer our way. It was every man for himself as we tried to avoid being hit by the 14 stone (??) runaway Alistair Tomba. The next thing I remember he shot passed me heading down the slope as it got steeper and steeper and more icy. I honestly thought he was going to die and feared for any potential victims below us. But then the gods of Dunbar clearly shone down on their favourite son. Quite remarkably, Alistair managed to turn almost at right angles and came to rest in the snow piled up at the edge of the piste. He survived but it took a long time for his heart rate to calm down and our laughter to diminish.

Alistair Bulloch is someone of 'formidable authority' but, at heart, a 'deeply kind man'. He began his comment on his performance development review by saying 'I will look back at my career with pride'. Well Alistair, we all look at your career with pride, admiration and thanks. We all recognise that we have had the good fortune to have spent time teaching alongside this modest, talented and highly respected school master. I am proud to have served with you and to regard you as a trusted friend. We and the Camp Hill Community around the world owe you a great deal – a debt that can never be paid. As you know, I always say that the value of a quality education is what difference you make to the people around you. The school gave you a great start, you have repaid its investment many times.

We all wish you and Gail a much deserved, long and happy retirement – keep the PMA 'positive mental attitude' going and stay in touch with your many friends here at CHB.

■ **M.R.**

## Terry Law 1975–2013



**T**erry joined the school in 1975 as a Teacher of Chemistry and Biology becoming a full time Chemistry teacher later on.

I always referred to Terry as TJL and recently decided that I should discover what TJL really stands for. After comprehensive research, or should that be grammar school research, I found the answer. A TJL is in fact an open web truss – not a support device to prevent hernias but a rigid framework designed to support a structure. Clearly I have been correct in calling Terry TJL all these years as he has supported the department and school tirelessly and functions well under stress.

As a Chemist I always likened people to the element that they most closely represent. However, TJL has presented me with a dilemma. I was minded to think of boron, but I think on reflection that he is more like carbon – to many people's minds, grey and dull. But of course carbon takes many forms; as a diamond it is precious and strong; as graphite it is multi-layered; and as buckminsterfullerene it is... rounded!

To me this is what makes TJL special. He, like carbon, has taken on many forms, and wore many hats during his time at Camp Hill. He embraced the roles of head of specialisms, special school coordinator and most recently director of specialism. In fact you could say TJL was quite a special person. Indeed he does not just have a PGCE, he has a PGCCE. He has written books and won awards for his careers education, and many students have benefited from his expertise.

I know that I will greatly miss Terry's help in deciphering the latest round of educational acronyms and his cheery and supportive nature, as well as his huge bank of chemical knowledge. The Prep Room staff are already concerned by the more important issues, such as who will buy the tea and are we still invited to the free lunches. It is therefore a great pleasure to wish Terry a fond farewell as he enters retirement.

■ **A.J.T.**

## Jane Williams 1993–2013

**J**ayne Williams retired at the end of the summer term after 20 years' service to the school. I learned that it was Terry Law we have to thank for Jayne's appointment to Camp Hill Boys. Her first position was as an administrator for the TVEI project.

A loyal and dedicated member of staff, Jayne has been a strong supporter of school life – she has attended prizegivings, presentation evenings, music concerts and drama productions. She has also been on the school entrance exam invigilation team on a large number of occasions. As the School Account's Clerk, Jayne has held the key responsibility for the day to day finances of the school and has undertaken her duties with care and precision. The school has, as a result of the quality of Jayne's work, always been successful in the annual audit processes.

Over her twenty years Jayne has seen her role and the school change significantly. She has seen off three Headmasters and two Office Managers! The advent of technology has meant that Jayne has had to get to grips with different financial management software, Parent Pay and deal with an ever increasing number of budget heading and school bank accounts. We all know how much our extra-



Jane Williams pictured on left

curricular trips and visits programme are valued by the boys. I know how much effort and care the teaching staff put into these. Jayne has been an important component in ensuring the trips take place, collecting and monitoring the payments, getting the foreign currency and then dealing with invoices. Her kind, reliable and well organised nature and her sense of humour have been needed at times to deal with the inevitable issues which arise. Since 1993 Jayne has been a cornerstone of our fantastic team of support staff who do so much, so calmly and efficiently to allow this amazingly busy school to operate smoothly. Thanks for everything you have done on our behalf.

We would like to wish you and Ian a hugely deserved long and happy retirement.

■ **M.R.**

## Teresa Mpofu 2000–2013



Although Teresa is a Coventry lass and is now firmly based there again, she can hardly be called a stay-at-home type. Between Coventry and Coventry she's lived in Leeds, East Sussex, York and Zimbabwe, collecting a number of souvenirs en route: a degree in Medical Microbiology from Leeds, a year's experience working as a volunteer worker at a respite home for disabled and elderly people from East Sussex and a PGCE from York.

She went to Zimbabwe for 2½ years with VSO teaching biology and science at secondary level, with a bit of community first aid thrown in for luck. Biology, First Aid and luck were fairly crucial as she had to cope with toilets that were

little more than pit latrines, no running water, no electricity, no textbooks and classes of 60 taught under the trees for shade. It's a shame she's leaving us now, just when the Government seems to want precisely those experiences for this country's schoolchildren too. Teresa's Zimbabwean souvenirs were a husband and an unusual surname. Actually, Teresa comes from indomitable stock: her mother had to organise a wedding for her daughter to a man she'd never met and her brother had to be best man to a man he'd never met. And then Teresa and husband Will returned to Zimbabwe for her to complete her VSO term.

Returning to the UK, Teresa did a couple of terms of supply work to complete the school year before starting at Camp Hill Boys in September 2000. In other words, this school has been her only permanent teaching job, so taking up a new post at Lawrence Sheriff School must be quite an intimidating prospect.

Teresa's work here has been superb. With Pete Stainton as her boss for 6 years, she couldn't but learn her trade well. She was an obvious successor on his departure. When Teresa took over the department, the only enrichment on offer was the Biology Club – which she ran. Now there is the Nature Club, the Allotment Club, there are Masterclasses, there's an annual visit from the Animal Man, there's a Brain Day and the boys take part in the Biology Challenge. Indeed, it was in connection with the Allotment Club that Teresa sent out her most famous notice. She wanted to tell the boys where and when to meet and to bring their gum boots. The boys were somewhat surprised to receive a typewritten notice telling them where and when and then giving

the advice, 'Don't forget your willies.'

Teresa is going to a tough job, but then she's never been seen as anything other than strong and firm, as well as dedicated and caring. In the prep. room she's known to be clear about what is and is not right and proper, and woe betide anyone, man or boy, who behaves unacceptably. Joe White said the only reason he took the job of Head of Physics was that if the post went to an outsider he might end up with a boss as scary as Teresa. Some might say that would have been no bad thing. (He has since shown a willingness to relinquish the post to Steve Tucker.) Teresa always suggests this fastidiousness may be a bit extreme – but many have valued her ability to weigh up information, come to a clear conclusion and express a view or concern unequivocally. Is it any wonder that those who work for Teresa learn their roles well and soon become able to step up to greater responsibility? Debbie White, for example, has now been promoted within the school, Alistair Dawson went on to be Head of Department at another place; and now Steve Holland will take on the role of Head of Department when Teresa goes.

Teresa's rapport with the boys is wonderful. The boys never have a problem with a teacher who stands no nonsense when they also have the fairness, consistency, commitment and care that Teresa demonstrates. The boys know a good teacher when they see one and so they will be very sad to say goodbye to Teresa. As will the staff. And so we wish you well, Teresa. May you find your niche in Lawrence Sheriff School. Do come and see us when you can, if only to keep Joe White in check.

■ M.J.G.

## Richard Surr 2008–2013



Born in Dewsbury in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1955, Richard is a well-travelled man. Like all Yorkshire men, he has never entirely lost touch with his roots and although he now resides in Redditch he still follows Huddersfield Town FC and that will remain an albatross around his neck in retirement, along with his season ticket for Worcester Rugby (for which I am partly to blame).

Educated at Batley Boys Grammar, Liverpool Polytechnic, and a PGCE at Leeds University, he first taught at Moulton School in Northampton, then All Saints RC High School in Dukinfield, Tameside. Teaching could not suppress the traveller in him though and he left the profession to join the Royal Air Force where he served as a training and education officer at RAF Lossiemouth (Scotland), RAF Mount Pleasant (Falkland Islands), RAF Gatow (Berlin), RAF Rheindahlen (Germany), RAF North Luffenham, RAF Innsworth, RAF Lyneham, and the Defence School of Languages in Beaconsfield.

The teaching bug had not left him however and he returned to the classroom and was signed on a free transfer by Camp Hill from Warwick School in 2008. Richard managed to pack a lot in to his five years with us. His main role was as Head of Modern Languages. To support and develop the boys' learning he led trips to Germany for exchanges, work experience and VDI engineering conferences. He built upon the excellent work of his predecessor in furthering our links with Schule am Ried School in Frankfurt. Many boys have enjoyed trips to Frankfurt in the last five years and we have duly hosted their visits to Birmingham.

Richard enjoys a number of sports and his love for them saw him devote much of his free time to supporting the PE and Games programme. He enjoyed a successful tenure as coach of the U14 Rugby side, picking up Camp Hill's equivalent of an Oscar, the prestigious Rugby Team of the Year award. He accompanied the Junior Tours to Carlisle and proved

great company in regaling us with his more senior, advanced years of experience! A regular early morning swimmer in the school pool, Richard ran a senior water polo club to satisfy the demand of school swimmers.

In 2010 Richard was appointed as Beaufort House Master and they duly won the Championship in his first year, setting a number of

points records in the process. Always enthusiastic, organised and encouraging, he ensured a great number of Beaufort boys took part in events and enjoyed doing so. He was also a great help with the House Festival in 2012. A strong supporter of the House system, Richard rarely missed seeing his charges taking part and was keen to ensure fair play in all competi-

tion. He leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

A life of relaxed retirement beckons with his wife Isobel and (grown up) children David and Katy. We wish them all well.

■ **M.W.D.**

## Rebekah Lockyer 2008–2013



**B**ex joined Camp Hill in April 2008, replacing Meiros Richardson, who had moved back to her home town of Swansea. In what was a very new look English Department, she went on to make a very big impression...

Having worked previously at Solihull School as an English and Theatre Studies teacher and at Wolverhampton Grammar as a Music teacher, it wasn't long before we tapped into this experience at Camp Hill. As such, Bex was immediately put in charge of Junior Drama, as well as contributing to countless other departmental extra-curricular activities. With her dedication to enriching the lives of so many children, it hardly came as a surprise when she was made English co-ordinator for Humanities, and therefore officially in charge of the department's extra-curricular programme, amongst other things.

In the five years she stayed at Camp Hill, Bex directed five junior drama productions, including Camp Hill's first Junior Drama Musical, *Bugsy Malone* (my personal favourite). In addition to these, she also produced *Teechers*, *Not About Heroes* and *A Winter's Tale* for the RSC Schools' Festival, involving more senior students. It would be a lie to say that these were stress-free experiences, with very few members of staff remaining 'unscathed' during the countless rehearsals that she engaged

in over the years. However, no matter how demanding the means, they were always justified by the ends, which were often spectacular. Bex is a truly gifted director, and wrung every last drop of acting talent out of every cast she worked with.

Despite drama being Bex's ultimate passion, she worked tirelessly for the department in many other activities. She oversaw, along with Simon Palmer, the Junior Poetry and Music Concert, ran countless trips and competitions, and most pertinently for this article, of course was editor of *The Chronicle* from 2009 to 2012. In true Bex fashion, her approach was rather different than mine, but again the end results were still stunning; if you've got them, look over these past issues to remind yourself. Trust me, that kind of quality takes an awful lot of hard work, and her efforts should not be underestimated.

After all this, it should not be forgotten that Bex was primarily employed as an English teacher, of course. Her stage-like classroom setup (Bex centre-stage, obviously) and flamboyant teaching style were true to her theatrical roots, but her English teaching was far from tragic (sorry). Her subject knowledge was second to none, and her love of literature shone through to every class she taught. Students

loved her lessons and duly paid her back with superb results.

Bex leads a busy, indeed some would say hectic, lifestyle. When she first started teaching at Camp Hill, she was doing a postgraduate in piano performance at the Birmingham Conservatoire in her spare time. She was an active member of the Crescent Theatre from 2005 to 2011, before deciding that doing an MPhil in Literature and Modernity at Birmingham University would be a good idea. Despite decreasing her hours at Camp Hill, there are still only twenty-four hours in a day (so I'm told), and therefore having completed her MPhil in 2013, something had to give when she decided that this should be followed by a PhD. Therefore, regrettably, she decided to resign her post at Camp Hill, so that she could undertake a PhD on the *Impact of Music on the Long Modernist Novel*, with specific reference to Dorothy Richardson and Marcel Proust (in case you were wondering).

In the annals of Camp Hill, five years is not a long time, but Bex will be remembered for many years to come. She made a real impact on the school and I wish her and her husband Pete all the best in the future.

■ **N.H.**

## Julie Jackson 2009–2013

**H**aving worked previously at Great Barr School and Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College, Julie joined Camp Hill in January 2009, initially on a maternity cover and then on a part-time permanent basis the following September.

She quickly adapted to life at Camp Hill, and threw herself into all manner of extra-curricular activities. She ran theatre trips, prepared boys for the Rotary Public Speaking Competition, National Commonwealth Competition and Junior Poetry and Music Concerts, but she is perhaps best known for her work in debating. She resurrected the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Debating clubs with help from Jason Pitt, Stephen Holland and myself, and ensured that the art of debating flourished during her time here. Many competitions were

entered, with Camp Hill firmly back on both the local and national debating circuits.

Julie proved her versatility by working in both the General Studies and RS departments during her time here. Indeed, on behalf of the RS Department, she prepared students for the Cranmer Prayer Book Society Competition and readers for the school's annual Carol Service.

It is during her time at Camp Hill that Julie met her husband, Kevin, conveniently named Jackson, so that her students need only remember she was no longer 'Miss' but 'Mrs' Jackson. Therefore, having now decided to take up an English teaching post at Highclare School, I would like to thank Julie for all her effort and wish her and Kevin all the best for the future.

■ **N.H.**



# School Activities



## Schools Aerospace Challenge 2013

From firmly in the "Niche Interests" domain of Camp Hill extra curricular activities, I present the annual update on our achievements in the Schools Aerospace Challenge.

### RAF Requirement 2013:

*"The RAF is currently equipped to carry out a wide variety of operational roles. Given the uncertainty inherent in preparing for the future, should it consider adding a seaplane or amphibian to its fleet? What could be the potential advantages of such a type and what roles or efficiency savings could it offer?"*

As challenging as ever, obscure even, to our students, with the Royal Air Force having retired its last Sunderland flying boat at RAF Selatar, Singapore in 1959. To my surprise, there was a lot of interest from our qualifying 16-18 age group, and the early classroom based planning meetings were very much a full house. Following on from our win in 2008, I am pleased to report that Camp Hill has maintained its established track record of success with two teams of three qualifying as semi finalists and travelling to attend the residential week at Cranfield University in July 2013.

This annual initiative at [http://www.aero-](http://www.aero-spacechallenge.org)



The Consolidated PB6A Catalina [above] preserved at the RAF Museum Cosford and possibly familiar to Camp Hill pupils from the annual GCSE History visit to the Cold War collection. This was one of the last Catalinas to be made in the United States in 1945, and, as a PB6A, one of the less common amphibian variants that was subsequently made available to the Royal Danish Air Force and flown operationally by them in the North Atlantic, well into the 1970s.



[spacechallenge.org](http://www.aero-spacechallenge.org) asks teams drawn from UK schools, youth groups and the Air Cadet community to respond with research based proposals to a set of RAF Requirements, whose criteria are often subject to review and later changes by the customer during the design process; in spirit, very much like an avia-



tion industry response to a real MoD Air Staff Target. It was a steep learning (and teaching) curve as we examined the evolutionary pros and cons of land and water based aviation, both civil and military, up to the present day, whilst all the time seeking to place these developments within the historical context and requirements of their times. We took a good look at the operational principles of maritime aviation as exhibited, for example, by the American Consolidated PB6 Catalina, the British BAe Nimrod and the Japanese PS1/US1 Shin Meiwa.

As I was handing over the the individual teams, the boys' attention was very much focused upon the current UK capability gaps left by recent reductions overnment spending defence cuts and the potential offered to the Royal Air Force by developing new technologies such as Unmanned Air Vehicles and evolving proven technologies as exemplified by the current family of Russian flying

boats such as the Beriev 200. This current commercial proposal seemed to find favour with all three Camp Hill team entries, and was acknowledged by the competition organisers, with two of the entries going forward as semi finalists. The same idea was proposed some days after the competition closing date by a correspondent to the letters page of the *Daily Telegraph* (where else?) who was making the case for a small RAF lease or purchase of Beriev aircraft to plug the still unfilled gap in UK Long Range Maritime Patrol and Search and Rescue that was created by the Strategic Defence Review cancellation of Nimrod MRA4. Our ideas seemed to be part of a wider held belief.

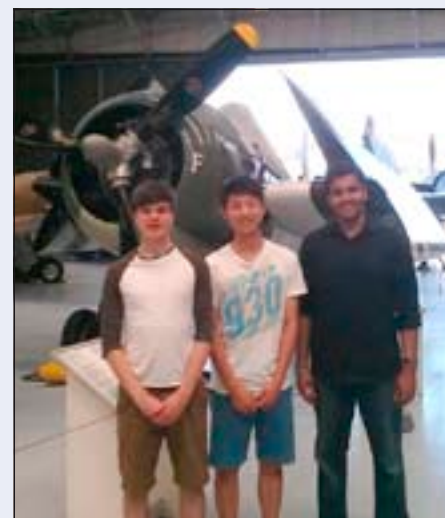
For our two semi finalist teams: Luca Novavic, Harris Sheikh, Thomas Chalklen and Jaskaran Rajput,

Charlie Song and Hal Smart, the Schools Aerospace Challenge 2013 was indeed a challenge; one involving an understanding

of history, technology, politics and economics.

**Thomas Chalklen, L6 —**

"The Schools Aerospace Challenge, although challenging was none the less fun, as the group all kept each other in high spirits. The activities of the week also provided some entertainment, with a competitive edge emerging in the indoor sky diving, with this spirit of competition becoming positively vicious around the pool table. Everyone was impressed by the sheer array of aeroplanes in the collection of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. One of the experiences most likely to remain with us was a visit through Concorde. We also had a flight in the Jetstream aircraft, which despite causing some nausea gave a good indication of the agility of small aircraft. All in all everyone learned a deal and enjoyed themselves."



Congratulations to them and to all the boys who took part, to whatever extent, in this years thought provoking programme.

■ C.J.

## Engineering in Education Scheme Aero Engine Controls

Late last year a team of 4 inexperienced year 12s entered the world of engineering for the first time. During the course of the Engineering Education Scheme the team of Joshua Billing, Torin Elmhirst, Alex Gray and Andrew Hawkin would spend the next six months researching, designing and manufacturing a product for a real engineering firm, Aero Engine Controls. The task, to design a vertically mobile skid, seemed simple at first but it took up a lot of free time, including afternoon sessions with the mentors, who were all graduate engineers with AEC.

The initial stage of the design involved large amounts of research into the current designs: pneumatics, hydraulics, mechanical etc. and pros and cons had to be decided. From this a short-list was selected and further researched. All this research took 2 months to complete. At the end of the research we had to design the product that we would later manufacture. Due to the length of the research we were a bit rushed for the design, so we were perhaps not as precise as we could have been, which problem became later on.

After the approval of the mentors, the fun part started: manufacturing the device. The team spent 3 days at the University of Birmingham with the mentors using hi-tech machinery to produce the skid. During this time we had a chance to play with many cutting instruments, as well as welding and other mechanical skills that we could develop. The residential was really fun (and free) and we even found some time to visit the German market in the evening. As the project was rather large, the actual final product was not finished and so we would have to spend a considerable amount of time during the next year per-

fecting the skid. Due to the earlier rushing of the design we were unable to spot a large problem; the skid would not move up and down, one of the main aims for it, so we also had to correct this. The months after the residential were probably the most time consuming though, as is the case in real engineering we spent a long time evaluat-

ing and perfecting our final product and had to compile an in depth report for it. All of this may



pieces of metal and use it as it will probably just fall apart. We also were able to conduct tests on

it: load bearing (Torin and Andrew sitting on it), mobility (Torin and Andrew sitting on it whilst being pushed) and the usefulness of the lifting mechanism (you've probably guessed it)

In all the scheme was enjoyable and enlightening and there is no doubt at all that the project has vastly helped all who were on it, through either learning the skills of an engineer or solidifying the fact that they wanted to become one. To any lower years that may be

unsure whether or not to try for it, I would say definitely the time was invaluable.

■ Torin Elmhirst



seem cumbersome but it is perfect experience for how the world of engineering and manufacturing actually works, you can't just throw together

## Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

Our journey into the world of engineering began in October of last year. After a day of many team building activities to get us in the problem-solving mindset, our team of 4 (Narinder Phull, Charlie Song, Joe Maylin and Adeel Ali) met with our partner company and the two engineers we were going to work with for the following 7 months. We were tasked with the challenge of improving the method of applying identification tags to fuel pipes such that there would be no raised edges which could cause damage and cost to Eaton. This was a real issue that the company were having and our team had the potential to save the company lots of money.

After briefly discussing the idea, we got back







to school full of ideas and set up weekly meetings with our engineers, Pete and Lyndon. This was to brainstorm ideas for our product and thereby come up with the best possible solution to the problem. Needing to create a design before our university visit, we settled on the idea of using heat to make the metal tag more malleable and hence easier to press down.

We had the chance to spend time at the University of Birmingham in order to use the facilities available to manufacture our prototype. After quickly assessing each of our best skills (the deciding fac-



tor being a GCSE in Resistant Materials), we split into two: Joe and Adeel ran tests to find the optimum temperature for the tags while Charlie and Narinder set to work building the wooden frame and base. This was a great opportunity to experience the university and use their facilities.

When we returned to school, the next few months would be dedicated to finishing and evaluating our product, followed by compiling the report and presentation. We found that the idea of using heat would not work effectively and so we decided to use rollers to shape the tag

instead. Our project was to be presented during the Celebration Day to a panel of industry experts and we answered any questions they had about our product. Overall, they were all very impressed with the standard of our product as well as the quality of our presentation. We are now planning to re-visit the Eaton base in the near future and formally present our product to the engineers there.

■ **Charlie Song**

■ **Narinder Phull**

## Engineering Club

**T**he Pit crew from Engineering Club consisted of: **Year 8** — Sam Cullen, Johannes Beckett and Hamza Arshad.

**Year 9** — Henry Houlden, Joe Shotton, Lewis Evans, Mo Rajabali, Beant Thandi, Harry Wilson, Daniel Faulkner-Moss, Alex Millicheap and Themiya Siriwardhana; along with Mr Cattermole and **Year 12** — Thomas Chalklen and Anthony Featherstone.

We all began to build a go kart which would eventually compete in a competitive race. To build the go kart, we all attended sessions after school every week for an hour and a half for 10 months.

Race day came, with it came a day off school. For the final race day, we had Miss Lynn to accompany us to the racetrack at Rockingham, Corby.

The race was an endurance race, lasting for 4 hours, and the winners proceeded to the nationals. Out of 40, we came 32nd, doing the best out of all the first-timers and 4 other experienced teams who had races in previous years. Although we didn't win, we performed exceptionally for first timers, and I'm sure that next year we will do even better now that we have had experience on the race track. Of course this wouldn't have been possible for any of us without one person, so from all of the team, thanks to Mr Cattermole.

■ **Beant Thandi**





## RSC Chemistry Olympiad 2013

The 2013 Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad results highlighted the superb efforts of our students with a record haul of 36 medals, including 5 gold and 23 silver. This placed the school as one of the highest achieving in the country with only Harrow, Winchester, Westminster, St Pauls and Tonbridge gaining more gold medals.

This year's paper was particularly tough and even the Olympiad committee described the paper as challenging, with a mark of 31 out of 64 securing a gold medal.

### Certificates of participation are awarded to:

Sameer Bashir and Jamal Ud-Din Ahmed

### Bronze medals are awarded to:

Syed Ali Zakariya Ahmed, Haroon Amjad, Osama Hamid, Adeel Mughal, Sanjay Nath, Kieran Rickards, Maziya Saeed Fard and Sushanth Vayalapa.

### Silver medals are awarded to:

Ajinkya Bhalerao, Damien Carroll, Ling Cheng, Jacob Deasy, Ajay Dhunna, Joseph Dutton, Thomas Erafeji, Junaid Hanif, Jude Joseph-Gubral, Sumant Kapoor, Faheem Malik, Winston Mathew, Rowan May, Thomas Perkins,



Daniel Price, Ehsaan Qureshi, Kuran Rati, Rafe Rehman, Jordan Salmon, Laurence Scarrott, Patrick Taylor, Xincheng Wang and Talha Witten.

### Gold medals are awarded to:

Sam Childs, Oliver Hartt, Jason Pereira, James Seaward and Oliver Tonks. [Pictured above]

■ A.J.T.

## Chemistry Camps 2012

On the 13th of August my father and I embarked upon the daunting two hour car journey to the foreign land of York, as I had managed to secure myself a hard fought place on a Salter's Chemistry Camp at York University. The selection process was gruelling, and one can only speculate how Miss. Lynn managed to choose between three students for the available four places. Furthermore, I was actually really looking forward to the trip, as I was eager for my first taste of university life.

When we arrived, each of us was given a coloured badge and a booklet, containing all the vital information to ensure we get through the trip safe and sound – including a very useful map of the campus! Following a very awkward and intriguing icebreaker task, friendship groups were already being established. I had never dreamt of the trip being as socially interactive as it was, and I assure you this was a pleasant surprise; as it provided a very enjoyable break from the vast amount of chemistry that was about to commence.

We had a brief introductory talk, then all of us ventured to the labs, all prepped with our lab coats and safety glasses, eager to start learning. We began by finding the amount of copper in a copper coin, a task much more difficult than it may seem. We managed to calculate a quite astounding result of 114%! Next included a ses-

sion on 'Cold Light' and making paint! It was very interesting to see how artistic my fellow chemists were. The final session, on the last day of course, was clock and oscillation reactions, and this was a personal favourite, as it was fascinating to witness a solution go from colourless, to black, to colourless. I won't bother attempting to explain why, as it is not something I fully understand, even today!

The social aspect of the trip was great. This included having a game of pool, sit down and chat, watch a movie, and just generally mingle. And if you thought the fun stopped there, think again, the trip even included a very insightful materials lecture, which highlighted how almost everything around us is taken for granted. An

excruciatingly long and interesting quiz, an hour of sport (if you include throwing a ball in a bucket a sport, as it was one of the events) and a very frightening ghost walk. This entailed a tour of the city centre, by a very good story teller.

Sadly, on the final day, we all said our heart-rending goodbyes, exchanging phone numbers and the like, and we all went our separate ways after thanking the exceptional staff for proving a very worthwhile trip. And I would strongly recommend anybody to go on this trip, even people who don't particularly believe chemistry is their strong point, as it gives you a great insight on university life, and you'll make some new friends.

■ Ayrton Gill



## York Chemistry Camp

When I first signed up to be a part of a Salter's Chemistry Camp, my main feeling was apprehension. The idea of doing solid chemistry for three days at a university during my hard-earned summer did not seem too appealing, and I'm not ashamed to say it.

Upon arrival, it was clear to see there was a variety of different people there, from all over the country, with our love of chemistry the one thing bringing us together. After a short break it was straight to work - our first three hour session of four - fully kitted out with safety glasses, lab coats and frustratingly tight gloves! However, it was the full experience, in the university laboratories attempting challenging but manageable tasks. From determining the amount of copper in coins, to producing luminous liquids, there was something for everyone. Although, my favourite part has to be the oscillating reactions, which change colour after certain periods of time continuously, from black to colourless to black. It was a welcome insight

into what you can do outside of the syllabus.

Although some of the chemistry was difficult, their step by step guides on how to complete each one made the time fly by, as well as integrating techniques we use at school most of the time, such as titrations. I am not the strongest chemist out there and I coped, so if anyone is contemplating doing this next year, don't worry about the work - they guide you through and there are helpers around when you need them.

Aside from chemistry, there was much to do inside the university. Alongside the surprisingly nice food in the dinner and breakfast halls and the small but adequate rooms, there was some free time which we could use up in the junior common room. It really gave a feel of university life, with pool, a kitchen and TV making it a nice place to relax. However, they also laid on activities, which, although they weren't anything special, made the time trickle past all too quickly. Despite a below par session of sport, the lecture on materials engineering was very insightful, explaining some interesting points and relating them back to our

lives. However, my favourite activity was the ghost walk, a meander around the streets of York with a guide doing his very best to scare you with stories of the past. Although it may sound boring to some, the atmosphere of the moment gets you really into it - and it was a nice excuse to explore the town.

All in all, my attitude from the time of signing up was completely eradicated, with an extremely enjoyable three days over before it had begun. I had a great time and met some friends I won't forget soon. To any new year 10s who are thinking about undertaking this trip, I would definitely suggest it. It looks good on your CV and, you never know, you might enjoy it too. I would like to thank Miss Lynn for her help in introducing it to us and in organising our applications. It was a great experience and I can safely say I enjoy chemistry far more than I did before, yet the main thing is, I'm happy to tell people I went to it. That shows just how good it was for me, and could be for you.

■ Giles Moss

## Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2013

The 2013 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge was the most difficult yet with 41% of students nationally scoring less than 10/60. The paper comprised two questions, the first focusing on the synthesis and analysis of phenylbutazone, a drug recently at the centre of the horse-meat food scandal. This was followed by a question examining the oldest sample of water found on Earth.



The school fared well gaining one Roentgenium Award, three Gold, four Silver and nineteen Copper Awards. Special mention must go to Robert Walters *[pictured right]* who becomes the first pupil in the school to ever achieve a Roentgenium Award. Robert's score of 49/60 placed him in the top 0.8% in the country and earned him an invitation to the Cambridge University Year 12 Chemistry Summer School.

■ A.J.T.



### MEDALLISTS

#### Roentgenium:

Robert Walters.

#### Gold:

Ben Blayne, Thomas Chalklen and Terence Wu.

#### Silver:

Max Cheung, Ali Nathani, Hal Smart and James Walker

#### Copper:

Jamie Anderson, Alex Barwani-Rai, Gully Bates, Nic Bentley, Torin Elmhirst, Anthony Featherstone, Gurpal Hayer, Josh Lee, Victor Miller, Dan Mladenovic, Abdirahiem Muhumed, Jaskaran Rajput, Ross Rayment, Toby Saunders, Robert Smith, Charlie Song, Shaszank Srinivasan, David Watson and Nasir Zaman.

## West Midland Chemistry Teachers Association Quiz 2013

Aspiring to replicate last year's success, the Camp Hill team comprising Sam England, Gaspard Bulso, Muhammed Khan and Thomas Wemyss *[pictured on the next page]* partook in the West Midlands Chemistry Quiz.

After an expected straightforward victory in the first round against a neophyte school whose name no one can remember, the team progressed to the final stages of the competition, which was to be held at Birmingham University on the 12th of March. As it happens, a school not very far from us also advanced to the next round. Having historically kept a clean sheet against the aforementioned school, Dr Taylor was quick to make it clear that should we lose to the girls school, we would not live to see another day!

With a newfound incentive we proceeded to comfortably beat Bromsgrove School in the quarter finals. Much to our assuagement, Camp Hill Girls lost, and we instead faced Newport Girls in the semi-final. After contending for the lead, we pulled ahead due to our profound knowledge of hard water and organic chemistry. Despite knowing next to nothing about the formation of the atmosphere, we were able to secure yet another victory placing us in the final once again.

Our opponents were KES (no not the ostentatious private school we know and 'love' - who happened to be eliminated in the semi-finals) but King Edward's Stratford! We



battled strongly and formed an early lead due to our superior knowledge of radioactive decay. Upon building up this lead, it was evident that we had won before the final round had commenced! With 64 points out of a possible 70, we won by a 10 point margin to secure the trophy once more for the ninth time in eleven years. Dr Taylor ungrudgingly accepted the trophy.

On behalf of the team, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Dr Taylor for allowing us to participate in the challenge.

■ **Muhammed Khan**



## House Festival

### ...An Elementary Recipe

The House Festival allowed the Chemistry Department to show its culinary prowess with a Periodic Table made from cupcakes. All 120 elements were represented and, due to the generous donations of everyone on the day, we raised £350.

The money was donated to Team Zeemon,

a charity set up in memory of former pupil Simon Fenn who sadly passed away from pancreatic cancer earlier in the year. Simon was a pupil at the school between 1992–1999 and went on to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Newcastle.

■ **A.J.T.**

## Schools Challenge

November 2012

In spite of gaining a coveted place in the regional semi-finals in last year's Schools Challenge tournament held at KES, we were unable to proceed beyond the group stages this year. In spite of a spirited performance against Solihull School, Camp Hill A were defeated, and then went on to beat Queen Mary's B in order to finish second in the group. The B Squad were unfortunate to lose both their fixtures against KES 2 and QM 1.

The tournament was won by KES who proceeded to the national finals in the Spring Term. Special mention must go to Sulamaan Rahim who alarmed the judges with the ferocity of his buzzing and to Primo Agnello of year 8 entering this competition as a late stand-in.

■ **G.N.H.**

## Junior Schools Challenge

February 2013

It was with great hopes that two teams of year 7 and 8 students entered this year's Junior Schools Challenge for the first time. With a format similar to that of the senior quiz and many of the same opponents, we anticipated a strong performance. Although our squads were successful against Edgbaston High, their speed on the buzzer cost them dearly against Queen Mary's, Walsall thus preventing passage through to the knock out phases of the tournament. Still, there is great hope for future years with clear interest being shown by the juniors in going at least one better next time. Well done to Primo Agnello, Alex Prinz, Hassan Hassan, Shrey Bohra, Sreekar Somayajula, Safee Saleem and Victor Kimani for taking part.

■ **G.N.H.**

## Year 8 Media Day

On the 12th of July, the whole of year 8 was in for a treat. A range of activities with knowledgeable experts and happy teachers. Of course, it was Media Day! One day of pure fun (and no lessons)! However, the pressures of this day would soon get to us, and maybe a day of lessons would have kept our stress levels at a recommended level!

The six sections of media day were TV, radio, newspaper, advertising, blog and documentary. All the pupils were put into these groups, and, cometh the day, we were all ready for action! The TV group had the privilege to be working with Sameena Ali Khan, a Central News presenter, and Kester Demmar, a producer for East Midlands. The radio group were treated to be spending a day with Jim Lee, a continuity announcer for Radio 4, and the enthusiastic Mr Rogers, whose knowledge of nearly every radio station's frequency nearly made Mr Lee look like an amateur! The newspapers were led by Mrs Parmar, with blog being led by Mr Pitt, advertising by Mr Downing and Robert Janiero, a publisher for PAKT publishing, and documentary being led by Mr Tucker and Olivia Swinscoe, who teaches media studies at Birmingham University.

The main objective of the day was to familiarise ourselves with the pressure, hard work and commitment involved in the media industry. The main objectives for the TV, radio, blog and newspaper groups were to chase stories throughout the day, and produce a finished product at the end. The documentary group had started three weeks earlier, and their aim was to create a documentary about an event at school. The advertising group were tasked with creating a website about climate change.

The day started with an introduction by Mrs Parmar and then we went off to our activities. The first decision – choose a leader. Second decision – pick roles. Admin over – time for the fun to begin. The first to sniff a story would have the most successful broadcast, and the school



was invaded with eager reporters trying to make their break. Some of the main headlines included Mr Surr's departure as Beaufort house leader and the axing of the plans for the new pavilion in the light of the financial cuts affecting the school. Then, at 10:30, breaking news! A painting of Mr Roden had been stolen from the hall and there were police at the scene to give a press conference. Of course, we had our suspicions straight away as to whether it was a real crime (policemen walking away after the conference, leaving the crime scene unattended), but it still meant that there was frantic screaming of, "GET TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE!" As stories came in, they had to be edited, and break and lunch came and went, with many staying in their rooms to continue working. After lunch, the finished products were polished, and we all congregated in the hall for a Q&A session with the experts followed by the presentation of work.

The Q&A session offered us further insight into the pressure and excitement of working in the media. However, the presentation of work was what we had all been looking forward to throughout the day, and the time had arrived to show our work to the other groups.

The newspaper group went first, with their four sub-groups showing us front and inside pages from the *Camp Hill Observer* and the *Camp Hill Daily*. Then went the blog group, with their hi-tec website displaying an array of pictures alongside the multi-page articles. Next was advertising, with their websites on climate change, with topics covered such as global warming and recycling. Next up was the documentary group, presenting their three documentaries. Group A wasn't helped by the fact that one of their members deleted the edited version, but they then edited the original again hastily to deliver a documentary on: is the school too violent? The next group's documentary was about prefects, and the final one was about Mr Bulloch. This however did not go to plan, as there seemed to be music playing over the interviews. Just shows what can happen in the media... The last two groups were radio and TV. The radio broadcast had no major mishaps, with presenters Miles and Firnaaz doing a sterling job. At one point in the broadcast however, all audio cut out and we were left with the jingle to Fishface FM playing in the background. To keep the listeners interested, Mr Rogers started dancing to it until the weather came on! Last was the TV group whose members were absent from the Q&A because of frantic editing. The final product was great, however, and the weather report from George with the makeshift weather board was a highlight.

Of course, this day would not have been possible without the amazing Mrs Parmar, whose dedication was immeasurable. Thank you Mrs Parmar, it was a great day, and hopefully it will continue into the future.

■ **Primo Agnello**

## Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz – Is that your final anther?

This took place at the Great Hall at Birmingham University in late November. We entered two teams for the contest and were competing against 31 other teams from across the West Midlands, Camp Hill Alpha from Year 13, Camp Hill Beta made up of Year 12. The format was 10 rounds of 10 questions each with a Joker Round which



counted double for a maximum of 110 points. Once the teams got over the excitement of having 'The Beast' from 'The Chase' on ITV reading the questions, it was time to get on with show.

The teams easily picked off the first rounds on Literature, Geography, Science and Music leading to a score at the interval of 48 points each putting them in a joint lead. Mr Hill then queried an answer given on the part of a plant producing the pollen – Camp Hill Alpha were then awarded for their answer of anther (rather than stamen). The team cringed as it

was announced to general annoyance that they had another mark which bumped them into the lead by a solitary point. It was at this point that a member of staff from another school blurted out "sad losers" within earshot of the assembled Camp Hill Alpha team. How little she knows of a team containing the Head Boy, captain of the rugby team, director of the School Play, prize winning champion of his local community, a future Historian with an equivalent of 16 A\*s at GCSE... and Calum Paver. Who knows some of them may even have girlfriends.

By the end of the eighth round, the momentum had shifted back to the Camp Hill Beta team with a one-point advantage over the Alphas but sharing the lead with Bishop Vesey. It would all rest on the last two rounds: Sport and 2012. Here the Betas fell apart, dropping 4 points overall while the Alphas gained full marks. With the opposition from other schools falling away, it ended with a Camp Hill one-two. Congratulations to the runners-up in Camp Hill Beta with 99 points: Andrew

Hawkin, Robert Walters, Josh Lee, Fraser West, Alex Grey and Radu Thomas and to Camp Hill Alpha with 102 points (missing 8 points in the whole competition): Sanjay Nath, Jack Lea, Patrick Pritty, Jack Yates, Loughlan O'Doherty and captain, Calum Paver.

It was a great privilege to welcome the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, the organiser and sponsor of the event to Camp Hill Boys in April to present the signed certificates to the runners-up and the winning team.

■ **G.N.H.**

## Michael Grant – came and then was 'Gone'

On the 23rd April 2012, Year 8 and Year 10 students at Camp Hill were lucky enough to welcome famous American author Michael Grant into school.

Michael is, as most teenage readers will know, the successful author of a series of books beginning with the title: 'Gone'. This novel tells the story of a world where anyone over the age of 15 has disappeared, leaving the young people to fend for themselves. This nightmarish scenario is realistically created through horrific descriptions of abandoned babies, wounded teenagers and tribal warfare, and is further spiced up by the fact that many of the children have paranormal powers.

Despite the horrific nature of his novels, Michael Grant proved to be interesting and

entertaining and refreshingly realistic. Coming from a poor background, he described to his audience how he was, at one point, even living on the streets.

His talk was down to earth, describing his approach to writing – he works with his wife and can write a book in roughly three months! And it was heartening to hear that after difficult beginnings he is now able to write in a shoreline apartment in the sunshine.

■ **J.L.P.**

## Bali Rai Visit

On Wednesday the 3rd of July 2013, Bali Rai, a popular author from Leicester, visited King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys. Bali Rai was born in 1971 and raised as a working class Punjabi. He grew up in a deprived area of Leicester, a city which is almost unique in terms of cultural mix and his style of writing is firmly grounded in the reality that he has seen around him since he was a child. The senior school he attended was about 80% ethnic – 20% white children in terms of the ethnic mix.

He spoke to Years 8, 9 and 10 about many things, not just his books. Rai spoke about his views on the issues behind many of his books,

for example modern day racism and prejudice. During the talk he told the pupils about his personal experiences that caused him to write about these subjects, for example about the many people he knew that had been targeted by racism and prejudice. For example he told a story about his father who had been attacked by a graffiti artist, who had been extremely racist to him when he moved to a local area. It is fair to say that he told us about things that could happen to anyone and was a powerful and moving speaker.

In addition he also read and explained the reasoning behind his book "The Revenge of The Number Two". The novel takes a comic approach to the topic of bullying and his description was so effective that most of the

pupils listening laughed at the incidents he described, while realizing the harsh effect of bullying.

An effective speaker, he was able to discuss serious issues, while also creating a relaxed atmosphere, thus entertaining his audience. He also connected with us by using vocabulary or jokes which were quite funny or rude. He was not patronizing like many other authors on other visits, but he instead treated his audience like mature men.

I, and many other pupils, have said that it was great to meet Bali Rai and to listen to his talk on the issues on modern day life. Overall it was a very good experience.

■ **Bahawal Ali**

## Celebration of the Arts 2013

In the summer of 2013 Camp Hill Boys heralded the opening of a new event *Celebration of the Arts*. This event aims to celebrate the hard work and above all the creativity that goes on here at Camp Hill Boys. Work was on display from a number of departments including Art, English, Religious Studies, technology and Music.

Students work so hard in school in all of their subjects and demonstrate creativity in many ways. Some subjects offer this in spades and sharing this creativity seemed like the logical step to

take in showing off exactly what we do.

**For the evening we had:**

- ◆ Exhibitions from A-Level, GCSE and Key stage 3 students in Art
- ◆ Work from GCSE and A-Level Design Technology Projects
- ◆ Electric Car project designed and raced by students in school
- ◆ Readings, poetry and performances from the English department
- ◆ Performances and ensembles from the Music department
- ◆ A 'think while you drink' Philosophy Café from the Religious Studies department

Parents, children, staff and students alike all got stuck into the activities and refreshments on offer throughout the evening. Some staff even had their photo taken with odd props from performances held over the years, and many visitors took up the task of creating a drawing with salt on the Art room floor!

With our first Celebration of the Arts event under our belt, it's time to start thinking about next year and what creativity and original works we will have to showcase... so keep an eye out for dates next summer 2014!

■ **R.P.**





# Domestic Trips

## Conway 2013

**O**n the 10th of June 2013, 93 intrepid boys accompanied by 12 staff set out on the highly renowned Year 8 adventure. This journey began with a three hour coach ride to the Conway Centre in Anglesey. During which many passengers enjoyed talking loudly, playing games or reading books. The boys at one point had to speak to the Staff as they were disturbing the preferred teenage pastime of 'sleeping'.

The wonderful coach ride was brought to an unexpected halt in the vast mountains of Cwm Idwyll. Where we were told that lunch was just up the hill. What we weren't told about was the 30 minute march to the freezing lake over rocky terrain before we could eat. At last our lunch was eaten; digestion was aided by an over-excited lecture by Mr Jackson the Geography teacher.

After our lunch we trekked down the path enthusiastically, eager not to be caught up in another lecture. At the end of the rocky terrain came something we were more familiar with, a pavement. This we ran across and took to our seats happily. The remaining journey to our destination was very short and the Conway Centre came into view at around 3:00 pm.

The Centre Staff greeted us pleasantly and helped some of us with our heavy bags. Soon after we were officially welcomed and given a tour of the vast Conway building. We were soon told to go to our dormitories, which seemed an easy enough job until half of us realised that we would be dragging our suitcases up twelve flights of stairs. Whereas the others would be carrying their suitcases up a mere four flights of stairs.

After we got settled in to our dormitories we were told by Staff to begin the walk downstairs to dinner. They obviously they took into account travel times to the dining hall, which

itself could have been called an activity! We all tucked enthusiastically into our first delicious dinner of the week.

After dinner we were told that we would have to do some evening activities. We thought it would be a football game, but as we

on another walk for around half an hour but this time it was mostly on a gravel path, which was fortunate for our feet. Upon reaching Aber Falls we were split into two groups. One of which would be with Mr Jackson, who would be measuring current, depth and width of the river, exciting! Whereas the other group would be led by Mr Holland, they would be seeing which creatures live in the river. To Mr Holland's surprise one group caught a trout, which, by the way, was NOT donated to the Conway Head Chef. After both the groups had completed the activities they swapped and enjoyed the other activity. The Aber Falls trip was ended by



soon learnt we were completely incorrect as the Centre Staff informed us that there would be a range of activities from rock climbing to sailing.

We then dragged ourselves up to our dormitories, took off our sweaty clothes and ended our first exciting day at the Conway Centre. We were told that the next day would be packed full of learning, with a Biology river study and a castle tour, great fun!

The next day we were woken up at 8:00 am. After dragging ourselves out of bed, we began the day with breakfast and also the arrival of our esteemed Headmaster which many people didn't notice because of apprehensiveness about the day's activities. We set off to the historic Caernarfon Castle and the beautiful Aber Falls. Half of the year went to Aber Falls first and the others to Caernarfon Castle.

To get to Aber Falls we went by coach but unfortunately, the coach couldn't go all the way as Aber Falls is located in the middle of the countryside. So we went

Mr Roden giving a short lecture on the waterfall itself, which included many interesting facts and some audience participation.

The other group went to Caernarfon Castle and had a lot of fun. This included a very detailed tour of the castle. It was interesting to learn that it was not actually finished inside, so it was more like a circle wall. Also the castle was riddled with portcullises and arrow slits; some of which were also not finished. If you are ever near a castle with a moat, don't go swimming in it as you will meet your death in one of two ways. The trip was also included a visit to





the gift shop, where we bought lots of marvellous things for our families.

Upon going back to the Conway Centre we gorged ourselves on a fine dinner. Soon after, we participated in some evening activities, which included orienteering, sports and watching movies. The whole first two days were summed up in a short video clip, put together by Miss Lynn, which showed pictures of the pupils taking part in their activities. Afterwards, we were all soon fast asleep as a result of our tiring second day at the Conway Centre.

■ **Jordan Dialpuri**



Day three began with a usual breakfast, before setting off for the first activity. This was raft building and was very enjoyable, especially since neither group could build a raft that held together the whole time. Afterwards was kayaking, which was quite amusing, as many kayaks capsized. The activity was also fun, as there was lots of rivalry between the teachers but unfortunately, we were unable to have the pleasure of seeing them get soaked.

After lunch, we had a free afternoon, which meant we could play a range of sports. This meant around 80% per cent of us playing football, which was really entertaining, as there was rivalry between the two teachers, Mr Southall and Mr Evans. After putting one teacher on each team the students were trying to decide which one was 'hencher'. After dinner, we continued with a game of cricket, if only Mr Azam had been there, he would bowl everyone out.



Afterwards, we retired to our dorms, feeling tired after a long and packed day.

On the fourth and last full day, our first activity was sailing. This was probably more fun for me than others, as I sort of hogged the rudder for the majority of the time. This was also a laugh as one boat got stuck and the people on our boat were shouting comments like 'LOL'. The next activity was the high ropes, which was much more exciting than I had anticipated. I particularly enjoyed the zip line, because it was the only part that required no effort whatsoever. After lunch, we had time to visit the shop and another afternoon of sports activities. I also realised that the next morning I was going to leave the centre, so I felt a bit sad, as I enjoyed the experience so much.

■ **Murtaza Nomani**





# Anglesey Year 8 Residential Week

## – A Games Club First

I knew that some of the boys wanted to play Dungeon and Dragons whilst we were at the Conway Centre and, sure enough, they were all set up in the Common Room and squabbling amiably from after dinner on Day One.

It helps that I can sort of speak their language. Not much surprise there for most of the school I suppose. Level 5 Hafling Paladin Hobbit (circa. 1977) and slayer of Tsathogga the Frog



God, I'll have you know. You see, if you fiddled the reincarnation rules in A D & D, 1st edition box set straight from Gary Gygax in California, you gained all sorts of magical benefits; but the

+5 armour, vorpal blade and flying horse probably had something to do with it too. The horse could talk, by the way. Oh, and I did for Tsathogga with the vorpal blade, in his own pond, before he could summon his million followers. You needed to know that.

So, whilst the rest of Year 8 were off running around somewhere else, obviously closely supervised, I was sat listening to trolls being slaughtered with some dubious dice rolling. I was pleased to find that the complex social order of the game was still intact after so many years; low level Magic Users are still utterly useless and a subject of ridicule. I do think the game figures are wonderful though; beautiful translucent dragons.

I decided that we had to get out for some fresh air and there was something I wanted to



share with them if they were interested. I waited for a gap in the proceedings and said: *"Would you be interested in seeing a 5,500 year old burial mound; sort of like a barrow from the Lord of the Rings?"* Well, that worked.

Dr White and Mr Holland found out where we were going and came along too. Now, they're serious scientists which lends a new air of legitimacy and credibility to the Games Club brand which I am anxious to cultivate of course ...

■ C.J.

## Bryn Celli Dhu

Bryn Celli Dhu, situated some 2km from where we were staying, is an early Bronze Age chambered passage grave in the care of the National Museum of Wales. It is believed to have been built on the site of an earlier henge and it originally had a carved stone



standing within the chamber. The passage is now regarded as being aligned with the Summer Solstice.

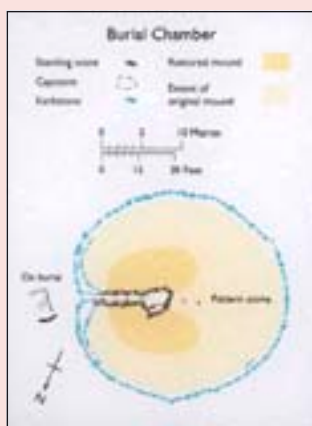
The approaches to the site are concealed by hedges and the first, sudden, sight of the monument is quite impressive. The boy's rushing, whooping excitement was tempered with a sort of uncertainty or respect. Ancient places have something about them; this one certainly did. It is possible to see all the way through the passage and, from the top of the barrow, the boys identified a small standing stone set some distance away in an alignment across the fields. Somebody had placed white pebbles and some herbs by the entrance. There was a lot of discussion going on at the site which was continued as we walked back. I knew that it had been worth asking them to come along. The Games Club has had a trip out!

We could see that Matty Blayney took up more than a few of the cues while we were there and I asked him to write his thoughts down whilst he still remembered the moment:

## The Celtic Burial Mound

I believe that there would be a village surrounding the mound, which we obviously have no evidence of due to the fact that they'd build their

houses out of wood or other materials which would not last up to this point. The people of the village would gather here and honour their religion, being



led by their Druid or High Priestess. Eventually, they would find themselves with a particularly rich or respected High Druid or Priestess. When this person died they would have enough possessions belonging to them to afford a grand burial place, like the mound, or would be respected so well by the people of the community that they would build the mound for him or her. When he or she was buried they would be left for a while to decompose. The burial mound would then remain, still used as a service for their religion.

Inside the mound we found a crack. The crack was lined perfectly so that the light would only

shine through completely on the sunrise of the Summer Solstice; the 21st of June. I believe that this was made for a man or woman in the tomb. When people die, Pagans believe that they enter a waiting area, almost, where they are either sent back to the world of the living in the form of a new body, and reincarnate, or are sent to an eternal forest called Summerland, which is their equivalent of Heaven. While the soul

was in the state between the Summerland their previous life and the new body, the crack could tell them how long they had been dead for. Every time light shone through the crack and on to the body, the Druid or Priestess would know it had been another year and like, so they could keep a



hold on to the world of the living. This could also be that they know when in the afterlife they need to honour the Great Hunter in the belief that even in the afterlife the Summer Solstice must be remembered.

We also found collections of white rocks in nest like shapes either side of the entrance, saying "Please take a quartz." These rocks were also inside on a ledge covered by Rosemary. I think that the rocks were left for a time covered by Rosemary to give life. Rosemary is known for its medicinal properties, which the Pagans could have come across. Because it cured illness, they believed that it was giving the people who were ill their lives back, and therefore it must have life within it which it passes on to people. Because of this belief they leave the stones under Rosemary so that the quartz is given life by the Rosemary and left as offerings for the visitors to the tomb as a welcoming gift. Rosemary is also associated with memory in Paganism and it could be used to pass the memory of the High Druid or Priestess on to others, maintaining his or her soul.

■ Matty Blayney



## Kenilworth Castle and Castles Competition

Once again the annual Year 7 medieval masonry jamboree has provided its fair share of memorable experiences and masterpieces. Our visit to Kenilworth proved to be rewarding for all involved. Clement weather and a low pollen count made opportunities for student learning open to all. It was also the very last outing for Mr Bulloch and his collection of outstanding history field-work anecdotes and sunhats – both to be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike.

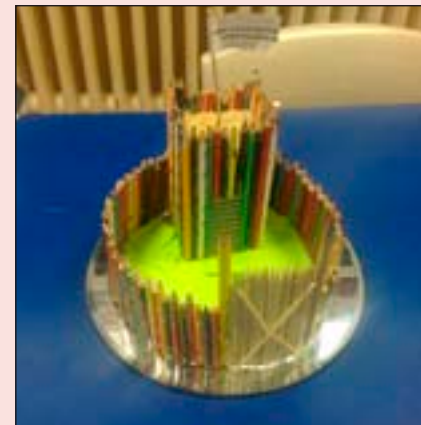
Follow-up work from the visit to Kenilworth included the iPad-based written report and the infamous castle-building project, this again exceeded expectation and the quality and the calibre of the entries was exceptionally

high. A range of motte and bailey, square keep and concentric castles was complemented by some more interesting designs such as an Italianate tower, a crusader fortress and ruins. No edible entries this time but plenty upon which the eye could feast. The winners were Dhyan Naik and Salahudeen Ayub with their imposing Castle Acocks Heath, a stronghold any medieval monarch worth his salt would be proud of. Bravo to all participants!

■ G.N.H.







## St David's Rock Climbing Trip

It was another successful year of rock climbing as a group of Year 9 and 10 boys travelled on the annual trip to St. David's, giving the boys a chance to discover, or improve, their climbing prowess. Twenty-three boys, including the seasoned hands of three sixth formers, made the long drive to South-West Wales, accompanied by the traditional staff team of Messrs Bruten, Carman, Downing, Hardy and Cookson.

Unlike last year, the weather was perfect for the climbing, and the boys were able to enjoy three days of challenging routes along the cliff faces near St. David's. The strenuous work on the cliffs was broken up with barbecues, beach rugby and trips into St. David's, to shop and watch the Lions match. As ever, under the



expert organisation of Mr Hardy, the food was plentiful, with most of the party coming back a few pounds heavier! Many of the boys also

took advantage of the culinary expertise of resident 'Toast' chef, Mr Cookson; his delicious cuisine was only matched by Carl Lawrence's discovery of the wonders of piccalilli. All the boys enjoyed the five day trip, and came back with full stomachs, aching limbs and fond memories.

■ P.A.B.



## Cold War Museum

In early February, the Year 10 GCSE Cohort paid a visit to RAF Cosford and the National Cold War Exhibition. This has become a regular part of the experience for our historians over the past few years and returning there never



ceases to amaze with the quality and range of the exhibits (especially if you like planes) and the friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Students were also treated to the new 4D cinema experience in

which they could follow a World War I dogfight, they seemed to enjoy it but I did not really get it. Again we had the privilege of meeting a veteran who had flown converted Halifax bombers into Berlin during the Airlift of 1948 and 1949, the bravery and dedication of RAF personnel in peacetime as well as war deserves our admiration and respect.

■ G.N.H.





# Foreign Trips

## The Battlefields Trip

May 2013

As the morning of the 24th May 2013 began, in a cemetery the Belgian rain was slowly falling, while Mr Bulloch lectured us on the importance of Casualty Clearing Stations. As for us, 35 bleary-eyed Year 10 students, we were wondering where we could be instead: how about the warm, dry Maths lesson that was going on at the same time, for those who weren't on the trip?

The dry, if not especially warm, coach would have to suffice. After a brief detour into Ypres, we found ourselves at the Hooze Crater Museum and the first of many cemeteries.



Although it would have been nice to go straight to the hotel, which was, let's face it, the highlight of the trip, we did go via cemetery number three (this was before we lost count), home to my most vivid memory of the trip: finding the grave which Mr Southworth and Mr Bulloch had

simply told us was "different". The significance of this gravestone was that the soldier was a mere fifteen, the same age as myself and many of our year 10 cohort.

Sited next to an industrial estate on the

outskirts of a town itself on the outskirts of Lille, the Parc Hotel at Carvin is never going to win any awards for a picturesque location. However, the inside proved to be pleasant, and the food fine. To much delight, free WiFi was soon made available.

The hotel is near few of the sites we visited, but is sited conveniently between the two main areas on the itinerary: the battles in and around Ypres to the north-east, and the bloody disaster that was the Battle of the Somme to the south. The next day, we therefore made what Google Maps informs me is a half-hour journey to the Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge.

Vimy Ridge is considered by many to be where Canada, despite having been independent since 1857, finally found its identity as a nation. The April 1917 battle was a decisive success, after the general stalemate of 1916 on the Somme. Here we were shown the extensive tunnel system constructed to move men and supplies in preparation for the attack.

Through the day we snaked upwards along the Allied front line, starting at a Canadian Memorial and ending up at another Canadian memorial: Newfoundland Park, the site of a disastrously executed attack, which destroyed the regiment so proudly recruited from the relatively small community in the then semi-independent Newfoundland. The extensive preserved battlefield was impressive.

Sunday was very similar, heading from Montauban in the south back up to the Ulster Tower memorial, where we were shown the trench systems in Thiepval Wood, and Azeem Hanjra duly modelled a British soldier's uniform. We were very lucky to receive an excellent tour



through the wood from Teddy Collingham, the extremely knowledgeable curator of the memorial; this was indeed his last tour before retirement. These trenches were the site of the attack on the very well-defended Schwaben Redoubt on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, in which there were over 5000 casualties amongst the Ulster Division.

Monday, the final full day on the Continent, was to be a whistlestop tour of the war in Belgium. The first stop was the Bayernwald Trenches near Messines, in which Hitler himself served, which were far better fortified than many of the Allied trenches. Nonetheless, they were subjected to a very successful Allied attack in 1917, which involved the firing of eighteen huge mines under the German lines. One mine did not go off and was "lost" (!) until it blew up in 1955 sending a single, lonely cow skyward.

There is only so much of this extremely busy trip that can be mentioned, but one final site that must not be omitted is the Langemark German war cemetery. Unsurprisingly, the Allies weren't too keen to hand over acres of land for the Germans to bury their dead, and the result was a cemetery containing almost 25,000 dead in a single mass grave. In comparison, the largest Allied cemetery at Tyne Cot holds only 12,000 and spans a far larger area, with no mass graves in sight. As well as the size, a real difference in the atmosphere was noticeable, because where the allied cemeteries were well tended, Langemark lacked the neatly trimmed grass and had trees growing within it which shaded the area, giving it an eerie nature.

One question remained at the end of this trip: just how many cemeteries did we visit? My notes fail me on this, but I vaguely remember







a figure of seventeen or eighteen, enough for it to become something of a running joke. To those of you in the lower years, though - this trip is about more than just cemeteries, and is a fantastic opportunity, especially as trench warfare is a staple topic for GCSE History course-work.

Finally, thanks must go to the staff who organised and led the trip (Mr Southworth, Mr Bulloch, Miss Lynn, Mrs James and Mr May), but especially the two History Department staff; they made the difference between simply wandering around fields where fighting had taken place, and actually learning something about what happened there, and why, now almost a hundred years ago.

■ **Joe Malt**

■ **Oliver Millington**



## Czech Trip 2013

On Friday 19th July 2013, about 50 boys from Years 8–10 set out on a 22 hour journey to Koren, located in the North West of the Czech Republic. The coach journey was extremely enjoyable, although we did have to pay for toilets in Europe!

Upon arrival at Koren, although all of us were tired after the long journey we sang the national anthem and the school song to the Czechs with much enthusiasm. We then set about exploring the camp where we would be staying for the next week. The facilities included a small outdoor swimming pool, a basketball court and table tennis tables. Another popular feature of the site was the “swing of death”, a very old swing which may not pass British health and safety laws, but was an exhilarating experience for pupils and teachers alike.

A highlight of the trip was the early morning clubs run by the teachers. Some, such as Mr Southall’s fitness club were very popular, although others, such as Miss Lynn’s basket weaving club were less so!

The next morning, camp based sports







began with the basketball competition and the table tennis tournament. Both competitions were exciting, not only for competitors, but for spectators as well. After lunch, the party set out on a long walk along Kosi Potok (Blackbird Brook), which runs through an area of woodland. That evening we visited a small town named Mariánské Lázně, where we saw the impressive singing fountain.

Monday was the day-trip to Karlovy Vary. This was a very hot day and firstly, we went to the geyser of the Hot Spring. From there we explored the town, which was used to shoot parts of the 2006 James Bond film Casino Royale. The discovery of the traditional Karlovy Vary wafers gave us the opportunity to buy them as perfect gifts for our families. The evening brought the much anticipated singing competition which saw many brilliant performances.

On Tuesday the basketball competition came to an end with Shaun Lewis and Alessandro Tassa winning the final. After this there was the Czech vs. UK volleyball match. In the afternoon, the whole group set out to the sports centre in Tachov. There we all participated in archery, rifle shooting, football, mini-golf and bowling. These activities were a wonderful experience on a very hot and sunny day. That night we had a disco and we were lucky enough to have a very experienced DJ. Everybody loved the disco and enjoyed the dancing.

We were forced to wake up early due to the long journey to Prague on Wednesday, although we were delayed by the police for three hours because of technical issues to do with the coach. When we did eventually arrive in Prague, we walked up to the castle taking in the views and architecture of the city.

We then walked down to Charles Bridge, which was used in the filming of Mission Impossible. From the bridge, we walked to the Old Town Square and saw the chiming of the







historic astronomical clock. We were then free to explore the streets of Prague around Wenceslas Square. The streets of Prague in this area were full of historical architecture and we were able to experience this first hand. The day was extremely exciting and was rounded off by a barbeque that night.

On Thursday we went to Plzen, which included a trip to the award winning Plzen zoo. The zoo was very big, and had a brown bear, a tiger, and a variety of other animals as well as life-sized dinosaur models. Plzen is one of the biggest cities in the Czech Republic and is well known for Pilsner beer. As a city, Plzen is very beautiful and became the European capital of culture along with the Belgian city of Mons in 2010.

One of the best parts of the trip was the ice skating in the evening. For this activity, we returned to Tachov and enjoyed the challenge of trying to skate. It came more naturally for some than others and many of us struggled, falling over on multiple occasions.

On our final day, with Mr Southall being crowned as the table tennis champion in the morning, we visited two very small towns – Horsovsy Tyn and Domazlice in the afternoon. The weather was extremely hot and many used this opportunity to buy last minute gifts



or souvenirs. We also saw parts of a rock festival in Domazlice. That night was the final farewell party and disco. This brought an end to a phenomenal trip which everyone had enjoyed.

The return journey lacked the energy of the outgoing journey, although basketball in a Belgian McDonalds was also great fun. We arrived at Camp Hill on Sunday 28th July after breakfast,

and the amazing experience was over. I'm sure no-one will forget the fantastic time that we had on the Czech trip. Finally, thank you to the



staff, the coach drivers and everyone involved in organising this truly brilliant trip.

■ **Kushal Varma**

## Work Experience In Frankfurt

27 June – 6 July 2013

Looking back, it seems only natural that we would be filled with trepidation as we boarded our plane to Frankfurt on the 27th of June. We would be spending 9 days in a foreign country with German host families, and we would be working in an alien environment. In hindsight, this anxiety seems slightly foolish. From the very moment we touched down, and met our exchange partners and their families, we were made to feel welcome.

Frankfurt is a truly beautiful city, and all our colleagues at our placements were supportive and helpful, always looking out for us, and ensuring we stayed out of trouble. Placements were varied, to say the very least. Kieran Morrow *[pictured right]* and Philip McCahill worked at the hotel Schöne Aussicht, so called for its breath-taking view of the Frankfurt skyline. Whilst we certainly wish them well in their attempts to open a similar restaurant





in Birmingham (the not-so-Schöne Aussicht), one can't help wondering how much success they will enjoy. Peter Watson spent an enjoyable week at a German primary school, and got a valuable insight into the German education system.

Abhimanyu Yadav and Zain Qayum spent the week with the German Red Cross, going all around Frankfurt helping to deliver meals to the elderly, or sorting clothes in charity shops, and generally being good samaritans. Philip Beckett [pictured right] had the longest journey to work, at the Continental automotive parts headquarters, and indeed, loved it so much that he didn't return home with us, and went on tour around Europe, making those of us unfortunate enough to still be in school very jealous. Edmund and Daunish volunteered at a German Kindergarten for the week, and were granted full access to the playground facilities, something they unashamedly took advantage of, seeming to enjoy the playground far more than the children they were looking after did. Kaif Qayum spent what was undoubtedly a

very enlightening week at a German joiner's, whilst Ayrton Gill thoroughly enjoyed an engaging week in the automotive engineering department of the Frankfurt Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences). Any work we did was followed by huge helpings of fine German cuisine, from Burger King, McDonald's, Starbucks and Tiziano's (an Italian ice cream bar). In any case, the week went by in a flash, and we were granted an astonishing degree of independence, travelling around Frankfurt as we pleased, and generally having a great time. In short, we would recommend this trip to any boys taking GCSE or AS German, as an opportunity to absorb another culture, and adapt to a foreign working environment, all whilst improving your language skills. Thus, it was with heavy hearts we bid goodbye to Frankfurt. We can only hope



that our exchange partners and work placements won't miss us too much. Special thanks must of course go to Mr Surr, as this is his last exchange trip at Camp Hill, and to Frau Thomson, both of whom worked incredibly hard to ensure that the trip was a rousing success. We wish Mr Surr all the best in his retirement, and leave the Frankfurt exchange in the more than capable hands of Frau Thomson.

■ Daunish Negargar

## Trip to France

On a quiet, early weekday morning, a group of enthusiastic, valiant and young Edwardians ventured out on an adventure of a lifetime to unknown territory, i.e. ... France. The students' bold leaders were Mrs Lockyer, Dr White, Ms Lamb, Mr Surr and the chief leader, one who knows everything about France, Mr Renault. Everyone had to sadly say goodbye to their homework and eventually say bonjour to 3 days of fun, fun and more fun!

After we loaded our luggage of varying sizes onto the coach, Mr Renault asked if we had all our "bits and bobs". He had the strenuous task of going through a class full of names that sounded like tongue-twisters and gave the signal that the coach can start. Many of us had our game consoles and iPods at the ready to make the long journey seem a bit

quicker. DVDs were being played as well, as an extra tool to entertain ourselves. We had a pretty smooth trip, occasionally stopping off at service stations for a "wee-wee break" as Mr Renault would say and buying snacks such as fries and burgers from McDonald's too. It took about nine hours in total to get to France including about half an hour to an hour in the Euro Tunnel. Everyone was becoming tired by the end of the journey, but still excited to meet their new host families, who would be taking care of them like kings in their house, or should I say palace!

In the night, we chatted with our host family, had a lovely dinner including an assortment of cheeses and had a good night's rest to get ready for the next upcoming day. On the coach, all of us were bragging about the wonderful place we were staying in and how it was better than the rest. The first location we went to was La Tour Montparnasse, the

second highest skyscraper in France. Measuring at 231 meters and having 59 floors, it only took about 30 seconds to get up there by lift. We were allowed to go up to the roof. The view from there was stunning. From that high up, a person could see a 360 degree panoramic view of the beautiful city of Paris and witness spectacular monuments all at the same time such as the Notre Dame, The Louvre and the jewel of France itself, the Eiffel Tower. Everyone went up to take many a picture and lots of key chains from the gift shop.

Once we came back to ground level, we had our lunch inside the coach briefly and went straight to the river Seine, for a boat ride called "Bateaux Mouches". From there, we could get a glimpse of the many buildings of Paris. People moved to the outer sides of the boat to get a better view of the riverside sights and to get better pictures. We went under many bridges, each one unique in its own way and chanced to





souvenirs. The next day everyone was talking about their

fabulous day with their families. The final place that we went to was the one we had all been waiting for since the beginning of the trip and that was Parc Astérix. Parc Astérix is an amusement park based on the French comic book, *The Adventures of Astérix*. As soon as you go in there, it is like a whole new world with cartoon monuments everywhere you go. There were so many breathtaking rides to go on, but the two most "must go" rides were Zeus and Oziris. Zeus is a very long roller-coaster with quite a few high bends

whereas Oziris gives the pleasure of making you go upside down and has a dramatic plummet to the ground at the start. Even the teachers joined in the fun and went along with the students on some of the rides. However, the best part of the day was when Alex Chudasama "accidentally" fell into a pond during a boat ride in the theme park. Thankfully, nothing happened to him afterwards – apart from getting wet.

After a final night's rest in France, we headed back to home. It was indeed a very enterprising trip with loads of thrill and experience which I would cherish for a long time.

■ **Navaneeth Natarajan**

see a miniature statue of liberty too reminding that it was the French who gave the real monument to the Americans. Unfortunately we were not able to see la cathédrale Notre Dame during the boat trip, but the 1 hour journey was great nevertheless.

There was still one place to go in the day and that was The Louvre, the most visited museum in the world. Credited for having the best known piece of artwork in the world, the Mona Lisa, all of us just wanted to see it and prove ourselves if this painting is really spectacular. There was such a crowd to even enter the museum let alone the crowd there would be by the time we got a glance of the Mona Lisa. The class was split into five groups so that it would be easier for the teachers to handle us in the vast crowd. As soon as we went into the room, where the spotlight painting was, there was an enormous huddle of people trying to get a closer look at the small painting. It was sort of like a competition to see who can get a decent picture of the pièce de résistance on their cameras or phones. We later also went to see the Egyptian exhibition which had some fascinating artifacts.

The next day, every person spent a whole day with their host family whether it was the family taking them to different places or just staying at home and playing with the host's children. Some of the common ones were visiting the fair or going to local markets to get

fabulous day with their families.

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## New York and Washington Trip

Following the success of the China Trip in 2011, expectations for the New York and Washington trip in October 2012 were very high. I think I speak for everybody when I say that these expectations were met and exceeded. A group of 36 students between year 11 and 13 from Camp Hill left gloomy Britain and headed for the big apple – good luck America!

It all started early on a Monday morning when a group of tired Camp Hill boys arrived at school for the long coach journey to Heathrow airport. Despite the early hours, spirits were high and the coach was loud with songs and laughter – and that was just the teachers! We arrived at Heathrow and were immediately delayed due to security asking to further question the majority of the group. Having just got through security checks we got on the plane and enjoyed the in-flight entertainment for the long journey to JFK airport. When we arrived in the airport we were again met by strenuous security and questions started to be asked. 'Why were the same people being questioned every time?'

On arrival in New York we looked like the biggest boy band ever to hit the streets of America in our matching college themed jackets with Mr 'Louis Walsh' Phipps as our manager! Unfortunately when we arrived in New York there was no time for sleep as the band manager had planned a full day of activities in the city!

After checking in at the perfectly located Hotel Pennsylvania we headed on to check out the city. With the staff for once more energetic than the boys, we were dragged around Manhattan seeing Times Square which was only a few blocks away. Having seen this iconic area in television and films, we knew what we were expecting but the lights and scale of the square still blew us away and the first of many pictures were taken, including several with Elmo, Spider-Man and *[pictured below]* a semi-naked guitarist!

Next on the agenda was a visit to the beau-



tiful Grand Central Station where we took in the unbelievable architecture. It was also the lunch stop for the day and as we were in America I had the first burger of many! Mr Phipps had also organised a visit to the UN where we were given a full tour of the building and

Gump themed entertainment and some finely cooked shrimp! So I guess that you could say the first day was quite busy... Needless to say we all slept well that night!

Breakfast in New York was typically American with a sausage muffin and doughnuts



shown the work that the UN do around the world. However, to everybody's surprise we had chosen a day to visit which coincided with the UN anniversary. So in addition to our tour we were given the pleasure of seeing Stevie Wonder rehearsing in the main Assembly Room! Whilst we had a great view of him, he couldn't see us! The evening saw us in Bubba Gump Shrimp Company enjoying some Forest







looking out over Maddison Square Gardens and the taxi-flooded street in front of it. A boat trip to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island was a real personal highlight of mine as it is something that I have always wanted to see. The same day we were also able to visit the Empire State Building and take in the incredible view from the top even though the clouds covered most of the city!

Later we were given the pleasure of visiting ground zero: the foundations of the twin towers. This was very emotional for the party and it was particularly moving to see all of the names of

those who died in the 9/11 attack written on the colossal fountains that dominate the area. Another enjoyable evening followed with a trip to Broadway to see 'The Jersey Boys' while Franki Valli, who the musical was written about, was performing just around the corner.

Sooner than you could say 'get in your groups' our time in New York was over and it was time to move to Washington but not before a quick stop in Philadelphia. Although only there for a few hours, in Philadelphia we were able to see the broken Liberty Bell and Independence Hall where both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were signed. After only a few hours in Philadelphia it was back on the road and onwards to Washington D.C.

It seemed there was no time to waste as when we arrived we were immediately taken down to see The White House at night. Although dark, we could still see the historic Presidential house in full detail and many of us were on the lookout for special agents on the roof! While in Washington there was a lot to be seen for example Capitol Hill where we were given a tour of US Congress by a man who can only be described as being the one person bet-



ter than Mr Phipps at impersonations. Despite this, we learnt a great deal about the history of the building and the people within it.

We also got the chance to look at the Arlington National Cemetery, the burial place of John F Kennedy and several of his family along with 400,000 others. Another interesting visit was the visit to Ford's theatre *[pictured previous page, lower right]* where President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth and the house he was taken to shortly afterwards to die. An

unscheduled surprise was the evening entertainment at the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where we saw Ill-abilities, a group of inspiring disabled dancers. The final activity for the trip was a visit to the Smithsonian Museum where we spent the morning looking at wonders of aviation from the Wright Brothers' original flying machine through to the Lunar Landing Module.

It was certainly a trip to remember and I am still amazed that we managed to fit so







much into the short time that we were there. Thank goodness we caught the last plane out of Washington before Hurricane Sandy struck the coast, killing many in its path. I remember sleeping for around 5 days after.

I think it must have been even more exhausting for the teachers to plan such a trip and then look after us so well while we were there. On that note I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Jackson, Mr Caves, Mr Roden and especially Mr Phipps for organising such a successful and enjoyable trip and without whom none of this would have been possible. This leaves just one question to be answered: 'will the Japan trip next October live up to the US trip's high standard?'

■ **Andy Featherstone**



## Sestriere Ski Trip 2013

A large party of boys enjoyed a fantastic week on the slopes in Sestriere, Italy. The resort hosted the skiing events for the Turin Winter Olympics so the infrastructure was brilliant. The lift pass also included the other resorts in the extensive 'Milky Way' ski area and all the groups were able to enjoy skiing in at least one of the neighbouring resorts.

As usual, the boys made superb progress and were soon being challenged by their instructors, a challenge the boys were more than happy to take up! The hotel looked after us wonderfully and the boys struck up a great rapport with the waiters and waitresses! Food was wonderful and plentiful, while the lounge area was comfortable and welcoming. We enjoyed a range of evening activities, from our quizzes to ice skating and swimming. Our 'name the pasta' round in the quiz nearly caused an international incident as the Russian receptionist disagreed with the Italian barman; I wonder who was correct! A safe and easy journey home ended another successful ski trip. Thankfully all boys and staff made it home injury free and once again the boys made it a pleasure to take them away. A huge thank you to the accompanying staff; Messrs Carman, Cookson, Downing, Hardy, Nash and Roden were joined by 'new boy' Holland this year and all played an enormous part in the success of the trip.

■ **P.A.B.**





# Maths Matters

The enthusiasm of our boys for all things mathematical never ceases to amaze us! Give them a 'puzzle' to do and they will battle away with interest not realising just how much maths they're using. It should be no surprise to us then, that they do so brilliantly in the challenges and competitions that we enter. 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 second week of November, AS level mathematicians and invited 'others', from years 10, 11 and 13, took part in the **UK Senior Maths Challenge**. This was a tough paper, testing the skills of students 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 57 bronze, 65 Silver and 34 Gold certificates. Sam Childs scored brilliantly to secure best in school while Max Cheung, Robert Walters, Robert Smith, Terence Wu and Josh Lee all scored over 100. Eight boys qualified for the follow up **British Maths Olympiad round 1**, a challenge aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country and a further seventeen made it into the Senior Kangaroo, a Europe wide competition aimed at the best school aged mathematicians from across Europe and beyond. We await details of their performance at this impressive level with interest. 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 might meet in the BMO.

The results of the **BMO1** saw Jason Pereira top score, with good solutions to three of the six very challenging questions. Congratulations also to Gulliver Bates, Max Cheung, Sam

Childs, Ben Griffin, Josh Lee, Robert Smith, Robert Walters and Terence Wu for their performances; to merely qualify is a significant achievement, so to produce competent solutions to at least one question, as these boys did, is superb.

The Senior Kangaroo is now in its third year and invites mathematicians who have missed out on qualification for the BMO. Around 1500 students take part and we had 17 participants this year. As ever our candidates performed well.

Congratulations to Ahmad Khat-tab, Fateh Singh, Giles Moss, James Seaward, Jonathan Saad, Lewis Hedges, Luka Novovic, Michael Duffy, Peter Watson and Robert McDonald, who all receive certificates of participation for their solutions to these challenging problems.

Andrew Hawkin, Muhammed Khan, Samuel England and Thomas Perkins all secured certificates of merit, placing them inside the top 300 for this competition. Andrew and Sam top scored while Muhammed's solutions were hugely impressive when considering he is from year 10!

## Intermediate

February gives the boys from Years 9 to 11 a chance to test their mettle on the **Intermediate Maths Challenge**. A good paper produced some superb performances; from 205 entries the boys secured an impressive 66 Gold certificates, 79 Silvers and 60 Bronze. Congratulations to Sam England for his 'Best in school' award; he scored a hugely impressive 123 (maximum is 135).

## Intermediate Maths Olympiad and Kangaroo

We had an impressive 24 qualifiers for the European Kangaroo, a 25 question multiple choice paper sat by two million pupils across Europe. Of these, special congratulations to Youcef Barigou, Josh Mukherjee, Goutham Sathyanarayana, Joe Malt, Sulamaan Rahim, Philip Massoud, David Johnson, Stephen Mander and Oliver Paulin for their certificates of merit, placing them in the top 500.

An amazing 12 students made it into the harder Olympiad and, once again, acquitted themselves brilliantly. 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.

Lior Saad and Arran Kingston

earned Certificates of Participation, while Certificates of Merit, indicating excellent answers to at least one question, were gained by Giles Moss, Michael Jones, Gaspard Bulso, Oscar Bocking, Jonathan Saad, Adam Titchen, Anthony Lim and Paul Gardner.

Distinctions are awarded to the top 250 candidates; two were awarded to Camp Hill students this year. Sam England received a certificate of distinction for his excellent solutions while Muhammed Khan received a certificate of distinction and a medal, indicating a placing in the top 100 nationally; both hugely impressive performances!



[Above] Both Junior Teams

## Junior

In the first half of the summer term the students in Years 7 and 8 were not to be deprived of their opportunity to succeed; 182 boys sat the **Junior Maths Challenge** this year and produced some impressive results, gaining 57 Gold certificates, 67 Silver and 39 Bronze. John Hayton produced flawless solutions to take the **Best in School** award and was one of the 8 qualifiers for the follow up **Junior Maths Olympiad**. This challenge is taken by the top 1000 (or so) of the 250000 mathematicians that sat 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. Kota Ueshima, Sam Stansfield, Rohan Sharma, Jan Rudzki and Daniel Hill were all awarded Certificates of Participation for their solutions. Robert Hillier, of Year 7, scored well on Section A and made good attempts at 4 of the 6 Section B questions to secure a Certificate of Distinction, placing him in the top



[Above] Junior Team with poster at the National Final



[Above] BMO1 Qualifiers





[Above] Senior Kangaroo Qualifiers

250 candidates. Alex Byrne, also of Year 7, produced three perfect answers in Section B with one other good attempt. This impressive performance secured a Certificate of Distinction and a Bronze medal, placing him well inside the top 100 mathematicians nationally; quite superb.

John Hayton followed his perfect JMC with the best score in the JMO too; he answered all six Section B questions, with three of them scoring full marks. This outstanding effort (carried out while at Conwy, on the Year 8 field trip) secured a Certificate of Distinction and a Silver medal, placing him as one of the best **50** mathematicians in the country: we are lucky to have such students!

## Team Challenges

### 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 Oliver Tonks, Jacob Deasy, Robert Walters and Max Cheung. Rowan May, Ben Griffin, Jason Pereira and Fateh Singh made up the B team.

They lined up against 14 other Midlands schools to answer problems over three time limited rounds; a team round consisting of 10 questions to be answered collaboratively, a Number Cross and a Relay round. Each successful solution gained points towards an overall total. A solid rather than spectacular first round put the A team in joint second, with six correct answers to the leaders seven. An excellent 56 out of 60 in the Number Cross puzzle put the A team back on track but they were still behind the pace being set by Camp Hill Girls.

Unfortunately, the boys found every trap they could in the relay round, whereas the

girls' team worked methodically and accurately through the problems. A slip in the final relay allowed the KEHS team to pass us too and so, while the boys had great fun, they ended in third place overall. The B team secured fourth.

### Wolverhampton Team Challenge

To end the term we sent a two Year 10 teams to Wolverhampton University to take part in the third Further Maths Network Year 10 Team Maths Competition. We travelled as the only team to have won the cup; would this year's team manage to keep the trophy? This year we were able to enter two teams; the A team comprised Muhammed Khan, Salamaan Rahim, Jonathan Saad and Thomas Wemyss while the B team were ably represented by Fraser Doshi Keeble, William Maclean, Joe Malt and Tom Meehan.

On arrival we discovered that there were teams from Wolverhampton Grammar and Queen Mary's Boys from Walsall as well as a number of local comprehensive schools; we

would have to be on our mettle if we were to retain the cup. The other question, of course, was would our second team beat our first team to repeat the humiliation inflicted by our B team on our A team in the Junior team challenge?

Mr Rogers ensured there would be no repeat of last year's fiasco over the 'prepared round'. Very briefly, last year's team ignored the pre-competition materials I gave them and hence struggled a little to answer questions in that round! This year, the prepared materials, on absolute value, formed the content of a top set lesson in the week before the competition!

As the competition progressed it was clear there was to be no nail-biting stuff. The first team steadily pulled ahead, round after round, to finish comfortably ahead with 140 points out of a possible 170. Twenty points behind was QM Walsall, another twenty points back, in 3rd place, came Camp Hill Boys' B team.

Congratulations to both teams. The current year 9s will now have the tough task of making it four in a row next year!

### Junior

For the third time 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 9s. As we host the event we have the privilege of entering two teams; The A team was made up Anthony Lim, Mackenzie Wells, Firnaaz Mohideen and Daniel Hill while the 'B' team contained Adam Titchen, Paul Gardner, Ryandeep Sidhu and Alex Byrne (of year 7).

The competition had the usual four rounds (Group Round, Number Cross, Mini Relay, Relay). Both our teams scored full marks in round 1, along with a couple of other schools (all from the foundation).

The number cross gave our boys the opportunity to creep ahead; the A team dropped only 2 marks (out of 60) but the Bs followed up their first round with another perfect solution!



[Above] Senior Maths 'A' Team 2013



The mini relay usually provides the stiffest test of the day, and so it proved again. Still, the B team scored full marks on the first two relays before their first mistakes of the day cost them 4 and 2 marks respectively on the final pair of relays, giving them 54 out of 60 for this round. The As lost 4 marks on two occasions, so were now 4 marks adrift of the Bs! Five Ways were our closest rivals, a further two marks behind the A team.

Both our teams stormed through the relay, finishing all 30 questions a good 15 minutes before the end. The As made one slip and so scored 58 out of 60 but the Bs, you've guessed it, got full marks again! Five ways didn't finish all the questions and made a few more errors, so our two teams were guaranteed first and second overall. Both teams were justifiably pleased with their performances, although the B team will forever have 'bragging rights'!

## Five go up to London

Our team of 4 (Anthony Lim, Adam Titchen, Firnaaz Mohideen and Daniel Hill) travelled to the Royal Horticultural Halls, London for the **National Final** of this increasingly popular event, having qualified through our heat in March.

Mr Thompson met the boys at Birmingham International and they made it to the venue in good time and spirit, having practised some maths skills 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 a day to test their skills against the best students from around the country.

The day began with a separate poster competition. This year's topic was 'Packing Problems' 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.

The main event contained four rounds; A group circus round where they work as a team of 4 on 8 individual problems/tasks, the mini relay where they work in two pairs, the cross number where they again work in pairs and the final relay where they, yet again, work in pairs. The questions on the day were, as ever, very challenging but the boys performed well throughout and had no really poor rounds. A strong finish to a very long and gruelling day found the boys finishing 14th; a superb effort!

## South Birmingham Team Challenge

On Tuesday 2nd 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 (Anthony Lim, Mackenzie Wells, Adam Tichen, Joseph Meehan, Richard Deutsch and Themiya Sirkwardhana) settled down to defend the shield



[Above] South Birmingham Team

we've won for the last three years.

An enjoyable day, with countdown and maze rounds contributing to 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! Congratulations also to all the boys who tried their best to battle for

bronze, struggle for silver or go for gold this year. Without their interest and enthusiasm we would never achieve what we do!

■ P.A.B.



[Above] Year 9 team busy working at the National Final



[Above] View of Team Challenge Heat



# Music

## Solo concerto with the Solihull Symphony Orchestra

Having auditioned in December 2012, I was delighted to be accepted to take part in the annual 'Rising Stars' concert, organised by Solihull Symphony Orchestra, in which young people are given the opportunity to perform a concerto alongside the orchestra.

The concert itself was not to be held until March 2013, meaning ample time for both rehearsals and, of course, practice(!) before the efforts of the orchestra, myself and other successful applicants were to be displayed

in front of an audience at Shirley Methodist Church. I played the first two movements of Giuseppe Sammartini's Concerto in F for Descant Recorder and Strings, a concerto known for both its moving slow movement and technically difficult fast passages.

I found the whole experience to be extremely rewarding, and I would like to thank Solihull Symphony Orchestra for giving me this unique opportunity to play with an orchestra in this way. With Camp Hill students having also taken part in past recitals, I am sure Camp Hill's presence will continue to be felt in future 'Rising Stars' concerts!

■ **Fazal Shah**



## Success in the Rotary International Young Musician Competition

After winning the guitar competition of the 2012 Dudley Music Festival, **Terence Wu** (L1) was invited to play solo guitar in the Rotary district 1210 Young Musician competition on 2nd March 2013.

Performing Albeniz and Dyens on acoustic guitar, he won this competition, and was then sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dudley, District 1210 to enter the Regional final on 23, March 2013. He did very well in this against a strong field. Playing in the afternoon, he had to leave early to return to school to play in the Band for 'Me and My Girl'!

■ **S.F.P.**



## Boys' Compositions

### The Mystic Blue

For Baritone and Piano  
An A level composition  
by **Ben Palmer**



### Midnight Dance

Gracioso Op. 976

Alex Zhang 11Y



### Midnight Dance

For Piano  
An GCSE composition  
by **Alex Zhang**

## Musical success outside school

I am delighted to report that a number of boys have achieved great distinction in music outside school this year:

**Oliver Palmer** (U5) was awarded a Choral Scholarship to St John's College, Oxford.

**Siddharth Sharma** (8S) was appointed Head Chorister of Birmingham Cathedral Choir

**Harry Atkinson** (8M) gained a place in the prestigious CBSO Youth Orchestra.

■ **S.F.P.**



[Above] Harry Atkinson playing with the Camp Hill Concert Orchestra



[Above] Siddharth Sharma (front left) singing in the School Choir



[Above] Oliver Palmer (second from right) singing in the School Barbershop Quartet

## Musical Old Boys

We are delighted that many of our past pupils continue to make music at a very high level outside school.

Having been organ scholar of University College, Oxford, **David Todd** has recently graduated, and has been accepted on to a conducting course at the Academy of Music in London.

**Jamie Phillips** [pictured below], having begun his conducting career at Camp Hill conducting our Concert Orchestra in a Christmas Concert in the Town Hall, continues to impress as Assistant Conductor of The Hallé Orchestra in Manchester. For further details see his website: [www.jamie-phillips.com](http://www.jamie-phillips.com)

■ **S.F.P.**



## Camp Hill Musicians play in City Ensembles

Large numbers of our pupils continue to perform in the City Music Service Orchestras, Bands and Choirs. [Ensembles are listed below together with pupils' names and instruments].

We heard in September that that over 20 boys who had auditioned had been successful, in addition to those already taking part. It has been a joy for me to go to concerts given by these excellent groups.

We had pupils playing in the Adrian Boult Hall on 18 May, performing the wonderful *Symphonie-Fantastique* by Berlioz. Then, more recently, on 10th and 11th July, many of our pupils were playing in the Music Service Gala Concerts in Symphony Hall.

■ **S.F.P.**

### Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Connor Burns       | Violin      |
| James Duncan       | French Horn |
| Ciaran Fitzpatrick | Viola       |
| Joseph Lawrence    | Double Bass |
| Matija Novovic     | Violin      |
| Ben Palmer         | Clarinet    |
| Oliver Palmer      | Trumpet     |
| Xincheng Wang      | Violin      |

### Birmingham Schools Concert Orchestra

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Billy Chapman    | Double Bass |
| Joseph Davis     | Clarinet    |
| Thomas Else      | Percussion  |
| Richard English  | Double Bass |
| Jonathan Hart    | Oboe        |
| Yongwon Ju       | Violin      |
| Thomas Perrett   | Viola       |
| Christopher Ting | Cello       |
| Samuel Way       | Bassoon     |

### Birmingham Schools String Sinfonia

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Amman Bhambra | Cello  |
| Thomas Isaac  | Violin |

### Birmingham Schools Junior String Orchestra

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Albert Chang     | Violin |
| Rohan Jobanputra | Violin |

### Birmingham Schools Wind Orchestra

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Gaspard Bulso | Trumpet |
| Andrew Hawkin | Oboe    |
| Jason Pereira | Trumpet |

### Birmingham Schools Brass Band

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Hannan Currah | Tenor Horn |
| Fraser West   | Trumpet    |

### Birmingham Schools Concert Brass Band

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Arundee Bharj  | Tuba      |
| George Hynes   | Cornet    |
| William Tetlow | Euphonium |
| Thomas Woods   | Tuba      |

### Birmingham Schools Concert Band

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| William Tetlow | Euphonium |
|----------------|-----------|

### Birmingham Schools Training Brass Band

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Ryan Humphreys | Baritone |
|----------------|----------|

### Birmingham Schools Training Wind Orchestra

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Joseph Meehan | Clarinet |
| Kushal Varma  | Flute    |

### Birmingham Schools Jazz Ensemble

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Davis    | Alto Saxophone  |
| Richard English | Bass Guitar     |
| Ben Palmer      | Tenor Saxophone |
| Oliver Palmer   | Trumpet         |

### Birmingham Schools Training Jazz Ensemble

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Harry Atkinson | Drum Kit |
| Thomas Haddon  | Trombone |

### Birmingham Schools Flute Choir

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Isara Mahalekam | Flute |
|-----------------|-------|

### Birmingham Schools Guitar Ensemble

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Ashar Ali Aslam | Guitar |
| Max Cheung      | Guitar |
| Robert McDonald | Guitar |
| Luka Novovic    | Guitar |

### Birmingham Schools Training Percussion Ensemble

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Thomas Keast | Percussion |
|--------------|------------|



## Camp Hill Musicians perform for Royalty

In May we were delighted to be asked to provide the music for the important opening of the Whitemoor Lakes Residential Centre in Staffordshire. A Camp Hill Quintet, with Ben Palmer (U7) playing clarinet, and strings from Camp Hill Girls' School played before the Duke of Gloucester as the building was formally opened. These pupils are also all members of The Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra. Many commented on their musical playing and excellent ensemble.

■ S.F.P.



## Success in music 'Grade' examinations

Grade examinations were taken by over 60 boys last year in school. These were of the Associated Board, Trinity Board or Rock School. Their results were excellent, with the average mark being a 'merit'. A number of boys reached the highest grade, grade 8.

Special mention must be made of two outstanding results, however:

**Alex Naylor** (U7) gained his grade 8 in piano with distinction early in the year, but in the Summer Term added to this grade 8 in both Clarinet and Alto Saxophone, again with distinction.

**Matija Novovic** (10X) gained a Diploma in violin with distinction. This is the level above grade 8.

■ S.F.P.



[Above] Alex Naylor playing bass clarinet at Camp Hill

## Prizegiving

Prizegiving is a major event in the school calendar, and the music is always an important part of the evening. This year we had two very different styles of music. First there was subtle and atmospheric playing

from the Guitar Ensemble, and then later, lively and energetic performances from Swing Band. A feast of music.

■ S.F.P.





## Chamber Concert

The first big joint concert of the academic year within school was the Chamber Concert. This featured our Training Orchestra and Training Band, many pupils of which have never played in a band before. For some, this was also their first Camp Hill concert.

Training Strings played with admirable ensemble, and a sense of enjoyment. Our Wind Quintet gave their inaugural performance in school: a most musical account of a ragtime piece. Both our senior and junior guitar ensembles played attractive pieces. The concert was brought to a rousing close with Training Band.

As their regular conductor was absent,

they were conducted by their assistant, Ben Palmer (Year 13), and he did well directing them in lively performances of Tequila and Twist and Shout.

■ S.F.P.





## Me and My Girl

The Senior Production this year was the musical *Me and My Girl*, which we presented for a matinée and four evening performances. This wonderful 'feel good' show written in the 1930s has it all – jokes, a romantic story, and some great melodies, such as 'The Lambeth walk', 'The sun has got its hat on', and 'I'm leaning on a lamppost'. The cast and soloists sang wonderfully, and were accompanied by an excellent orchestra. I was very pleased that the orchestra was all our own pupils, and they produced some thrilling playing to accompany the singers. It was a fine end to the term!

■ S.F.P.



## Teatime Concert

The Teatime Concert in the Spring Term is now well established, and gives our younger musicians a chance to perform. Training Strings and Training band work hard towards this event, and performed really well. On this occasion we also had a number of interesting smaller ensembles such as Tabla Ensemble, Junior Saxophone Ensemble and Junior Guitar Ensemble. Lasting just an hour, this was an enjoyable early evening event.

■ S.F.P.





## Christmas Concert

It is now a tradition that on the last Monday of term we hold our Christmas Concert. It is a packed evening, with Intermediate and Senior Bands and Orchestras playing, plus a selection of Chamber Ensembles. This year, the boys' and girls' choirs contributed festive arrangements such as 'The twelve days after Christmas', 'Deck the Halls' and 'Winter Wonderland'. The evening is customarily brought to a close with the Concert Orchestra's performance of Sleigh Ride, when Santa always drops in to say 'hello' and give out chocolates to the children present.

■ S.F.P.









## The Senior Concert

The Senior Concert is an important event in the school musical calendar, as it is the last formal joint concert for our Year 13 pupils. The talents of our senior pupils were again well displayed in performances by our most proficient ensembles.

Concert Band began the evening with dramatic music by the composer for films, James Horner. The second half was begun with Concert Orchestra playing 'Jurassic Park' by John

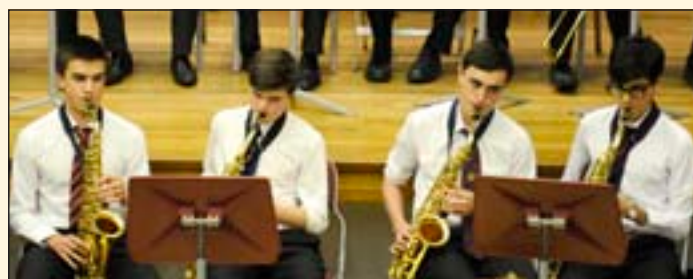
Williams. There were contributions by a number of our best smaller ensembles: Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Bassoon Ensemble, Double Reed Ensemble, Cello Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble and Horn Ensemble. Boys and girls choirs performed, with the boys singing 'Believe' and (a little too early) 'Summer Holiday'.

As ever there were enjoyable 'pupils items' at the end, which this year included a very proficient barbershop group, and a lovely version of 'So Long, Farewell' sung by the music leavers

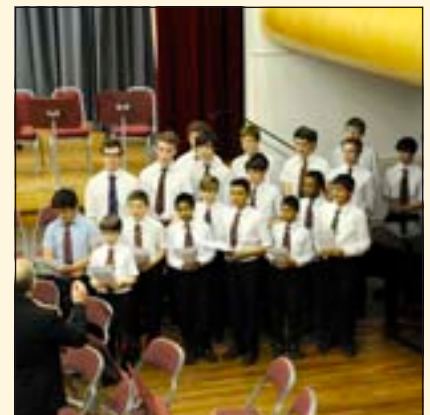
in Year 13. The evening was completed with a lively version of the theme from 'Family Guy' played by the Swing Band.

This concert was not only a goodbye to our Year 13 pupils, however. We said fond farewells to Mrs Alison Whatley, our Oboe teacher, who retires after 40 years teaching at Camp Hill Boys! The music staff presented her with farewell gifts and took her out for a curry.

■ S.F.P.









# Poetry

## Junior Poetry and Music 2013









# Drama

## Alice in Wonderland

Junior Drama Production  
November 2012









# Me and My Girl

Senior Drama Production  
March 2013











## Visit to the Globe and John Light Workshop

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Back in June of last academic year, some students from each year were invited to go to the Globe Theatre in London to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed. The experience was especially insightful into a potential future for some students of the school, as one of the play's main characters, Oberon, was being played by John Light, an old boy of the school. In addition to going to see the play, John agreed to come back to the school the day after to do an acting workshop with the students that saw the play, so this was a very good opportunity for any student involved, especially those strongly intending to follow a career in theatre.

The journey, while long, was utterly worth the wait, as we all got to experience the play as peasants, standing just a few metres from the stage, in the heat and the sun, because the building was minus one roof, so it truly did have an authentic Shakespearean edge. The weather was easy to forget about though when the performance began, because we were lucky enough to be only a little back from the stage, and the acting surrounded us when we had sprites running through the audience to get back and forth from the centre to offstage. The opportunity to actually view one of Shakespeare's plays offered up a new visual perspective that is hard to imagine when just reading the play, and it showed us how the interpretation of certain lines and scenes can completely alter your understanding of some meanings. The play, performed brilliantly by all the cast, in combination with the great weather and an all-round good trip to London made for a great day.

John's visit to the school was a treat I think all of the students involved were grateful for, be it because you were one of the few that spent a large portion of time complimenting John on his muscular build, or simply admiring his gym efforts, or that you were simply soaking up all the acting advice that you could from someone with a great deal of experience in theatre, but John somehow seemed to make it easy to allow us to do both. John's insight was very helpful, and he strived to show us all the importance of being able to analyse a character and what they say – especially when dealing with old English language, spoken sometimes intentionally in riddles – and being able to pick up the rhythmic language used to stress certain points and concepts. All in all an incredibly useful and beneficial workshop for all students involved.

A brilliant day for all and I would like to take the chance now to thank, on behalf of all students who took part, John Light for a brilliant performance and for giving up his time to do the workshop with us, and Mr Carman, Mr Hill and Mrs Lockyer for organising us and the trip. We're all very grateful.

■ Joe Harvey



## 1st XV Rugby

Once again, the Camp Hill 1st XV headed into the season on the back of a tough pre-season and with hopes high. As ever, the opening game would be an away trip to Old Swinford Hospital School, perhaps the most daunting of matches on the fixture list, and one in which previous 1st XVs have struggled. A 12-38 loss followed; a result which in previous seasons would have been considered a good effort, but the fairly disappointing performance and the fact that Swinford grabbed several tries in a ten minute period, left the lads rueing what could have been a surprising and memorable victory. However, the team was able to pick itself up and bounced back with three victories, including two (41-10 and 59-8) over King Henry VIII Coventry and a hard-fought 19-7 win over Bablake in terrible conditions.

The ability, strength in depth and ambition of the squad led to hopes of a successful Daily Mail Cup run, but in a fashion that was to become typical of our season, the form of the squad dipped just in time for our first round match at home against John Cleveland College. The 10-15 defeat here and the 13-10 defeat at KES the following Saturday marked perhaps the lowest point of the season. Any defeat to KES is a bitter pill to swallow, but the nature of this loss haunted the squad for the remainder of the year and the underwhelming performance became a key point for the coaches and the playing squad to call upon and learn many valuable lessons from.

On that day, the loss to KES was the most disappointing defeat of our school days, but in the long-term this became a significant turning point, and a renewed focus and drive led to a greater pride in individual and team performances, which all in turn led to a run of seven consecutive wins for the 1st XV. One of the biggest strengths of the team was the ability to score tries from any position, and this became apparent during four consecutive wins over KE Aston (46-19), Solihull VI Form (60-0), Lawrence Sheriff (36-7) and KE Lichfield (44-0), whereby a total of 31 tries were scored. These results were hugely pleasing, given the nature of previous

defeats, but more pleasing were the following victories over Princethorpe (26-22) and Leicester Grammar (20-15) in the Daily Mail Vase, and Bishop Vesey (22-17) which showed that the squad could grind out hard-fought victories and work hard for one another when their backs were against the wall.

This string of victories and successes in the Daily Mail Vase bought much confidence and hope for the post-Christmas period, but the fixtures following Christmas went against us. The 22-16 loss to Loughborough Grammar not only brought an end to the Daily Mail Vase run which had matched that of the previous year, but also marked the end of Ben Connolly's season. The absence of Ben severely damaged the performances of the squad, since, alongside Tom Kostuch, Tom Murphy and Ben Evans, he had formed a back row many teams can only dream of, but also because it seemed at times, Ben's ability and willingness to put his body on the line for the team, meant he single-handedly kept us in games.

The loss to Loughborough formed one of three losses out of the four games following Christmas, which included a 3-0 loss to KE Five Ways and a 32-23 loss to Bishop Vesey, which was hugely disappointing since we had previously beaten them in one of our finest performances of the season. The only positive result in the regular season following Christmas was a Harry Kirwan-inspired 33-0 victory over Newcastle-Under-Lyme, which marked one of our four clean sheets of the season. There were nine matches overall where we conceded less than ten points, which is testament not only to the systems put in place by the coaches but to the desire and pride of the lads who played in the first team.

The only real blot on this defensive record was during the 60-17 loss to Newbridge College which kick-started our annual tour to Ireland. The trip over to Ireland again did not disappoint; the rugby on display was played to a very high level against quality opposition and the social side to the trip again provided many highlights; none more so than the now infamous visit to Galway. The 'International Food Festival' consisted of four tents of global food produce and a barbecue. But Mr Caves did enjoy his savoury crepe. The results in Ireland also seemed to reflect the inconsistency that typified our season with two losses (to New-



# Sport

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bridge and 24-13 to Athy RFC) and an impressive 62-0 triumph over Portlaoise.

Following tour, a 43-8 victory over Camp Hill RFC was the fitting way to close both the season and for many of us, our school rugby careers. From this game itself there were a number of moments that raised a smile, including Tom Murphy's 4 try haul and the realisation of Calum Paver's 1XV dreams.

Speaking of Tom Murphy, it is only fitting that he gets a special mention, since his physical performances led to him scoring 11 tries and leading the team from the front on many occasions; something I'm sure he will continue to do as captain this coming season. Tom Kostuch was another forward who led the team

both in attack and defence, and was a player who could always be relied upon no matter what situation the team was in. In the backs, the converted centre Harry Kirwan proved to be the difference in many a game, and was the physical presence that afforded our backs the ability to play a hard-hitting style. Further wide, Nathan Quadri, Jake Thomas, Kyle Reed and Hugh Sanders provided a steady supply of tries whilst Josh Bridgeman proved to be an effective link between the backs and the forwards at scrum half. The binding glue of the team though was Rory Luscombe at fly half, who had the ability to turn our fortunes around in a single play and whose dependable boot proved the difference in tight games on

his way to totalling 150 points.

Once again, huge thanks go to the coaches Mr Caves, Mr Warrillow and Mr Carman whose passion and dedication to the team meant that we all progressed hugely as a squad and as individual rugby players. Furthermore, thanks must be made to the parents who turned out every week to provide an encouraging (or brutally honest in the case of Mr Bridgeman) voice. All in all, this season has provided me with many fond memories and it was truly an honour to captain what was a successful and thoroughly enjoyable senior rugby section.

■ **Jack Lea**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XV Rugby

After a rather sensational season for the 2nds under the reign of Hugh Sanders (2011-12), the new team had a lot of pressure on them to excel. The season undoubtedly began with the annual first fixture against Old Swindford Hospital, a match that is usually as one sided as Australia vs. Namibia. This match was no exception. However despite the early setback the new set of lads started to live up to the legend of the team before. A game against King Henry showed the heart of the boys, losing at half time, the determination and skill displayed by all players involved led to a win in the final moments.

As ever the match against KES was a tough one, especially due to the fact we had been told to be at KES for 9 o'clock despite kick off being at 11 and the KES team not showing up until half past 10 – Thanks Mr. Carman! With impressive performances from Fabian Evans, Andy Featherstone, Tom Chalklen, Callum Paver and Jordan McDonagh, the boys came away 20-7 victors. The boys continued to perform week in week out with impressive wins over Solihull sixth form and Lawrence Sheriff School. Key players were Daniel Miller, Oliver Lester and Jacob Bruten, with Asif Javed leading the forwards brilliantly.

The match against Aston was eagerly



anticipated as the boys were hitting form. A slow first half with few points led to the substitution of 11 players. With a completely new team playing for the second half the boys maintained a draw with a few chances going begging for both sides. We played Bishop Vesey School twice in the season, winning one and losing one.

Tour was great fun, with three tough games. The boys were eager to perform. Despite the reputation the Irish have for being friendly, a number of brutal encounters and tough tackles changed the boys mind losing 29-27 against a very strong Newbridge College team. In the match against Port Laoise the boys fared much better, coming away 47-0 with great games from Lewis Hedges, Ayrton Gill, Anthony 'birthday boy' Featherstone and

Evan Phoenix. The boys replicated their success in the final game of our season by beating Athy rugby club 48-0 with the most skillful game of rugby the boys had played all season, a great way to finish a enjoyable and successful season.

I wish all the leaving Year 13s the best for their future and all the boys left at the school a successful next season in the school squads. Also congratulations to Lewis Hedges who is the new second team Captain, a great player, character and motivator. It was an absolute honor to captain the 2nd XV this year, I couldn't have asked for a friendlier, more tightly knit group of lads. You all have so much potential on and off the Rugby Pitch.

■ **Gulliver Bates**

## U15 Rugby

As captain of the U15 rugby team, I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and great honour to fulfil my role as captain, not only due to me being able to enjoy a season of rugby with a great team, but also due to me being able to see us grow stronger as a squad.

We started the season very strongly, winning three out of our four first games, with one heavy loss being to a very strong Old Swinford side, but with a very aesthetically pleasing try from Kingsley Bates, as he dummied and beat two defenders to classily cross the line, for our





small consolation. However we came back with three strong wins against Fairfax, Prince Henry's and Bishop Vesey. Sadly, as we entered the mid-season, we came across a run of very tough teams, which slightly affected the confidence of our team running up to the Christmas break.

However after the Christmas break we began to play some of the best rugby of our school careers so far, and after disappointingly losing the first match of the term, we then bounced back very well to play a fantastic match against the very physical Coundon Court. With tries from Dom Paver and I, and a penalty and a conversion from Will Houlden, we won 15-7, and not one player came off the pitch that day thinking they could have played any better.

This confidence shone throughout the rest of the season, leading us into our next match against our biggest rivals, KES, who we defeated in a very close encounter (17-15), with tries from Carl Lawrence and I. With us then going on to very comfortably beat Fairfax 24-0; we went off to Carlisle with very high spirits.

These high spirits were not let down over the three match tour, and in the first match we smashed Cockermouth School 27-0, with tries from myself, Oscar McNaughton, Arun Sohan-Pall, and a superbly well worked try from Alex Lane, which was later awarded as the Try of the Tour. However, we went into the next

game knowing it would be much tougher, as we had lost to Ullswater School the previous year, which were a very physical side with lots of strong rugby players. However we stuck it out through a gruelling match in horrendous weather to win 17-7, with tries from Niyamal Ali, Dom Paver and myself. This match was one of the best defensive performances we had shown all season, especially considering the size and physicality of the opposition. However, going into our final match, we knew that we would have to play even better if we were to beat this better drilled Wigton side.

We came under intense pressure in the opening minutes of the game, with their biggest forwards repeatedly running at our stretched defensive line. However, a superb interception from Edward Saunders followed by an offload to Satnam Ajimal led to us putting points on the scoreboard very early on in the match. However Wigton then came back at us very aggressively through their pack, and they scored a well worked and well deserved forwards try.

Later on in the match, our consistent ball retention through the forwards led to Wigton conceding a penalty, and this was very well scored by Will Houlden, especially considering the wind that was sweeping across the park. Strangely, it seems that throughout the season we have conceded the most tries immediately after scoring ourselves, and this was shown

again in this match as we let a breakaway try from a Wigton centre go through the back-line and get converted, which put us behind by a point. Fortunately, a wheeling scrum on their five metre line allowed me to pick up and score a try in the corner, and thus put us ahead by six points.

But whilst there weren't many minutes left on the clock, the last three minutes felt more like thirty minutes, as Wigton's determination took them up to our 22, however our passion and drive to have a clean sweep of wins on tour kept the opposition out, and we managed to turn over the ball, much to the delight of the whole Camp Hill squad. Unfortunately though, the weather seemed to turn against us at this point, with the wind becoming so forceful that there were countless failed kicks to touch, purely due to the wind being so strong. Whilst this was undoubtedly incredibly amusing for those watching on the touchline, it was incredibly tense, and so it was met with much jubilation when we finally got the ball in to touch, after eleven failed kicks.

The whole rugby tour was a fantastic end to a fantastic season, and I speak on behalf of the whole U15 rugby squad to thank the teachers who made the tour possible, and especially Mr Southall for coaching us so well this year, and giving us all a solid platform from which to go into playing senior rugby.

■ **Wesley Blackhurst**

## U14 Rugby

The rugby season began with a sizeable squad consistently attending training every Thursday evening with our coach Mr Duncan. Over the season, the squad developed considerably in game-play and strength. Strong competition was generated for gaining a place in the starting team.

I was supported well by vice-captain and fly-half Henry Houlden. Henry and scrum-half Arran Kingston improved their game management on the pitch throughout the year, which is an important factor in rugby. Results have not necessarily reflected the squad's ability. The first two matches of the season were lost to Fairfax and Old Swinford. These matches frustrated the team and clearly more attention needed to be focused on team defense. Camp Hill's typically muddy pitches allowed the team to have a whole training dedicated to 1 on 1 tackling which left everyone covered in cold mud, yet strangely satisfied. The session had clearly paid off as Camp Hill then comfortably beat Prince Henrys 30-22 and Wolverhampton G.S. 29-0. By this point, the leading try scorer was Cameron Steel having scored 12 tries. Henry Houlden also kicked well gaining many points from conversions. Usman Naveed and Thomas Haddon tackled exceptionally well which helped the team considerably in winning the matches. Nathan Moyle and Richard



Deustch showed great improvement both having never played for the A team before.

While the team had won 3 games, drawn 1 and lost 9 games by the end of the main season, these results didn't reflect the teams ability and courage. Consequently, the team was left feeling even more determined to win games as we set off on tour to Carlisle. We had been warned about the icy weather and lashing rain ... it was no exaggeration! Our first fixture was against Cockermouth. Not knowing the opposition, we set foot onto the pitch with open minds. Cameron Steel scored 2 tries, Rezwanul Chowdhury and Lewis Evans scored 1 each and Henry Houlden converted 3 of them. The final score was 26-12 to Camp Hill. The second team we faced was Ullswater.

We played extremely well resulting in a win of 42-0 with the 6 tries being scored by Cameron Steel, Nathan Moyle, Lewis Evans and Henry Houlden and myself. Henry converted all the tries in this match. On the final day, we were faced with Wigton RFC. This game turned out to be a reward for a hard working season with a win of 64-0! The try scorers were Ahmed Ayad - 2, Harry Atkinson - 2, Andreas Kavalieros - 1, Arran Kingston - 1, Cameron Steel - 4 and Henry Houlden - 1. Henry kicked 7 of the 10 conversions successfully. Overall Henry's success rate on tour was 80% - a great result. The tour shows what real ability the team has.

At the end of the season, Cameron Steel ended with 24 tries in 16 games. Tom, Henry and Rezwanul picked up end of season awards,



Lewis, Arran and Cameron received tour awards. Ahmed and Tom Haddon were ever present throughout. We thank Mr. Duncan for a season that has resulted in a well-improved

team. We look forward to the next season and hope we can start where we left off on tour.

■ **Harry Atkinson**

## U13 Rugby

**T**his year's season, yet again, has been a very tough year of rugby. At the start of the season we suffered 3 defeats. Fairfax, the first match of the season, proved to be an even contest with the final score being 10-12 to Fairfax. However Old Swinford Hospital was not the same story. They ran away with score winning 7-55 with great passing and

aggression. Credit has to be given to Tom Perry who managed to muster up a try at the very end. King Henry yet again was a loss with the score being 0-38 to the opposition. Surely this was early season rustiness. We were wrong.

Several defeats followed at the hands of stronger teams, KES (0-60), Aston (12-51) and Bishop Vesey (0-55) being complete washouts.



We faced Fairfax again only to be disappointed with a loss (12-24). Trying to make amends we went into the Greater Birmingham Cup with confidence. This did not change anything. We lost every match in the tournament. Not very good is it!

Final match of the season came against Coundon Court. Having never played them, we had high hopes. Just as the match started they scored a try. Oh no it going to happen again. But then the unthinkable happened. We started to score tries! Zulfikar Khan, Salah Khan, Johannes Beckett, Nicholas Surr, Tom Woods and I scored. What a turn around. Just to round off the match Zulfikar Khan ran through the opposition from the twenty two. You don't see a prop do that every day.

That win signified the whole season. Our determination, our spirit came through and in the end it resulted in a win. We do not have the best team but in that last match everything came together. I would have liked this report to be more positive but I can't change the scores. It was a bad season. The player of the season for me had to be Zulfikar Khan who was also top try scorer with 8 tries. Credit also goes to Mason Jolley who converted nearly all the tries. Hopefully next year we will build on that solitary win and improve.

■ **Siddharth Sharma**

## U12 Rugby

**O**verall, the 2012/13 season for the U12 squad has been very promising. We have won the majority of our matches and on a number of occasions we have produced some first class rugby; on average, the team have scored around four tries per match. Since the start of the season everyone has improved both individually and as a team. I have enjoyed captaining and being part of such a great team.

The season started after only four weeks of term. Most of us had never played rugby before and we did not know each other. We played poorly as a team and lacked some much needed structure. The side we were playing, Bablake, were well organised and tackled well. We lost convincingly, 43-7 with Josh Hall scoring our only try. However it taught us a lesson about losing and gave us a reason to train even harder for the next game. Our first home game came a week later against a much stronger King Henry's school. We went out with a positive mental attitude but were demoralised when we found ourselves 22-0 down at half time. Great tackling from Max Mulligan and Kamil Khan ensured no more tries were conceded and lots of phases finally led to Josh Hall scoring his second of the season. Although we lost in the end 22-7, we produced some good rugby: the forwards were recycling the ball well and the backs were defending and attack-

ing with promising force.

After a bad start to the season, we were determined to get our first win and who better against then our rivals KE Aston! We were home once again and began aggressively with tenacious tackling and fierce mauling. We all shared an urgency to get our first win and this pushed us to come out victorious 22-14. Kamil Khan got his first taste of scoring a try, a feeling he very soon got used to. Other try scorers included Haresh Ram, William Lyons and Max Mulligan. Next up, our penultimate fixture of the Autumn term. Lawrence Sherriff stood between us and our second win of the season. They pushed us hard at times and had a superb tackler in their second row. However, we emerged victorious 27-0. Josh Hall commit-

ted to some great tackles. Kamil Khan and Max Mulligan both scored two tries whilst William Lyons scored one.

Next we travelled to Lichfield to see if we could complete a hat trick of wins and initiate a winning season. The first half was very good on our part; we tackled soundly, attacked cleverly and went into contact well. Things were looking promising at half time; we were winning 20-0 after tries from Kamil Khan, Max Mulligan, Rhys Rogers and Abbas Mirza. However things turned around dramatically and we ended up hanging on by the skin of our teeth at 20-15. It was a victory but we went home disappointed with our performance.

We had one week to try and increase our fitness after Christmas took its toll. Playing a





strong Adams Grammar School on the large 1st XV pitch didn't help. These factors combined with the fact that the opposition were strong and well drilled meant that we came out losers 22-5. Kamil Khan scored our only try of the match and deserved it as he persistently attacked with great power. The following week, we played Coundon Court which was a fairly easy win; we dominated throughout and won 32-5. Try scorers included Kamil Khan (2), Rhys Rogers, William Lyons, Adam Li and Ruman Ark. Dylan Rogers converted one.

KE Stratford were a very good side with similar strengths and weaknesses to us. It was a close encounter and with ten minutes to go we were leading 17-15 thanks to two tries from Kamil Khan and one from Max Mulligan. Josh Hall converted one of them. However, in the closing moments our concentration wavered and we conceded two tries. We walked off very disappointed about our loss 27-17. Next, we left early on a dark February morning to travel all the way to Newcastle under Lyme. We arrived tired but eager to bag a win. Somehow, we produced some extremely good rugby. We tackled faultlessly, attacked ferociously and went into contact aggressively. Kamil Khan added seven tries to his collection and William Lyons scored one. After Josh kicked three conversions we finished 46-0.

Feeling confident after a big win, we faced the hardest game of the season and our ultimate rivals: KEVI Five Ways. They were well drilled and had some very good players: they had a lot of pace on the wings, an extraordinarily fast fly half and a 6 foot tall number 8 who was not only big and strong but also very fast. Their number 8 and fly half embarrassed us at times. Despite some good efforts from our tacklers; they managed to get five tries between them. However we equalled them with three tries from Abbas Mirza and two from Kamil Khan. Abbas' tries were truly amazing; he sidestepped and outran the whole team. With seconds to go at 27-27 we had a conversion which Dylan Rogers calmly put away to put us into the lead. He then kicked it into touch to finish the game. We emerged proud victors at 29-27 after a very tough match.

A week later we played Fairfax who had some strong players but we dominated most of the match and finished winners 62-5. Tries were scored by Kamil Khan (three), Rhys Rogers, William Lyons (two), Dominic Poole, Dylan Rogers (three), Josh Hall, Abbas Mirza and Max Mulligan. Our final fixture was against KES. However, as we had beaten Five Ways and secured a winning season we were relaxed and did not produce the performance we could have done. It was close at times but unfortu-

nately we lost 5-17. They had a very well drilled back line and were well organised.

Despite a disappointing end to the season we triumphed overall. Elliot Spalding was a hero this season; he contributed a never ending supply of energy and force to the breakdown and didn't miss a tackle. Josh Hall improved a lot this season and is now one of our best players. There are numerous flattering statistics concerning Kamil's try scoring, on average, for every game he played, he scored two tries. However, there is more to his game than just scoring tries; he tackled aggressively throughout the season and contributed to the rucks and mauls.

I would like to thank the squad for a 98% training attendance. However, most of all, I would like to thank Mr Roden for finding time in his busy schedule to coach and support our U12 squad. He always was there watching us play and telling us how to improve. During the season everyone has improved, we have learned each other's play style and produced some rugby to which every single person has contributed. I have a lot of confidence in the squad and I am sure that we can use this momentum to go out and secure another winning season next year.

■ **William Lyons**

## Cricket

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket

As ever, the 1st XI had high hopes going into the new season. Apart from a few regulars from last season the majority of the team were not previously involved. Our first fixture of the season saw us going to Solihull Blossomfield CC to face Solihull VI Form College. With us bowling first, we kept it tight and restricted the scoring opportunities and kept the runs down to 114-6 in a 25 over game; Mustafa Chaudhry being the pick of the bowlers with 2/17 off his 5 overs with Captain Osama Hamid, Hasan Qazi and Charanjit Kalsi taking one wicket apiece. Our batting innings never really got going and although a partnership of 15 between Mustafa and Charanjit looked threatening, we collapsed to 84 all out. Varun Deshpande deserves special mention for giving his best effort in scoring 23 on debut, and Mustafa for scoring 15.

Our second game was in the cup against South Birmingham College. With us bowling first again we bowled to a plan well and restricted them to 89 all out in a 20 over game. The depth in their team, or lack of it, is suggested by the fact that batsmen 3, 4 and 5 all scored 0. Another very good debut was on show again, as Jei Diwakar took 3/17 off his 4 overs. Jack Perrin also bowled well taking 2/5 in his 1.3 overs with Hasan, Mustafa and Charanjit



among the wickets again taking one each. Our batting, although better than the previous match, still had its flaws. Nevertheless we were seen home with 4 wickets left, by Andrew Plimmer with 23 at the top of the order, with Chad Atkinson adding 14\* on debut and Jei with 12. Our next game of the season took us to Sutton Coldfield to play Bishop Vesey. Batting first this time, we took all of our improvements on board and scored a very competitive 148 for 8 in 25 overs. Some excellent individual batting performances were on display, with Mustafa top scoring with 29 off 31 balls, Rory Luscombe

hitting 28 off 29 and Jei adding 27 off 30, all batting really well and keeping the innings together. However in this game, our bowling let us down, or rather, their batting was too strong for us. In the end Mustafa again picked up a couple of wickets with Osama also taking one in the first over. Vesey managed to score the runs with 7 wickets to spare although we took it to the last over.

Our next match was against rivals K.E. Aston. This match saw the debut of Vinul Withanarage, and what a debut it was! We bowled well as a unit with Vinul giving us a



spinning masterclass with 3/14 off 4.4 overs. Jack Perrin and Umar Ahmed also took 2 each with Osama, Charanjit and Jei among the wickets also. Having restricted Aston to 99 all out, we batted sensibly with the 43 run partnership between Jack (26) and Charanjit (23) more or less sealing the victory for us. All that was left was for Vinul to bring the winning runs with a 6 to add a solid 14\* in the end giving us the win by 5 wickets.

Our next game was another cup fixture against Joseph Chamberlain College. Playing a 25 over game, they amassed 170 for 6 with their top scorer hitting 65. Charanjit took 3/22 in his 5, with Jack and Vinul taking 1 wicket each. This innings also saw a direct hit run out, coming in from the boundary, by Jei which left the batsman, and indeed the fielders, surprised. We were always slightly behind the rate when we batted, and ended up with 128-6, comfortably beaten. Charanjit top scored with 45 off 40, with Vinul adding 20 off 19.

Next, we went to Fiveways, and batted first. We scored 118 in our 25 overs with a few

decent partnerships getting us there from Rory (22), Umar (20), Charanjit (19) and Jei (17\*). This wasn't enough however, and Fiveways got to the target with 1.4 overs and 4 wickets to spare. Jei bowled well again, taking 3-18 off 5, with Charanjit and Hasan taking 1 wicket each.

Our next game was the annual fixture against the MCC who traditionally bat first. They scored 256-4 and batted really well on a flat Kings Heath CC pitch, with one of their players scoring a century. Our bowlers toiled away in the heat and no one managed more than one wicket. We were down to 9 players on the pitch at one point due to illness and an injury to Jack. In our innings, at 70-1 we were looking dangerous, however the class of the MCC bowlers was too great and we lost the game scoring 113 all out. The 70 run partnership between Charanjit (30) and ex-captain Kieran Patel set the foundations and this was helped by Umar Ahmed (15) although no one else scored more than 8, but nonetheless it was a very fun and competitive day.

Our last game saw us face the staff in a

light hearted game where we batted first, scoring 171 all out. Usual number 10 and 11 batsmen Osama and Hasan were the top scorers in this game showing their batting skill with Hasan scoring 27 and Osama 23. Charanjit did add some fun to the game of course, leaving his first ball to take out the off stump by Mr Evans! Mr Southall and Mr Jones though, were the pick of the bowlers with 3 apiece. The staff in the end had to settle for a draw scoring 162-4, mainly due to an excellent 56\* by Mr Bruten. Overall, the season definitely could have been better, although there were many positives to take out of it and in the end, Charanjit top scored with 139 runs at an average of just below 20 and also took the most wickets (9) with Jei taking 8 and Vinul taking 7. The lads showed great commitment to the cause and there seems to be a lot of confidence going into next year. A special thanks should be given to Mr Duncan and Captain Osama Hamid who led the team well especially in the rough patches.

■ **Charanjit Kalsi**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cricket

**T**he 2nd XI cricket team was strong this season, and this was shown through the two matches we played, showing class in all three aspects of the game.

Our first match was against a well rounded Bablake outfit. Having won the toss our captain Faheem Malik chose to bat first on what looked like a hard pitch losing its green. The first ball of the match saw our opener Qasim Ali given out controversially to the dreaded LBW, but that didn't fuss us as Faheem Malik and George Wager batted outstandingly, hitting the opposition all over the ground. The two batsmen constructed a crafty partnership of 83, Faheem top scoring with 43\* and George who contributed the lion's share of the rest with 32. Vinul Witharanage played a little, but important, cameo near the end of the innings scoring 16\*. We managed to get a respectable 119-3 off the 20 overs allocated.

Bablake started slowly and just when it looked like their openers had settled, Vinul bamboozled and dispatched one of the batsmen. After this wicket, Bablake batted meticulously and a partnership of 59 was made. We needed a wicket urgently and Adil Ahmed

made the break-through taking the vital wicket of their top scorer. After this, Bablake crumbled with Vinul bowling a double wicket maiden over. Adil bowled the final over coolly despite being under pressure, restricting the batsmen to just 4 runs. The match ended with Bablake scoring 112-7 off their 20 overs. Our fielding as a team was evident as two run outs were made by Qasim and Jalees Hamid, who also took two catches. Vinul got 3 for 8 off his 4 overs with Adil and Jalees taking a wicket apiece.

Our next and final match saw us travel to Aston on another sunny day. Due to the depth and quality of our squad along with it being that time of the year where lots is going on, 8 changes were made to the team. The captain for this match was Adil, who started things off by winning the toss and choosing to bat first. Things didn't quite go to plan and wickets were lost frequently throughout the innings. However, Arjan Nagra batted superbly, scoring 24 crucial runs, with Haris Sheikh adding 16. Luckily Aston gave us 29 runs from extras (compared to 17 by us) which made our overall total 102 runs all out from 19.5 overs.

Confident that we could defend our total, we came out to field and in the first over Adil

took a wicket. Adil and Arjan bowled economically at the start, with Arjan bowling two maidens, one being a wicket maiden over. Aston were scoring under the required run rate, managing 32 off the first 10 overs and didn't really improve throughout the innings. Narinder Phull was our most successful bowler, taking wickets at the right time, ending up with figures of 3-22 and Arjan bowled brilliantly taking 2 wickets for just 8 runs in his 4 overs. Ali Alam and Adil both took one wicket and bowled well with Jalees taking two catches and Hari Chohan taking a catch whilst wicket keeping. Adil's bowling changes and his decision to keep Narinder in the bowling attack kept the opposition under pressure and helped restrict their total to 84-7, so we won the match by 16 runs.

A couple of matches were cancelled by other schools, which was a shame as the two matches played didn't do justice to our squad in a season where we had an unorthodox summer with rain not being a factor.

The squad would like to thank Faheem and Adil for their captaincy this season and also Mr Garrod for coaching us through this positive albeit brief season.

■ **Jalees Hamid**

## U15 Cricket

**T**his year's cricket term started with a changed squad with Will Houlden out because of injury and a few players moving to different groups, there was an opportunity for Talvin Rai, Wajahat Ahmed, Daanish Butt and Kashif Hussain to move into the squad. The matches started with three very pleasing, consecutive victories against Queen Mary's Walsall, Five Ways and KE Stratford. The

first game provided a good, if not rusty, start to the term with a six wicket win over Queen Mary's after the opposition slipped to just 60-6 after 20 overs. With 24 from Ed Saunders and 18 from Alex Lane, Camp Hill enjoyed a good start but a slight wobble worried us. However, Dom Paver and Azeem Hanjra managed to get us over the line after 14.2 overs.

Then came Five Ways, a team we had found very difficult to beat in the past, but an oppor-

tunity for victory nonetheless. We batted first and posted 151-2 off 20 overs with Ed Saunders hitting 88 not out and being supported by Alex Lane, Satnam Ajimal and Dom Paver. We bowled and fielded well and comfortably won by 51 runs having bowled Five Ways out for 100.

A win by 7 runs over KE Stratford was then followed by two losses against KE Aston and Bablake, despite Balraj Singh picking up 3 wickets for 10 runs against Bablake; a nail-bit-



ing match ending in defeat by 2 runs. Between these two matches was the Docker Shield quarter-final versus Washwood Heath. This was another comfortable win by 37 runs with Ed Saunders scoring 79.

The end of our season was the Cup semi-final against KE Aston, a team who had already comfortably beaten us. We batted poorly despite Parvesh Konda's knock as he battled for 19. With a target as low as 62 to chase, Aston easily got the runs within 13 overs. A sad end to our season. Overall, it was a good season, playing 7 matches, winning 4 and losing three. It was a satisfactory end to junior cricket and individuals will be hoping to succeed at senior level next year. Best batting was 88 not out by Ed Saunders against Five Ways, and best bowling was 3/10 by Balraj Singh against Bablake.

■ **Ed Saunders**



## U14 Cricket

**O**n the back of the 2012 season without many matches because of incessant rain, we eagerly anticipated what hopefully would be a much more action-packed season – and it certainly delivered on that part.

The season kicked off with a very comfortable win against Queen Mary's, and it was a very encouraging start for us. However, tension mounted as we came up against KE Five Ways and the match was abandoned at the start of the second innings ... memories of last season's cancellations because of weather was a topic on all our minds. This, however, was put to rest as it was the only cancellation of the season.

The match soon after against Princethorpe was definitely one to remember. It was a cloudy day which didn't help as Princethorpe won the toss and chose to bowl first. A solid partnership from Aaditya Thakral 24 and Josh Mukherjee 37 gave us an encouraging start, and this was backed up by Arran Kingston and Andreas Kavalieros who played very positively, eventually reaching a colossal total of 131 from 20 overs. Andreas and Henry Houlden opened the bowling, both picking up wickets with Andreas getting 5 wickets – a superb performance on his part. Dan Western picked up the last wicket, giving us a win of over 100 runs – a top team performance where everyone performed well. For the next few matches that followed, we



were on a winning streak with great performances from Josh; one of our most consistent bowlers, getting 4 wickets against KE Aston, as well as the combo of Arran and Andreas in batting who provided valuable contributions in tight positions.

Our second cup match (the first of which was an easy win against Baverstock) was against Hodge Hill – a very tough opposition. We won the toss and chose to bowl. Henry, who didn't have the greatest starts to the season that we wanted him to have showed why he was the opening bowler, picking up crucial wickets of batsmen who could really swing

the bat. Then we came to bat; unfortunately, a deadly opening bowler on Hodge Hill's side ripped through our batting order, and even with a valiant effort from the team to recover we ended up narrowly losing by 7 runs.

Overall, the season turned out to be very successful, especially considering the manner in which the last season turned out – winning 4/6 matches this season with one getting cancelled. We would like to thank Mr. Bruten and Mr. Carman for encouraging us and teaching us new skills which we will definitely use in the seasons to come.

■ **Aaditya Thakral**

## U13 Cricket

**T**he U13's have had an 'up and down' season winning three games of the six that they played in. Overall it was a pleasing season.

The team went into the first game, against Queen Mary's, full of confidence that they would have a good season. They started just like they had planned. After bowling first Camp

Hill restricted Queen Mary's to 91 runs off 20 overs. This was largely due to fantastic bowling by all bowlers, especially Hamza Arshad. Then Camp Hill went into bat knowing that they only had to score 5 runs an over. They had a terrible start when a new opening partnership struggled to get going, Safee Saleem playing a 'shot' off the first ball straight into the wicket-keeper's gloves. Adam Ahmed and Garenpreet

Boora gave the run chase stability with a partnership of 67. Garen finished on 39 and Adam on 28 as Camp Hill won the game with 4 overs to spare.

The next two matches were not as easy as we found ourselves up against much stronger opposition. KE Stratford and KE Fiveways proved too much for Camp Hill despite some competitive individual performances. Camp



Hill were then drawn against KE Fiveways in the cup and having already lost a very competitive game to them we were keen to make amends. With 3 wickets going down in quick succession, Salah Khan (incapable of defending a cricket ball) supported by Safee Saleem, smashed an unbeaten 36. Camp Hill finished on 101, still with a chance of winning the game. However, despite a good bowling performance the Fiveways opening batsman scored 57 not out to claim victory for Fiveways with just one over left to play. Camp Hill were therefore knocked out of the cup.

Camp Hill needed to bounce back after a disappointing 3 matches. They did just that after comfortably beating Princethorpe, Salah Khan smashing another 38 runs during solid partnerships with Adam Ahmed and Safee Saleem. Camp Hill made 129 for 5 of 20 overs. Princethorpe struggled in their run chase with Adam able to bowl every player in the team. However, it did get nerve-racking towards the end as Princethorpe gave themselves a glimmer of hope against the part-time bowlers. This showed the team that they shouldn't be complacent at any point during a game.

The final match of the season dawned



upon the players as Bablake were anticipating a close fought game. They didn't know that Camp Hill were saving the best till last. Gareen Boora hit the highest score of the season with 73. This was through partnerships with Adam Ahmed, Sam Cullen and Salah Khan. Camp Hill finished on 161 off 20 overs! Bablake attempted a miracle and their opening batsmen finished on 67\*. However, 2 wickets from Adam Ahmed, Hamza Arshad and Raiyaan Ismail ensured a

positive finish to the season.

As captain I would like to thank Mr Southall for his tremendous coaching. I would also like to congratulate the team for a good season overall. I have enjoyed my time as captain and I would like to see the team improve further next season and hopefully we will progress further in the cup competition. Thank You for an enjoyable season.

■ **Adam Ahmed**

## U12 Cricket

The pre-season training and team trials went very well – may be even too well as the enthusiasm and team spirit that was so outstanding in the U12 win over the U13 in our very first competitive match wasn't to be repeated until our last match of the Summer. Despite some excellent individual performances in all of our matches (none better than Owais Akram's 6 wickets for 12 run spell, including a hat-trick, against Princethorpe), the team struggled to hit top form throughout the season.

Defeats against Queen Mary's, Fiveways, Stratford, Princethorpe and Bablake were bad enough to take but the humiliation of losing twice to Aston was a bitter pill to swallow.

Fortune favoured our efforts and we had two opponents pull out in the Stacey Jackson Bowl Competition meaning we "propelled" through into the semi-final - unbelievable but still well deserved. This was our last chance to pull together all of the promising performances that had been scattered throughout the season. Our opponents were KE Aston, a third encounter, third time lucky? We were all on our toes and batting first we managed to set a total of 111. Camp Hill demonstrated good batting skills throughout the order, with Pranav Thatipamula scoring 38; playing some delightful, classical shots. To win, we needed to put in the same energy and effort whilst fielding.

Trying to lead from the front I opened the bowling; the first 2 balls I bowled took 2 wickets and this seemed to electrify the team. We were quick to the ball in fielding and crisp



with our pick ups and return throws, with Max Mulligan and Kamil Khan making some fine stops. Our bowlers hit the right spots and most importantly, we all played as a team. Aston fell short of their target by 17 runs and a victory was secured. If our fellow finalists were to have walked on that very pitch at that very moment we would have won the final as well. Unfortunately we had to wait until school reassembled after the Summer Holidays (and sadly without the injured Max Mulligan.)

On Wednesday 10th September we faced Fiveways. Winning the toss and after a team decision we chose to bat first. We managed to put on 89, with Gurvinder Bohie scoring 22, Owais Akram 20, Kamil 13 and myself 10, with five others unfortunately failing to score.

We knew our total of 89 was going to be hard to defend and unfortunately our fielding was not as crisp as our semi final performance. However an exciting game developed before Fiveways hit the winning runs from the second ball of the final over of the match. I'm certain that if we repeat the semi-final's performance throughout next season we will be invincible.

I would like to thank Mr Tranter, Mr Southall and Mr Duncan for all their hard work and encouragement on behalf of the team.

■ **Harry Yate**



## Hockey

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey

Well, what a contrast to last year. With the enthusiasm of the current year 11s and the addition of five new club and county players, the season was a much more fun and successful one than in previous years. To be able to compete with the stronger teams we play was certainly refreshing, and something the 1st XI thrived upon, improving off the back of each and every match and playing some tremendous hockey when firing on all cylinders.

The first match against Bablake was messy as the group of players had not had chance to gel together. However despite a disappointing 6-0 defeat, there were glimpses of the good form that was to come, and the second match against Newcastle was a good team performance by Camp Hill.

Then came King Henry's. We had not beaten this side for quite a few years yet despite their best efforts they could not score against us. Instead we lapped up the pressure then attacked on the counter. This worked well and resulted in George Wager scoring from a deflected shot. Final result, a well-deserved 1-0 victory to Camp Hill.

Next up were Solihull School 1st XI. It has been a few years since we had played their top team but we coped well. Solihull were frustrated by Camp Hill from the start and on occasions Camp Hill played the better hockey. The game finished with Solihull scoring four very soft, scrappy goals and on one goal that was of the standard you would expect from them. This was an outstanding team effort.

After half term, we had only one fixture due to the weather and other schools not get-



ting teams out. However this game saw an outstanding team performance from every player on the pitch. Camp Hill beat the KES 2nd/3rd team 5-3, where Camp Hill dominated the entire game. Even the introduction of three KES 1st team players at half time did not change the overall quality of play from Camp Hill. Scorers for Camp Hill were two each from George Wager and Jacob Smith and one from Alex Gray.

The second half of the season was quite a frustrating one for a squad who were used to playing regular hockey on Astroturf, but had limited fixtures due to the adverse weather.

Nevertheless, we began the term in perfect style; elegant passing in midfield on the way to a 4-0 victory against Aston. Nick Wood, Jeevan Murugesu, Jack Perrin and George Wager were all on target while Dani Szucs helped to ensure a clean sheet for the defence.

The team went on to play a game of two halves against Queen Mary's where we fought

back from 1-0 down to claim a well-earned draw thanks to a powerful strike from Nimreth Phull. We then fell just short in a disappointing 2-1 defeat to Solihull's 2nd XI, Josh Lee's late goal ensuring a tense finish, followed by another 1-1 draw against Queen Mary's.

Our penultimate game was (as now to be expected) a high scoring encounter with Wolverhampton on a half-frozen pitch, with goals from Anthony Pulikal, Jacob Smith and Oliver Hartt proving not quite enough. We finished the term against Solihull's 1st XI and the team can be pleased by restricting their talent in a narrow 3-1 loss.

Over the six fixtures, we highlighted our versatility with nine players registering on the score sheet in our six games, Jack Perrin (2) our top scorer for the term. Captain Devinder Manu along with the rest of the squad can be satisfied with a solid season, and have been able to play enjoyable and often adventurous hockey.

■ **Hannan Currah**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Hockey

The new hockey season was going to be a guaranteed challenge for the 2nd XI, with our best performers from last year moving up to the 1st XI. I am pleased to say, though, that it's been a year of change and progress. The huge influx of enthusiastic Year 11s at the start of the season sparked off improvements, not just in the 2nd XI, but also throughout the entirety of the hockey squad. Selection for team places became more and more competitive, inevitably leading to continued development in our individual ability, as well as team play.

The effects were felt very early on. Our first match was against Bablake (a side that had beaten us comfortably last season), and despite our expectedly rusty link up play, the match was hotly contested. Captained by Narinder Phull, the 2nd XI put in a surprisingly good performance and were unfortunate to lose 1-0.





Over the next two matches, our players began to gel together and produce some fantastic end-to-end hockey, and it was sad to see that we lost both of these matches. Our breakthrough came against King Edward's Aston. The match was ironically played without our main playmaker (Narinder), which meant that we started on the back foot. However, the team soon came together, with players such as Nimreth Phull, Aatif Syed and Adersh Saravanaa stepping up to the mark to produce some of the best hockey the 2nd XI has seen. Thanks to a combination of free flowing counter attacks

and a solid back line, we deservedly celebrated a 3-0 victory over our rivals. Our next match was against Old Swinford; a game that was a big shock to the system with one of our heaviest defeats.

After the Christmas holidays, we again faced King Edward's Aston and pushed hard to win 1-0. Alex Naylor must be commended for the impact he made as a late substitute, as the team ensured they kept a clean sheet. Terrible weather conditions meant that we missed out on several scheduled fixtures and training sessions after our game against Aston. It was no

surprise to see that we lost our final encounter (against Queen Mary's School) 3-0 due to a somewhat rusty performance.

In spite of the mixed results throughout the season, it is true to say that the 2nd XI Hockey team is stronger than it has been for a number of years. There is a lot of talent in the squad and the future looks promising. With our best players likely to make the step up to the 1st XI next year, we hope that the players joining us next season will continue the progress made over the past year.

■ **Jaskaran Rajput**

## U15 XI Hockey

The year got off to a good start against Old Swinford, although due to their lateness we were only able to play for 30 minutes. We lost the game due to some sloppy defending in the first half, if we were able to play a full game then we might have ended up as winners. The hockey the boys were playing was of much better quality.

Our second game was a well fought game at KE Aston, both teams were evenly matched although the boys recalled that they were much better than last year. The game was heading to a 2-2 draw with both of our goals coming from Dawood Ahmed on his debut, many chances were created by Parvesh Konda and Ross Breillat who played a superb game in the midfield were unfortunately squandered. In the final couple of minutes Aston scored a very good individual goal from one of their former club players giving them the victory.

Our final opposition for the term was a trip to Solihull School where the boys enthusiasm was high following a 3-1 win over their B team last year. However, it wasn't quite the same team; there were a few enhancements. After playing really well in the freezing cold for the first half, with exceptional performances from Wajahat Ahmed and Mohammed Khan in the defence as well as an outstanding performance from Ross again. The cold got through to the core in the second half and we struggled to match the quality of Solihull who came out



5-0 winners.

The winter part of the hockey season finished before it had started this term. Due to the poor weather conditions we were only able to get 2 fixtures completed; a narrow defeat at the hands of Aston and a lesson of how to play adult hockey by a very good team from Bablake, losing 12-0.

The highlight of the year's fixtures is the tour, and once again 15 boys went off to Carlisle to play the usual matches. The standard of the opposition was much higher than in previous years, some of the teams, although mixed, were not all under 15; they certainly made the

most of their experienced players. One of the opponents were the county champions and the boys, who were astonished by some of the skill of the opposition, fought well and played really well as a team, Camp Hill despite losing 4-1 were commended by their grit and determination. Talvin Rai was the team player of the tour, and Wajahat Ahmed captained the team well throughout the trip.

Congratulations to Parvesh Konda, for being the most improved player of the season, Ross Breillat for captaining the team and also being the top scorer.

■ **S.W.W.**

## U14 XI Hockey

As the season began we had a mixture of experienced and inexperienced players in the team but we were all excited for the start of our first hockey season together as a team.

The first game was a close encounter against Aston who clearly benefited from the regular use of an Astroturf. They ran out narrow winners in an end to end game that finished 3-2 with Adam Paulin scoring both goals.

The second game was against Old Swinford, a school in a similar situation to us with regards to hockey. We proved too strong for them with our midfield trio of the Murugesu





twins and Hashim Ilyas controlling the game. Camp Hill ran out winners 3-1 with Hashim, Sanchudaan Murugesu and Soumitra Chakravati all scoring.

In the next term we were eager to improve. Having played together as a team for longer and learning more skills we were ready for our next fixtures.

Our most impressive result was easily a 2-0 win over Solihull. The team defended as a solid unit and attacked with fluency to take

a 2-0 lead at half time. We then defended out the rest of the game. Overall, our record was 2 wins and 3 losses, which is a very commendable score sheet considering our team had lots of inexperienced players.

Special mentions go to Hashim Ilyas, Kabeendan Murugesu and Sanchudaan Murugesu who used their experience to dominate the midfield. The player who I think improved the most was Thomas Weaver, who was strong in defence and was very committed despite his

lack of practice to begin with.

We would also like to thank Mr Duncan and Mr Garrod, who took us to our matches in the absence of Mr Watkins. Thanks also to Mr Caves who coached us in the last few weeks. Overall, we have improved greatly throughout the season, and we are all looking forward to next year's hockey season.

■ **George Downing**

## Athletics

Extraordinary hot weather made it a summer to remember... and there were some very pleasing athletics results too!

The Senior Foundation match kicked off the season in spectacular form. In the Sixth Form team, Howard Jones (800m), Dan Mladenovic (1500m) and the relay squad won their events and Kyle Reed (100m), George O'Hanlon (400m), Evan Phoenix (800m), George Wager (1500m) and Tom Murphy (Shot and Javelin) all placed second. Year 11 were no slouches either with wins from Joe Cullen (400m), Oliver Paulin (800m and 1500m) and Aaron Sandhu (HJ) together with second places by Aly-Raza Ismail (200m and Triple Jump), George Shephard (Discus), Joe Cullen (High Jump and 100m), Aaron Sandhu (Hurdles and Long Jump). Oliver had an interesting race in the 800m. From the start, most of the runners decided to sprint around the first bend to gain the inside lane. There was a degree of pushing and collision as they came onto the straight. Oliver suddenly pulled up and reached down to his ankle; had he been spiked? He fiddled around for what seemed ages and then unexpectedly started chasing the group who were now half-way down the straight. Not known for his sprinting prowess, he caught up before the first lap was completed and went on to win by at least 20m! Who knows what time he could do if his shoe hadn't come off!

Overall results were amazing with both teams placing first. Total scores were Aston 164, KES 179.5 and Camp Hill 209.5. However, the most impressive complete performance of the day (and the season) was by Nick Wilson. He placed first in the Hurdles, 200m, Long Jump and relay, so it was no surprise that this was one of the strongest performances by senior Camp Hill athletes in many years.

The next competition, 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 teams. Cameron Steel, competing in the Year 10 age group won 200m and came second in 100m, Wesley Blackhurst comfortably won the 300m (a new distance)

by over 2 seconds and second places went to Will Maclean (200m) Amman Bhambra (800m) and Wesley (Shot). After a waterlogged summer last year we had very little knowledge of the potential of the Year 8 squad but what a pleasant surprise! First race and Johannes Beckett stormed through to win the hurdles. Other wins quickly came from Rizwan Qureshi (100m), Dan Higgins (800m) Tom Mansfield (1500m), Nick Surr (High Jump), Chris Marshall (Long Jump) and Shreyas Annadate (Discus). Both teams placed second but the combined total, which of course is the most important result, was Solihull 226, KES 227, RGS Worcester 253 and Camp Hill 255. It proves that the odd point from a last minute stand-in can secure victory.

The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is still a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in 2 events and scores points for both performances. These points are added together for the whole team. The Intermediate team came second in their age group, but only scored sufficiently to qualify for the Regional B Final. Best individual scores came from Wesley Blackhurst (46 points), Cameron Steel (36), Will Maclean (38) and Alessandro Tassa (30). In the same competition, the Junior team placed third but couldn't compete in the next round as they were in Conwy. Highest scores here were from Nick Surr (35 points) and Rizwan Qureshi (28).

In the next round, the year 10 team were decimated with injuries, music exams and preparation for end of year quizzes and so were not at their strongest.

On the Tuesday before half term, we held the annual Camp Hill Athletics match. This is always 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, it being their first outing, but they rose to the challenge. Winning positions from Uwais Hafizal (400m), Alex Byrne (800m) and Kamil Khan (Javelin) with second places from Alex (Long Jump) and Alex Lee (Triple Jump) helped the team place third. Year 8 found the competition fierce and although Tom, Chris and Shreyas won their events, the team finished 4th out of 8 teams.

Year 9, in one of their few competitions, participated strongly. Best results came from Cameron, Lewis Evans and Ashrit Chohan, who all came second. Excellent support from the rest helped them come second. Year 10, continuing with a depleted squad, came fourth. Total scores placed us third with 271 points behind Fairfax on 351 and Aston on 289.

The Junior Foundation match is split into two; years 9 and 10 followed by years 7 and 8. In the first half of the competition, both years 9 and 10 were sadly below par. Year 10, still with talent missing, placed fourth and Year 9 managed a third place finish, with Cameron being the only one to break the tape. It was a similar story in the second half of the competition. Year 7 came third, with a win from Alex Byrne, and Year 8 fourth with Johannes, Tom and Nick continuing their successful seasons.

For many reasons, Aaron Sandhu and Wesley Blackhurst were the only athletes to compete in the West Midland Championships. Seven athletes competed in the younger age group and benefitted from the experience. Hopefully they will qualify next year.





Certainly the most notable achievement of the season came in July when Nick Wilson and Rowan May competed in the English Schools' Track & Field Championships at the Alexander International Stadium. Nick was suffering with an injury and despite taking pain relief he just missed qualifying for the hurdles final. Rowan, however, won the pole vault. This is the high-

est individual achievement for a Camp Hill student for over 30 years. With this result, he was selected for the Great Britain team in the European Under 20 Championships in Italy this summer. We obviously wish him every success.

Final congratulations, however, must go to all athletes who volunteered to fill in events at the last minute. Without their cour-

age, 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.**

## Great Britain Athletics Team European Under 20 Championships Rieti, Italy, July 2013

**W**e all travelled out on Tuesday 16th July, the pole-vaulters being on an earlier flight due to the poles not being easy to put on planes. On the Thursday, the competition started and I had my PV qualification in the afternoon. 5.15 was the ambitious automatic qualifying, but they stop after there are 12 left in. I had first time clearances at 4.60, 4.80, 4.95. The bar was then set to 5.05 and there were still 14 athletes left in. I cleared 5.05 third time, after struggling to get the longer pole I was on to work (I have had very little training on them due to the injuries etc.) which was enough to make the final.

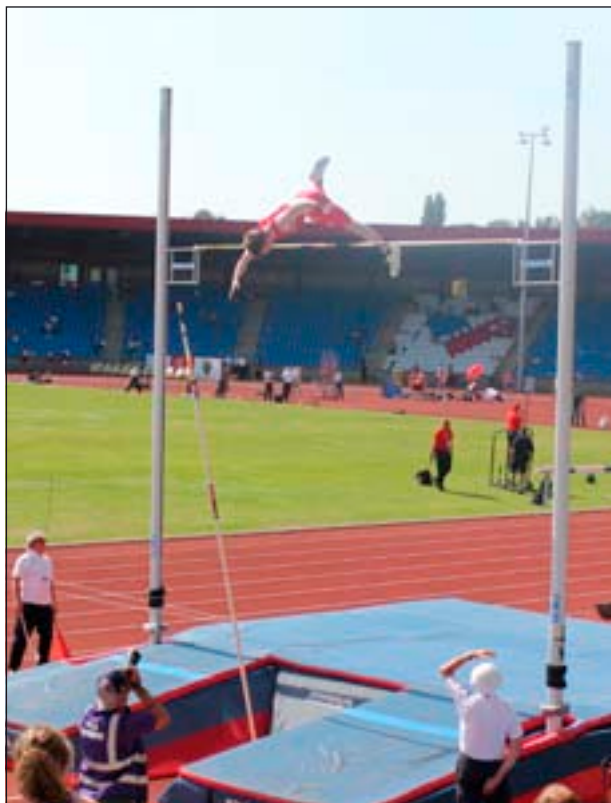
The final was two days later, and my hamstring was very sore! In the warm up after one vault I said to my coach I don't know if I can vault or not. I was permitted to be escorted back to our physio tent and treated during warm up for 20 minutes, and was strapped up. We decided to go for an ambitious tactic of coming in at the opening height 4.70, and then skipping to a PB of 5.10. I cleared 4.70 first time, and cleared 5.10 second time. We then skipped 5.15 as we didn't think it would medal, and went for 5.20, which I managed to get over third time. Unfor-

tunately the other 4 left in at the competition cleared 5.20 first or second time, which put me in 5th position at that point. So I knew I had to clear 5.25 to have a chance at a medal. Luckily I managed to scrape my way over 5.25 second attempt, but the other three who cleared it were either first or second, so I was still behind them in count back. With thunderstorms in the distance and massive clouds looming ahead a strong cross wind suddenly picked up. All of us were affected and there were very few vaults after this point. On my first attempt at 5.30 I felt my hamstrings give up so retired from the competition. So it's a bit frustrating that I nearly got a medal, but I can't be more happy for how the competition went!

Next is a proper rehab plan to get me more robust and in a shape where I can vault regularly without injury. Next year there are the World Juniors in Oregon which require 5.20 to qualify (which I thought seemed very high earlier this year!). So I will be juggling training with studying at Oxford and hopefully

keep things improving technically for the next few years. Then if I'm still in a good place when I finish my degree I could move somewhere to train full time for a year or two to see where that gets me!

■ **Rowan May**



## Badminton

**I**n November, Camp Hill hosted the KS3 Partnership round of the Badminton Nationals competition. We were represented at U14 level by Isara Mahalekam, Nishant Chaudhari, Soumitra Chakravati, McKenzie Wells and Aaditya Ravindranath.

Playing three matches, we won two quite comfortably, beating Wheelers Lane and Bishop Challoner B by 5-0. The real threat however looked to be the Challoner A team, headed as they were by a Warwickshire county player.

This number 1 seed beat Isara 15-14 in a nerve wracking match by ruthlessly focusing on the backhand corner. At number 2 seed, Nishant relaxed and found form with his smash, levelling the match score with a 15 to 5 win. The next doubles match saw Challoner again take the lead, as their number one seed



gleefully smashed away the high shuttles which we persisted in feeding him.

Strength in depth then became a deciding

factor as Nishant and McKenzie at numbers 2 and 4 seeds stormed back 15 -2 to level the match at 2 games each.



Everything now hinged on the last game, played by the number 3 and 4 seeds, Soumitra and McKenzie. Fortunately, they kept their nerve and overwhelmed their opponents 15-4. This decided the match in our favour by 3 games to 2 and earned the team a place in the city finals.

At U16 we were represented by Nimreth Phull, Parvesh Konda, Jay Chandarana, Shreshth Malik and Jay Diwakar. This proved to be something of an anti-climax as the only opponents in our partnership were Bishop Challoner whom we beat comfortably 5-0 without being extended. To help prepare for the real test in the City Finals, Camp Hill then played a friendly against another Partnership winning side, Hall Green. Their number 1 seed had strong shots and punished any short clearances or serves. After losing the first three points, Nimreth did well to move him around the court and soon his opponent was looking to shorten the rallies. Not for the first time, as an opponent began to wheeze, Nimreth resorted to a lung-breaking drop shot game. He emerged the winner 15 to 9.

Three of the other matches were won comfortably. Of most interest was the doubles featuring the 3rd and 4th seeds – the two Js. This match turned out to be an object lesson in what can happen when opponents who look ungainly in the warm up turn out to have the inconvenient knack of keeping the shuttle in play. After a series of over-confident hits, casual, unforced errors, snatched shots and rising frustration, the two Js found themselves match point down at 13-14. Their opponents looked equally surprised to find themselves in this position and duly obliged by serving long. 14 all and still match point! At this point we finally took control of the rally and won the deciding point.

The City Finals. At U14 the first group stage match was against George Dixon School and they won this comfortably 5-0. They were never really stretched by the opposition. Things changed dramatically in the second group match against Holte School who, as they tend to do, fielded a strong, steady side. Camp Hill lost the first two matches heavily. Then Nishant stepped up to the mark, won his game and kept us in the match with two doubles to play. Nishant and Adi won their game but by then they knew that the match was over as we had lost the other doubles. The better team on the day had won by employing one winning tactic ruthlessly. They hit the shuttle deep to the back third of the court, often into the backhand corner and were guaranteed a half court shot in return – for which they were waiting and which they repeatedly dispatched. Under match pressure, we never really developed a response to this tactic by hitting long first. The final score was 2 matches to 3.

At U16 in the first two group matches, Camp Hill cantered to two 5-0 victories against

Small Heath and Bartley Green. These wins earned them a semi-final match against much stronger opposition – Bishop Vesey. Nimreth faced a very steady first seed who returned most shots so he had to place his smashes very precisely. He won the opener 15-11 and even managed to notice his opponent was left-handed. Jay and Shreshth followed this up with a close 15-13 win during which they had to keep their nerve at the end. The Vesey number 2 seed, a tall, rangy opponent, won his match so we went into the last two doubles with a 2-1 lead. Fortunately we overpowered Vesey in these matches and emerged winners with a score of 4 games to 1.

In the final we faced a KES team packed with county standard players. While notching up creditable scores, we lost the opening two matches. Parvesh then fought with great determination to win his match leaving us 1-2 down with the doubles to play. Once again we pushed them hard scoring 11 and 13 points but in the end lost to a stronger side. The overall match score was 1-4. The team therefore emerged with silver medals, which is an impressive achievement. More importantly, both sides competed hard in a spirit of sportsmanship and were a credit to the school.

■ **M.R.**

## Basketball

### U16 Basketball

**M**atches were sparse for the U16 Basketball team this year, with the inexplicable disappearance of the schools' league, meaning that games had to be arranged on a match-by-match basis. The lack of fixtures, however, gave the team the opportunity to train hard and often.

The first of these wasn't until December 2012, against Five Ways, who for some reason, pitched their U18 squad. Camp Hill rose to the challenge, eager for a game, and presented a cool, systematic attack, with Jacob Smith dominating the opposition's defence. Five Ways' riposte was formidable in the second quarter, playing a stronger team, and despite exemplary teamwork between Amir Ahmed and Saqib Sadiq, the team was unable to break the opposition's 10-point lead, leaving the final score a 21-31 loss.

The second and last game of the season wouldn't be for almost another 4 months,

against Kings Norton Boys' School. Even with a slow start leaving Camp Hill 9 points down at half-time, superb attacking play from Jei Diwakar and resolute defence from Amman Bhambra saw Camp Hill play some of its finest moves. In spite of outstanding play up to the very last second, Camp Hill lost by a single point, at 24-25.

A memorable season for Year 11 players Jacob Smith, Jei Diwakar, Aatif Syed, Saqib Sadiq, Amir Ahmed, Nasir Bashir, Amandeep Bains, Faizan Raza and Hannan Hashami, who pass the batons on to promising players Amman Bhambra, Ashvin Thomas, Mohammed Abed, Neal Naik and Azeem Hanjra as the senior players of U16 Basketball.

■ **Aatif Syed**





## U12 Basketball

The year 7 intake showed such great enthusiasm for Basketball this year that an U12 team was formed. A large number of boys attended training sessions throughout the spring term, meaning that selection for the two matches was extremely competitive.

The first fixture took place against an experienced King's Norton Boys school. A healthy squad of 10 players meant that Camp Hill were able to rotate substitutions at regular intervals. Early baskets from Arjun Kaushal and Alex Byrne meant that Camp Hill ended the first quarter in the lead, but Kings Norton came back strongly in the second, taking a lead of 21-10 at the end of this period. Camp Hill made some changes before the third quarter, Ajay John and Danny Blyth two players coming on and making a difference in both attack and defence. Baskets from Abbas Mirza, Kamil Khan and Rumun Ark gave Camp Hill hope of victory but Kings Norton deservedly went on

to win 32-21.

The second fixture of the term took place against Bishop Channelor School. Camp Hill again started this match strongly and baskets from Alex Byrne and Haresh Ram meant that they went into an early lead. However Camp Hill appeared to self-destruct in the second quarter and Bishop Channelor found themselves 22-10 up. With the game seemingly slipping away, Abbas Mirza began a personal mission to claw the score line back, scoring several baskets to close the deficit. Danny Blyth, Arjun Kaushal and Kamil Khan also chipped in with scores and suddenly the score was 24-24. Abbas Mirza fittingly had the final say in the match with a lay-up that gave Camp Hill a 26-24 victory. This was a fantastic performance



from all nine Camp Hill players involved and it was particularly pleasing to see debutants Dylan Rogers and Dhyan Naik showing their ability on the court.

All players involved in Basketball training and matches have adapted to the sport brilliantly this term and have a lot to look forward to in Year 8.

■ **Abbas Mirza**

## Chess

Writing this at the end of August, it seems strange to recall the snowy days of January and March, when we lost many fixtures. Overall, it's not been a bad season: we won two League trophies, the Closed Quick-play and Best in Birmingham at the Under 18, but I am very conscious that our "talent pool" is about to run almost dry!

The Individual Tournament got going in mid-September and attracted over 100 entries. About fifty players made it through to the end, which is fewer than usual; some leading names dropped out, and for some reason the play-offs weren't played (or there were many draws?) so we didn't get an overall champion. I shall try to be more insistent next year. The Individual allows players to qualify for the regional Megafinal, which took place in Worcester one Sunday in May. According to the web site, five Camp Hill players made the fairly long trip to take part. John Hayton became the Supremo in the Under 13 section (with 6/6) and qualified for the Gigafinal in Lancashire, where he scored a very commendable 3/6 and was half a point away from a prize. Well done!

The Birmingham and District Junior Chess League is now under new management (me) and experienced a minor revival: Five Ways rose from the dead under semi-student management; Queensbridge have joined, and Queen Mary's Grammar School have made a return after about four years. We entered four teams. Our first match, against KES, was cancelled when the water got

cut off, and some grateful sixth formers had to be drafted in to eat the sandwiches. Talking of sandwiches, we went to Queen Mary's a few weeks later. Mr Willis counselled me to take the A34, but I ignored him, took the M6, and arrived at 4:30, to find a plate of twelve (12) sandwiches, for twenty-four (24) ravenous chess players and two staff. I expressed consternation, and their member of staff kindly went and bought two tubes of Pringles and a large bar of Cadbury's Dairy Milk, which was promptly expropriated by a single Queen Mary's player. A later match, against Solihull, was postponed because of snow which never came. Thanks to all those who gave up their Friday evenings to play. The Pools Panel sat in May, and pronounced the following results: the first team came third (of three) in Division I, the second team won Division II, the third team came third (of six) in Division III and the Under 13 team were runners-up in their division.

Not so long ago, we were national finalists in the National Schools Chess Competition, but this was not to be this year. In the first round, we had to play Five Ways, and the only possible date coincided with University interviews, debating

competitions etc. and we could not put out a full team. They beat us 5-1.

Tournaments! We went to Eton (whom we beat in 2010, as the posters outside Room 14 say) in late September for a new one, ably organised by Neill Cooper, at that time the new ECF schools man, although he had a row with the ECF and resigned later in the year! I don't remember much about the chess, but I do remember that it poured with rain all day, and the Eton boys obligingly paraded past us in full uniform on their way to Sunday chapel. Our base room was the maths library! (*Note to Headmaster...*) We had some good games, and finished in a mid-table position.

Then there was Millfield. Hok Chiu couldn't go (he was busy winning a piano competition) so his annual epistle to the Camphillians didn't appear. We took 14 players. Several tried the Moby Dick Challenge at the newly reopened Winston's, and some of those were successful. Robert Walters and Lewis Hedges played in the reserves' tournament, and Robert won it. He looked horrified when he was called up to receive his prize! In the main tournament, we managed to avoid the Premiership again, and settled down to a remark-





ably consistent set of performances, which in the end won us the Championship by a slim but convincing margin. The team came away with a lot of tasteful prizeware, and Kuran Rati (Board 4), Tom Perkins (6), Sulamaan Rahim (7) and Jalees Hamid (10) won board prizes.

At the Under 18 tournament at KES in December, Oliver Whitfield caused some palpitations by getting stuck in traffic in Solihull, but eventually everybody turned up. This tournament was run on a Swiss system, where teams of "similar abilities" play each other. There are arcane rules for such draws, and in the past, we have ended up on the wrong side of them. Not this year! The random draw for the first round gave us the Wanderers side, made up of other teams' reserves, who we duly beat 7-1. In the next two rounds, we got Haberdashers' Aske's, and Nottingham A, the chess equivalents of Manchesters United and City (not necessarily in that order), and duly lost, although Sulamaan Rahim took a valuable point off Habs and Kyle Reed and Jalees Hamid both beat their Nottingham opponents. This left us in about ninth place (out of ten) and so we got two very weak teams in the final two rounds, both of whom we beat 8-0. This catapulted us into third place and, more importantly, ahead of KES, so we took home the "Best in Birmingham" trophy. Sulamaan Rahim

and Jalees Hamid won board prizes.

I spent hours setting up the Year 7 tournament, which attracted 7 entries this year, far more than usual. Unfortunately it snowed on the day and the school closed in the late morning, and I won't get those hours back. The Closed Quick-play initially suffered the same fate, but was rearranged for the first week of the summer term. We entered an A team, which won the whole thing rather easily, and a Year 7 team, which also did well. Seniru Witharange won all his games. We also entered two teams into the fun Lightning Tournament: one came second in its section, and the other came third. (Don't ask me how many teams there were.) We didn't enter the Under 14 tournament because no transport was available, but I did pop along, to discover a compact and bijoux affair with only eight teams, and Haberdashers' Aske's winning everything in sight.

In House Chess Round 1, Tudor beat Seymour 6½-1½. The other match should really have been the final for the whole competition. See below. In Round 2, Beaufort beat Seymour 7-1, while In Howard v. Tudor, there were some surprises. Sushanth Vayalakra beat Sulamaan Rahim, Oliver Tonks beat Kieran Bakhtiari, and in the all-Chinese tie, Cheung drew with Chiu. This match ended as a 4-4 draw. So it was all to play for in Round 3.

Except for Seymour, that is, whose aim was to avoid losing 8-0 to Howard. This they managed, after Robert Walters forced a draw against Jason Pereira who seemed to be going for the prize for the most blunders. Howard had also beaten Seymour in Round 1, so could Tudor match Howard's five points? Beaufort tried to help them by fielding only seven players. Tom Meehan beat John Hayton, and Oliver Whitfield sensationally beat Kyle Reed, but by then it was all over. Hok had blundered his bishop, Tom Perkins had forced his way past Sushanth Vayalakra, and Beaufort had won the other five games to give them a 5-3 victory. So Howard won overall, with Beaufort, Tudor, Seymour being the rest of the order.

Many thanks are due once again to Bob Walker for his Wednesday lunchtime sessions, which as always have provided plenty of intellectual rigour as well as enjoyment. And thanks are due to Mr Thompson for allowing us to continue with the lunchtime club in Room 14. I hope we have found the boards by the time you read this, otherwise the club won't have made it into 2013-14! What is more worrying is the sheer number of faithful and able players who will leave at the end of this academic year: keen young chess players are urgently needed!

■ **A.M.R.**

## Cross-Country

### South Birmingham Cross Country Trials

**T**his race is used to identify runners to represent the area in county trials. In year 7, Albert Cheng took the lead from the off and kept it throughout; Uvais Hafizal came 15th. The Years 8 and 9 combined team had a similar result. Tom Mansfield lead from the start but was caught on the last lap. With 50 metres to go he sprinted past 2 leaders to win; quite a result given he was running against boys a year older; Ed Connolly was 4th and Ishmael Silvestro 5th. The year 11 team was the strongest. Oliver Paulin, in preparation for Rio, won by a mile, literally. Alex Davis 7th, Jacob Bruten 8th and Oliver Whitfield 9th.

### English Schools' Team Cross Country Cup

**T**his was our second venture into this competition and, as last year, it was more competitive than anything the boys have done before, at school level. Our accomplished champion from year 8, Tom Mansfield, was the top performer. He ran the 4 km in approximately 13 mins which is equivalent to 10.36 miles per hour (correct to 2 decimal places) and was an impressive 6th. The strongest athletes in the older age group were Talvin Rai and Sat-

nam Ajimal, but well done, in general, to Dan Hill, Mason Jolley, Johannes Beckett, John Hayton, Garen Boora, Jonathan Saad, Wesley Blackhurst and Ross Breillat for their courage, enthusiasm and overall jovial spirit.

### West Midlands Cross-Country Championships

**O**n Saturday 20th October, Oliver Paulin competed in the West Midlands Cross-Country Championships, at Sandwell Valley. On a hilly four lap course, he led for the majority of the race, in a group of three runners; however one runner, who is the reigning county 1500m and 800m champion, sprinted clear on the fourth and final time up the largest hill, a break which proved to be decisive in the outcome of the race. Nevertheless, Oliver held onto second place, which was a massive improvement from previous years. He hopes to improve further on this result in the second county championships early next year after which the first 15 finishers are be selected to represent the West Midlands at inter-counties matches.

### English Schools Cross Country Championships Catton Park

**B**y finishing in second place in the West Midlands Championships, Oliver Paulin was selected to represent the county at this year's English Schools Cross

Country Championships at Catton Park.

On arriving at the park the team soon discovered that the course had a couple of very large hills, and that the overnight rain had resulted in a swamp of mud forming all over the course. Oliver started second in the West Midlands team pen, and unfortunately the runner in front of him did not have a very good start, and therefore Oliver was further back than he would have hoped right from the off. However, he soon overtook the other West Midlands runner, and continued to push on through the field, especially up the daunting 230m long climb, at a gradient of just over 8.3%.

The muddy conditions were tough for all competitors, yet due to the fact that he is smaller, and lighter than most other runners, he had less of a problem of sinking in the mud. As he neared the end of the race, a final sprint finish allowed him to make up another few places, which meant that he finished in a time 21:11 for the 5.8km course, in 79th position out of a field of the best 300 runners in England. He also managed to finish as the first finisher from the West Midlands team.

This was a remarkable performance, and he achieved his aim of finishing in the top 100. Oliver would like to thank the school for the generous support with which he was provided, in order to compete in these championships.

■ **Oliver Paulin**



## 1st XI Football

By 1st XI football standards at Camp Hill, this was another good season winning 4, drawing 4 and losing just 3 games including some convincing wins against Shenley and Sheldon. This was a large number of games for a Camp Hill team but the number was bumped up by the second ever football tour, this time to Stoke which proved once again to be very successful and enjoyable.

This year's success can be put down to a large contingent of the regular squad remaining in place from the previous season with 10 players having played regularly for the first XI last season. This allowed a more experienced and tighter knit squad to be formed and although we missed some pace from the previous year group, our tighter defence with the remaining central partnership of Sam Archer and Jack Yates with the addition of Shivum Dheir and Oliver Tonks as regular starters more than made up for this. Despite this we started the season slowly winning only one of the first 4 games, albeit against strong opposition.

Once again a settled squad remained in place for the entire season with 10 players playing either 8 or 9 out of the non-tour games creating a great team mentality and bond between the players. We began the season slowly with a 3-1 loss to Arden in a close game in difficult conditions with James Giblin scoring his first penalty of the season. We don't seem to have much luck in the cup draws and once again got a very strong side in the first round in the form of Sandwell College; the team performed well but eventually the game finished 5-0 in favour of the home side which didn't really reflect the opportunities that we created. Our first victory of the season came against a determined and aggressive Shenley outfit with Giblin grabbing 2 from set pieces along with a great strike from Elliot Black; even Zaid managed to get his way onto the score sheet after making use of his impressive turn of pace. The match however was sadly marred with the embarrassingly poor conduct of the Shenley team who were simply outclassed on the day but the boys walked away in high spirit – even the bruised victim Oliver Tonks managed to take the positives from the game.

After a strong victory the team were confident going into the next game against Kings Norton Boys, a regular fixture for Camp Hill and sadly we couldn't build on the historic victory last year and lost 4-1 giving Kings Norton 3 goals in the first 9 minutes in a disappointing performance, where on another day we could have got something from the game, with some missed chances that even Jacob Deasy might have put away. A good goal from Gilad Grant was one of the few positives to take from the

game. This game seemed to be the turning point for the season as we remained unbeaten for the final 7 games, facing Sheldon Heath in the next game where a compact midfield with the addition of Sam Cartmill proved too strong for Sheldon Heath with Black, Plenty and O'Brien grabbing one each and Cartmill and Giblin adding a spot kick each. Our next game was the school's first ever fixture against John Newman college which resulted in a hard fought 0-0 with excellent defence performances; a special mention must go to Akaash Harnal who seemed to swap the clangers from last season for spectacular diving saves and had a great game.

After a long break over Christmas and exams we returned against Old Swinford with a 3-3 draw in an exciting game with goals from Black, O'Brien and Grant in a game that could have gone either way. Due to the school not playing in a league the fixtures can sometimes repeat and we faced John Newman for a second time and continued to prove we can compete against large schools like these and the game finished 2-2 after some fiery clashes. Giblin grabbed another 2 penalties and once again Harnal had a great game keeping the team in the game several times. Our final game as a squad, which was against Handsworth Grammar, brought an end to a successful and enjoyable 2 years for the majority of the squad with Daniel O'Brien being the only regular starter from Y12. This was a very enjoyable game in which the team played some attractive football and finally Jamal found his shooting boots grabbing a hat trick on the day. Further goals from Giblin and Black secured a satisfying 5-0 victory to bring the season to a close.

A mixture of Y12 and Y13 players went on the second ever football tour to Stoke in which a makeshift team, still with a strong first team spine, managed a draw and a spectacular last minute victory providing another successful tour record.

All in all, this was another successful football season for the Camp Hill side with the record as follows: played 11, won 4, drawn 3, lost 3 – goals for 28, goals against 24. Another great season by Camp Hill standards and the team also managed to play some attractive football. Most of our goals came from the midfield with Giblin (8), Black (4) and Grant (2). A lack of a consistent goal scorer upfront possibly limited the side's success this year with Jamal and Matt putting in some good performances but lacking clinical finishing at times managing just 4 goals between them in the regular season. Although we missed some pace from last year, Elliot managed to fill this gap with trickery and Oliver Tonks' tenacity often raised the tempo of the side. Our rigid defence was marshalled by the ever present Jack Yates and Sam Archer with regular full backs Shivum Dheir and Oliver Tonks being strong defensively and also added going forward. The acrobatic Akaash Harnal made some glorious saves and, with the help of the back 4, recorded well deserved clean sheets. Notable performances from Sam Cartmill, Archie Attack and Charlie song just to name a few can calm the nerves of Mr Garrod as nearly the entire side will have to be rebuilt.

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 also hope that the football tour continues to grow over the next few years and becomes tradition within the school. We would like to think that due to the success over the last 2 years we have raised the profile and stature of football within the school and hope that the next crop of players continue to do so. We would like to wish the new team the best of luck for the season and hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

■ **James Giblin**





## 2nd XI Football

The 2nd XI football season saw some spirited performances which deserved a lot more credit than some of the results suggested, especially later on in the year.

The first game of the season came late in October away at St George's, giving the inexperienced team comprising seven Y12 pupils an opportunity to prove their potential shown in training. The game itself proved to be a solid performance from Camp Hill, winning 4-1 with goals from Jamaal Ud-Din (2), Matt McKenna and Qasim Ali.

The team's second game also proved to be dominant and resulted in another 4-1 win over King's Norton Boys. After an early brace from Ud-Din, Camp Hill turned on the style in the second half. Firstly came a well worked goal finished by Jalees Hamid before Josh Billing ran the length of the pitch from centre half to latch onto a McKenna cross and finishing for an impressive win.

In what proved to be our last game before Christmas we then returned to St George's in a confident mood; however this confidence may have proved to be our undoing as we lost 3-2. Despite the loss, two good goals from Hamid and Archie Attack meant we could still go into the Christmas break happy with our three performances.

We returned with a trip to Old Swinford Hospital and won what was a physical affair. After a goalless first half we were then reduced to ten men through an injury to Billing; soon after we found ourselves a goal down and up against it. However such is the team spirit that has been built up throughout the year we rallied into a 2-1 lead through goals from Jacob Deasy and Archie Attack and held on after some great



work in goal from Charlie Song as well as solid defence from Andrew Plimmer and Matt Jeffs. Unfortunately that proved to be our last win of the season after going down 3-1 to Baverstock in the penultimate game with our only goal coming from captain Thuli Weerasena. The side was weakened through injured absentees McKenna and Billing as well as losing Ud-Din and Hall to the 1st XI so it was always going to be hard work against a well organised team.

In the final game of the season we travelled to Handsworth Grammar to play what was a strong and quick outfit. We dominated the game from start to finish and had it not been for some poor finishing we could have had three or four but in the end had to settle for just the one goal from Deasy. Our lack of fitness then showed towards the end of the game unfortunately and conceded late on to draw 1-1.

Overall the season was certainly entertaining and enjoyable for all 23 of the players who were involved throughout. Attack, Plimmer and Jeffs played in all six matches with Billing, McKenna and Hamid missing just the one each and that core of players evidently built up a lot of potential for a strong campaign in the 1st XI this season. Ud-Din was the top scorer with four goals followed by Hamid, Deasy and Attack with two each, but with a total of 16 goals coming from all over the pitch there was never a reliance on just one or two people.

A record of three wins, a draw and two losses is respectable and something to be proud of given the very little opportunity we had to play together. However the results were not particularly important as after every game no one could ever doubt anyone's desire and team spirit and that can go a long way.

■ Josh Billing

## Football Tour to Warrington 2013

On Friday 15th March, 13 Sixth-Formers, Mr Garrod and Mr Speake travelled to Warrington to play Lymm High School that afternoon. Amidst avidly checking the Cheltenham race odds, Camp Hill reconnoitered the opposition to find that their football team had reached the last 32 of the English Schools Cup.

Fearing a thrashing, Camp Hill started brightly in the long-awaited Snickers kit as Archie Attack dispossessed the Lymm full back and slotted home within the first minute. Lymm responded though and took a 3-2 lead at half-time, after Sam Archer, having manhandled Gilad to the floor, scored from a knock down to reduce the deficit. The central midfield triumvirate of James Giblin, Gilad Grant and Archie Attack soon began to dominate their counterparts and a series of balls to right winger Ollie

Tonks saw him through on goal on numerous occasions. Despite rifling into the roof of the net on one such opportunity, his finishing was somewhat reminiscent of the Infinite Monkey Theorem, in that, put in front of a typewriter a monkey should at least hit a key. His celebration provided another defining moment of the tour, producing a star jump that surprised the team as much as it amused them. Charlie Song then saved a penalty midway through the second period before Camp Hill dominated the final minutes, with Gilad Grant and James Giblin both going close. Given the calibre of the opposition and inexperience of many team members, a draw was a creditable result from a performance that saw the 1st and 2nd XI players combine effectively on a heavy pitch.

After a lengthy evening meal where Gilad Grant's sartorial elegance embarrassed everyone present, even Mr Garrod whose jacket was usurped by Gilad's unanticipated tie the team visited the local bowling alley, another appar-

ent football tour tradition, where there was disappointment at not meeting any Premier League goalkeepers.

Saturday heralded the visit to Staffordshire's answer to the Nou Camp, the Britannia. For the training session with a Stoke FC coach, the team prepared for clearance practice and long throw-ins, but was relieved to play a more cultured game. A tour of the Britannia followed the training before the team watched the lunchtime kickoff of Everton vs. Manchester City on the screen in the Stoke City supporters' lounge. Here the Upper Sixth and Mr Garrod were privileged to hear Mr Speake's treatise on the economic ramifications of goal line technology. Enlightened, the team then went to the pitch side to watch Stoke City play West Brom and endured an unexciting 90 minutes of football, fulfilling both clichés of Stoke playing long balls and, of little surprise to the present Baggies supporters, Cameron Jerome's shot going out for a throw-in. Thinking that the



spectacle could get no worse, the Staffordshire weather proved us wrong as a torrential down-pour signalled an end to many a supporter's patience and the team returned to Warrington.

Wet and bedraggled from a less than thrilling exhibition of football, Camp Hill returned just in time to catch the end of the Six Nations, seeking solace only in the point that it wasn't football, only rugby. Dinnertime conversation revolved around the now controversial topic of game theory, two types of joke and Sam Archer's brusque manner with the waiters. Saturday evening was then spent enjoying the facilities.

The team reaped the benefits of the pre-

vious evening's early night, and this showed as Camp Hill raced to a 3-0 deficit in the first half, against a Sunday League team whose manager knew Mr Cookson. Playing against a strong side back from university and facing an uphill struggle, onlookers would have been forgiven for declaring 'nee chance' of a Camp Hill victory. However, an extraordinary last 10 minutes saw Camp Hill pull off a classical heist as Matt Plenty scored a hat trick before James Giblin shot in from outside the box to seal a historic 4-3 win, as Camp Hill maintained a 100% record on all football tours. The team, not only pleased with the result and performance, was delighted to have witnessed a sunny day in the

North, rarer than a Jacob Deasy goal.

The tour saw good performances from both the core of 1st XI players from the Upper VI and from those in the Lower VI. Not only successful on the pitch, the tour proved immensely enjoyable and a fitting end to two years of Camp Hill football for the six Upper VI players, for whom this would prove to be their last fixture for Camp Hill. The team would like to thank Mr Garrod and Mr Speake.

**Player of the tour:** James Giblin

**Celebration of the tour:** Ollie Tonks

**Hat trick of the tour:** Matt Plenty

■ **Jack Yates**

## Swimming

On the 18th of September, the school swimming team set out to Warwick School for its first gala of the year. The opening freestyle relays seemed to be a strong point, with Daniel Higgins setting a personal best and Kieran Rickards swimming 50m in an impressive 26.3 seconds. These two also managed firsts individually, with seconds coming from Fabian Evans, Matija Novovic and the Under 18 medley relay team. Henry Belai and Adam Li also performed well in their first swims for the school. The team came back with a close third place, just 2 points behind Solihull.

The prospect of the legendary "post-match snacks", served to spur the team on to a spirited performance when they swam at Bromsgrove School. Both Kieran and Matija achieved seconds in their individual medley events, as did Aneel Parmar in the Freestyle. Kieran also placed first in the butterfly. The Under 18 medley team took advantage of their strength in depth and stormed home 3 seconds ahead of the opposition. The highlight of the trip, as always, was the box of plentiful sandwiches and crisps.

In the last of a string of September swimming events, the team again travelled to Warwick school for the first round of the English Schools Relays. There were some familiar faces from the likes of Bromsgrove and Warwick and so we knew the competition would be tough. In the 4 x 50m freestyle relays the under 14 team did well to place third out of the five competing teams. The senior team watched nervously as the intermediate race started with two Year 11 boys from other schools swimming in under 26 seconds (faster than anyone from Camp Hill could manage). Fabian Evans' vow to "swim a 23, yeahh", was little reassurance. The quartet of Kieran Rickards, Luka Novovic, Sumant Kapoor and Fabian prepared themselves for the worst. Fortunately, the team had underestimated their abilities and they came in ahead of Bromsgrove and KES, averaging an astonishing 27.5 seconds over each leg.



In November, our junior team travelled to Bromsgrove School. Although Bromsgrove School won overall, Camp Hill swam well too. Henry Belai took an excellent first place in the backstroke and there were good seconds from Daniel Higgins, Adam Li, Max Mulligan and Uwais Hafizal.

Training continued throughout the term, with the odd gala affected by wintry weather - not cold enough to freeze the pool, but icy enough to preclude teams making the journey. On the last Tuesday in January the team journeyed to St Martins School in Solihull. As had become a tradition, the school arrived just late enough to ensure no swimmers were tired out by a lengthy warm up. This tactic appeared to serve the team well, as they dominated the gala. There were second place finishes from Adam, Daniel, Puney Jain, Thomas Hadden, Jonathan Freer and Jordan McDonagh. Firsts were achieved by Henry Houlden and nine of the ten intermediate and senior swimmers. Fabian's win however was an unofficial one. He was so far ahead that he emerged from the pool before any other other competitors had finished. After realising the errors of his ways, he proceeded to jump back in while the race was still underway. Needless to say, he was disqualified. Another

highlight of the night was witnessing Jordan McDonagh finishing the senior backstroke race with his head. All in all, the team swam well and was rewarded for its efforts.

Just before the half-term break was to begin, the four houses squared up to one another in the School Swimming Gala. Tensions were high following the Standards (the aggregate swimming performance of every non-senior student in the school). Just 22 points separated the houses. Howard and Tudor were out in front, leaving Beaufort and Seymour to play catch-up. The first event, the Year 7 freestyle, saw Beaufort and Seymour beating the leaders. Tudor held their own in Year 8 with a win from Marco Fiorito and Howard cemented their place in the senior section with a blistering 25.9 second performance from Kieran Rickards, but the gap kept narrowing. Real progress was made in the breaststroke events, with perfect scores for the Seymour Year 8 and the Beaufort Senior teams, and now the leader board looked very different from an hour earlier. Beaufort were seriously challenging the once distant Howard for first position. Teams then took out the big boys for the Plunge event. The competition was close, with the top spots grabbed by those



who could generate sufficient power on the dive to carry their significant selves through the water with the greatest momentum. Jack Lea took the win, with a solid 14.80m. Daniel Higgins however, was determined to bring the spotlight back to more traditional swimming marvels. He was so determined in fact, that he swam the 50m backstroke in 34.4 sec, nearly a second faster than it had ever been swum by a Year 8 in the school's House Gala history. Teams tussled for points in the backstroke and butterfly events and soon it was time for the relays. In these high stake events, strength in depth was tested to the limit, forcing some costly disqualifications along the way. After lots of thrashing in the water, the points were counted and the results were announced. Howard had successfully maintained their lead, with Beaufort close behind and Seymour and Tudor third and fourth respectively. After catapulting his House

team from last to first place in a year, whatever Mr Hill has been doing seems to have worked. Individual victor ludorum honours went to Kieran Rickards, Matija Novovic, Daniel Higgins, and Adam Li.

On Tuesday the 23rd of April, Under 15s Matija Novovic, Balraj Singh, Alex Lane, Lewis Evans and Daniel Higgins, and Under 18s Sumant Kapoor, Kieran Rickards, Ben Griffin, Luka Novavic and Fabian Evans travelled to Bromsgrove school for a Relay Gala, with schools invited from around the Midlands. There were many formidable teams, so the school did well to consistently finish in the top half of competing teams. The Under 15 medley team was the fastest qualifier for the "B" final, and then went on to win this with a good 5 second margin. The senior medley team looked remarkably strong in the heats, beating their regular rivals, Bromsgrove and Warwick

in a time of 2 min 4.7secs. The foursome found themselves in the faster "A" final, qualifying with the third fastest time and eager to secure a medal, but unfortunately they were edged out by Warwick School in the final metres. The school maintained its standing in the freestyle events, with spirited swims taking both the under 15s and 18s to wins in the "B" final with best times of 2 min 3 secs and 1 min 50.8 secs respectively. After four hours of swimming with only Mr Jack's fruit pastille rations for sustenance, the team was very much looking forward to the hot meals laid on by Bromsgrove School. This probably explains the over-zealous acquisition of nutrition, as the team would usually never stoop so low as to take more than one muffin each.

■ **Sumant Kapoor**

## Tennis

### Seniors

The Senior Tennis team (Kameran Ali, Charlie Song, Ben Miller, James Ternent, Oliver Tonks and Alex Hughes) played three matches during the summer term. After receiving a bye in the first round of the National Glanville Cup, the team travelled to Wilmslow HS in Manchester. They proved to be formidable opponents and won the match 6-0. In his debut for the Senior Team, Alex Hughes of Year 9 acquitted himself well against a strong opponent. He produced two highly competitive sets of Tennis before going down 4-6, 5-7.

The team were more successful against local rivals KES and Solihull. Having already beaten Solihull in the Senior Students league earlier in the year, the team registered another close 5-4 win. In the final match of the term, the team took on KES in an entertaining match. After 6 sets of competitive doubles matches, Camp Hill held their nerve to win the match 4-2. It was perhaps fitting that Kameran Ali; a tremendous servant to school Tennis over the last seven years, was able to seal victory in his final game for the school with a perfectly executed volley.

### U15 Teams

The U15 'A' team (Alex Hughes, Tom Wood, Harry Atkinson, Saakib Chawdhary, Alex Lane and Ashrit Chohan) came second in their league with convincing wins against Kings Norton 5-1 and Bishop Challoner 6-0, but lost a close league decider against rivals KES 2-4.

The U15 'B' team (Tom Wood, Alex Lane, Saakib Chawdhary, Ashrit Chohan, Harry Atkinson, Dominic Paver, Nishant Chaudhari and Alex Tassa) won their league programme with three wins and a draw against Priory School 6-0, Bishop Challoner 6-0, Queensbridge 4-2 and Bournville 3-3.

### U13 Teams

The U13 'A' team (Danny Blyth, Kota Ueshima, Liam Garside, Johannes Beckett, Rohan Sharma and Vamsi Pratapa) only had two matches, losing heavily to KES 1-5, but beating Kings Norton 6-0.

The U13 'B' team (Liam Garside, Johannes Beckett, Garen Boora, Rohan Sharma, Vamsi Pratapa and Alex Byrne) had four teams in their league and three wins against Baverstock 6-0, Priory School 6-0, Queensbridge 4-2 set up what we thought would be the league decider against Bishop Challoner. In a closely contested match, Bishop Challoner proved to be too strong for us and we lost 2-4. However, due to Bishop Challoner not completing their fixtures, our three wins were sufficient to see us win the league.

### U12 Teams

There is strong contingent of Tennis players in this year group. Danny Blyth and Kota Ueshima have already established themselves as first and second seeds in the U13

'A' team and Alex Byrne has played three matches for the U13 'B' team.

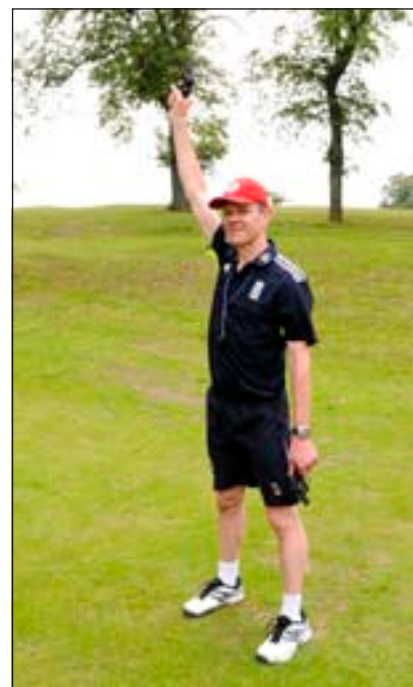
At the Area Sports Partnership Slam Competition at Billesley Tennis Centre, they were joined by Josh Hall, Henry Belai and Ajay John to compete against Bishop Challoner, Wheelers Lane and Baverstock for a place in the Warwickshire LTA Slam Finals which are held during the Aegon Classic Tournament at Edgbaston Priory. The team successfully negotiated the first stage, but the finals at the Priory were unfortunately abandoned due to torrential rain. The Year 7 team also played a friendly fixture against Wheelers Lane which they won 6-2.

Many of the school team players have benefitted from the coaching of Alex Knott LTA coach who has run weekly sessions at lunchtimes during the summer term. We hope to secure his services next year so the boys can continue to improve their skills.

■ **C.M.J.**











## Record Breaker!

**Nicholas Surr** is congratulated for breaking the Year 8 school high jump record.





# Results Summaries

| TEAMS      |                    | PLAYED | WON | DRAWN | LOST | FOR | AGAINST |
|------------|--------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|---------|
| RUGBY      | 1 <sup>st</sup> XV | 21     | 13  | 0     | 8    | 612 | 318     |
|            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> XV | 13     | 9   | 1     | 3    | 390 | 152     |
|            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> XV | 2      | 1   | 0     | 1    | 59  | 56      |
|            | U16                | 7      | 4   | 0     | 3    | 172 | 175     |
|            | U15                | 21     | 11  | 0     | 10   | 348 | 442     |
|            | U15 B              | 3      | 1   | 0     | 2    | 68  | 95      |
|            | U14                | 16     | 6   | 1     | 9    | 322 | 413     |
|            | U14 B              | 2      | 2   | 0     | 0    | 110 | 10      |
|            | U13                | 13     | 1   | 2     | 10   | 138 | 449     |
|            | U13 B              | 5      | 1   | 0     | 4    | 86  | 165     |
|            | U13 C              | 2      | 2   | 0     | 0    | 77  | 15      |
|            | U13 D              | 1      | 1   | 0     | 0    | 29  | 0       |
|            | U12                | 12     | 7   | 0     | 5    | 294 | 199     |
|            | U12 B              | 5      | 3   | 1     | 1    | 79  | 61      |
|            | U12 C              | 4      | 1   | 0     | 3    | 29  | 92      |
|            | U12 D              | 4      | 0   | 1     | 3    | 25  | 127     |
| HOCKEY     | 1 <sup>st</sup> XI | 12     | 3   | 3     | 6    | 17  | 29      |
|            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI | 9      | 3   | 0     | 6    | 12  | 27      |
|            | U15                | 9      | 1   | 0     | 8    | 8   | 38      |
|            | U14                | 5      | 2   | 0     | 3    | 8   | 9       |
| BASKETBALL | U18                | 1      | 0   | 0     | 1    | 35  | 49      |
|            | U16                | 2      | 0   | 0     | 2    | 45  | 56      |
|            | U12                | 2      | 1   | 0     | 1    | 49  | 58      |
| FOOTBALL   | 1 <sup>st</sup> XI | 12     | 4   | 4     | 4    | 30  | 28      |
|            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI | 7      | 3   | 1     | 3    | 17  | 14      |
| BADMINTON  | U16                | 6      | 5   | 0     | 1    | 25  | 5       |
|            | U14                | 5      | 4   | 0     | 1    | 20  | 5       |



| CRICKET            | PLAYED | WON | DRAWN | LOST | BEST BATTING      | BEST BOWLING        |
|--------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> XI | 8      | 2   | 1     | 5    | C. Kalsi 45       | V. Witharanage 3/14 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI | 2      | 2   | 0     | 0    | F. Malik 43*      | V. Witharanage 3/8  |
| U15                | 7      | 4   | 0     | 3    | E. Saunders 88*   | B. Singh 3/10       |
| U14                | 7      | 5   | 0     | 2    | J. Mukherjee 37   | A. Kavalieros 5/5   |
| U13                | 6      | 3   | 0     | 3    | G. Boora 73       | R. Ismail 2/12      |
| U12                | 9      | 1   | 0     | 8    | P. Thatipamula 38 | O. Akram 6/12       |
| U12 B              | 2      | 1   | 0     | 1    |                   |                     |

| TENNIS             | PLAYED | WON | DRAWN | LOST |
|--------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> IV | 6      | 4   | 0     | 2    |
| U15 A              | 4      | 2   | 1     | 1    |
| U15 B              | 3      | 2   | 0     | 1    |
| U13 A              | 2      | 1   | 0     | 1    |
| U13 B              | 4      | 3   | 0     | 1    |
| U12 A              | 4      | 4   | 0     | 0    |

| ATHLETICS | TOTAL MATCHES | TOTAL TEAMS | FIRST PLACES | SECOND PLACES | THIRD PLACES |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|           | 17            | 6           | 5            | 3             | 4            |

| SWIMMING | TOTAL MATCHES | TOTAL TEAMS | FIRST PLACES | SECOND PLACES | THIRD PLACES |
|----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|          | 17            | 6           | 4            | 4             | 4            |



# House Reports

## Beaufort

Another year dawned upon the red warriors of Beaufort. This year again wasn't a successful year for our high standards that we keep, however there are a lot of positives to gain from the numerous amounts of activities that this year had to offer.

We started the year strongly by winning senior house football, undefeated in our three matches under the leadership of this year's house captain, James Giblin. This performance was mirrored by the seniors in the five-a-side tournament, finishing joint first in a rare three way tie with Howard and Tudor. However, the success of the seniors in football was not matched by the juniors and intermediates, although a great effort was put in by all teams.

Next up was house rugby in which the seniors dominated, winning all three of their matches. Despite the intermediates and juniors efforts, we could only manage third place in a competition which Beaufort had dominated for some years.

After house rugby, the event loved by many, cross country standards took place in which all junior and intermediate boys must partake in. Having collated the results Beaufort were comfortably in last place going into the finals and winning the house cross country crown seemed impossible; nevertheless the runners competing in the finals ran extremely well, with the seniors and intermediates winning with ease thus Beaufort won the house cross country championship in style.

The penultimate event in the autumn term was house basketball. This is where the juniors and intermediates shone proving their class by winning all three of their respective matches. The seniors finished second losing out to Seymour

in a closely fought encounter where Seymour just edged the match by two points. Due to the strong performances in each age group, especially the juniors and intermediates, Beaufort won house basketball rather convincingly.

The badminton players followed suit and won the last event of the autumn term, where the first pair won all three of their matches with the second pair winning two finishing the term on a positive note.

The spring term was somewhat of an unlucky term for us as we finished second in two events where we had a great chance of winning. First up was house chess, an event Beaufort were fairly optimistic about. The first match between Beaufort and Howard was essentially the decider for the house chess championship which we lost narrowly, however there was still hope as Howard versus Tudor went down to the wire and unfortunately finished in a draw, meaning Howard clinched the chess trophy with Beaufort coming a close second.

There was a similar situation in the house swimming competition where Howard won with Beaufort again coming second. Special mention must go to Matija Novovic who won the Victor Ludorum for the intermediate category and to all the swimmers who gave it their all.

The last event of the spring term was house hockey where we finished joint second with Howard. The seniors played first and didn't disappoint, winning senior house hockey and remaining undefeated throughout their three games, winning two with one draw. The intermediates fought hard but could only manage third place, therefore Beaufort finished joint second overall.

At last the summer term finally began, bringing house cricket and tennis in the first week. Ten-

nis wasn't really our forte and was won by Seymour. House cricket was a different affair, with all houses having competitive teams, unfortunately Beaufort finished third overall in cricket, however the efforts of the year 8 team must be commended as they finished joint first with Seymour. Table tennis was similar to tennis as we finished last despite the seniors coming joint first.

The year finished off with sports day, but before this the athletics standards took place, where we unfortunately came in last place. However, similarly to cross country standards, we managed to claw our way back on sports day but could only achieve second place. The highlight would have to be the relays which Beaufort won in years 9, 10 and the seniors, thus winning the relay overall. Two Beaufort athletes, Wesley Blackhurst (year 10) and Kyle Reed (seniors), were named as winners of the victor ludorum for their fantastic individual performances during sports day.

This saw the end of 2013 and even though Beaufort finished third, there are a lot of positives to look forward to in the future. We thank the departing year 13s for their contributions to the house and wish them well for the future. Special thanks must go to James Giblin who was house captain for this year and did a great job, Rory Luscombe for being awarded the Vivian Bird trophy for his outstanding support to house activities over the course of seven years and last but not least Mr Surr.

Mr Surr took over as Housemaster from Mr Southworth at the end of the autumn term in 2009 and has led the house for just over three years. Mr Surr has always shown a passion for Beaufort house, which was apparent through the avid house assemblies he gave. We all wish Mr Surr the best for the future and thank him for all the hard work he put into Beaufort.

The title of Beaufort Housemaster has been handed to Mr Southall and I am sure he will continue in the footsteps of our previous Housemasters and bring back the glory days of Beaufort.

■ **Jalees Hamid**

## Howard

We won. No need to be kept in suspense any longer, the nails no longer need to be bitten, the long and winding road to championship success which has eluded us for the past twelve years has finally been journeyed. The wheels kept turning all the way through to ensure some remarkable successes along the way and ensure that the final outcome would never be in doubt by the time the starting gun sounded on sports day.

There was a lot of novelty for Howard this year, a new venue to call 'Castle Howard' down in the Sixth Form Block which has helped give some junior boys an insight into the privileges of Post-16 life, a lively and comprehensive record of the trials and tribulations of House fortune through the twitter feed @howardyoudo, a motto 'O locis ibis' and, most significantly of all, a winning habit

which was hard to shake once it had been earned.

From a clean sweep in the opening Intermediate Rugby fixtures through to the thrill of overall success in House Festival in October, the buzz came loud and clear that we were going to be genuine competitors for 2013. The elation seen in the blue (and it was very blue) camp in the announcement of victory on Festival Day was an unaccustomed surprise and fed the desire for a more significant outcome later in the year. The mood was confirmed by victory in House Football in late October. Two events accredited and a six-point lead over our rivals already – but it's a marathon and not a sprint.

The 'Blue Wave' hit a wall in the latter half of the autumn term, three third places in Cross-Country, Badminton and Basketball put us temporarily down into second place behind a resurgent Beaufort, it was looking shaky with rugby

not going as well and swimming to come. Swimming was an event that Howard had not won since 2001, standards though looked promising and hopes were for a damage limitation exercise against the experienced school swimmers in red and yellow. It was a delight to see the passion and camaraderie show by the Howardian swimmers as they pushed themselves on to greater feats, ably led by Kieran Rickards and Gulliver Bates, the team won outright with the year 7s making the greatest contribution towards overall victory. The surge of confidence which lifted the house after the gala saw us achieve victories in chess and the quiz (with Tudor) and even table tennis. Finishing a narrow second to Seymour in rugby overall (decided on the last year 8 match) meant that we had restored a five-point lead going into the summer term.

Music and Tennis went badly before the sen-



iors left, the Hockey squads could not sustain their form of previous years and ended up joint second, Cricket would be the key decider. The seniors looked to wrap it up with three wins out of three – thanks to Umar Ahmed's big hitting against Seymour and Hassan Qazi's patient batting to seal the win over Beaufort, the intermediates also performed well, Year 7 proved exceptional, the only wobble came from year 8 who recovered sufficiently to defeat Beaufort in decisive encounter and bring home the crucial ten points. This made Sports Day immaterial other than to prove that we would have won the championship anyway, even if there had not been the Festival scores added, which we duly did with a creditable third place with second in our grasp.

I wish to thank all members of the House for their enthusiasm and dependability over the year. Special mention to the year 7s who performed exceptionally throughout and don't what it is to be on the losing side. Also to Hugh Sanders as House Captain and his trusty team of seniors, among whom I wish to say a great thank you to Umar Ahmed and Gilad Grant as co-most valuable players and the ever-versatile Oliver Tonks



whose range of commitment from chess to cross country to football to tennis and beyond is a sure symbol of the spirit which has lifted Howard from being also-rans to well-deserved champions.

Long may they reign!

■ **G.N.H.**

## Seymour

After winning our first House Championship since 2004, we faced the new challenge of keeping the other House Masters' hands off our shield. Could Mr Watkins keep his 100% record as House Master?

We started the year strongly, with 2nd place finishes in the Football, Cross Country, Basketball and Badminton all within the autumn term. The term also saw the 2nd House Festival, where all the lads could showcase their talents in sports, arts, sciences, music... even a good old-fashioned tug-of-war! The Festival was an extremely enjoyable event, with Seymour winning the sports section.

Throughout the year Seymour were successful in numerous events both as individuals and as a collective. Daniel Higgins (year 8) set a new record for backstroke in the swimming gala while Ed Saunders (year 10) finished with an incredible batting average of nearly 250 over 3 games of cricket. Seymour were also able to retain the House Rugby

Championship, one of the most competitive sports of the year with special mention to both junior years who gained all points on offer.

The culmination of the Championship was Sports Day, and we were able to turn a 2nd place after standards into a 1st place after the big day, a tremendous effort from all involved. Having 3 Victor Ludorum winners from years 7, 8 and 9, also indicates perhaps the start of a domination in the sport.

Despite our incredible effort, all those 2nd place finishes (7 in all!) took their toll and we finished 2nd overall in the Championship. Not disappointing by any means, the boys can take pride in how we set about our defence. Thanks must be given to the departing Upper Sixth, including House Captain, Jake Thomas, and Vivian Bird winner James Bruton. Perhaps next year's Captain, Narinder Phull, can build on the solid 2nd place achieved this year and do one better.

■ **Narinder Phull**

## Tudor

This 2012–13 season did not go as hoped for Tudor house and we had our fair share of highs and lows. Finishing 4th in the overall house championship did not reflect our efforts throughout the year, although there is certain evidence for room to improve. Despite not winning many trophies, our team spirit was clear in our dominance in the 'standards' competitions.

This commitment to the house was epitomized by many, including year 7 Haresh Ram and Elliot Spalding. Their willingness to contribute was fantastic and they particularly enjoyed the vast amount of activities on offer – swimming,

rugby, cricket, athletics and the House Festival.

I would also like to congratulate all of the boys in the house for their best efforts which certainly did not pass unnoticed. Special mention goes to the Nick Surr with an outstanding display in the high jump, breaking the previous school record; a talented athlete to say the least.

Based on the year's performances, there are clearly many things we can be proud of as well as areas to improve. With Tudor having not won a house championship during my time at the school, we must all work together to ensure success for the coming year. Power to the Green Machine!

■ **Charlie Song**

## House Quiz

Now in its fifth year – House Quiz has provided a useful springboard to students interested in pursuing the inter-school challenges which we now have available. The level of challenge has been significantly high and there are a great many students whose depth and breadth of knowledge is truly outstanding. The Senior competition was won by a very accomplished Tudor Squad and the Intermediate event was wrapped up by Howard. This brought the competition to a thrilling climax.

The score was 18-17 to Seymour, if they could answer one more question, they would win the overall title alongside Howard; for Tudor, two right answers would seal them the crown outright, to equalise would give them shared honours with Howard.

With the express instruction that answers would need to be given immediately, the penultimate question asked 'How many sides are there on a triangular prism?' Kushal Varma of Tudor buzzed... but then forgot to open his mouth, the door lay open for Seymour, an unnamed Seymourian buzzed and answered 6... maths teachers everywhere collectively choked on their puddings in disbelief (5 is the correct answer, of course). It was down to the very last question.

What is the largest 2 digit prime number? Kushal buzzed first again, would nerves get to him a second time? In assured tones and with a smile on his face, he answered 97 – the correct answer! Joy and relief in equal measure. Tudor had levelled and taken a share of the House Quiz crown with Howard.

Mr Hill is left to ponder how he can make it any closer next year.

■ **G.N.H.**



# House Festival II

3 October 2012





# Obituary

## THAIN, Francis Gerald, MBE 1926 – 2013

Saturday 19th January 2013 was a cold but beautiful day. Drifting snow blizzards had closed Birmingham Schools the previous lunchtime, but due to heroic efforts from site managers and ground staff, Camp Hill's drive and playground were cleared in preparation for the hundreds who had travelled from near and far to celebrate the life of Gerry Thain.

The school hall was filled with current and former Camp Hill colleagues and pupils, friends and dignitaries from the swimming world, and so many, many members of the Camp Hill Edwardians swimming club which Gerry had founded and then nurtured for more than 50 years. After headmaster, Mike Roden's welcome and introduction, there was a fitting thanksgiving service of favourite hymns, prayers, readings and tributes. Camp Hill old boy, Professor Iain Hutchison, and Olympic swimmer, Georgina Lee both gave moving personal accounts of Gerry's 'fatherly' care and interest, over and above his skill and dedication as one of the country's top coaches.

In the 1980s Camp Hill Edwardians reached the National Speedo League club final eight times in nine years, and Gerry rose to manage GB swimming teams at European and world championships as well as the 1988 Seoul Olympics. In 1989 he received the prestigious Harold Fern Award for the 'most outstanding contribution to swimming at a national and international level', and for services to swimming he received an MBE in 2003 *[pictured below]* and in 2008 the BBC Unsung Hero award.



In the 25 years since Gerry's 'retirement', school swimming has kept me in contact with Gerry with his daily club sessions at the pool. Swimmers would arrive as nervous 'tots', and under Mr T's firm but gentle nurturing would develop beyond their greatest expectations, some to national level. They could have spoken of many successes, but after the Service, so many just wished to express their abiding

memories of Gerry's kindness and dedication to them as individuals. They fondly remembered words of advice such as: 'In freestyle, as in life, keep your head down and your eyes wide open'. This fondness and devotion spanned the generations. Anne Bourne, a CHE stalwart and current British masters record holder, who for many years knew Gerry as a coach and personal friend, spoke of him as *"the most unselfish, caring man I have had the pleasure of knowing. He touched the lives of every swimmer who has passed through under his guidance. He will be sorely missed"*.

I count it a privilege to have known such a great gentleman, and show my respect by including the tribute which I gave on that cold but beautiful day:

### Thanksgiving Service Tribute

Gerry Thain joined the staff of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys in 1956, on the very day that the school moved to these new buildings. It was all so new, that for a time the Headmaster's office was on this stage. Those tall poplar trees you see across the playground, around the lower pitches, were newly planted saplings. Over the following decades, the poplars, the school and Gerry Thain grew in stature together.

F.G. Thain was appointed: 'to assist with the teaching of French, to share the work in Physical Education, and to take charge of swimming instruction'. I know nothing of Gerry teaching French. By the time I joined the staff in 1971, he was: a valued member of the English department, Head of PE and Games, and had most definitely 'Taken charge of swimming instruction', to the extent that they were digging up the old tennis courts to make way for the School Pool, which was finally opened in 1972.

John Cleak, whose 33 years at Camp Hill coincided with Gerry's 31, remembers those early years in the 1950s, how Gerry, before he had reached the higher echelons of swimming officialdom, still had time for his own sporting activities: fives, hockey, football, squash, tennis – but swimming was already his main interest.

Sunday mornings he used to go to King's Heath Baths with four colleagues, with the thought that he might teach them Life Saving. There, to Gerry's embarrassment, the others 'larked about', diving, bombing, swimming lengths underwater. If they had been younger, they would no doubt have spent the rest of the sessions doing all drills on butterfly. Only one of that group ever gained his Life Saving Award, although, in consolation, John, you are among those privileged few who have sighted Gerry Thain actually swimming!

Regarding Life Saving Awards, Gerry's early success with the pupils was much more encour-

aging. In the 1958 school magazine, among all the successful gala results, Gerry notes: "34 boys achieved Life Saving awards, next year we want 50". Was it 50? The 1959 magazine reads: "...The total of 74 Life Saving awards is a new school record", and then, typical Mr Thain: "Next year, it could be better." Always better. Always looking for improvement, that was Gerry. If you were admiring some top club swimmer racing through the water, Gerry might quietly say: Yes, but look at their right hand entry. That little finger is still wrong!

With old boys keen to continue their swimming, the club went Open, and soon Camp Hill Edwardians was regularly reaching the national club finals, with Gerry also making his mark on the national swimming scene.

About this time, Mr Thain, or 'Four Teams! Go!' as he was sometimes called, successfully undertook a three year external Master's Degree in Education. And all this in addition to his 'stewardship' of the school pitches, arranging fixtures for all inter-school games, his club and school swimming matches, his ASA commitments at home and abroad, to say nothing of a full teaching timetable, and his loving care of a succession of cats.

When I think of Gerry, three words spring to mind: Cool, Calm and Collected.

**Cool:** Not Gerry, but the Pool! Gerry wanted water at a good training temperature, water with a bit of a bite. It seemed to me the pool was always cool!

**Calm:** Yes, Gerry was not a man to flap. On the biggest of hectic occasions, he was a calm person, with a calming personality.

**Collected:** Amazing! The People Gerry 'collected' to the cause; be it one of his 'Top-Men' taking a junior school games team to some cold, wet, winter venue, or you in the swimming club, so many willing helpers! That was one of his gifts, inspiring others to get involved.

To conclude: I thank God for so many, good memories of Gerry Thain, and I'm sure you do too.

Gerry and Mary had no children and very few near relatives, but I was reminded of that verse in Psalm 68: "God sets the solitary in families".

And what a family Camp Hill Edwardians is: loyal through the years, and here today. Gerry earned, and repaid that loyalty one hundred fold, by giving himself for each of his 'children'.

As members of another 'family', King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, we too would join in adding our tribute to Gerry Thain – a dedicated teacher, esteemed colleague, and friend.

■ P. R. Jack



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