

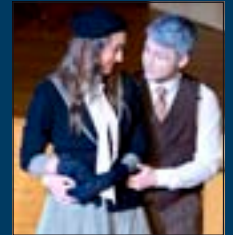
The Chronicle 2014



Specialist
School
Activities



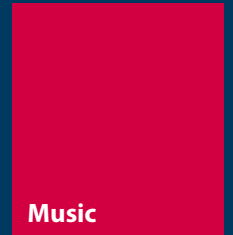
Sport



Trips and Visits



Competitions
and Challenges



Music



Drama



Sport



Music



Drama



Trips and Visits



Competitions
and Challenges



Specialist
School
Activities





KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Do you mind if I simply tell you about my highlights of the last year? After all, that's what The Chronicle's all about – a record of a year in the life of the school.

I'm going to start with the most extraordinary trip of a lifetime – a geography department trip to Japan. To my astonishing good fortune, there was one more teacher place than there were geography teachers willing and able to go. So, knowing that I'd lived in Tokyo for a couple of years, Mr Phipps asked me if I wanted to go. Would I? Tough call; I owe you Mr Phipps. Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Miyajima. The boys threw themselves into everything from sushi to karaoke; like me they were moved by the Hiroshima Peace Park and captivated by the breath-taking beauty of the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima.

Mr Speake and I took 14 footballers to Liverpool when they still looked like they might win the premiership (Liverpool, not Camp Hill footballers) and Steven Gerrard was yet to slip. Talking of Stevie, we went out for a kick around at the local park on the Saturday morning, only to find we were playing at the park rented by Whiston Juniors – the club which listed Gerrard, David Nugent and Joey Barton on its roll of honour. What a great weekend that was for the boys, who clearly enjoyed simply being away together, but they also lapped up the tour of Goodison as well as the Everton v Cardiff game.

Probably best to say as little as possible about the match against Lymm High School, except that we played well and enjoyed the game.

The Y8 residential trip to Anglesey has been a highlight of my year for several years now, and I intend to barge my way on to it again this year. I am always struck by how extraordinarily pleasant our boys are; they throw themselves into the superb activities run by outstanding leaders; but more importantly, they are so nice to each other! They encourage the ones who are genuinely pushing themselves to their own personal limits, wandering across narrow tree trunks suspended 15m above the ground, and only tease the ones who they know can take it (and probably deserve it). It's one of those times when I feel that warm glow as I think to myself how much more civilised this generation is than mine was – and I do believe I'm comparing like with like.

The rock climbing trip in Pembrokeshire was a highlight of my younger son's Camp Hill days, so I was eager to see it for myself. I spent a day with the boys and it wasn't hard to see why it meant so much to my son. Once again I was struck by the extraordinary encouragement the boys gave each other on the climbs – they just wanted each other to succeed and not for a moment wanted to see someone beaten by the challenge. The other thing I found myself in awe of was the professionalism of the staff; these same Camp Hill teachers have been running this trip for about, ooh, I think it's about 70 years, and their efficient organisation and selfless work was striking. Top priority (after safety – sorry, I have to state the obvious these days) was to make the boys' experience as valuable as possible, where value was a combined score of pleasure and personal development. The forecast was torrential rain in the afternoon, so they had the boys out on the rocks early in the morning; the forecast was correct and there was a tried and tested routine that swung into action as though it had rained in Wales before.

I may think the boys are wonderful, but there's a limit to how much I should inflict on a long-suffering wife. When I proposed a holiday in Ypres, visiting the battlefields of the Western Front, I was honest enough to tell her that there would be a coachload of Camp Hill boys in the same region at the same time. I assured her that a day spent with them would be pure pleasure, and that the scene-setting and historical context explanations given by Mr Southworth would be both interesting

and informative. Mr Southworth didn't let me down and, as a bonus, we had the pleasure of listening to Mr May describing in Horrible History detail what the chemistry and biology of a gas attack did to a man's lungs.

I look forward to every school production, so I knew that *Death of a Salesman* was a winner – great play, great director and, because they pull it out of the bag year after year, no doubt great acting. And so it proved. I enjoyed *Jungle Book* – the Junior Drama production this year – as well.

So many great musical moments it's hard to choose. Every concert includes a gem. I'm going to allow myself just two – and I can't tell you which concerts (or assemblies) they came in. Fazal Shah's recorder-playing restores your faith in the recorder – it is a musical instrument after all and Fazal shows you just how beautiful an instrument it can be. And Caleb Reid's Chopin made the hairs on the back of my neck stand to attention; how can a schoolboy get such emotional depth into a performance?

Allow me to use the word 'love' repeatedly in the paragraph about Christmas – it's appropriate. I always love the two Christmas musical events, even if there are other concerts which contain just as good music as the Christmas one. I love the Christmas one because it's an occasion of such happiness and because I love tradition. I love the fact that the Christmas concert contains certain annual routines: which trumpeter will get picked to play the horse's neigh in *Sleigh Ride* and will he make it sound anything remotely like a neigh? Will Father Christmas's stomach stay in place and will he distribute sweets like a farmer scattering seed or Ian Botham trying to run someone out? More magical still is the Christmas carol service. I love the fact that it retains so much that is traditional – perhaps more to my generation than the boys'. I love the touch of formality about it, which reminds me of the sacred, the spiritual and the holy. And it marks the start of Christmas – no schoolboy is more excited about that than me.

Those are just some of my highlights, the first that come to mind. No doubt I'll kick myself tomorrow when I remember something wonderful which I should have included; but that's what it's like at Camp Hill, I suppose – highlight after highlight, event after event. Read about a few of them here; another year, another set of memories, another *Chronicle*.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster

Editorial

This year's *Chronicle* features a bumper crop of articles. While I was going through the editorial process, things just seemed to keep flying in. There are of course the usual sports and activities reports, but this year sees new material from around the school – once again, testament to the vibrancy of life here at Camp Hill Boys, the broad interests of the boys and, of course, the commitment and hard work of the staff.

Aside from that, not much has changed. Another year has passed, and looking back over the year through the filter of the articles here, one is always prone to ask the question, 'did we really do all that?'

This year's author visit brought back memories from my own teenage years ('Hi! I'm Ed Winchester!'), and although as an English teacher, I am always bound to enjoy these events the most, it has also been great to read about the fascinating things the boys get up to in D&T, Mathematics, the Sciences, Humanities and Languages, not to mention the varied shenanigans of our global and domestic travellers.

As last year, my highlight is still the music section. One gets used to the boys' impressive attitudes to learning, their commitment to their own future success, but, as a musical ignoramus, I am always impressed to see the beautiful photographs of the boys performing in the various musical events that take place over the course of the year.

So, I hope that you enjoy reading this year's *Chronicle*. The staff of the school work hard every year to write and edit articles themselves, while also chivvying, cajoling and strong-arming the boys into doing the same. I think it is a good representation of the varied and challenging things that happen as a matter of course at Camp Hill Boys.

■ **Daniel Wilkins**, Editor

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Bob Weaver of Byte & Type for his work on *The Chronicle* and for his advice and guidance on its compilation.

The Chronicle 2014

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Leavers

Keith Phipps



When he retired at the end of the summer term, Keith Phipps, like a significant number of his contemporaries, had spent the whole of his teaching career at Camp Hill, having been appointed in 1974. It is a daunting task to sum up in few words the amazing contribution he has made to this school, over a period of forty years, but there is no doubt that he played an important role in the growth of Camp Hill into one of the very best schools in the country.

First and foremost, Keith is a Geographer; he became Head of Geography in 1988, a post he filled for the rest of his time with us. Ever a restless bundle of energy, he had already added, through part time, evening and weekend study, two further degrees, one of which was a Masters from Warwick University. Then, at the end of the 1990s, he became very interested in use of technology in the classroom; within a relatively short period of time, he had taken the world of education by storm.

There is only space to provide a mere taste of what the next few years brought to Keith's life. In 2001, in the National Teaching Awards, he became "UK Teacher of the Year for the most creative use of ICT". Two years later, his school website, Pupilvision, won the New Statesman's "Educational Website of the Year" Award, and in 2005, he was off to Buckingham Palace to collect an MBE for his services to education. And still the accolades came in; he worked for BECTA as one of six "E-Strategy Consultants", reporting directly to the Secretary of State and he was particularly proud to be made a "Chartered Geographer" by the Royal Geographical Society, a rare honour indeed. He also worked as a consultant with a wide variety of bodies and institutions, including Microsoft, the Guardian and the Hospital School of Great

Ormond Street. All this gave him many opportunities to rub shoulders with the great and the good, and with Tony Blair.

In 2010, Keith was appointed Assistant Head, with special responsibility for teaching and learning. To this post, he brought an enormous wealth of experience and expertise. He was able to establish an impressive professional development programme (CPD), which allowed not only Keith, but many other teachers, to share ideas and good practice. He also carried out a thorough review and overhaul of the school's induction process for new members of staff.

One thing I shall always remember was Keith the Thespian; he was an enormously talented comic actor, who might once have been tempted to leave the classroom for the professional stage. In the days when staff joined students in school productions, he played, amongst others, "Doolittle" in "My Fair Lady" and "Mr Bumble" in "Oliver". His choreography for our first production of "Cabaret" was immaculate and he was part of the Camp Hill Schools' company, which took a review, "Nude on Ice" (!), to the Edinburgh Fringe in 1982. Generations of students will also remember him as the hapless Albert Heggibottom, in a whole series of Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) theatrical disasters.

And then there were the trips; for years Keith, with breath taking organisation, ran school cruises to West Africa and the Mediterranean, which provided hundreds of students with an experience they would remember for the rest of their lives. In recent years, there have been Geography Department tours to America, Japan and China, which he has, of course, planned with meticulous care.

What else? Keith, for a number of years, ran the library with his accustomed efficiency. He was an enthusiastic sportsman; having made his mark in his youth as a sprinter, he went on to run school rugby teams and to play both rugby and a little cricket for the Old Boys. Space does not allow me to say more, but I must point out that much of this was achieved when he was a single parent, bringing up two children; you only have to meet those children, Lucy and Tim, to see how splendidly he fulfilled that role.

To his core, Keith Phipps is a Camp Hill man; he loves the School with a passion and he loved teaching. In retirement, I am sure there will be much travel and no doubt some continued involvement in education; he has already become a doting grandparent. For me, Keith has been a very good and loyal friend and I shall miss, in the Common Room at least, the banter, laughs and probably rather infantile humour we shared. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Camp Hill community, to wish Keith and his wife, Gill, who over the last decade has been his "tower of strength", the long and fruitful retirement his distinguished career so richly deserves.

■ M.R.S.

Mike Roden



Mike Roden first arrived at Camp Hill in 1995, having impressed at KE and Bristol Grammar: he was the school's Deputy Head (Curriculum) until he left in 2003 to return to KE for a little more rounding before returning to Camp Hill in 2008 as Headmaster, replacing Vincent Darby.

In both spells at Camp Hill Boys, Mike threw himself into all sorts of extra-curricular activities. He loved going on the North Wales trips with Year 8, even if his behaviour, at times, fell below the high standards expected. Apart from dumping endless numbers of boys in the lake at Plas Y Brenin, his tackling on the football pitch in the end of week match against the boys was pretty grim, bringing to mind the antics of fellow Yorkshireman Norman Hunter. Mike would often join rugby tours and was always, on a Saturday morning, to be found on the touchline exhorting one team or another, missing out yet again on the joys of Saturday morning shopping at Sainsbury's. He would also force himself to slum it on mundane Geography trips to tedious spots such as China and the United States or endure the cold to accompany ski trips to wherever just to experience the abysmal hotels and harsh winter conditions on the slopes.

Mike's real love, however, was the U-12 rugby team: woe betide the parent or visitor to the School who hoped to see him after school on a Wednesday - that was training night!

Mike's legacy at the school can be seen in the classroom and in the experience the boys have in their 7 years with us. His work on the development of ICT and the use of data to support staff and improve outcomes has transformed Camp Hill: the impact of the focus on teaching and learning has been profound.

Mike leaves behind an enormous fund of good will. The challenges he will face in his new post at the University of Birmingham School will be quite different and might present him with an opportunity to recharge his batteries. There is even the chance that his lovely wife, Alison, might see a little more of her husband!

Mike might only have been at Camp Hill for 14 years (a short spell by Camp Hill standards) but he achieved more in that time than others might have accomplished in a lifetime. Under his leadership, Camp Hill not only retained and consolidated its position as one of the leading schools in the country but became a better school: to the dismay of many in the Founda-

tion, we came to rival our illustrious neighbours in Edgbaston. For all his famed love of statistics and data, Mike never lost sight of the School's central purpose - to provide the very best education (in the widest sense of the word) for each and every boy in the school. Mike more than made his mark and will be long remembered by those who encountered him, be they

staff, parents or boys. We wish him and his dear wife, Alison, well in his new venture at the University School in Selly Oak. He leaves with the good wishes of every one who has known him at Camp Hill.

■ **A.J.B.**

Pat May



Pat joined the Camp Hill fraternity in 2003. He had not far to travel, having previously taught at Handsworth Grammar School. He actually came down the school drive not knowing which way to

turn, having been offered Chemistry teaching at both CHB and CHG! So he took two days with us, one with the girls. Pat was welcomed into the heart of Camp Hill Boys and quickly became a popular member of the "dark side" or the Science Prep Room!

In 2006 Pat really got to grips with full time life here and immersed himself into science departmental matters, PSHE, study skills and VDI consultancy for the German department. His expertise, efficiency and high level of organisation led to his accepting the additional responsibility of Director of Specialist College Activities. This entailed a host of days and events both on and off site involving a wide range of pupils at Camp Hill and in the local community. Pat also took on the new role of Widening Access Co-ordinator, using his people skills to great effect in establishing links with schools in the local community.

Pat enjoyed trips and visits, he was more than happy to give up a considerable amount of his time to accompanying school visits such

as Football tours, the North Wales residential, St. Malo, Battlefields and of course the Czech Republic. Pat did lead the Year 8 Wales week for a few years, but it will be his passion for the Koren visit in the Czech Republic for which he will best be remembered. The nine day trip at the start of the summer holidays has been a staple diet now for ten years and Pat's enthusiasm has never waned.

Pat was the self-appointed President, Secretary and Treasurer of the "Camp Hill Elite Athlete Tennis and Badminton Club". Read into that what you may, but Pat was the club's leading light and more than willing to throw himself around the court in an effort to win!

A great many people owe Pat May a vote of thanks for his subject knowledge, commitment and friendship, me included. He will now be able to spend more time with his son George, daughter Emily and her husband Carsten. We wish them all well and hope that Pat remains in touch with us here at CHB for many years to come.

■ **M.W.D.**

Stephen Holland



Stephen 'Steve' Holland joined Camp Hill Boys from Fairfax School as a teacher of Biology in September 2008. A graduate of Birmingham University he was already an experienced teacher. Steve quickly made a big impression and his good looks, posh accent and easy charm quickly endeared him to Staff and pupils alike.

One of his main attributes was his boundless enthusiasm and this, coupled with his unfailingly positive approach made him a force

of nature in the classroom. If Dr Taylor was the 'Eeyore' of the Science Department then Steve was definitely the 'Tigger'! He bounced around the School from the moment he arrived until he left in the evening. He was an inspirational teacher and was never short of a 'creative' answer to a tricky question from his students. However, he always checked his responses later, lest an ugly fact get in the way of a beautiful theory and in the end the students always received the correct version. Steve was an innovator and along with Mrs Mpofu was instrumental in setting up the 'Gardening Club'; only he could have persuaded a large number of boys to spend their lunch time digging big holes outside the Biology Lab! He was also the doyen of the 'Nature Club' which attracted a huge following with standing room only for some of the regular lunch time sessions.

He was appointed to the post of Science Coordinator for the Specialist College and organised a number of activities including the highly successful Summer School Classes for Year 5 pupils from local Primary Schools. In 2013 he replaced Mrs Mpofu as Head of Biology and his unstinting enthusiasm and academic rigour ensured the maintenance of the high standards of the department.

Steve was always willing to give up his time for extracurricular activities and took part in a

number of School trips including the Ski Trip, Year 8 Residential at Conway and the Czech Trip. Steve lost his title as 'Favourite Biology Teacher' to Miss Hull in September 2013 but even that was a close thing. Steven has emigrated with his South African partner to start a new life in Australia, where he has launched a tutoring business in Perth. Australia's gain is definitely Camp Hill's great loss.

■ **P.F.M.**

Christine Atkinson

Christine Atkinson joined the school from Light Hall School, and over the past nine years, she has taught every science subject under the sun, though she is primarily a practitioner of the dark arts of Physics.

She has become a greatly respected figure, renowned for the quality of her teaching, for the forthright common sense she has brought to her job, and for her ready support in all aspects of School life. One suspects that Christine, the skier, the traveller, the sports car driver, will be planning a pretty active retirement.

■ **M.J.G.**

Simon Willis



Simon Willis came to Camp Hill in September 2009 – it seems like yesterday, but now, six busy years later, we bid farewell.

Simon Willis arrived from Great Barr School, where he taught for three successful years. But who in their right mind would want to join a Maths department of mainly old (at best middle aged) men who at the lunch table delight in discussing differentiation, integration, geometric challenges and interesting numbers? Who in their right mind would do such a thing? And yet, Simon did, and he fitted in so well!

In no time at all he was not only solving, but setting little maths puzzles at what used to be called the Games Dept table in the staff room. Jim Smith could barely take the excitement. Many is the time that Jim, for the sake of his heart, in the very middle of some exciting mathematical explanation, hurriedly excused himself and rushed out.

But Simon would not be put off his stride. In fact very little seems to put Simon off his stride. Always cheerful, calm and collected, he brought new and innovative approaches to the department; his use of ICT was particularly impressive. The sessions he delivered at our Saturday School, for primary age children, were always popular and fun and he arranged many

interesting speakers as part of our enrichment programme. In the last 3 years he has also taken on the role of Subject Trainer in the KEC Teacher Training Consortium; he found this role both enjoyable and rewarding, and quickly established himself as an important cog in the training 'team'.

As a top class hockey player, he fully appreciates the importance of extra-curricular activities and his superb contribution in coaching and running the school U15 teams, which the players really appreciated, will be difficult to replace. He also enjoyed his forays on the Year 8 residential trip, where he immersed himself (literally on occasions) in the activities.

Simon leaves us for a well-deserved promotion to second in department at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. As a department we will miss his insight and ready contributions to discussion, we will miss skill with ICT, we will miss his cheerful laughter.

We wish him and his family all the best for happy and healthy future.

■ P.A.B.

Anna Cosimetti

Aнна joined Camp Hill as the Headmaster's Personal Assistant and Office Manager in 2009, but she's been with the King Edward's Foundation for longer than that – since 2000 to be precise. Her previous role, which was up at the Foundation Office, was that of 'Head of Office Services'. She was also Committee Clerk – a role that brought her into the schools at Governors' meetings.

She's a Brummie, born and bred in Harborne; she went to St Paul's School for Girls in Edgbaston. After school she worked for 12 years with a firm of actuaries, before joining the Foundation.

Her great loves are running and travelling, and it was always great fun to hear of her latest adventures. She went to Australia, Thailand, Barcelona, Istanbul and Borneo. She climbed Mount Kinnabalu in Borneo and trekked up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; she's planning a trip to Peru.

As a runner, she was happiest with long distances. She has run the London marathon twice and the Edinburgh marathon once. She has a long list of half marathons under her belt: Birmingham four times, Amsterdam, Great Wall of China, Wales, Bath and Telford. She generally clocks up a couple of half marathons a year; she also loves her cross-country running in the winter.

The school will miss her constant cheerfulness and love of Camp Hill. She was a superb PA to Mr Roden (and to me for a term!); she has now rejoined Mr Roden at the Birmingham University School. We wish her a happy and fulfilling time there, and say a warm thank you to her for her many years' service to us.

■ M.J.G.

Jim Smith

Jim Smith's connection with the school began in 2002, when he covered Lorne Pearcey's first maternity leave; we renewed acquaintance when Miss Pearcey had her second. Mr Smith's background – he had retired from the post of Head of Music at RGS Worcester – made him an excellent man for that job. But he also studied German at university, so the school has made extensive use of his talents in the languages department over the years.

Mr Smith took up a permanent post at Camp Hill Boys in 2005, when he became a part-time cover supervisor. He has a wonderful way with the boys; his wit and pleasant nature have a tendency to bring out those very qualities in the boys. He also runs squash on a Wednesday afternoon; if he's wearing a black shirt on Thursday you know he has lost to one of the boys the day before. He has accompanied various residential trips, particularly the rugby tours to Carlisle, giving up his holiday to spend time pulling the legs of boys who generally give as good as they get.

■ M.J.G.

Gemma Wingham-Drew

Gemma Wingham-Drew joined the school in January 2013 as a Teaching Assistant providing in-class support. We wish her all the best, both in her work as a weekend chef at a landscape gardening outlet and as a mother, following the birth of her second child in November.

■ M.R.S.

Joanne Law

Joanne Law left the school this year after taking over as librarian in 2004. This appointment followed several years of service, filling in for and assisting her predecessors. The wife of Terry Law, who retired in 2013, Jo has been a fixture at the school for a long time, helping out with cover and even doing some teaching, as well as running the library. She retires to spend more time with her growing family, continue her interests of piano playing and crafts – and, of course, to tend to her famous hens.

■ M.J.G.

Mary Rees

Mary Rees tried to retire as a biology teacher from Camp Hill Girls. We allowed her a year, but then she agreed to help us out for this year when Teresa Mpofu left us. Mrs Rees taught Mrs Mpofu's A level biology, so there was a pleasing circle closed. No sooner had we released Mrs Rees than King Edward's Handsworth made its move. You'll retire one day, Mrs Rees! We wish her all the best.

■ M.J.G.

School Activities



Schools Aerospace Challenge 2014

Camp Hill Boys had three teams in this year's Schools Aerospace Challenge. Regular readers of *The Chronicle* will remember that this is the annual, Institute of Mechanical Engineers sponsored, web-based competition that seeks to raise awareness in young people of the career possibilities offered by the aerospace industry; both civil and military.

The task revolves around the idea of an "RAF Requirement," a design tender which is put out to possible bidders, (i.e. the student teams of three) who then have to respond with a design concept that demonstrates a certain awareness, both of the capabilities of the technology and its possible operational role.

We also looked at the asset loss to the RAF of the Nimrod MRA4 search and rescue/ long

range maritime reconnaissance capability, the impact of the UK Strategic Defence Review, and the UK's international obligations to provide search and rescue cover over the Western Atlantic.

The 2014 Challenge required both good background knowledge of RAF long range search and rescue capability, the increased capability soon to be gained from the introduction of the A400M, and some understanding of the actual technology:

"The A400M transport aircraft is soon to enter service with the Royal Air Force and it might be possible to use it in a secondary role to provide a long range Search and Rescue capability. SAR aircraft have previously carried and dropped survival equipment including life rafts to assist survivors. It is suggested that using remote control technology the A400M could carry and deploy a lifeboat that would be steerable to survivors. It would be advantageous if the lifeboat could have a propulsion system to enable it to travel some distance in order to enter known shipping lanes and therefore increase the chances of recovery. The task is to examine the feasibility of such an idea addressing aspects such as radius of operation of the A400M in the role, its location of survivors, deployment of the lifeboat, and how modern technology could be used within the lifeboat to give survivors the best chance of rescue."

As the teacher in charge, I introduced the boys to the history and development of airborne maritime search and rescue up to the present day, both in the UK and other countries. My request for assistance from the Royal Air Force was met with an invitation to visit the Survival Equipment Section of the Engineering Support Squadron at RAF Brize Norton.



This is the home station of the RAF transport fleet and, in particular, those C130 now tasked with long range maritime reconnaissance and search and rescue. It will also be the home base for the new A400M.

Nine boys from Year 11, and one Year 10 with aspirations to join the RAF, spent the afternoon of Monday 24th March travelling to Oxfordshire in a school minibus accompanied by myself, ably assisted by Mr Alastair Bulloch, our recently retired Deputy Headmaster who was called back for the day as a Responsible



Adult. He was just as thrilled as the boys.

We had a special tour and a programme of briefings tailored to our particular needs, with sessions from the Air Survival Rescue Apparatus team, the sea survival experts of the Survival, Escape and Evasion School, and some very experienced Air Loadmasters who showed us around and inside a C130J Hercules aircraft, with an up close look at a C17 Globe-



master II. We saw the different types of ASRA dinghies, looked at the aircraft stowage and deployment of the air-droppable loads, tried on the survival suits and had all our questions answered with great consideration.

The practical result of this experience was that two of our three enthusiastic teams qualified for the 2014 Schools Aerospace Challenge Cranfield University Summer School.

Unfortunately, neither of the two teams was able to attend this year owing to family holiday commitments. This in no way detracts from their considerable achievement in gaining two of the ten national semi-finalist positions. Well done to Jonathan Saad, Thomas Wemys and Joe Gardner of Team Blue Bottle, and David Johnson, Joe Malt and Fraser Doshi Keeble of Team To The Skies. Thanks also to Ashley Hung, Thomas Meehan and Nathan McClelland of Team Rocket, for their enthusiastic commitment to the project. And from Alex Bonnor of Year 10, too young to enter the 2014



competition: *"It was interesting for me to go along and be able to see what working in the Royal Air Force is like on a day to day basis."*

The next Schools Aerospace Challenge will be announced in January 2015, open to boys who will be aged 16–18 in August.

My sincere thanks go to Squadron Leader

Laura M. Sexton, OC Engineering Support Squadron, Flight Sergeant Martin Taylor, Sergeant James Weeks and the rest of the team at RAF Brize Norton.

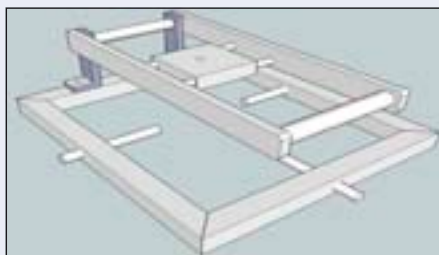
■ C.J.

Engineering in Education Scheme Aero Engine Controls

The Engineering in Education Scheme (EES) is just one of the great extra-curricular activities that the school aims for us to enjoy. What really interested us was the in depth engineering insight that we were going to receive and how it would develop our skills. Actually, that's a bit of a lie. All we wanted to do was miss some days of school to go to the University of Birmingham and other days organised by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT).

However, as soon as we began completing our online applications in preparation for our interviews with the partner companies, it dawned on us that actually this might just be something to put some effort into and might actually help us with our university applications next year... With that in mind, we strived tirelessly to prepare ourselves for the interviews. We used our time productively, and more or less forgot about the upcoming interviews until a short and unspecified time period beforehand (the morning of the interview day would be stretching the truth a little).

Because of this it is a testament to our sheer brilliance and skill (also known as blind luck) that four of us (Andy Featherstone, Mathew Else, Abdur-Rahmaan Khanani and Philip Beckett) were paired with the Aero Engine Controls (AEC), part of the Rolls Royce Group, specialising in the production of aircraft components. AEC both design and manufacture actuators, fuel pumps, engine control units and fuel metering units. Leaving technicalities behind, what this in essence meant was that we were fortunate enough to receive the sup-



port and project task from a very well established and interesting engineering company. They have engineering roots stretching as far back as 1904 with their first luxury car, and during WWI and WWII when they were key players in powering the Allied planes helping them to victory (ask Mr Southworth for further details on first hand flying experience in WWI).

The team was given their task by the three AEC engineers during the Launch Day at Cosford Museum. This was to attempt to develop an advanced tooling mechanism to depress the poppet valve (a key component of a Fuel Metering Unit, part of all jet engines) during assembly, allowing the use of new measurement equipment. After attempting to understand this, and being given a basic outline of the working of this component in relation to a jet engine, we enjoyed a variety of tasks such as making parachutes and holding vessels for chocolate out of everyday items. These were then launched from the balcony overlooking the planes and we were allowed to eat the

chocolate if it remained undamaged. Another highlight of the day was the standard free food that we experienced at every turn of EES, consisting of a small yet tasty sandwich, some cancer inducing Walkers, a small cake and bottle of water, and a largely ignored piece of fruit.

The end of October and beginning of November really saw the team start to do some serious design and research work, and was actually a period of time in which we all tried to put a lot of effort into the project. This was kicked off by a site visit to the AEC site at Shaftmoor Lane. However, before this, some key team bonding was necessary, including finding out who Abdur was, as well as habitually stealing Andy's food at meetings. Meetings themselves are an interesting topic. To begin with they were scheduled for Fridays after school with the AEC engineers. However, after enduring tiredness provoked by the meeting's lasting until 6:00pm a lot of the evenings, also having Mr Nash's wife staring at us in the hope she could get home to enjoy the weekend, we moved meetings to Monday lunchtimes. This not only provided time constraints, but also allowed us to escape the stare of Mrs Nash. Meetings tended to take the same course every time with few exceptions. First one of us collected the engineers from the office and then they would have a nice cup of tea. Subsequently the meetings usually concentrated on all the things we had done wrong and not corrected from our previous meeting.

The 17th to 19th of December saw the long awaited residential finally arrive. Here we built a prototype of our design and delivered a small presentation of our work thus far to our peers from other schools and colleges. For the most part however, we were just enjoying being in a new and interesting environment. Spurring us on throughout the day was the thought of



yet more free food in the evening, cooked and served for us at one of the university halls. The routine of staggering back to bed at the Ibis hotel after a massive meal, before consuming

more free food at breakfast the next morning continued for three days. By the end we had a working model, and a clearer idea of the improvements that we needed to make.

The subsequent stage to manufacturing a prototype was the review and redesign. This culminated in the team having to submit a detailed technical report by the end of March, and then a 15 minute presentation and question session at the Celebration day on the 1st of May. Needless to say, prior to the report deadline, there were many nights with barely any sleep, the image of Mr Nash's foot flying

towards our backside making sleep impossible. It is fair to say then, that the EES scheme really has impacted us as a team a lot. It has definitely helped us with the aspect of tackling a complicated project as a team, as well as keeping to deadlines. The constant improvements and rethinks necessary in such a project have also given us an invaluable insight into our chosen professional field of varying disciplines, engineering.

■ **Philip Beckett**

Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

The Engineering in Education Scheme is not for the idle, it is a rigorous long term commitment that we have ultimately felt to be worthwhile and rewarding. The scheme has uncovered a wealth of information regarding the real engineering world, and made us truly appreciate what the life of an engineer entails.

Following the application process consisting of a written application and interviews with the respective companies, Eaton Corporation and Aero Engine Control, two teams of four were selected. The Eaton team (Ayrton Gill, Joseph Lawrence, Tim Naylor and Muhammad Waabis) were tasked to design and build a pipe clamp segment measuring device. The need for the solution was due to the inaccu-

racies involved in measuring the circumference of curved pieces of aluminium using measuring tape. On the factory visit it was made clear that up to 700 segments can be continually produced in a working day, with 1/50 being checked to specifications. It was essential that the solution was quick and easy to use to ensure production is not interrupted, but it must also be able to measure the segment circumference to the required accuracy.

The first port of call was brainstorming a number of possible solutions in order for one to be picked to be further developed. A design was selected based upon the principle of converting a curved distance into a linear distance that can easily be measured. Time was then spent preparing for the three day residential at Birmingham University, ensuring we were able to hit the floor running once arriving. Due to superior planning prowess demonstrated by the Eaton team, their design was changed on the first day, thus rendering the first day inactive, in terms of manufacturing. The remainder of the banter fuelled trip was used for trial and testing of the new principles developed, as well as ordering professional parts online such as the high friction Pololu wheels. Free meals, including the odd seconds and thirds – something that many of us took advantage of, meeting new people also on the scheme, plus a feel for staying at a university meant the residential was very worthwhile.

Upon arriving at school, the team began intense work on constructing the first prototype using our fancy new parts that Eaton had ever so kindly subsidised (they paid it all). This was a stressful period on our EES journey as the construction did not run as smoothly as had hoped, with many unforeseen circumstances cropping up, for example losing valuable screws. As the report deadline day approached, the team hit into overdrive, finalising the prototype with a delightful green painted finish kindly provided by Mr Turner. Running parallel with the manufacturing was

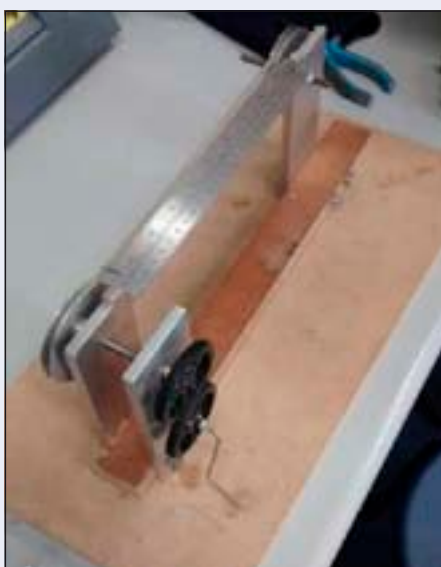
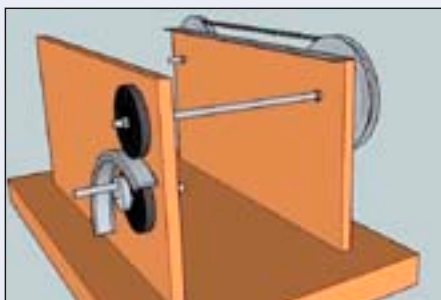


pertinent and diligent reporting so as to minimise last minute work. That was of course an idyllic dream we'd hoped for, as in reality the amount of last minute work was incredible. However we managed to submit a more than adequate report in time and then sights were set on the EES Celebration Day.

On the day our display boards were set up, having been finely crafted the day before, our table adorned with a majestic blue Eaton sheet, with the pinnacle of engineering design (our project) on display in the centre. The team eyed up fellow schools and their EES projects with critical eyes, instilling fear into the enemy. The team's nerves were on the rise as we practiced our speech over and over in time for the presentation in front of four esteemed engineers. Once that daunting prospect was over, lunch was served before the questions began. The four engineers quizzed us on our project and the team held up well against the fire, answering capably and proficiently. After a few presentations and talks the day was over, and what spelled an end to our EES journey.

The scheme was an adventure to say the least, but one that we do not regret undertaking, as we feel we've come out the other side stronger, and more prepared for the real engineering world.

■ **Ayrton Gill**



Big Bang Fair 2014

On Thursday 13th March, 12 Year 7s went on a school trip to the Big Bang fair which was in the NEC. They were joined by Year 13s Tom Chalklin, Terence Wu and Ben Blayney, Mr Watkins and Mrs Atwell.

Most of the day involved us going around the show, doing science activities before collecting freebies: pens, pencils, rubbers and many other things. The rest of the day included us going to a Chemistry show which showed us how things exploded. We watched scientist blow things up and they showed us timelines of inventors and what they invented. They also taught us about the fire triangle.

Finally thank you to Mrs Atwell for organising this trip and I hope you will be able to do it next year as well.

■ **Sicheng Li**



Chemistry Ambassador 2014

It's not everyday that you have the opportunity to help the younger years in a lesson, so when Mrs Atwell gave us the offer to do so in September, we accepted.

From pH to burning, from distillation to atoms, it was initially strangely nostalgic feeling to be helping Year 7 students learn. One Tuesday every fortnight, we dutifully assisted Mrs Atwell in teaching Year 7 the Chemistry curriculum, either by clarifying concepts and helping with homework, or doing experiments that we've wanted to do ourselves.

A missing bottle of potassium manganate

(VII), an exploding ink flask and a broken Liebig condenser later, Mrs Atwell (somehow) decided that we were responsible enough to teach a lesson each to the Year 7s at the end of the year. It was certainly... a different experience and made us more sympathetic to teachers and their job. Maybe not hand-in-every-homework-on-time sympathetic, but sympathetic nevertheless. However, the eager Year 7s were enthused soon enough, which was a comfortable end to a fun and hectic year.

So, if you're in Year 12 and you do Chemistry, give it a go! (It might get you brownie points with the Chemistry department).

■ **Goutham Sathyanarayanan**

■ **Joel Elkin**

Chemistry Camp University of York, 21-23 July 2014

On Monday 21st July, Salters' Institute hosted one of its annual Chemistry Camps at the University of York. Sixty Year 10 or equivalent students from across the UK were selected to take part in this camp, from the Scottish Highlands, to the south coast. With York being a far distance from many of the participants (a two and a half hour car journey from Birmingham), students could select whether they would prefer travelling by car or train, but either way, we were immediately greeted by some of the leaders of the camp, and some chemistry students, helping out at the camp.

We were left by our parents/guardians in a small waiting room by the porters' desk, where we left our luggage, and received a pack to take with us explaining what we would be doing at the camp, alongside a badge with our group (organised by different colours) and the safety glasses and lab coat we were informed to bring

with us. We arrived at a square shaped patch of field, where we all congregated and had a go at the "Icebreaker Challenge" in which we had to use the statements within the booklet to learn about each other, for example, "Favourite drink is apple juice" or "Can't live without chocolate". It was not too long before friendship groups were made, and we went off to have a simple snack and meet up with our group leaders and the other members of our group.

From there, we went to the chemistry lecture theatre, in which we were given a briefing on our first experiment. This was entitled "*Clock Reactions and Oscillating Reactions*", and as you may guess, this involved a reaction timed to a certain degree. Off we went to our assigned laboratories, with the red, yellow and orange groups in the older, darker lab, and the green and blue groups in the newer lab. We were given the challenge to set the reaction time to 15, 30, 45 or 60 seconds, which then resulted in a competition to see which group performed the best, and we could easily tell, a lot of mishaps occurred whilst measuring out

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2014

The C3C6 exam allowed the Year 12 Chemists the opportunity to attempt the hardest and most complicated test of their lives and build on the baffling month challenges that they have been attempting since October.

The paper was so difficult that only 60% of participants nationally achieved the score of 13/60 which was required to gain a medal. It is to the Year 12's credit that fifty two students achieved this, a school record. The school also gained twelve gold medals, more than ever before.

Gold Medals were awarded to:

William Abbot, Gaspard Bulso, Matthew Else, Thomas Else, Sam England Elliot Goddard, Ahsan Khan, Oliver Paulin, Goutham Sathyanarayanan, Aatif Syed, Muhammed Ubaid Khan and Peter Watson.

Silver Medals were awarded to:

Amir Ahmed, Jordan McDonagh, Joseph McElroy, Mohammed Moheen, Huw Morris, Greg Torlinski, Oliver Whitfield and Faaris Zaki.

■ **A.J.T.**

chemicals! The second experiment in this section involved looking at the time differences in colour changes of a solution, but the competitiveness would've died down here. We then went off to the Halls of Residence, in which we could relax for a short while, followed by a whole group photo, then a calming dinner. This day was ended with an adventure-styled question hunt, where we answered question based on the University itself, and we were given the pleasure of a shorter quiz after, as time was running out, with the three winning groups winning some Chewits. We were given a short amount of time, before it was off to sleep.

The next day, many had not recovered from a rather hectic first day, and completely missed breakfast at a very early time of 7:30 am, but we had to rush off back to the main building to receive the second briefing, all about “Complex Chemistry and 2p Coins”. The first experiment involved the mixing of metal ion solutions with ligands to discover what colour these turned. From here we learnt about spectrophotometry, and how the graphs produced vary dependant on colour. This was followed by an experiment to determine the percentage of copper in a 2p coin. Unfortunately, this did not work so well, as many discovered they had actually produced more copper! We then went to have some lunch and soak in as much of the sunshine as we could, before heading back for another briefing. This was based on “The Chemistry of Art”. The very first experiment was possibly the easiest, as we made paint pigments, with some producing more than others.

The second experiment was possibly the hardest by far, as quite a few students had trouble with separating the egg white from

the yolk to help make the paint. The final part was the most fun, as we tested the paint we had made, with some paintings being more successful than others based on ability. After this, back to the Halls of Residence and the open grass area, where we relaxed before dinner. Unfortunately, with most of us tired, it was horrible to find out we had a lecture to follow on Material Engineering. This was however made more thrilling, with the passing round of items, small challenges (for example, breaking plastic cups in different ways). Many took the opportunity to run to the University laundrette in order to purchase a few drinks and sweets, before we went off to bed, preparing for the final day.

On the Wednesday, it was the day all of us were dreading: the day in which we had to leave. Fortunately, we had one more set of experiments to do, entitled “Cold Light”. This involved a briefing with glow sticks and a first experiment where we produced illuminating substances. This was followed by using these to find out which tablets were contaminated,

as one will glow, indicating contamination. We then performed a titration to analyse this and find the impurity. With work done and dusted, it was off to the lecture theatre to receive our certificates and group photos, accompanied by a slide show of unflattering images. A more emotional feel was displayed when everyone who took the train was required to leave, so evidently, contact details were exchanged, so we could all keep in touch.

It was shocking to discover what some of us may have dreaded to be very awkward, to realise it was a quick but very exciting experience, and it was clearly shown through the lasting bonds between all of us. It was the social impact of the camp that probably stood out, in comparison to the actual chemistry, which was meant to fascinate us more ironically! I thank Mrs Atwell for giving the opportunity to apply for the camp, and obviously a big thank you to the people at Salters’ Institute and the University of York for running such a fantastic Chemistry Camp.

■ Ashar Aslam

Top of the Bench 2014

On the 29th of March, the Camp Hill team [pictured below] consisting of Fraser Doshi Keeble, Richard Deutsch, Sunil Patel and Firdaaz Mohideen arrived at Loughborough University hoping to achieve success in the Top of the Bench Chemistry Challenge. With many schools from all over the UK (and even one from Belgium) having come with the same intention, we knew it wouldn’t be easy.

The day began by each member of the team partaking in an individual, 30 minute



test. Our two year 9s were to complete one test and our year 10 and 11 students were to complete another, slightly harder one. Despite us all struggling on a few difficult questions, we emerged with a general feeling of satisfaction about our performance in the tests, and we were hopeful about our chances as we moved on the next stage of the competition.

After a quick break for lunch, we progressed to the chemistry lab, where we were to complete two practical experiments. The first was to calculate the caffeine content in a sample of regular tea, using the high-performance liquid chromatography machine, a device with which none of us were familiar. Despite some uneasiness about how to actually perform the experiment, we managed to complete the task

without any mistakes (as far as we could tell), and we were optimistic as we moved on the next practical.

The objective of our second experiment was to analyse three substances to work out which anions and cations were present. Our prior knowledge of the tests for ions was fortunately quite good, which allowed us to complete the experiment comfortably, and with plenty of time to spare.

After an interesting but somewhat complicated lecture on the importance of analytical chemistry in the modern world, it was time to find out the results. We were very unsure about what position we were going to come overall, but were delighted to discover that we managed to secure fourth place

– a significant achievement, considering the scale of the competition.

Congratulations to the team for their success in the challenge and many thanks to Mrs. Atwell for organising and preparing the team, and allowing us to participate in this event.

■ Richard Deutsch

West Midland Chemistry Teachers Association Quiz 2014

This year saw the school return to Birmingham University Chemistry department to the Chemistry Quiz finals. In the quarter finals the team of Joe Meehan, Richard Deutsch, Thomas Wemyss and Muhammed Khan played Rugby school. After a jittery start the team cruised to a 14 point winning margin. The semi-final saw us drawn against King Edwards High School for Girls, who we beat even after a disastrous round on the History of the Earth’s Atmosphere.

And so to the final, against King Edwards who had beaten Camp Hill Girl’s school in their semi-final. The final did not begin well, with the boys surrendering a four point lead in the opening round. However, the team kept its composure and slowly clawed back the deficit. Coming into the last round the scores were level, 56 each.

Unfortunately the question gods were not with us and the final round ended with the team succumbing to a four point defeat. The team can however be proud of their efforts and hard work through the year.

■ A.J.T.

Year 7 Chemistry Club

Over the past year, Chemistry club has been led by the brave and valiant Mrs Atwell with the help of Thomas Chalklen and many other sixth formers. Whilst we were all in Chemistry club, we have had many opportunities to do many fun experiments which we wouldn’t have the chance to do in normal chemistry lessons. Examples of these experiments are making crystal gardens, making gold coins out of copper coins, screaming jelly babies and, my personal favourite, Coke and Mentos.

On behalf of Chemistry club we would like to thank the sixth formers and Mrs Atwell for running Chemistry club and I hope that that the Year 7s next year will have as much fun as we had.

■ Sicheng Li

Ecton Mine

On the morning of 1st July, around 32 Year 12 pupils were accompanied by four teachers to Ecton Mine in the heart of the golden county of Derbyshire to see what we could learn about transition metal chemistry, which will be covered next year, from the disused copper mine.

We left school early, intending to arrive at 10am. Interestingly, Dr Taylor and Mr Cookson decided to ignore the readily available technology of Satellite Navigation and to rely on their brilliant internal compasses and, later, the interrogation of the kindly folk of Derbyshire. We arrived an hour late. Later inspection of the map revealed that we were 0.6 miles away from the mine 50 minutes before we arrived.



Firstly, we were taken up the hill into which the mine is dug. We were shown the most prominent sites for mining and scars left behind on the landscape. We were also given the opportunity to collect rocks containing transition metal compounds from the hillside, having heard descriptions of their appearance, in order to perform chemical tests on them later. An anonymous, over-excited pupil appeared to enjoy the proudest moment of his life, when descending from the hill and crossing people ascending it: "You're too late!", he exclaimed waving around a large piece of



earth, "we've got all the best rocks!" The said pupil would like to add that this comment was sarcastic; but we don't believe him.

The journey into the mine itself was the next part of the day. We were all given helmets and headlamps. The atmosphere in the mine was damp and cool. We were shown points at which explosives had been placed, the formation of tiny stalagmites and seams of metal deposits that have been exploited. We also saw parts of a tractor that a farmer had thrown down the mineshaft quite recently. We were shown seemingly bottomless shafts, down which a stone took fall. We experienced absolute darkness in the mine when we turned off our headlamps. Most boys declared this to be their favourite part of the day; though you wouldn't have guessed from the cursing every time somebody hit their head on the incredibly low ceiling in the darkness.

We were then given the equation for the combustion of black powder and we used this information to each make 10g of the substance from charcoal, sulphur and potassium nitrate. Later, we ignited our powder outside and yellow liquid often indicated that too much sulphur had been used to give an optimal explosion. Sadly, we were not allowed to seal our tubes of powder before lighting them, as, apparently, this is dangerous and the black



powder then becomes known as gunpowder.

The samples of rock we had collected earlier in the day were taken back down to the bottom of the hill for chemical analysis. Firstly, we relived memories of our primary school days when we enjoyed smashing things for the sake of it. Our samples had to be ground to dust using two large weights before we could test them. We then dissolved our compounds into various solutions on which we performed chemical tests. The various resulting colours indicating the presence of a specific metal ions, be it copper, lead or magnesium. As if this wasn't exciting enough, these reactions were then demonstrated again by a guide who used his own arm as a stirring rod, his hand as a receptacle and his skin as a reaction surface. He also explained some equilibria principles and the importance of Watt's steam engines in the mine's history but we were mostly in awe of his bravery.

Ultimately, this was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational day. We were lucky with the weather and lucky with the company. We would like to thank Mrs Atwell for organising this trip and also Dr Taylor, Mr Cookson and Mrs Mitchell (who thankfully stood in at the eleventh hour) for giving up their time to allow us this opportunity.

■ **Faaris Zaki**

■ **Gopal Panesar**

The Royal Society Young Persons Book Prizes

This year, six boys from years 7, 8 and 9 were picked by Mrs Atwell to take part in the Royal Society's Young Persons Book Prize. The six boys were Rohan Tandon and Sicheng Li from Year 7, Alex Byrne and Alex Lee from Year 8 and Hamza Arshad and John Hayton from Year 9. Our job was to judge six books, which we did by enlisting the help of students at Colmore Junior School.

The judging panel decided that their



favourite book on the short list was "Eye Benders" a crazy selection of optical illusions which we awarded 19/20 stars. Joint second came the "Usborne Book of Stars and Planets"

and "What Makes You You" with a scores of 17/20.

■ **Sicheng Li**

RSC Olympiad 2014

The school has been very successful in this year's RSC Olympiad with a record medal tally of 35. This included nine gold and 14 silver medals.

Two pupils Ben Blayney and Terence Wu have received addition recognition as well as gold medals, for their performance in the round one of the competition. Ben Blayney score of 48/64 placed him in the top 50 in the country and he receives a book token from the Royal Society of Chemistry in recognition of his achievements.

Terence [pictured] however went one step further and his score of 56/64 placed him in the top 25 in the country. Terence travelled to St Catherine's College in Cambridge for round two of the Olympiad where the top 25 per-

formers in round one did battle to earn a place in the UK Olympiad team.

After a gruelling three-hour practical examination, which included a fascinating ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid titration using the unusual eriochrome black T indicator, Terence then sat the hardest chemistry examination in the country for school children. Questions were varied, including complex organic synthesis, the quantum mechanics of particles in one dimensional boxes and a complex organometallic question based on the nuclear magnetic resonance of the complex tetrarhodium dodecacarbonyl.

Although not making the final team Terence's performance placed him in the top ten students in the country, a quite outstanding achievement!

■ A.J.T.



Media Day

Three, two, one... camera... action... on the 11th of July 2013 Year 8 Media Day again swung into action. As in previous years, all Year 8 students had a day off timetable, during which they were able to take part in a variety of media related workshops. This year they were able to be advertising executives, radio broadcasters, television reporters, bloggers, documentary makers or newspaper journalists – quite a dazzling array.



This event cannot run without the support of visitors from the industry itself and we were lucky enough to welcome Stan Ilic, who has worked in both newspapers and television and is currently a freelance sports reporter, Jim Lee, a Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra continuity announcer, Jairo Lugo-Ocando, the co-ordinator of the MA in Global Journalism and the Erasmus, the International Officer of the Department of Journalism Studies and the

Co-Director of the Centre for Freedom of the Media and last, but certainly, not least, Carly Manktelow, a Technical Demonstrator for Television at Birmingham City University. Overall, this was an exciting and exhausting day and we look forward to next year's event.

■ J.L.P.



European Day of Languages

On Thursday 26th September, European Day of Languages was celebrated by Camp Hill Boys. On the day, many events were organised, including a food tasting at lunchtime, where pupils were invited to sample new European delicacies.

In classes there were interesting presentations on worldwide languages, ranging from French to Mandarin! Thanks to these contributions, students discovered totally intriguing, new languages, such as Arabic, where the boys were introduced to the worm-like handwriting from right to left.

Furthermore, students and teachers enjoyed the challenge of greeting each other in many different languages. However, we will never know if all 2700 languages spoken worldwide were included!

■ Ibrahim Ezzeldin



Quiz News

Schools Challenge Quiz

During November, school teams have pitted their wits against other schools in the city and beyond and they have shown creditable performance throughout. In the Schools Challenge competition hosted by KES, two strong Camp Hill teams were entered.

Having failed to make it through the group phases in previous encounter (other than once), it was pleasing to see both teams winning their first encounters, Camp Hill 1 defeating King Edward's High School 2 and Camp Hill 2 turning in a spectacular 500 point victory over Edgbaston High. In the quarter finals, the 1st team of Radu Thomas, Fraser West, Primo Agnello and Alex Prins, were blown away by the rapid buzzing of KES 1.

However, the 2nd team managed to record a heroic 390 to 340 success over KEHS 1 taking them through to the semi-finals...where they encountered KES 1 and were defeated by the tournament's eventual winners. Picking themselves up for the play-off, the 2nd team of

Sulamaan Rahim, Nathan McClelland, Sreekar Somayajula and Rohan Jobanputra went on to achieve a heroic third place behind KES 1 and Queen Mary I having beaten Solihull 1 by 510 points to 370. With an eager young team which can still be the same for the next two years, it is hoped that the seeding of the tournament could help us reach the final!

Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz

The following week saw us venture to the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham to defend our crown as winners of the inaugural Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz. Two teams were entered, one each from Year 12 and Year 13.

The Year 13s (Camp Hill Beta) were keen to go one better than last year where they finished as runners up. However, a sinking feeling set in as the KES team which had defeated them the previous week showed up to do battle. Matters got worse when the joker rounds were played and both teams lost points, by half time it was catch-up on the 'Kestrels' and

nothing that the quizmaster 'The Beast' could ask which would whittle down the narrow lead. By the tenth and final round, it would take a miracle to retain the title. Said miracle failed to materialise and the Camp Hill Teams finished in third and fourth places respectively behind KES and Bishop Vesey. Many thanks to the twelve students who took part, revenge for next year is already being planned.

House Quiz

The annual house quiz tournament once again threw up some fascinating examples of the limits of knowledge for our seemingly implacable students. In a tournament of 18 fixtures crossing three age cohorts it once again went down to the very last fixture.

Beaufort won the prize for consistency winning one tie in each of the three age sections, however this would not let them challenge for the absolute prize.

The honours were shared in the seniors between the Howard and Seymour squads, in the intermediate section an outstanding Tudor cohort made it a clean sweep and place the greens on an equal footing with Howard going

into the final junior section.

In the juniors, early defeats for Howard and Tudor raised the tempting possibility of all the houses going into the last fixtures with the same number of points, however Howard recovered their composure with a fine win over Beaufort to put them back in the driving seat. With two fixtures to go there was still the chance of a chess-style three-way tie. Seymour under the determined leadership of Primo Agnello, won against Beaufort to ensure their victory in the juniors with 3 wins out of 3.

This left it up to Howard and Tudor, a win for Howard and they would be overall champions, for Tudor and the three way tie would be assured. It looked like Howard would blow it, a devastating music round in which their ability to identify artists from Now 86 suggested that the prize would have to be shared. A small recovery in the picture round on landmarks made with Minecraft meant that the buzzer round would be decisive. With 15 questions completed it was all down to the last question. "What is the sum of the internal angles of a pentagon" Tudor buzzed first. 720 degrees. Wrong. Howard buzzed in 540 degrees and took the fixture 28 to 26 points.

The overall standings were as follows: Beaufort 3 wins, Tudor 4 wins, Seymour 5 wins and Howard 6 wins and Championship.

■ **G.N.H.**

History News

Visit of John Fieldsend

On the afternoon of 26 June, all students from years 9 and 10 and many interested sixth formers came to listen to the testimony of John Fieldsend about his experiences growing up in Germany in the 1930s, his experience of persecution at the hands of the Nazi regime and public and how he was able to escape to Britain as part of the Kindertransport in the months leading up to the outbreak of the second world war.

He was able to movingly tell us about his happy life as a young child who just so happened to be Jewish. His story was able to recount what happened to other members of his family who were not so lucky and his own journey to becoming a British citizen and how he was able to piece together his own and his family's past.

After his presentation, Mr Fieldsend was able to take questions from the students, he was surprised by the range, sensitivity and thoughtful nature of the questions asked by the students. Mr Fieldsend was able to give us copies of his book on his life story which is available to read from the History department. We hope that Mr Fieldsend will be able to visit us again in the near future as his message is both compelling and universal.

■ **G.N.H.**



John Fieldsend [centre] with Philip McCahill and Faaris Zaki

Business Language Morning

On the 20th March, 2014, the whole of year 9 was about to embark on the morning of a lifetime. A whole morning of languages – filled with talks by people who use languages on almost a daily basis and a competition to make a healthy cereal poster.

Before the morning, we had chosen our groups in lessons, either French or German. Then, on the day, after a short presentation in the hall, delivered by Mrs Wells about the usefulness of languages (definitely not biased!), we went to our relevant classrooms and the morning began. First up was the talk. Mrs Wells had been able to put together an amazing variety of business people, who all used a language in their field. These people included Miss Santer from Price Waterhouse Coopers,



Mr Robbins from Arcelor Mittal, Miss Cherry from Newman University College and Mr Wood from Carl Zeiss.

Their presentations were focussed on the usefulness of a language in the modern day world. For example, Mr Robbins was talking to us about his work as an export manager, which meant he had to travel around the world visiting the steel factories which supplied his company. He told us he used French on a daily basis, and was also fluent in German, Portuguese, Russian and Romanian. He told us that languages had most certainly made an impact in his life, and of course, had made him richer (suddenly the class perked up!).

I joke, of course, as Mr Robbins' presentation was insightful whilst entertaining at the same time, and the next activity was of the same standard.

The next activity was to make a poster advertising healthy cereal in either German or French. This meant all text on the page had to be in the chosen language – a daunting task – but luckily a team of sixth formers and a teacher (of languages) was available to help. The end products produced such notable brands as Überenergie and Leckerbites. All these packed to the brim with Folsäure (folic acid) and fer (iron).

After this the posters were judged and each group had a winner. Sadly, that was the end of the Business Language Morning – a festival of all things languages.

Of course, the whole morning would not have been possible without the amazing Mrs Wells, who put in an immense amount of hard work into the morning. Thank you Mrs Wells. Thanks must also go to the other language teachers who helped – Mrs Balkham, Mrs Thomson and Mr Renault, and of course the experts who came in – Mr Robbins, Mr Wood, Miss Cherry and Miss Santer. It was a great event and I hope it can continue for years to come to act as an inspiration to future pupils to pursue languages further on in their education.

■ **Primo Agnello**



RSC Bruker Visit

On Wednesday 20th November, two members of the Upper 6th, Thomas Chalklen and Hal Smart, travelled to Bruker in Coventry, the manufacturers of many important spectroscopic instruments, including the best Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometers in the world.

The day was very interesting, with a tour of the facility giving some idea of the scale of the equipment produced there. Later Hal and I got the opportunity to try X-ray powder diffraction scattering, a technique that allows a species to be analysed through the amount of light diffracted when shined at different angles onto a sample. On top of this we could try IR spectrometry, but having used one of these machines in school Hal was able to demonstrate his expertise with the spectrometer, analysing his sample in record time.

Finally we tried NMR spectroscopy and were able to see a concept widely used in A level in action, analysing a sample of a drug. It was an inspiring visit that showed a wide range of techniques and instruments which are used in almost every industry from the steel industry to sausage manufacturing.

Our thanks go to Dr Taylor for informing us of the day, the RSC for organising the day, and Bruker for letting us use their labs.

■ **Thomas Chalklen**

Author Visit: Charlie Higson

This has been yet another successful year for author visits to Camp Hill. After welcoming the likes of Michael Grant last year, in September we were able to go one further and had Charlie Higson, of 'Fast Show' fame, come in to promote his latest book: 'The Fallen'. In addition, we were able to invite other local schools to join us, which made the event particularly exciting.

Following on from this, famous author Melvin Burgess visited us in January and spoke to students from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 about his love of writing and the books that he has written. The English Department at Camp Hill feel that it is incredibly important to promote a love of reading among our students and again this year we



are hoping to welcome a range of authors into school.

■ **J.L.P.**

German Spelling Bee

After much advertising and promoting, the first round of the German Spelling Bee finally arrived. Year 8 knew the vocab – 50 words from material that we had (and hadn't) covered in the year. The table of the English meanings was put in front of us, and we rushed to write down all that we could remember from the inevitable last minute revision. The task was made harder in the fact that we had to remember the gender too, condemning many. The results were close, and the year did so well that only people that scored 48/50 or more got through to the next round.

The next round was basically preparing us for our victory against the girls. We were given a new sheet of vocab, and we had to spell out (using the English alphabet) the words given to us. We were each given one minute, and again the results were close,

resulting in a three-way tie for the final spot on the team. Sudden death time.

Three of us (Shrey Bohra, Jithu Burri and Danny Blythe) were given 30 seconds to spell as many words as we could. Shrey clinched the final place, to make our final team Alex Byrne, Sam Stansfield, Ahmed Syed, Ajay John and Shrey Bohra.

On the day of the final showdown, all of the boys turned up on time along with Mr Caves and Mrs Wells. We soon began to wonder if we would win by default, but the girls finally turned up. We skipped the formalities

and kick started the process of our victory. The girls, having done an extra year of German, were obviously not expecting to be so completely thrashed. On some occasions it seemed like the boys were getting double the scores.

At the end of the competition, it was almost a clean sweep, with only one girl making it into the top three. Mr Caves was on hand to provide us with his autograph as the prizes were handed out.

■ **Shrey Bohra**



Maths Matters

Lots of fun in 2013/14 in the Department of Hard Sums. The autumn term started with our usual gasps of amazement at the exam results: 86 A* grades out of 94 at GCSE, 83 A* or A grades out of 101 in A2 Mathematics and 28 out of 34 in A2 Further Mathematics. Well done, everybody! (And the staff as well!)

In the first few weeks of that long term, some of our senior mathematicians entertained prospective students and their parents at the Open evening and morning, and once again we were overwhelmed by the willingness of our Year 12 and 13 mathematicians to mentor our younger students. Oscar Bocking and Sam England also volunteered to work with gifted young mathematicians at Colmore Junior School.

For the third time, we hosted one of the Regional heats of the UKMT/FMSP Senior Team Maths Challenge. We entered two teams, which apparently we shouldn't have. The A



team comprised Robert Smith, Robert Walters, Sam England and Giles Moss, while the B team was made up of Max Cheung, Peter Watson, Muhammed Khan and Jonathan Saad. The trend of recent years was continued with our teams finishing in first and second place overall: guess which one won?

Because we shouldn't have entered two teams, the A team got to go to London to take part in the national finals in February. At this event, there is a poster competition, and the team got busy ahead of the event designing a poster on the theme of Ruled Surfaces. They got off to a bad start in Round 1, getting an answer wrong because they wrote a ratio back to front: accuracy is at a premium at this event, and despite excellent performances in the remaining rounds, the team managed a 15th place finish, out of 61 teams. A very creditable result.

Back in the autumn term, AS level math-



emicians and others by invitation from Years 10, 11 and 13 took the Senior Maths Challenge, between them gaining 41 gold, 52 silver and 70 bronze certificates. Eight boys qualified for the follow-up British Maths Olympiad, a competition aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country, and a further 26 made it into the Senior Kangaroo, a Europe-wide competition. (No, I don't know why it's named after an Australian animal.) In this, 16 students achieved certificates of participation and 10 achieved certificates of merit, with Andrew Hawkin achieving the highest score. In the BMO, a very (and I mean very) challenging paper comprising 6 questions to be done in 3½ hours, all eight candidates managed to fully solve at least one question and Robert Smith, Sam England and Muhammed Khan only missed out on the next round (BMO2) by a few marks. (Yes, if you win a prize in these competitions, it's more maths to do!)

The spring term was Team Challenge term. We played host to a Regional heat of the Team Maths Challenge, aimed at students in Years 7–9. Again, we entered two teams, one

comprising John Hayton, Jas Rudzki, Robert Hillier and Alex Byrne, while the other included Aditya Dhiran, Daniel Hill, Sam Stansfield and Xue Bang Chen. Should we have entered two teams, you ask. Probably not, but it didn't matter, as this time A. N. Other school from Edgbaston entered and won. This doesn't happen very often.

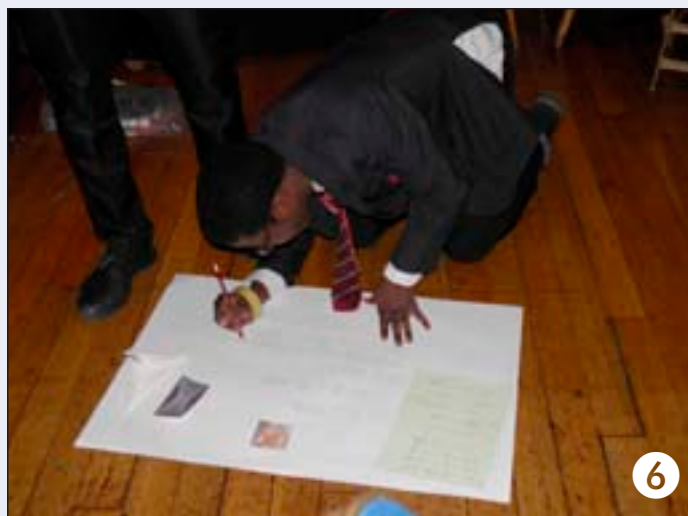
On the same day that the Senior team went to London, a Year 10 team went to Wolverhampton (lucky them) to take part in a regional competition. These boys were Anthony Lim, Paul Gardner, Adam Titchen and Themiya Siriwardhana, and they found the going rather tough, losing more marks than they were used to losing in the UKMT competi-

tions. However, the other teams found it even tougher, and our boys won, for the fourth year in a row.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place in February. This is our biggest challenge with boys in Years 9–11 all taking part, and the results were excellent, with 65 gold, 75 silver and 67 bronze certificates resulting from our 257 entries. Six boys qualified for the follow-up IMOK Olympiad, a two-hour long-answer paper, and 40 others qualified for another species of kangaroo. In this, eight boys achieved certificates of merit, placing them in the top 500 (in Europe?). In the Olympiad, distinctions are awarded to the top 250 candidates in the UK, and Camp Hill students secured three of these: Paul Gardner, Muhammed Khan and Anthony Lim, who produced five perfect solutions which secured him a gold medal, a book prize, and a place on a summer school at the University

of Leeds. Anthony should be warned that this is the start of the process to train potential International Mathematical Olympiad team members, and we've had a few of them in the past!

In the summer term, we had one more team out, this time the South Birmingham Team Challenge (John Hayton, Jas Rudzki, Adi-





Picture captions

- ① L to R: Mr J Thompson, Xue Bang Chen, Daniel Hill, Aditya Dhiran and Sam Stansfield
- ② Wolverhampton team event
- ③ Senior Team Final
- ④ L to R – Mr J Thompson, Alex Byrne, Robert Hillier, Jas Rudski and John Hayton
- ⑤ Senior Team
- ⑥ Senior Team Final
- ⑦ Wolverhampton Team
- ⑧ Wolverhampton team event
- ⑨ L to R – Robert Walters, Giles Moss, Sam England and Robert Smith
- ⑩ L to R – Peter Watson, Jonathan Saad, Max Cheung and Muhammed Khan

tya Dhiran, Faraan Cheema, Vamsi Pratapa and Firnaaz Mohideen). This was a rather different competition which included a round about running a lobster pot business and the construction of 3D models which had to be within 1mm of the specified measurements. Given the inclusion of these non-mathematical topics, you'll not be surprised to hear that A. N. Other school, also in Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, emerged victorious.

Back in the world of mathematics, students in Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to take their challenge. 182 boys sat the JMC and achieved 70 gold certificates, 69 silver and 28 bronze. (That's a lot of certificates altogether, and I would like to thank Mr Thompson for taking on the job of printing them all out.) Sam Stansfield and Xue Bang Chen both scored an astonishing 135/135, and they were two of the nine qualifiers for the follow-up Junior Maths Olympiad. In this, the boys produced some excellent solutions, with all candidates making a decent attempt at at least one of the harder Section B questions. Robert Hillier, Saksham Shah, Sam Stansfield and Xue Bang Chen all won silver medals for their efforts, placing them in the top 200 candidates nationally. And the Year 8s had to do the paper at Conwy!

All these problem-solving activities and team challenges permeate our "everyday" teaching, and enrich the mathematical experiences of all the boys, not just those sporting sheaves of gold certificates and team challenge medals. This commitment will continue despite the changes in our team: we were sorry to lose Mr Willis (and a part of Mr Jack) In July 2014, but we are very happy to gain Miss Hatchcroft from Lawrence Sheriff School and Miss Hunt, who is starting her teaching career with us. Mr Bruten, who has led the department so well since 2007, has been elevated to the peerage, and Mr Garrod has been elevated to such a high position that now he can teach only games. In 2014–15 we face the challenges of a new national curriculum, implementing a new GCSE in time for September 2015 and preparing for major changes to A level the following year. Wish us luck!

■ **A.M.R.**

House Reports

Beaufort

With the start of the academic year came another year of house competitions for the Beaufort boys to get stuck in to. Jalees Hamid provided great assistance to Mr Southall throughout as Beaufort house captain with Kyle Reed as his vice.

The intermediate rugby players kicked off the house championship with second place in their competition, shortly followed by an outstanding three wins from three for the seniors. Two second place finishes for the year 7 and 8 rugby players and a brilliant first place in the senior sevens followed in the spring term. These results contributed to a comfortable overall win in the rugby competition and a valuable 10 points towards the house championship. Tom Chalken, Asim Shahid, Esrom Abreham and Dylan Rogers received 'Star Performer' awards for Rugby, a new award introduced by Mr Southall given to a member of each Beaufort team in recognition of their effort and performance during an event.

The seniors had a fantastic time in the lead up to the Christmas holidays, winning their basketball and badminton events and finishing second in both football events. Cross country also took place, a big points-scoring event in which everyone takes part in the standards. Beaufort were in third place after the standards, but great determination was shown by the stronger runners who brought Beaufort up to second place overall after the finals. Dylan Rogers finished top for Beaufort in the junior section, Ed Connolly in the intermediates and George Wager in the seniors.

The spring term was where Beaufort really excelled and took a healthy lead in the championship. The swimmers gained a maximum ten points for the house, finishing first in the standards and in the gala. Two Beaufort swimmers, Henry Belai and Fabian Evans, won the Victor Ludorum in their age groups. Wins followed in the chess, with John Hayton the 'Star Performer', and music competitions.

After an unfortunate cricket event for the seniors and intermediates, this time it was the year 7 and 8 teams who saved Beaufort. Owais Akram and Pranav Thatipamula starred for the year 8s as the team, along with the year 7s, won all of their matches resulting in an overall cricket win for Beaufort.

Despite a disappointing sports day, 2013–2014 turned out to be a great year for Beaufort as we reclaimed the Championship crown. A huge congratulations goes to everyone in Beaufort, especially to house captain Jalees Hamid, for their efforts and enthusiasm. We

are sad to be saying goodbye to a great bunch of year 13s, but look forward to battling it out again next year to defend our title.

■ **Jacob Smith**

Howard

Having won the House Championship in 2013, we had the exciting challenge of trying to defend the House Shield and Mr Hill's record of winning the House Championship in every year that he'd been the Head of House. (2013 was his first!)

However, such was the gap between this triumph and the one preceding it, none of the members of the house had experienced the extra pressure that comes with the territory, making our task this year just that extra bit tougher.

Throughout the year we won a number of events, with our Chess and Quiz teams defending their titles while we added the Basketball and Hockey to our list of successes.

Traditionally, we have always performed well in the Football competitions and the Seniors continued this trend by winning the 11-a-side with 3 victories out of 3. What made this even more impressive was the fact that this was done without conceding at all. They also came joint first in the 5-a-side, putting us in a strong position for the rest of the tournament. Unfortunately the younger years couldn't quite match these achievements and so we finished second overall in the Football.

The second place in Football was matched by the results in Music and – surprisingly – the Swimming. This result was particularly impressive given our recent record in this event. This dedication and commitment from the boys was highlighted by us winning the proverbial wooden spoon on only two occasions. One of these was in the Table Tennis when we actually finished joint first, only for us to be disqualified as Mr Hill made a rare error by fielding three players from Year 12 when only two were permitted. Thankfully, this had no bearing on Howard's final position in the Championship.

Due to the incredible efforts of the boys, we still had a chance of winning the championship by the time the Cricket, an event we regularly do well in, came around. Unfortunately, the pressure was too much and our second place in this event meant that we came second in the Championship. The boys should be very proud of their efforts, and I hope that we can build on our strong performance this year and go one better next time around.

Connor Burns

■ **Connor Burns**

Seymour

Seymour entered this House Championship in confident mood with what looked like a talented group of pupils across the board. This confidence seemed to be well founded after coming out on top in the year's first event, House Soccer. Solid performances in the senior XI's competition followed by a number of wins in the 5 a side meant that we gained the full 7 points from this competition.

The autumn term continued reasonably well and an excellent effort by the lower years in Cross Country standards put us in great position for finals day. Credit to all our runners, especially Alex Byrne, Tom Mansfield and Dan Mladenovic who all won their age groups, and enabled us to take the maximum 10 points from this competition.

Despite our positive start to the competition, the middle period of our championship was far too weak to result in a serious challenge on the House Championship overall. 6 last places out of 9 meant that we were lagging behind the others and fighting to avoid the wooden spoon. Second place finishes in both the House Quiz and House Table Tennis suggested that we stood a good chance of achieving this aim and this was further bolstered by wins in House Tennis and House Badminton both contributing 4 valuable points to our total for the year.

In spite of these efforts we entered the final event of the year, Athletics vying for third place with Tudor. Again, our Athletics standards were good but entering Sports Day we trailed Tudor's standards by a small amount. Sports Day was to go down to the wire and high quality performances throughout including a Victor Ludorum win for Cameron Steel Seymour felt they had a good chance to snatch victory. Trailing entering the relays, Seymour needed a significant points swing if they were going to avoid last place in the overall championship. A Tudor disqualification as well as a couple of Seymour wins in the relays meant that as the results were calculated, the suspense was palpable. When standards and sports day results were combined, Seymour ended up trailing by an agonizing 1.5 points. This miniscule difference meant Tudor gained 10 points to Seymour's 7 in the Athletics competition and this difference proved crucial as Seymour finished on 52 points for the year, just 2.5 points behind Tudor.

This year showed lots of promise and a number of first places provide the platform from which we can progress. The focus must be on converting the last places into more second places if we are to seriously challenge this year.

■ **Jacob Bruten**

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 – 2014				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	3	5	7	10
BADMINTON	3	2	4	1
BASKETBALL	6	6	2	2
CHESS	3	3	1	3
CRICKET	10	6	3	6
CROSS COUNTRY	7	5	10	3
FOOTBALL	3	5	7	1
HOCKEY	3	7	1	5
MUSIC	4	2.5	1	2.5
QUIZ	1	4	3	2
RUGBY	10	5	3	7
SWIMMING	10	7	3	5
TABLE TENNIS	2	1	3	4
TENNIS	2	1	4	3
OVERALL TOTAL	67	59.5	52	54.5

Tudor

As we have become accustomed to here in Tudor house, the new academic year brought with it renewed aspirations of challenging for the House Championship that has for so long deceived us. The appointment of Charlie Song as house captain and the eagerly anticipated arrival of potential rugby star William Stenson ensured this tradition of mis-placed confidence would continue. However, as with previous years gone by these hopes and dreams were soon quashed by the arrival of the first competition; House Soccer. With some questionable absences and even more questionable excuses - nothing to do with the Saturday morning get up necessary - the team succumbed to last position, lead in vein by a determined James Anderson.

After this early setback it was important for Tudor to improve, with a strong performance in the Cross Country standards placing us in a competitive position to build on in the finals. Although there were commendable efforts from many members of the house - notably Haresh Ram finishing 3rd in the Junior section - our overall stamina was caught lacking, leaving us in a second 4th position of the term. Despite the best efforts of Mr. Nash to reignite our title efforts, the other houses proved too strong in both the Badminton and Basketball, leaving Tudor propping up the Championship at Christmas. It was beginning to resemble the failings of an England national football team; the expectation was high, yet the execution sadly lacking.

Although this may have ruined many a festive holiday, a reinvigorated Mr. Nash following numerous Christmas dinners could do what no England manager can; dabbled in the January transfer market. Following some high profile withdrawals from the swimming competition at extremely late notice, Mr. Nash took advantage of the extensive transfer kitty on offer to bring Oliver Garrett into the side. Such an acquisition paid dividends, resulting in an improved and highly justified 3rd place. From here the sky was the limit for the jubilant Tudor contingent. There was hope where there had appeared to be none.

Following this great success there proceeded to be one of the great escapes of our sporting generation, comparable only to a Pulis-lead Crystal Palace or an Ainslie-inspired America's Cup triumph. An unprecedented run of successes throughout the Spring and Summer terms procured an envious points haul, with the highlights 2nd place finishes in Rugby, Cricket and Hockey. The calibre and expertise of Table Tennis players throughout Tudor's recent history meant this competition was one we were expected to triumph in, yet our players duly delivered with gusto.

All these brilliant results served to close the gap on our rivals, leading up to the highlight of the House calendar; Sports Day. Here the contribution of every member of the house cannot be praised enough, with the outstanding performances in the Athletics standards from Year 7 to Year 10 providing us with a lead of over 20

points going into the day. Where previously our house would have possibly failed to clinch the title, this year it was not to be; marvellous performances across the age groups resulted in Tudor lifting the Athletics trophy for the first time in recent memory. Special mention must go to those boys who were awarded the Victor Ludorum trophy, helping to inspire others to push on in their events and ultimately push Tudor over the line. Joe Cullen in the Seniors, Daniel Charlesworth in Year 9 and joint winners Louis Cooke and Leon Zhang in Year 7 were all exemplary in performing for their house. The afternoon really was a great ending to a variable year for Tudor.

Although the commitment in the early parts of the year was rather disappointing, the manner in which the house came together to push on after Christmas was exceptional. Special thanks must go to the Year 13s for all their efforts over the years and of course Mr. Nash for believing in us even when we didn't believe in ourselves. While there may have been many ups and downs throughout the process, the contributions and achievements in the latter part of the year suggest our designs for the House Championship in 2015 may not be so irrational.

■ **Giles Moss**

Domestic Trips

Anglesey Year 8 Residential 2014

We arrived at school on a cold, overcast Monday and departed on a long journey to North Wales, an area renowned for its greenness. After around six hours of reading, awkward conversation and looking blankly out of the window at the blank scenery, the two buses arrived at the Conway Centre, which on first sight was indistinguishable from a large prison. From the outside anyway.

Once both coaches had arrived and everybody was ready, we entered the centre, and got a glimpse of the place we had to spend the next five days. After a quick briefing of what was to be expected of our week at the centre, we were told who we would be staying with in the dormitories (to the relief of some more than others). We wolfed down our dinners, as we needed to prepare for our first activity of the week.

We were presented with a variety of activities at Conway many of which involved getting wet, teachers and students alike. From rock climbing to raft building, canoeing to kayaking, I think that we can agree that we all learnt several new skills, most of which were swimming.

An activity that particularly stood out was the high ropes which led to even the most timid of us being allowed on a beam 40 foot off the ground. Some of us shimmied across wooden beams, before putting our trust in the harness and leaping off. Others took part in the "leap-of-faith" challenge, which required them to jump for a hanging bar, grab on and stay hanging, all the while being 40 foot in the air. The high ropes helped us realize we could do things we never would expect

A personal favourite was the raft-building, where we had to try to keep out of the water,

like the kayaking, but with something we had built ourselves. In retrospect, not the greatest of plans. Using only barrels, planks of wood and endless yards of rope, we had to discover a way of throwing these things together to create something that could float, and actually navigate the Menai Strait, with only the aid of a paddle per person. Some were met with surprise success, while others found themselves chest deep in freezing, Welsh water. Whatever the fate we were met with, we all had a great time.

These were just 2 of the great experiences Conway had to offer us. Along with this we had; canoeing across the Menai Straits, leaping for footholds on the climbing wall and playing British Bulldog in kayaks.

Although these activities took up the majority of the week, we cannot forget the Tuesday we had away from the centre, in which we visited the stunning Aber Falls, and the historic Caernarvon Castle. We took turns to go to each place. One group first took to the castle, where we had a very interesting tour. From the outside, it looked extremely intimidating, towering over us, but was actually unfinished on the inside. We were allowed to climb to the top of the tower where many of us broke down after realizing how high it really was.

Aber Falls on the other hand was conveniently a 45 minute walk from where the teachers chose to park the bus, and most of it was uphill. Fortunately though, it was worth the wait; the waterfall was absolutely stunning. While there, though, we were unable to escape the grasp of education, as the Geography and Biology departments thought of some learning we could do. Biology required us to kick poor, helpless invertebrates into a plastic tray (but it



was in the name of science so that's fine apparently), while in geography we threw satsumas down a river for a purpose none of us really understood (it was about river speed or something). Not even the 45 minute walk back could break our high spirits.

After another long, cross country coach trip, we returned back home to Birmingham, a great and unforgettable week fresh in our memories. We would like to thank all of the staff who helped with the trip, and for making it such a great one. In particular, we would like to thank Mr May and Mr Holland, as this was their last trip to Conway before retiring for Mr May, and venturing to Australia for Mr Holland.

Everybody in the current Year 8 has a lot to look forward to, as this was a fantastic trip and an experience we're never going to forget.

■ **Sam Stansfield**

■ **Alex Byrne**

■ **George Hynes**





Kenilworth Castle Visit – Summer 2014

On a sunny 30 June this year, all Year 7 students went on our annual visit to Kenilworth, the most historically significant castle in the Midlands.

It is the scene of the siege of 1266 and where Edward II was forced to abdicate in 1327 as well as being the home of John of Gaunt and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester who entertained Queen Elizabeth I most handsomely.

Our students were able to find out about life both inside and outside the castle, exploring features of attack and defence. Our guides expressed how impressed they were with the knowledge shown and the questions asked by the students. Their learning was then able to be utilised in their group projects on castles, which included making models of weapons and defences, both for real and by using Minecraft.

■ 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 made the long drive to South-West Wales, accompanied by the traditional staff team of Messrs Bruten, Carman, Downing, Hardy and Cookson. Mr Garrod joined us for one day and impressed us all by this willingness to have a go.

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 World Cup. 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. All the boys enjoyed the five day trip, and came back with full stomachs, aching limbs and fond memories.

■ P.A.B.

Foreign Trips

Japan Trip

Very few countries can claim to be as distinctive as Japan. Visiting it reveals a clash of the modern and ancient worlds and between tradition and westernisation. It has a strong sense of national exceptionalism and its own strange but brilliant culture but since the late nineteenth century, embraced British and American customs and industry. Last half term, twenty students took the 24-hour journey to Japan, to experience the country and its culture. Luckily, we just missed a typhoon on the day of our arrival and were met with nothing more than a drizzle.

Our first sight was Meiji Shrine in Tokyo. It was built in 1912, for the purpose of worshipping Emperor Meiji, who is credited with modernising Japan. Visitors and pilgrims write wishes onto wooden tablets and hang them up in the central courtyard. Often they are for loved ones or financial security but others about Fifa 13 and Sonic. Our next stop was Tokyo tower, the world's tallest free standing steel tower. The view from the top of the tower was quite stunning. We'd never seen such an expanse of urban settlement, but this was, after-all, the largest city in the world. The guide



exclaimed to us that the view was 'Beautiful!' I'm not quite sure about that but I do think the Japanese have a different perception of beauty than Westerners. They consider rectangular concrete buildings to be works of art whereas we would consider them, along with the city's many flyovers, to be eyesores.

Undoubtedly, our next sight showed the height of traditional Japanese architecture. Asakusa Kannon temple was founded 1400 years ago. Sadly, like nearly every old building we visited, it burnt down several times over the centuries. In the marketplace in front of the Temple, which is bustling with tourists and



worshippers, we were given time to find food. Some chose to dive straight into traditional Japanese food but others chose to return immediately to the comforts of home; namely McDonalds. The Akihabara Electric Town is the centre of Tokyo and is home to over 300 electronic stores, selling computers, games, comics and anime. This country is obsessed with video games and Tokyo has thousands of arcades, where people young and middle-aged fritter away their time and money. Arcades are filled with loud music, dimmed lights and cigarette smoke. The higher we went up the stairs, the more intense and thick the atmosphere became as the gaming became more soul-consuming.

We then took a coach journey to Hakone, where we could see Mt. Fuji. This is the highest mountain in Japan. On the surrounding mountains, there are stinking, sulphurous vents in which the Japanese cook eggs, turning them black. The Japanese think that eating an egg cooked here will increase the length of your life by seven years. Mr. Jackson subsequently bought a pack of 6. It was at this point that we noticed the prevalence of smiley faces everywhere in Japan. We saw smiley eggs, smiley Tokyo towers and smiley Castles and smiley Temples in the forms of statues, postcards and key rings. Every billboard or poster usually includes a cartoon smiley face and nearly every company's logo contains one. The sense of an enforced happiness was actually quite maddening. We then had the excitement of the



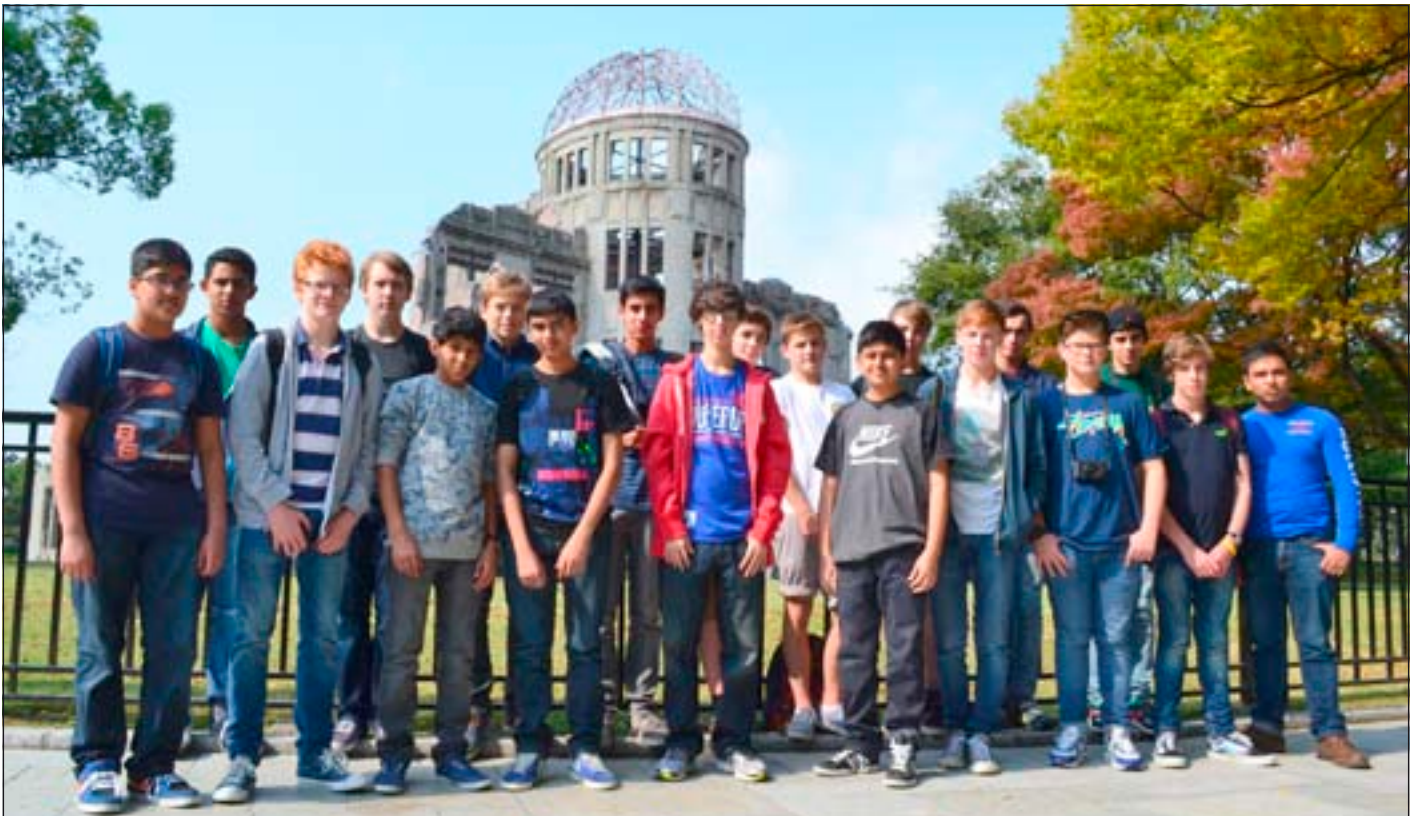
world-famous bullet train to deal with. Ours had a top speed of 270kph and we used it to travel on to Kyoto.

There, we were able to see something called the Golden Pavilion. It was called home by a rich local lord until his death, when it was converted to a Temple. One of the many occasions on which it was burnt down and had to

be rebuilt involved arson by a crazy Buddhist monk in 1952. One of the many temples we saw in Kyoto was the Kiyomizu-Dera. The independent Buddhist Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was founded in 738. The temple, placed on a hill, overlooks the mountains on the landward side of the city and is built so that it rises above the thick canopy of the surrounding forest.

We then moved on to Hiroshima, one of two cities that have been the target of an atomic bomb. The day, spent visiting the A dome building and the Peace Park, was a time of somber reflection. Nonetheless, this was the highlight of the trip. Next we travelled by ferry to the island of Miyajima and its Itsukushima Shrine, an incredibly beautiful sight. At high tide, the shrine, and its giant Torii gate is







designed so that it looks like it is floating on top of the water.

On the way to Osaka we visited the world's longest suspension bridge, the Akashi Kaikyō Bridge, which spans from the city of Kobe to Awaji Island and has a total length of 3,900m. We also stopped at Kobe for a short period and saw the bridge that collapsed during the 1995

earthquake that killed 6,400 people.

In Osaka, we went to the Kuromon Market, where raw meats, including whale, and other foods are sold. Here you can see one of the weird food delicacies in Japan, octopus on a stick. We were able to go on an observation deck at night to see the magnificent skyline of Osaka. We flew back from Osaka after

having an incredible trip. I would like to take this opportunity to say sorry that we couldn't include everything that everybody wanted mentioned and to thank Mr and Mrs Phipps, Mr Jackson and Mr Garrod for organising and leading this trip.

■ **Faaris Zaki**

Battlefields Tour 2014

On Thursday, 22nd May, a host of Year 10 students embarked on the annual Battlefields Trip to visit and learn about the amazing yet devastating events of the First World War. During this trip, we ventured into both France and Belgium to witness the breath taking monuments, expansive cemeteries and amazing preserved and restored battlefields of the Western Front.

Having set off from Camp Hill, we were all very eager to talk, shout and sing our way down to Dover, accompanied by the ever-popular stop for a fantastically healthy McDonalds. Arriving at Dover, we boarded the Ferry at an extremely early hour, around 3 am, which was greatly appreciated because we had some time to stretch our legs, or go to sleep. We were on a tight schedule, so, led by Mr Southworth, we went straight into the battlefields. The first cemetery was in a small village near Ypres, where lies the only man, in the Great War, to win the Victoria Cross twice – a medic, Captain Noel Chavasse. From here, we visited the Hoge Crater, just outside Ypres, which was far bigger than we imagined and gave us an early insight into the ferocity with which this war was fought. However, the star of the show was the Cafe in which everyone got a chance to have a well-deserved snack and, best of all, free wifi!

Another highlight of the day was Ypres, where we saw the impressive Menin Gate and the incredible 13th Century Cloth Hall, lovingly restored after its almost total destruction between 1914 and 1918. From here, we travelled to the hotel, stopping off at the Essex Farm cemetery, where lies Private

V. J. Strudwick, at 15 years of age, the youngest British soldier to die in the War. The hotel was very pleasant, with excellent meals and, best of all, free wifi!

Our second day on the trip began with an early visit to Vimy Ridge, the site of some reconstructed Canadian trenches. We were fortunate to have an enlightening guided tour of the wartime tunnel system which lay beneath the trenches, crucial to the Canadians' great victory in April 1917. Here, we also saw the astonishing Canadian National Memorial, an immense white structure dedicated to the memory of Canadian soldiers who gave their lives fighting the War. We then went to Thiepval Wood, where we were given a fascinating guided tour of the recently unearthed and superbly restored trenches, from which the Ulster Divi-



sion attacked on 1st July, 1916. Before returning to the hotel, we visited the spectacular Lochnagar mine crater, the blowing of which signalled the start of the Battle of the Somme.

During day 3, we again found ourselves in Canadian territory, at Newfoundland Park, with its extensively preserved battlefield. Here, there was a visitor centre which told the tragic story of what happened at the Park. Our appreciation of the scale of the fighting was reinforced by our visit to the colossal Thiepval Memorial, which has engraved upon its arches, the names of over 74,000 British soldiers who died in the Somme area and have no known grave.

We were awoken early the following morning for a long and busy day in and around Ypres. We were of course delighted to have the company of our new headmaster Mr Garrod, and his wife, for the day, during which we viewed a further selection of interesting relics of the Great War, including the Spanbroekmolen mine crater, one of 19 mines exploded at the beginning of the highly successful Battle of Messines, in June 1917. Next, our group ventured to the incredible labyrinth of reconstructed German trenches, mineshafts and dugouts at Bayernwald, near Kemmel, where Adolf Hitler once served. Then, after a quick burger and chips lunch and a wander around Ypres, in the afternoon, we visited the Langemark German Cemetery, the resting place of over 40,000 German soldiers. The cemetery provided a sharp contrast with the traditional British white headstones; the place had a distinctively, cold atmosphere. Before returning to the hotel to compete in Mr Carman's evening quiz, we visited the Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest of all the British cemeteries, with over 12,000 burials. The sea of white gravestones put into perspective the magnitude of the losses in the war; we returned to the hotel with plenty of things to think about.

On the final day we left the hotel for the last time, nice and early. On the journey back to Calais, we dropped into Fromelles, scene of

the disastrous first appearance of the Australians on the Western Front, in July 1916, where they were plunged, by a brainless British General, into a futile and bloody operation. The recent discovery of a mass grave from the battle,

has led to the construction of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's newest cemetery.

Then, it was time to return home. On behalf of all of us who went, we should like to thank the teachers, Mr May (and his camera), Mr Caves and Mr Carman, for taking us on such an eye-opening and thought-provoking trip, a perfect opportunity to further our knowledge of the First World War and to help us appreciate the reality of what it was like to be fighting in such a terrible conflict.

■ **Richard Deutsch**



Czech Republic 2014

The 2014 Czech trip began in classic style; by sitting and waiting for a late arrival. However, despite this early setback the mood was one of expectance and excitement and when the coach fired up its engine and we set off towards Dover the boys finally realised just how long the journey would be. We did have 100 samosas to tuck in to courtesy of Ajit Bhamra's parents thank you! The early excitement rapidly turned to boredom at the traffic. Despite the traffic in England the roads on the continent were empty so the coach arrived at Kořen on time. After all three participating parties (English, Czech and German) had arrived there was an opening ceremony in which the national anthems of each participating country were sung as their respective flags were raised. After this ceremony the boys had their first experience of the "amazing" food, some even enjoyed it.

The boys awoke on the Sunday feeling fresh from the 24-hour coach journey the previous day. No Sunday lie in was on offer as it was the first day of both the basketball and table tennis competitions, both of which were highly competitive events that carried on throughout the week before eventually the Czech pair of Mates Sieber and Alfred Sylla were crowned kings of the court and Henry Belai the king of the table. After the morning's sport the boys were in high spirits for the afternoon walk along the Kosi Potok (blackbird brook). The evening outing was to the spa town of Mariánské Lázně, in order to watch the spectacular singing fountain.

Monday brought with it an exciting prospect in the form of the annual singing competition in the evening, but first there was an all day visit to the pretty spa town of Karlovy Vary. This was an exciting prospect as the boys had heard a rumour that there was a McDonald's in the town. After seeing the geyser the boys were let loose in the town centre for a





few hours before returning to the camp to prepare their songs for later in the evening. The singing competition was judged by a panel of expert international judges from three countries, and they all unanimously agreed that the boys' rendition of the school song was enthusiastic. Unfortunately it was neither tuneful nor in time so it did not win, instead the title went to a German group singing Radioactive (they were good).

Tuesday started with an international volleyball tournament which ended poorly for the English side. The rest of the day was then spent at the sports centre in Tachov where the boys rotated between: bowling, football, mini-golf, archery and rifle shooting, this was all followed by a session in the outdoor swimming pool. The evening brought the disco which was a party enjoyed by all. Some boys saw it as an opportunity to "strengthen diplomatic relations" between the Czech Republic and the UK.



On Wednesday the 6:30 start was appreciated by no one, however, the day in Prague was well worth getting up for as the boys were able to see such sights as Wenceslas Square, the Astronomical Clock and the inside of yet another McDonalds. In the evening the party enjoyed a barbeque and some live music from members of the camp. The next day was the trip to Plzen which included the much hyped excursion to Plzen zoo. After the zoo the boys were released upon the town, some took the opportunity to climb the extremely tall tower on the church in the centre of town. After a quick dinner it was back to Tachov for an evening spent ice skating, some boys even attempted to play ice hockey under the watchful eye of the "professional" hockey player that Mr Nash assured us he was.

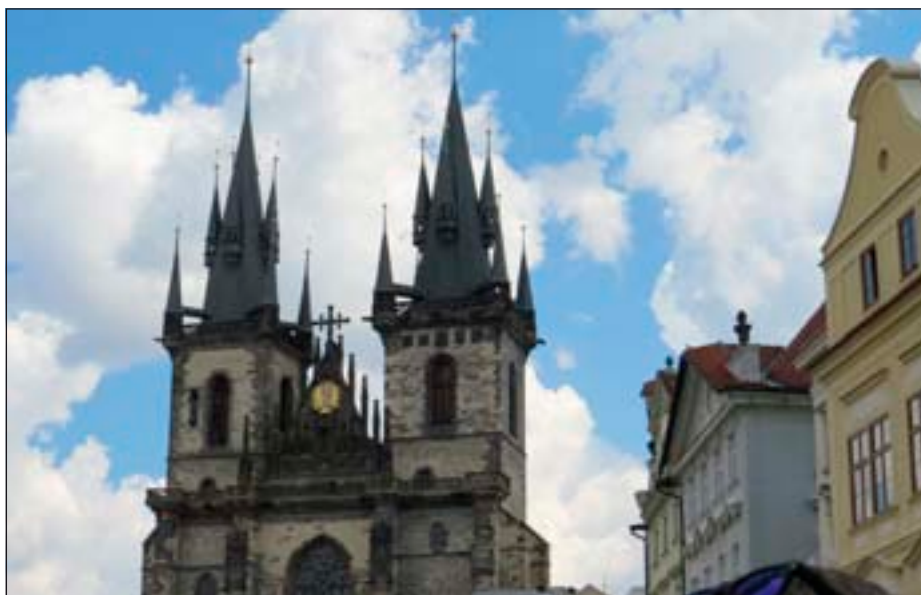


An air of sadness hung over the Friday as the boys knew it was their final full day in the country, however this was not going to stop them enjoying their day in Domažlice, a town famous for its many foreign supermarkets, which the boys quickly realised, were much cheaper than everywhere else. After the day spent in town there was the final disco, again some boys used this as an opportunity to "expand their knowledge of foreign cultures".

The Saturday was an especially sad affair as it was spent preparing to

leave, however there was also time for reflection upon some of the week's best moments, such as: Mr McDermott's absolutely hysterical jokes on the coach which were definitely appreciated by all on board. The few nights where the boys managed to light a campfire and the many hours Mr Carman spent talking (many hours). Overall this was one of the best trips any of the boys had ever been on and it created memories that will last for an extremely long time. I would like to thank Mr Nash, Mr Duncan, Mr McDermott and Mr Carman for making the trip as enjoyable as possible, and I would like to extend special thanks to the now retired Mr May for organising the trip in his final year of teaching at the school.

■ **Harry Wilson**



Year 9 German Exchange

At 7:00 on the 10th October, a group of weary year 9 boys met at Birmingham International Airport, bound for Frankfurt-am-Main. We were nervous with the thought of spending five nights in Bergen Enkheim – an unfamiliar suburb of Frankfurt, with an unfamiliar family, but excited about seeing our partners from the Schule am Ried again, and the prospect of what was to come.

The plane journey was spent half asleep, trying to remember what it was we had forgotten to bring. When we arrived at the airport and collected our bags, excitement won over, and the rest of the journey was spent discussing the coming few days. We were all eager to find out how German life differed to ours back in England. We soon found out that German weather is no better than that of England, as we were greeted by a cold drizzle.

We then walked to the school and met our partners. We awkwardly greeted each other and reacquainted ourselves, until we went off to our first German lesson – physics. After this, we went home with our partners, got settled in, had dinner and, being teenage boys, managed to get to bed nice and early.

In the morning, we travelled to Schule am Ried with our partners, and spent the day fol-

lowing their timetables and joining in with the lessons as best we could. I enjoyed sport the most, in which we played a game like dodgeball, with no teams. My partner had a German test, so I joined another German lesson, in which pupils presented reports on books they had read. The school life was similar to ours, but there were some differences. One thing that I noticed around the school was that there was very little on the walls, compared to Camp Hill, with elaborately decorated and colourful work covering all available space. The lessons were quite informal, compared to what we are used to, and the school day was very different. We had to be at school for a 7:45 start, but school finished at 1:30. After school on the Friday, we did a treasure hunt style quiz, where we went around the Bergen Enkheim area, answering questions. On Friday evening, many of the students and their families went to a restaurant in a park in Enkheim, serving traditional German food, including frankfurters, bratwurst and schnitzels. I had a schnitzel, and it was delicious!

On Saturday, we all gathered at Enkheim station, and got the train into Frankfurt city centre. First we went to the zoo, where we saw many interesting animals, like tigers, giraffes, penguins and goats. We had a great time looking around, watching rodents jump five times their own height upwards, and seeing the baby tiger cub. After this, we went up the 200m tall

Main tower – one of the most recognisable features of the Frankfurt skyline – to get fantastic views of Frankfurt. It was slightly misty when we went up, but we still got brilliant views of most of the city. After this, we had some time for shopping, and most of us bought souvenirs and presents for parents and siblings as well as a lot of popcorn! On Saturday evening, most of the group went to a barbeque at the house of one of the German students. We played football at a local park, in which England beat Germany (for once) and ate some wonderful food.

On Sunday, we spent the day with our host families. I went into Frankfurt again, for a more in-depth look at the city centre. My partner and I visited the cathedral, which is stunning, and walked around the market in the city centre. We also went into a shopping centre, bought some more souvenirs, and got the lift up to a viewing platform on the top of the shopping centre. Here we could see the half-timbered buildings in the square, including the 'Rathaus' or town hall. There were many street entertainers and musicians around the city centre. After this, we got the U-Bahn (underground train) to the Löwen Frankfurt ice hockey stadium, where we watched Frankfurt beat Königsborner Bulldogs 7-1. The experience was great and the match was very entertaining. Other people visited Frankfurt's museums, nearby castles or historic sites.

On Monday, despite the exhaustion we were all feeling, we were enthusiastic about the day's visit to Rebstockbad – a swimming pool, with indoor and outdoor pools, slides and wave pool. It was great fun, going down the slides, somersaulting off the diving boards, even if the outdoor pool was incredibly cold. The free chips were an added bonus. Again we returned to our homes in need of a rest. A big group of us again went to play football, and had a fantastic time.

On Tuesday, it was time to say goodbye. We packed our suitcases and bade our farewells, hoping to see each other again. Overall, we all had an amazing time in Frankfurt, and wish we could do it all over again.

■ Dan Hill



German Work Experience

This might come as a shock to the lower years, but at the end of Year 11, with exams done for the year, we have to briefly leave the cocoon of Camp Hill to undertake the Work Experience Programme.

Thanks to the partnership with the Schule am Ried in Frankfurt, the German Department offer Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to go and spend a week doing their requisite work experience in a foreign country. Despite the initial trepidation of doing our work experience placement in a foreign country, we all had a great time.

The placements, organised through the Schule am Ried, are always varied and this year was no exception. Dylan Bocking and Richard English worked in the Hotel Schöne Aussicht (literally "Beautiful View Hotel"), while Joe Gardner and Tom Perrett worked in a kindergarten, where one of the children declared Joe to be, without doubt, a cat. Abhimanyu Yadav of Year 12 received the highly sought after placement at the University of Applied Sciences, which also hosts the VDI Schülerforum engineering conference attended every year by a handful of Year 10 students. Shaurya Maheshwari and I found ourselves in a Red Cross-run charity shop. Azeem Hanjra worked at a physiotherapy practice and Joe Cullen at the Schule am Hang, a primary school.

While England had bowed out of the World Cup predictably early, for the duration of this trip, Germany still very much had all to play for and "public viewings" (this English term is always used in Germany) were held in every bar, restaurant and stadium capable of showing them. Indeed, the sound of twenty thousand drunken spectators booing the French



national anthem at the Commerzbank Arena was certainly an experience not to be missed.

The prospect of sending a group of students, most of whom have only GCSE-level German, off into an unfamiliar foreign city to work for a week must be terrifying for whoever has to write the risk assessments. In this vein a great deal of thanks must go to Mrs Thomson and Mrs Wells for arranging and leading what is such a lengthy and organisationally complicated visit. For anyone planning on taking German for A-Level, or indeed just wanting to improve beyond GCSE level, I cannot recommend this trip highly enough. The huge variety of placements should give you an idea of how much is on offer, and seeing as work experience is



compulsory, there can't be any harm in doing it somewhere with better food, better weather and better football.

■ Joe Malt

Frankfurt Trip (VDI)

At 7:30 am on 12th June, nine year 10 GCSE German students wearily gathered next to the Lufthansa check-in desks at Birmingham airport, (mostly) prepared and packed for the following four days in Frankfurt, where the main event was to give a presentation on a scientific/engineering topic at the University of Frankfurt's *Fachhochschule*, or University of Applied Sciences.

After a short 1 hr 15 min flight, we arrived at Frankfurt airport, the busiest airport in Germany, and one of the busiest in Europe. Struggling with our suitcases, we travelled on the over-crowded S-Bahn and U-Bahn to get to Enkheim, the district in Frankfurt where we would be staying. We then walked to the Schule Am Ried school and met our partners for the first time, only then to be brought into a double lesson. While two lucky members of

the group got away with only having to do PE, the rest of us had to endure a 90 minute Biology lesson, completely in German. Though we did learn some *very interesting* vocabulary, we were glad when school was over and we could go back to our host families, and watch what we could of the opening ceremony of the World Cup. Most of us were also introduced to the local ice cream parlour, something that was hugely appreciated!

Friday was the day we had spent 3 months preparing for, and nobody knew what to expect! Upon arriving at the University, we were given the programme for the day and we listened to an opening presentation, which we hardly understood. This turned out to be more eventful than expected, especially when halfway through, a large group of raucous German students burst in and interrupted the speech so much so that the professor had to stop. This delayed proceedings by ½ hr, much

to the annoyance of Frau Thomson and Mrs Wells. Mackenzie Wells, Sanchudan Murugesu and Tom Keast were the first to present on their topic of bio-batteries. They had prepared a brilliant demonstration using only potatoes to light a bulb, however they had one small problem: they didn't have any potatoes! Nevertheless the presentation seemed to attract a lot of attention, both from the judges and from the spectators. After a short break, Anthony Lim, Nishant Chaudhari and Kabeendan Murugesu were up next with their presentation on Shape Memory Materials. Then the final group consisting of Ashar Aslam, Phillip Eburne and Joseph Meehan presented on Air-powered Cars, while at the same time the bio-batteries group gave their presentation for the second time. These went smoothly, and we enjoyed a free lunch from the university canteen after and sat outside as a 'tourist attraction' in our school uniform, which isn't worn in Germany.



We then collected in the main auditorium again, for a presentation about 'Orwell's Vision', created by German students representing Germany in 2084, where free speech was banned. Finally, the prize giving session came, and we were asked to go on stage and collect special participation awards as we didn't qualify for the main prizes. Considering that the university had paid for our flights, this was our main prize! However our partner school's presentation managed to get first place. After that long day, we each went back to our partner's house to relax and watch Holland thrash Spain.

The next day we were allowed to sleep in a bit and when we did wake up, some spent the morning going back to sleep, watching the Queen's parade, going to Church, or even going to a swimming pool with slides and a wave pool. For the rest of the day, most of us met in Frankfurt city centre. Going on an open-top multilingual city tour bus, we could get English commentary during our tour, which

made it more interesting. Once we had got off, we ventured inside the *Zeil*, the major shopping centre in Frankfurt, and went up the longest shopping mall escalator in Europe. Whilst there, we scaled 7 floors to visit the *SkyDeck*, which gave us the opportunity to take beautiful images of the skyline. Most of us then enjoyed a BBQ at one of the partner's house. The night was ended by watching the beginning of England vs. Italy match, with our host families 'supporting' our nation.

Though we had originally believed that our flight was 10:15 am on Sunday and that these were our last moments in Frankfurt, we were lucky when we found out a few days before the trip that our flight was actually 10:15 **pm** due to Frau Thomson not being used to the 12-hour clock, meaning we had the best part of an extra day with our host families. Some of the families were unprepared for this, so three of us went on a boat ride along the River Main with the teachers – they paid for lunch! The rest of the group also revisited central Frankfurt, with activities ranging from climbing the 350 steps to the top of Frankfurt Cathedral's Tower, the *Domturm*, to going on the pedal boats; a fun experience, riding sometimes along waves. We realised that Frankfurt was not all about typical German culture – it was extremely similar to Birmingham, just a lot more efficient! At 6pm, we met up at the station, to say our last goodbyes, and to travel to the Airport. We then



had about an hour to ourselves to explore Frankfurt airport, a tourist attraction in itself. At 10.50 pm UK time, we landed and were back to reality in Birmingham; Frankfurt was truly an unforgettable destination. For most of the group, it was saddening to have parted from the host families, and Germany as a whole – it was an incredible experience. On behalf of all nine of us, we would like to thank the Chemistry, DT and Physics departments for providing the resources for our various presentations, Dr Taylor, Mr May, Mr Jackson and Muhammed Khan for providing support and feedback on our projects and presentations, Mrs Wells for supporting our presentations and coming with us on the trip, and especially Frau Thomson, who took the reins from Mr Surr and organised and led the trip impeccably for the first time, though she does need to learn how to use a 12 hour clock!

■ **Anthony Lim**

Polish School Exchange 2014

2014 has seen the sixth school exchange between King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys and Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących II Liceum (II LO). This trip, involving 16 Year 12 boys, was the latest in a series of very successful cultural exchanges between our school and II LO, a selective 16–18 co-educational sixth form in the small city of Swidnica in Lower Silesia. The current arrangements grew out of a chance meeting between the two schools in November 2005, as part of a European Union residential seminar organized by our German partner school; Schule am Ried in Frankfurt am Main. The venue had been moved from Luxembourg to the International Centre for Peace and Reconciliation at Krzyżowa in Poland. The local city was Swidnica, and a II LO English class had been invited

to join us.

Frustrated by the Ryanair booking site, instead of using East Midlands Airport we opted for a more convenient Lufthansa service from Birmingham to Wrocław,

changing planes in Germany. However, with two days to go before departure, the German pilot's union announced a strike that was intended to disrupt the global operations of the airline. An increasingly worrying half-day on the telephone was rewarded with a most helpful response from Lufthansa who transferred us to partner airlines who were unaffected by the industrial dispute. Even with the stop-overs, the service was very good all the way there and back.

We flew out on Wednesday 2nd April, transferring from Wrocław Airport to Swidnica by coach. Our boys were then collected by their host families who live in, or around, Swidnica. Thursday and Friday were spent in the Polish school who, alongside the normal curriculum, arrange the activities of their English language themed British and American Days especially to coin-



cide with our visit. School in Poland starts early and finishes at two, so there was ample time for local sightseeing, and then off and away with host families. This part of former Communist Poland was Germany until 1945, and there is a story to unfold everywhere you go.

Polish exchange students have very good spoken English, all II LO students can speak



some English and we were given a short 'Get By in Polish' session. Mr Rogers has studied the language, and he certainly now has workable restaurant Polish; I still have the same twenty hesitant words after seven trips to Poland.

Saturday saw us all on a coach trip to the city of Wroclaw, with the morning spent in its museums, shops and recently opened Sky Tower observation gallery, and the afternoon in an indoor waterpark. Sunday for the boys was very much up to the host families. The teachers looked after their opposite numbers and my day was spent with a morning meeting friends in the Swidnica flea market, and an afternoon walking in the nearby countryside. We were unusually late in coming to Poland this year and, for the first time, we saw the storks which had recently arrived from Africa. Monday, and our return flight, came all too soon.

Our Polish visitors arrived, in their turn, on Wednesday 24th September. They flew Ryan Air, as usual, with no problems. Thursday and Friday were spent with us in school and Camp Hill, particularly our morning Assembly, is a bit of a Harry Potter culture shock for the Poles. They all arrived in Chemistry at the same time, because they only learn by teacher demonstration at home and the chance to have a go was seemingly too good to miss. There was a sight-seeing and shopping coach trip to Oxford on the Saturday, with a guided tour of St. Johns, Mr Roger's old college, time in the Ashmolean, the view from Carfax and a look around Christ's College, now made famous for its Harry Potter film set associations. This, of course, meant Harry Potter souvenirs. Very much like our time in Swidnica, Sunday was for the host families. Two of the Polish boys were taken to see Premier League football matches and the five evenings were apparently a social success. Different language, different culture but shared values.



"Very Good... Interesting... A great way to experience the culture of another country."

KEV1 CHB Anon.

"The exchange was the most worthwhile trip I've ever taken part in. I had a unique opportunity to get insight into another culture. Observing everyday life of my peers from a different country was a surprising experience and gave me unforgettable memories."

II L O Anon.

The dry, warm and bright, late summer weather helped to give a good impression of the Midlands to our visitors, but the most

important element was the interest and generous support given to the exchange programme by both our host families in Birmingham and the families who looked after our boys in Swidnica.

A big thank you to those families for this 2014 exchange, and to the supervising adults for their ongoing enthusiastic support: Mr and Mrs Rogers, and Miss Iwona Juzwa and Mr Jacek Iwancz.

■ C.J.



France Trip 2014

It was a cold Thursday morning when 49 year 7s arrived at school ready for a whole four days living in a mysterious land which most of us have never been to before. The brave teachers joining them were Mr Southall, Miss Norris, Mr Willis, Mr Thompson and Mr Renault. After the coach left Mr Renault did the register and said that there would be "wee-wee" breaks every now and again.

After six hours on the coach, we arrived in Dover and were just about to go on to the Euro Tunnel. It was a first experience for many including Mr Southall. After 30 minutes we were in France and were about one hour away from the next "wee-wee" break which would also be lunch. Lunch included us asking for burgers and chips in French, which was a hard thing for most but all the teachers had to do was tell Mr Renault what they wanted and he would order for them. After we arrived at the car park where we would meet every day, we were shown our host families before we were taken to their houses.

The following day we were awaiting a day in Paris which included us going up the Eiffel Tower, going on a boat trip on the River Seine and going to a science museum called La Cité des Sciences. That day gave us a lot of chances to buy gifts.



The next day gave us the chance to spend a whole day with our host families. The main options were going to a market, going to the local park or just staying at home and spending time doing other things.

The last day was definitely the best day because we were going to Parc Asterix which was a theme park based on the adventure books of Asterix. The must-go-on rides were Zeus which allowed you to go at top speed on a roller coaster and the other ride was Osiris which gives you the chance to stand upside-down. To make the day even better the teachers decided to also join in the fun.

On the last day we had to say goodbye to our host families. After six hours we arrived at passport control and I heard the teachers playing passport top trumps. Apparently Miss Norris' photo looks most like an American Ninja who had just got out of prison. Many hours later we arrived back at school and, sadly, had to go home.

■ **Sicheng Li**



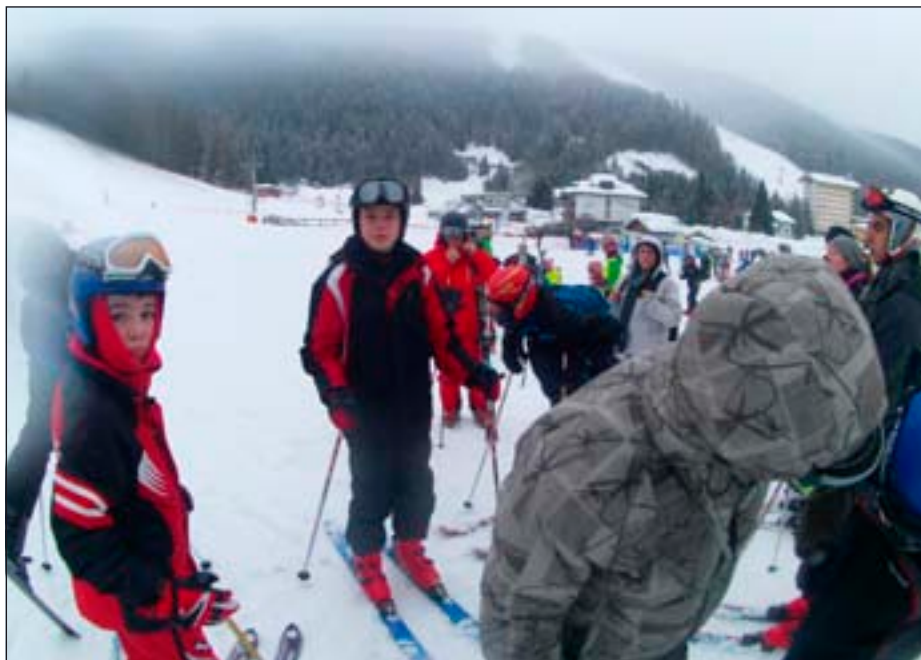
Ski Trip 2014

A younger than usual party of boys enjoyed a fantastic week on the slopes in Folgarida, Italy. The resort is a small, family friendly venue and suited are party brilliantly. 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 with the menu translations providing the highlight at each evening's dinner. 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.

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, Nash and Roden, who all played an enormous part in the success of the trip.

■ P.B.



Poetry

Storm

Seemingly infinite colour in the flash of white,
Lightning splinters, shatters the sky
Like shards of a mirror,
A thousand reflections burning the night.

Cloud chokes the waxen moon,
Suffocating it, taking light from underneath,
The veil pierces, perforated,
The night heaves under the weight
of brooding thunder.

Wounded, the night howls,
Ghostly lungs open,
Voices of a thousand aching souls
pour out the puncture,
Slashing like rain.

A rattle of silence, the vacant sound
Of a million water droplets falling from space
Echoes through my head,
I collapse to its rhythm.

The shadows slice the sky,
A spectrum of endless black,
An army led by a single strike,
The storm rolls triumphant across the hills.

■ **Ishmael Silvestro**

from the date my

from the date my
grave is dug to the
very beginning of
time a ghost hath had
us all haunted which
terrorises young & old

and sends us behind
iron and steel and keeps us
in check like some infinite
syntax ever printing out
errors we must break

the haunt & slay the
ghost that dresses so
finely and maintains
up-to-date style,
for without rules,
without the ghost.
We can live.
Free.

■ **Chris Marshall**

Time

Tick tock, tick tock...
An endless devouring count,
Getting closer every flap of a butterfly's wings,
Working away at life...

Tick tock, tick tock...
A golden flowing river,
In which we are encased
And yet we blindly waste...

Tick tock, tick tock...
Oh my friends!
We must not be swindled by time!
And thus, as time goes by...

Tick tock, tick tock...
What is time?
I asked a dying sinner ere the tide of life
had left his veins,
"Time"... he replied and died...

Tick tock, tick tock...
Lo! Time will surely come to an end,
Whether it is thy fate or thy horn which will echo
through the lands...
Time will come...
Tick tock... tick...

■ **Ibrahim Ezzeldin**

The Flood

In the darkness, they spoke of the light.
Blinded, they tried to lead the way.
A future past is all they said was right,
A future no longer fit for today.

Now, they tell us of the rain.

But they hope it will never come,
That endless, unstoppable, beautiful rain.

High up in the sky, the water is but tiny drops.
Every drop is alone,
Yet every drop is perfect.

Blown in the wind, the rain falls
With the strength of its equality and its hope.
The waters shall prevail;
Nothing can hold back the tide.

The flood is coming,
So let it rain.

■ **Andrew Hawkins**

A Shortage

Now trudging, destitute,

a march of clubbed feet that plough and rake
that frames a turner-esque sky
the flat beating against the gold and blues
all awash with grief, ebonizing in the dank air
dotted with alabaster, cadaverous and limp

a swarm, a race, the coarse brown on their backs
heavy and thin, worn velvet, cracked leather,
desperation a stench
and still that trudge, through the thick night air
oh woe, oh famine!
the earth churns and rustles, daring not to contest

then the stabbing, the snatching for the
rough brown orbs
that keep their plight so funded, the cycle so
moulded to stave off the nights and draw in the
winters
here now they come because they must
and none can blame them
though they must.

the pitchforks stayed like some dying bull's
once great horns, now with brittle tines,
whose skin, weathered and weary, drew close in
death,
now they throw themselves forth, drunk and heavy
with their newfound spoils, swathes of
Cains and Abels,
born not of greed nor anger but
ardent need.

■ **Oliver Garrett-Evans**

Prometheus

Zeus! Pain! I cry,
Eternal life of mine,
This stone to which I am chained, I shall not be
a soul of regret!

Enjoy in good time you loud spirit,
When you are dancing young entertainer.
Soul, be a feverfew flower floating,
Infringing the female beauty.

Enjoy in good time a life lived free,
In the ruddy light of the unchaste bonfire of desires,
Release spools of sentiment thoroughly.

I, drunk in my sorrows, devour me o' life
And in my misery ravage my bones,
And vultures may win this spoil,
And I may be wounded by this song,
Eagles have your feast, for I am Prometheus.

■ **Alex Bunker**

Acceptance

I accept you wild, dirty scummy city
For all your potholes, crack-pots, beer bellies
and waterbugs

For your spare tires and wasted empty
Lots plastic bottles old
Basketballs unused
Ironing boards and grit

Your busy streets shining lights and
Rainy nights, rigid
Grid systems that barely contains
The chaos

I accept the warm wafts
Of air
Rushing up
Through grates in the sidewalk

The cold snowy nights and central park
Walks, horses and manholes
Yellow cabs and basement
Stairwells, thank you

■ Farzeen Semeer

Lost

I stand for attention, ready to depart,
Ready to surrender to your love.
But you retreat away from my heart,
I'm disposed of – sent over the top, to above.

It was so easy to answer you call
For duty. You convinced me.
Complete and utter withdrawal.
Yet, this is not victory.

This is hors de combat.
Incapacitated, wounded, surrendered, lost.
You promised me the usual format,
And, this is the cost?

You abandoned me at the final hour,

Left me in no-man's land uphill.
But your control, your hold, your power,
Your swift invasion overwhelms me still.

Despite this, I soldier on through the wilderness
Where your sweet shrapnel surrounds me.
I don't dare to think of your happiness,
Please leave me be, that is my final plea.

At last, I see him, the thief, the enemy.
The one who condemned me to damnation.
He shoots. I am shot. I struggle. I fall. I weep. I die.
I am your lost generation.

■ Ciaran Fitzpatrick

Drama

Senior Drama Death of a Salesman

This year's annual Camp Hill drama production was, as usual, the subject of eager anticipation. Arthur Miller's dark and lugubrious *"Death of a Salesman"* was performed in March, under the direction of our resident head thespian Mr Southworth. Following a series of auditions and recalls, the cast was chosen, with Jordan McDonough as the eponymous salesman, Willy Loman, Emilia Olsen from the girl's school as his wife Linda, and myself and Mustafa Chaudhry as their sons, Happy and Biff. Now facing us was the commencement of rehearsals, which I can assure you were both frequent and proved to be rather formidable, in part due to Mr. Southworth's meticulous direction and in part due to a tendency of one of the cast members to fall into a slumber at every given opportunity.

However, after a series of preliminary rehearsals (and some truly dire attempts at a Brooklyn accents), the ball began rolling and the cast began to appreciate the nuances of their characters. It was soon time to graduate from the splendid rehearsal space of the Meeting Room to that of the Hall, where we would eventually perform, and where fragments of a set that was both reserved and atmospheric

were beginning to be constructed. For the latter, we were extremely grateful to Mr Carman, who stepped in at the last minute, when paternity leave snatched away Mr Parkinson and to Mr Downing for building the scenery. Through a potent combination of blind fear, trepidation and (in some of the more pressing cases) outright coercion, we managed to learn our lines, and after a string of frantic dress rehearsals, we were ready for our three nights of performances, which could only have gone smoother if they were Marvin Gaye.

All in all it was a great experience, with rehearsals and the shows themselves managing to be intensely enjoyable, nerve wracking and enlightening, all at the same time. Perhaps such a production's greatest value lies in the way it brings together a group of students, who otherwise might never have met, and welds them into a team, capable of a production of genuine merit. Jordan showed the range of his acting skills as the doomed Willy Loman – a far cry from the cheeky, Cockney Chappie he played in *"Me and My Girl"*. Mustafa [and Oliver! – Editor] both gave compelling per-



formances as Loman's two seriously damaged sons. Emilia Olsen is a veteran of Camp Hill productions; in her farewell appearance, her "Linda" was superb. With the audience firmly in the palm of her hand, this was as powerful a performance as you are likely to see on any school stage. Loman's Uncle Ben is a difficult role to play; Giles Moss took the challenge in his stride, creating the chilling and menacing presence which warped the Salesman's soul. A strength of the show was the quality of the minor characters; Bilal Khattab, Max Laverty

(when awake!), Philip Beckett, Carl Lawrence, Abbie Wilson, Jenny Lea, and Georgia Hughes can all be proud of what they achieved.

None of this could be done without the shrewd and cultivated eye of Mr Southworth, whose dramatic experience and warm direction provided the core of this production's utter enjoyment, and who organised virtually all aspects of the play. Special thanks must also go to Mrs James, for her usual incomparable contributions: costumes, make-up, Front-of-House and much more. Will Maclean composed the play's elegant score, conducting the ensemble each night; the music made a telling contribution to the atmosphere created. In short, the cast would wish to pay tribute to all who provided assistance in crafting such a gratifying and, we hope, entertaining event.

■ **Oliver Garrett**





Junior Drama

The Jungle Book

The Jungle Book was chosen for this year's Junior Drama production. The version performed was a variation of Rudyard Kipling's world renowned story. Written by directors Daunish Negargar and Ciaran Fitzpatrick, this new script was full of puns and hidden meanings (which the cast often didn't understand but the audiences loved!) The auditions took place and the cast was chosen with Sam Western as the man cub Mowgli, Leah McDowell as Bagherra and Jack Wood as the bumbling bear Baloo. Isara Mahalekam played the evil tiger Shere Khan.

It was now time for rehearsals to begin, the cast, directors and teachers had to give up many of their lunchtimes and after school hours (even some weekends). Although at times these rehearsals could be tiring, they were extremely enjoyable, especially with the help of the Oscar winning actor Mr N Hill, the

constant energy of Miss Lamb and the great input of Miss Norris. Sadly Mr Renault wasn't able to help the monkeys with their dreadful attempts at French accents and this added to the overall effect of the play.

The production would not have been possible without Mrs James' fantastic costumes and Mr Southworth's help behind the scenes. The inventive stage was made by Mr Parkinson, with the makeup created by a group of six form girls and the lighting by the geniuses of the tech team. The production would have been nothing without the supporting roles played by: Daniel Taylor, Matty Blaney, Anna Passmore and Alfie Green; wolves: Johannes Beckett, Kavya Kumar, Garen Boora, Ryan Humphreys,



Josh Humphries, Thomas Issac, Joel Clark and Victor Kimani; monkeys: Isaam Hamid, Namrah Qayyum, Dhian Naik, Alex Millicheap, Cece Okafor, Matias Escardo and Joe Clarke (who stepped in midway through); elephants: Rohan Sharma, Kiran Kehla, Elizabeth Underwood (who also played Shanti when someone dropped out), Rohan Ram, Salah Ayub, and Edward Cotterell. We hope that those who watched the event enjoyed it and we would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped create this production.

■ Sam Western

Music

Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert is the first joint concert of the academic year, and features our Junior Ensembles and some Chamber Groups. The Training String Orchestra and Training Wind Band both performed well, and we are encouraged by the large numbers of instrumentalists that we have for the future. There were fine performances from the Senior Guitar Ensemble, Tabla Ensemble, Cello Ensemble and Double Reed Ensemble. We also enjoyed an outstanding recorder duet from Edward Lawrence and Fazal Shah.

■ S.F.P.



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is a popular fixture in the music calendar, and all of our best musicians take part. There are performances from our intermediate musicians in Intermediate Orchestra and Wind Band, and also many of the medium size ensembles such as Swing Band, Flute Choir, Horn Ensemble, Cello Ensemble and Clarinet Ensemble. Being Christmas, it is traditional to have many carols, and these are sung by the girls Chamber Choir and the boys School Choir. Our Senior Ensembles are featured, and Concert Band made an outstanding contribution with arrangements of popular tunes. Concert Orchestra finishes the event with the ever popular 'Sleigh Ride' by Leroy Anderson, during which Santa comes to join us, gives out chocolates to the children in the audience and even conducts the orchestra!

■ S.F.P.



Teatime Concert

The Teatime Concert is now a regular fixture in our annual music calendar and is a good opportunity for our junior pupils to perform. This concert began at 5 pm, and the performers are provided with a tea, which for them is certainly an added attraction! The Training Strings began the event, and performed really well. There were then a number of solos and small ensembles, which included some very neat pieces by our two Junior Guitar Ensembles and the Tabla Ensemble. Azeem Hanjra performed his own GCSE composition, a very well written piece for piano, and then moved to the Timpani, as he was playing these in Training Band for the last item. The last item was selections from *'Harry Potter'*, and was played with enthusiasm by the Training Wind Band.

■ S.F.P.



Summer Soirée

During the examination period our junior and intermediate musicians continued to rehearse, and the fruits of their labours were to be heard in the Summer Soirée on 19th. Intermediate Orchestra began the evening with tunes from popular musicals, then there were a number of smaller ensembles, which included an excellent Junior Guitar Trio of Siddarth Rao, Yusuf Ahmed and Nikhil Gupta. The first half concluded with spirited performances of *'The Circle of Life'* and *'James Bond'* played by a large Training Wind Band. The second half began with neat playing from the Training String Orchestra, followed by more smaller groups, which included a fine piano solo by Navid Rahimi Larki. The evening concluded with some excellent playing from the Wind Band, performing *'A Fenland Fantasy'* by Simon Brown, then a toe tapping version of *'Taquila'*. Considering that this concert clashed with England playing in the World Cup, we were pleased with a reasonable audience, and managed to complete the event in good time for those who were interested to see the second half of the football match!

■ S.F.P.



Birmingham Cathedral

From time to time it is good to take our ensembles out of school, and so I was very pleased to be asked by the Royal School of Church Music if we would accompany one of their Festival Choral Evensongs in Birmingham Cathedral. We prepared well, and on 26th January performed with an invited choir in the Baroque splendour of the Cathedral in Colmore Row. We were expecting a



choir of around 60–80, so were amazed when 140 arrived on the day! The resulting sound was magnificent: we sang Canticles by 'Stanford in Bb', and the Coronation Anthem by Parry 'I was Glad'. The Cathedral was delighted with the event, and has invited us back to accompany a service on 1st February 2015, which will be their tercentenary. [Rehearsal pictured right]

■ S.F.P.



GCSE Compositions

Our A level and GCSE musicians compose some excellent compositions. Here are first pages

of two compositions written by GCSE musicians Fazal Shah and Ananth Balakrishnan.

■ S.F.P.

Midsummer Carnival
for Recorder Quartet

Fazal Shah

♩ = 120

Supranumerary Recorder
Soprano Recorder
Alto Recorder
Tenor Recorder

Sup. Rec.
S. Rec.
A. Rec.
T. Rec.

Tarantella

Ananth Balakrishnan

Vincent ♩ = 124

Piano

Music Service Ensembles

I am delighted that so many of our pupils are rehearsing weekly in these excellent ensembles. Many of them performed in the Adrian Boult Hall or Symphony Hall in the Music Service 'Gala Concerts' in the last week of the Summer Term. Current Camp Hill pupils in City Ensembles include:

Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Amman Bhambra	Cello
Connor Burns	Violin
Billy Chapman	Double Bass
Thomas Else	Percussion
Richard English	Double Bass
Jonathan Hart	Oboe
Yongwon Ju	Violin
Joseph Lawrence	Double Bass
Samuel Way	Bassoon

Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra

Thomas Isaac	Violin
Jamie Wen	Violin

Birmingham Schools' String Sinfonia

Albert Chang	Violin
Rohan Jobanputra	Violin

Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra

Gaspard Bulso	Trumpet
George Hynes	Cornet
Rohan Kaya	Bassoon

Birmingham Schools' Concert Band

Ravi Bange	Clarinet
Max Johnson	Trumpet
Joseph Meehan	Clarinet
Kushal Varma	Flute

Birmingham Schools' Training Wind Orchestra

Primo Agnello	Clarinet
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Birmingham Schools' Brass Band

Arundee Bharj	Tuba
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Birmingham Schools' Concert Brass Band

Thomas Haddon	Bass Trombone
Ryan Humphreys	Euphonium
William Tetlow	Euphonium

Birmingham Schools' Jazz Ensemble

Harry Atkinson	Drum Kit
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Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble

Ashar Ali Aslam	Guitar
Lior Saad	Guitar

Birmingham Schools' Guitar Sinfonia

Anish Najran	Guitar
Siddhartha Rao	Guitar
Themiyi Siriwardhana	Guitar

Birmingham Schools' Percussion Ensemble

Thomas Else	Percussion
Thomas Keast	Percussion

Birmingham Schools' Recorder Sinfonia

Fazal Shah	Recorder
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Birmingham Schools' Recorder Ensemble

Kevin Mathew	Recorder
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Birmingham Schools' Flute Sinfonia

Isara Mahalekam	Flute
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■ **S.F.P.**

The Academy Chamber Orchestra

The Academy Chamber Orchestra (ACO) is a small chamber orchestra based in Birmingham, providing people such as myself the opportunity to play classical music to a high standard. The orchestra is aimed at those still at school, led by Peter Bri-

dle and has for many years held its reputation as an outstanding orchestra. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two years I have spent playing in ACO, with it giving me the chance to play with other enthusiastic musicians.

■ **Jonty Hart**



Musical Success

We are delighted with the success of a number of our talented musicians. **Pictured (left to right):** Matija Novovic (Violin), Harry Atkinson (Double Bass), Siddharth Sharma (Voice), Fazal Shah (Recorder).

Matija Novovic (11X)

Matija plays violin with the Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra, the Academy Chamber Orchestra and school Concert Orchestra. He recently gained a Diploma on the Violin with Distinction.

Harry Atkinson (10X)

Harry is a member of the CBSO Youth Orchestra, Academy Chamber Orchestra and school Concert Orchestra. After lengthy auditions, he was delighted to find out that he has gained a place in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra. He recently took his Grade 8 Double Bass, and in this achieved the outstanding and almost unknown mark of 146 out of 150!

Siddharth Sharma (9S)

Siddharth was a chorister in Birmingham Cathedral Choir

for five years, and rose to become Head Chorister in his final year. In the summer he was presented with the choir's Chorister of the Year Award 2013.

Fazal Shah (11X)

Fazal is a member of the Birmingham Schools' Recorder Sinfonia, and earlier in the year played a recorder concerto with the Solihull Symphony Orchestra. He recently gained a Diploma on the Recorder.

■ **S.F.P.**



Musical Old Boys

We are very proud of our musical Old Boys, and this year we have heard of a number of our Old Boys doing really well.



Jamie Phillips' successful time with the Halle Orchestra has resulted in his contract as Assistant Conductor being extended until the end of the 2014–15 season. Jamie [pictured above] is delighted to have been asked to conduct the CBSO and Children's Chorus in a concert on Sunday 26th April 2015. There is an interesting article from the Birmingham Post outlining his start in conducting at: www.birminghampost.co.uk/whats-on/music/jamie-phillips-making-right-noises-3910366

His website is: <http://jamie-phillips.com/>

Ross Garrod (as Cymbiotic Percussion Duo) and **Tom Lindsay** (Tom Lindsay Jazz Quartet) are past pupils having successful careers in music, and are available for hire for special occasions such as weddings and family celebrations, see: www.professionalmusicevents.co.uk



At the New Alexandra Theatre, **Alex Hammond** stood in most successfully for Sam Attwater in the musical *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Alex [pictured above] continues to have a most successful career in musicals. See: www.birminghammail.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/understudy-alex-steps-sam-attwaters-6678638

■ S.F.P.

National Youth Orchestra

The National Youth Orchestra brings together Britain's best teenage musicians to perform outstanding pieces of music with world class conductors. Each year sees five weeks of playing spread over three residential courses, performing around eight concerts across the country in Britain's finest concert halls, including an annual televised Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. The NYO offers fantastic chances to broaden musical knowledge and skills - including composition,



Harry Atkinson playing in the NYO

performance and improvisation, but chiefly, it provides an unbeatable orchestral experience.

■ **Harry Atkinson**

The Music Service

Birmingham Music Service Central Ensembles provide fantastic opportunities for young musicians to play together and stretch their abilities for free! My time in the Symphony Orchestra, BSSO, was an unparalleled experience that allowed me to grow as a Classical clarinettist.

The highlight for me was the Germany tour earlier this year where I had the privilege of playing the famous 1st Clarinet part of Shostakovich's 1st Symphony, which was a challenge! Playing in the Jazz ensemble, BSJE, strengthened me as a Jazz player, particularly in my sight-reading and improvisation, not least because of the expert coaching from the brilliant Jazz Trumpeter and conductor John Ruddick MBE. I urge young musicians to



BSSO woodwind on tour in Germany

get involved with these fantastic opportunities which are very difficult to find elsewhere in the country. We are very lucky to have these ensembles, and if you wish to grow as a musician, this is the way to go! Ask your instrumental teacher about auditioning and get practising!

■ **Joe Davis**

A Level Leavers

Every year it is sad to see our talented A level musicians leave us. Before they go we have a

photograph together outside the Music Block.

■ **S.F.P.**



Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

For the umpteenth year running the 1st XV started the season with a tough game against Old Swinford Hospital School, a match that usually seems a foregone conclusion. This year it was not. Despite conceding 17 points in the first half, the squad rallied well in the second half and not only held Swinford off from scoring any more but also pulled back leaving the final score at 17-10 with a sterling performance in what was a very auspicious start to the season.

The following months proved the team to be capable of repeating this feat with several strong performances, trouncing Barr Beacon School 65-0 and King Henry VIII 63-10. Another impressive performance in October came against King Edwards Nuneaton, especially considering the our players had been greatly upset to be described as 'stick men', needless to say the team put paid to those badly chosen words with a convincing 43-0 win. Bablake also fell before the Camp Hill machine in a slightly closer performance that tested the discipline of the side, with numerous penalties being awarded to Bablake, nevertheless the 1st XV overcame this to run out 39-27 winners, a score that included 3 tries for Captain Tom Murphy.

A damp and miserable match against Solihull in the second round of the Natwest cup (formerly the Daily Mail cup) proved unfruitful with a 20 minute lapse in defence led to Solihull running out eventual 37-0 winners, however they did supply some delicious food afterwards so perhaps it wasn't entirely 'unfruitful'! Despite the loss, or perhaps because of it, the Solihull match seemed to galvanise the squad in the run up to their biggest performance of the season a gritty, muddy hard fought game against bitter rivals King Edwards School (who turned up in brand new kit to mark the occasion). Thankfully the team started with momentum and played a fast game in the first half, making the best of Kyle 'the gazelle' Reed, this neatly bagged us the game, and despite a turn-around from KES it was in the end a comfortable 30-13 victory. Unfortunately it seemed the 1st XV became too comfortable, and really

didn't wake up for their next performance against King Edward VI Aston, leading to what can only be described as the most bitterly disappointing 1st XV performance in my memory; we'll leave it at that ...

In the following few weeks the Camp Hill team rallied and put out a number of excellent performances, winning six games in a row against, by no means poor, opposition. This included a superb 15-12 win over King Edward Five Ways making it 2 out of 3 from the foundation and an historic 11 wins out of 14 matches. The 1st team were not content to rest on their laurels in the run up to Christmas, but an unfortunate last gasp effort from Bishop Vesey snatched victory from the team's grasp leaving the final score a soul wrenching 14-0 defeat. Distraught at this result the team struggled to pick themselves up and suffered from what is clinically referred to as "the post-Christmas lull", a syndrome that has ruined many a Camp Hill 1st XV's season, producing a frustrating string of defeats to opposition that although good, should not have produced such one-sided results. Not even the return of star player Ben Connolly could bring the team out of its reverie with losses to Adams Grammar school (27-0) and Princethorpe (21-0). A rematch against Bishop Vesey also didn't go Camp Hill's way perhaps not helped by the 8 penalties Camp Hill conceded within the first 10 minutes, as well as the distraction of claxons and jeering on the sideline, leaving the final score 20-3 to Vesey. A final game against King Edwards Stratford at the end of January represented the last opportunity the 1st XV got to play until March, but even this proved a problem with Camp Hill presenting what could be a future 1st XV, with Stratford evidently not getting the memo and fielding their full strength 1st XV, the 48-7 defeat although expected, showed a strength of character from this younger 1st XV.

After a long break from matches that gave the team time to recuperate, they finished the season in style with a dominant 52-0 win over Solihull Sixth form college and three wins from three in the tour to "lovely Laoise" (Port Laoise) in Ireland. The Ireland tour proved yet again to be a highlight of the season with some very good team performances resulting in a 24-12 win against Port Laoise RFC, a 29-0 win against Coolmine RFC and one of the best perform-



ances of the season in the team's last match against Newbridge college's incredibly strong 2nd XV. This ended in a close 12-8 victory to finish the season on. Despite the brilliant rugby on tour, both the 1st and 2nd XV were devastated to not be visiting the world famous Galway food festival, and could only be consoled with a visit to the somewhat less known Aviva Stadium (if you've not heard of it I wouldn't worry it's not that impressive).

Although this season's rugby was fantastic rather more for the team performances than individual triumphs, there are a number of names that deserve special mention (forgive me if anyone is left out). First off, Tom Murphy, although not the most organised captain the 1st XV has ever seen (possibly the least),

his work on the pitch and the example he set won him the hearts and minds of the team. David Watson probably made the oddest vice captain in many years, due in part to his inability to think of any car brand other than Mazda, but nevertheless his solid presence put the spine into many of our better games. Idris Mohammed and Ben Connolly (when not injured) proved solid in both defence and attack, backed up by the wonderful team that was Anthony Featherstone, Samson Gahir and Wesley Blackhurst. It's not usually in my nature to praise backs but there were four stand-outs that deserve special mention for both their organisation and teamwork: Andy Featherstone, Jacob Bruten, Kyle Reed and Joe Cullen, all good enough to be forwards. Finally Giles

Moss, the new captain, should be mentioned for his tireless effort, both on and off the pitch, it was, and I'm sure will continue to be, a rare occasion when Giles missed a training session or a tackle, and he will I believe, lead the team to new heights.

Lastly it is thanks to the efforts of Mr Caves, Mr Warrillow and Mr Carman that the 1st team have been so successful (15 wins to 8 losses), they have been unwavering in their resolve to improve the team's skills, fitness and cohesion. So I would like to offer a tremendous thank you to the coaches for all their efforts, as well as to all the parents (Messrs Connolly, Chalklen and Featherstone in particular) and teachers for their support on the touchline.

■ **Thomas Chalklen**

2nd XV Rugby

The latter half of the season for the 2nd XV was disappointing in several areas.

Firstly, a series of difficult away games which were well contested but ultimately victories evaded us through a combination of carelessness and sheer bad luck. The match at Adams School was a good example where we performed well but conceded too many points to a team who were coached, to quote a member of their staff, "to be aggressive in the tackle and breakdown areas".

At Princethorpe we clawed our way back to a two point lead with 30 seconds to play, only to concede a sloppy last second try. I was not impressed. The away fixture at KE Stratford saw the opposition turn out their 1st XV with the inevitable outcome. Lastly, however, a match



(at home) against a raw but "spirited" Sheldon Heath XV saw the patience of our players stretched to the limit regarding certain aspects of the laws of the game, but to their credit they acquitted themselves with appropriate dignity,

scoring regularly to claim an emphatic victory.

■ **P.T.C.**

U16 Rugby

A very encouraging season for a team which early on lost a number of key players to sports with less "attritional" injury profiles! Nevertheless they performed very well and ended the season with a thrilling 30-10 victory over Bishop Vesey in the North Midland Plate final. The team played an open and expansive game suited to our particular strengths and skills and never lost the belief that they would eventually triumph.

Aptly, the Bishop Vesey XV and staff were

magnanimous in defeat. Well led by Alex Lane, who scored the final try with several stunningly executed "dummies" to touch down under the posts. Wesley Blackhurst, Arun Sohan-Pall, Ed Saunders and Will Houlden were also key members of the squad, performing with confidence and no little skill on the day. The starting XV actually included five U15 players and we thank them for their participation. Well done to you all.

■ **P.T.C.**



U15 Rugby

This year's campaign started poorly as defensive play let the U15s down causing them to concede 144 points in their opening 5 games and only one of these games was a win. However the tides were beginning to turn and the hard work put in at training started to pay off when the team came up against the old enemy KES. Notable performances came from Arran Kingston who bagged two tries; Andreas Kavileros getting his fourth of the season and Henry Houlden who converted twice in the game which ended 29-5.

In the following month the team played exceptionally well picking up four wins at KES, Arden, Coundon Court and Aston. The latter of these games was one of the highlights of the season with all the boys playing well to ensure Camp Hill came out as eventual victors. The game started with an early Aston try making the U15s fear that they were in for a very one-sided game but just before half time good build up play in their half from the forwards opened a gap up on the wing and prolific try scorer Cameron Steel doesn't need to be given opportunities twice. So back in the

game at half time the team went out determined not to concede. This tactic began well as our tackles got bigger and better, but disaster struck with only eight minutes remaining as Aston scored making the score 10-5. What came next will be fabled in history books at Camp Hill for years to come. Straight from an inspiring team talk from Captain Tom Haddon, the team rose like an angered beast and pushed high up the pitch into the opposition territory. A moment of pure genius by number ten Kingston rendered the defence useless and he crossed over the line and scored under the posts leaving several Aston players in the wake of his sublime dummy. Huge team celebration followed but the conversion needed to go over for the U15s to lead. Houlden converted. With the wind in their sails, Captain Tom Haddon was able to score with brilliant support play to an excellent bit of play from Eddy Connolly and Cameron Steel making the eventual score 10-17.

The team went into the Greater Birmingham Tournament with confidence knowing that they had already beaten two of the teams playing that year, and that they couldn't possibly do worse than the year before where they failed to win a single game. The U15s were beaten in the first game by eventual winners Bishop Vesey but played excellent rugby with true vigour to overcome not just the dubious refereeing decisions but also Aston and Five Ways. A draw with KES saw Camp Hill finish in second place which was a much improved outcome than the year before.

Following the brilliant Greater Birmingham performance, the team was unable to produce a positive result in the next game against Law-



rence Sheriff although playing superbly on the first XV pitch and were perhaps unfortunate to lose the game by a try in the last minute. The next game against KE Lichfield concluded with the same score-line as the previous year, 12-12, yet the Camp Hill side came away more disappointed as they had the best of the chances but Lichfield managed to hang on. Richard Deutsch was 'Man of the Match' and scored his sixth of the season in a truly impressive performance.

Six defeats came off the back of the Lichfield game as the boys couldn't replicate the victory against Five Ways from the Tournament earlier in the season and amongst others fell against Adams Grammar and Bishop Vesey. However coming up was possibly the most looked forward to game of the season: Kings Norton. Scorers in this convincing win were Alex Bonnor, Arran Kingston, Nathan Moyle, Cameron Steel, Cameron Walker and Will Tetlow. Henry Houlden kicked four conversions.

The last three games of the U15 season

were on the Junior Rugby Tour in Carlisle. A close game in Cockermouth saw the whole team playing as a unit, working together but unfortunate to come away with a 21-21 draw. Moving on from this the team showed what they were capable of by beating Penrith convincingly, showing true flair as they played some of the best rugby of the season. The final game of the season was slightly disappointing but the team put in a good effort at Carlisle Rugby Club who had a clearly superior side.

All boys in the squad should be congratulated after a lively and exciting year of rugby. Special mention goes to Cameron Steel who scored 26 tries in 20 appearances, amassing 130 points for the team over the season. Thanks should also go to Mr Southall for coaching the squad all year and all teachers that helped organise the Junior Tour. All players should be looking to playing rugby in the senior teams next year.

■ **Tom Haddon**

U14 Rugby

The Year 9 season brought many new people into the side, new players and a new coach. However, the season did not bring a change of results, conceding heavily to Bablake and Old Swinford Hospital. However, the next match, Prince Henry's, a team we had never played, gave us our first win of the season winning 17-10. In spite of good performance, losses followed against KE Aston and KES. Sadly however, all good things come to an end, and our confidence was shattered after games in the Coventry area, losing to Lawrence Sheriff School, and King Henry VIII.

Our Greater Birmingham Tournament did not go as we had hoped, losing all group matches against KE Aston, KE Fiveways and Fairfax in the 5th/6th play-off meaning we finished a disappointing 6th (out of 6). However, as the usual fixtures recommenced, we found new skills and confidence in the final game of the winter term against Bishop's Vesey, particularly from Will Butler with a brilliant, yet slightly lucky chip and chase and some very good defensive displays. We finished the match in

high spirits despite a scoreline of 48-5 to Vesey.

After the Christmas break, we encountered the wettest January since 1766 and we came back to the misery of cancelled matches, against Newcastle-under-Lyme School and Princethorpe. But we did play WGS (Wolverhampton Grammar School), where we won! For the first time in quite a while we found ourselves scoring easily, racking up 7 tries against them, but our defence was not as solid as

the first half allowing WGS to score tries using their pacy winger no-one could keep up with, however we still won, with help from Johannes Beckett, man of the match and the 5 try scorers.

At the end of the season, we went on tour to Carlisle. All excited, we played our first game, Cockermouth School, where after a half time lead of 12 points, Cockermouth made a comeback scoring in the last few minutes



in the corner, perhaps helped by the slope of the pitch which could only be described as a small mountain. On the Saturday, we travelled to Penrith Rugby Club where we took the lead after some good displays by the forwards, however, we soon conceded and Penrith got a lead of around 10 points, then we scored, and some close chances nearly put us in front, but, they scored and with little time left we had no response. Another game with good performances but pipped at the line.

The last game of the season, was a

bit of a gift, the club we played, Carlisle Rugby Club had a mix up and thought we were U13. We played their Year 8 team and unsurprisingly we thrashed them, but we could and probably should have scored more against a humble defence. With a hat-trick from Zeeb Khan, we won, ending the season on high with a scoreline of 48-0.

Season awards were presented on tour with the following receiving awards; **Player of the Tour:** Zeeb Khan, **Most Improved Player:** Hamza Qureshi, **Best Forward:** Nick Surr and

Best Back: Daniel Hill.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank the following people for their help this year. Mr Duncan for coaching us this year and organising all the fixtures, Mr Bruton for his help in training and all the staff on tour for such an enjoyable time. Thanks also to the players for making my time as captain so enjoyable, and finally the parents; for turning up every weekend to watch us, through thick and thin, rain and shine and for your commitment to us.

■ **Tom Perry**

U13 Rugby

The season has been a successful season but also one to improve on. The U13 team registering eight wins from their fifteen match season. This included hard earned victories over teams such as Bablake 38-25, King Henry's 41-36 and also games that went down to the very last play such as Adams GS 29-27 and KES 26-20. The team has been unfortunate to lose games that came down to one score such as Aston.

As the season progressed the team began to gel more, allowing scoring opportunities to come from a variety of players. However, this does not take away from the individual talent in the team; this includes prop William Lyons and winger Uwais Hafizal both being able to score tries with their powerful running.

Man of the match performances primarily went to William Lyons for showing high commitment on the pitch. He worked along side Adam Li and Edward Dempsey who provided solid scrums. Elliot Spalding, Haseeb Mahmood and Rhys Rogers all filled the boots of being second row. The back row positions were filled by Dylan Rogers and Haresh Ram who both gave sound defence and strong running.

Dominic Poole has been the link between forwards and backs giving good ball to Max Mulligan who organised the back line very effectively. Josh Hall, Danny Blythe and Harry



Yate provided the centre partnership. Josh Hall showed his skill with the boot by converting over 30 conversions. The wingers were Osama Chihani, Abaan Butt and Uwais Hafizal who had a great season scoring 8 tries with strong running. At full back Alex Byrne provided solid defence as well as dangerous running.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Jones who coached the U13 to a successful season as well the sports leaders Arran Kingston, Lewis Evans, Richard Deutsch and Rezwanul Choudhary who have all provided knowledge to help us produce the winning performances.

■ **Kamil Khan**

Captain, Kamil Khan and Rhys Rogers were selected for Greater Birmingham and played matches against Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the Black Country. Kamil has been an outstanding captain this year. He has been thoroughly reliable in his organisation and has led by example in matches. His powerful running led to him scoring 36 tries during the season and his contribution to the team's success should not be underestimated.

■ **C.M.J.**

U12 Rugby

It has been a tough season for the Under 12 team, as we lost the majority of our matches. However, we have at times produced some great rugby and sometimes been very unlucky to lose the game.

Our first match was against Bablake, where we lost 32 points to 5. Our solitary try in that game was scored by Michael James Thomas, who bulldozed straight through the Bablake defence. Our next match was against Old Swinford, who proved to be a very good team and we lost convincingly 34-0. Several more matches came and went with defeats to Lawrence Sherrif (10-22), King Henry (10-47), KE Lichfield (10-22) and KE Five Ways (7-27).

The next match against Bishop Vesey proved to be the low point in our season,



where we were overpowered completely (63-0)! Credit goes to Bradley Williams for keeping the score down as much as possible, with

his valiant defensive effort.

We were looking for our first win of the season when we played away against Adams

Grammar. The game started perfectly with two well worked tries, both scored by Louis Cooke. Ten minutes later Louis completed his hat-trick of tries with a strong run down the wing around all of the opposing team. Another try was scored on the stroke of half-time by Michael James Thomas. The second half saw Adams Grammar come back into the game, scoring two tries from defensive lapses and then scoring another later, but finally we held our nerve to clinch our first victory of the season; the score being 21-26. Credit goes to Louis Cooke for his vital tries and outstanding defence.

A week later we played against KE Aston, where we were looking for back-to-back wins. We dominated the game from the start to the full-time whistle, scoring three tries in the first ten minutes. Our centres, Leon Zhang and Louis Cooke were running the opposition ragged. In the second half we continued to pile on the pressure, scoring three more tries. Our best

player was Leon Zhang, who consistently overpowered the opposition.

Our penultimate fixture was against KES. The game got off to a dream start, as we scored two great tries from Louis Cooke and Leon Zhang. Soon KES gained control of the game, scoring two fast tries to even the scores at half time. After a rousing team talk from Mr Roden, we came out in the second half with all guns blazing, coming close to scoring several times. The speed and quality of KES proved too much for us and we finally ended up losing 26-12.

Our only rugby left was the Greater Birmingham Tournament, where we faced tough opposition: Five Ways and Fairfax. First we played Five Ways, who proved to be a tough opponent but in the end we came out on top with a score of 14-10. Next we faced Fairfax, whom we needed to beat to progress into the final. We struck first with a well worked try. Fairfax then scored immediately and converted

it from a mistake, which left the score 7-5 in their favour. After that the game was end-to-end, both teams defending as if their lives depended on it. In the last minute Jason Tahiri chased down a kick on their try line and then leapt onto the ball to score. We had made it to the final against the odds. The final was against Bishop Vesey, which proved to be extremely difficult. We put in a great defensive performance, but it was not enough to win and we lost 10-24, which gave us second place.

I would like to thank Mr Roden and Mr Southall for working hard with us and always telling us all how to improve as a team. I would also like to thank the squad for their hard work in training and in all matches. I hope next season we will be able to build on what we have learnt this season.

■ **Samuel Hope**

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

Having started the season quite late due to exams, our first match arrived in mid June in the local cup. Just our luck! Solihull VI Form were sure to be tough customers, but after an admirable effort, the bowlers managed to restrict them to 145. Our newly appointed Captain Charanjit Kalsi led the way with the ball taking 3 wickets for 21 runs and was aided excellently by Vinul who added 2 more to the tally. The total seemed daunting but we managed to keep scoring at a decent pace. The match culminated with us requiring 5 sixes off the last over to win. Charanjit managed to hit the first two balls for six but unfortunately we were not able to meet their score. A stunning 76* for Charanjit kept the match entertaining to the last over.

In our second match against Aston, exams hit us hard and we were down some key play-

ers but confidence levels were high. Having bowled first, we managed to restrain them to 158 with the pick of our bowlers being Ahmed Qureshi who took 2 key wickets whilst only conceding 20 runs. It was now up to our batsmen and Will Houlden took up the challenge scoring a steady 65 with help from Varun Desphande at the other end who managed to get 37. Despite a good chase, we frustratingly came up 3 runs short of the total. The tables turned in our next match against Fiveways, where our bowlers bowled brilliantly to contain the batsmen to a mere 107, with Charanjit getting 2 wickets and a wicket apiece for Jeisimhan Diwakar and Ahmed. The batsmen had a simple job at hand and a quick fire 37 from Will and a steady 30 from Andrew Plimmer sealed the deal.

The final game of the season was against the MCC, a team comprised of high-level club players. They had chosen to bat first and declared having reached 210, with one of their batsmen having scored a century. Credit must go to our bowlers for sticking in there against

more experienced opposition with wickets coming from Mustafa Chaudhry and Osama Hamid (an old boy and previous Captain at Camp Hill). The batting didn't prove our strongest ally on the day, as we were losing wickets at regular intervals. Charanjit and Jeisimhan managed to achieve 29 and 30 respectively but it wasn't enough to prevail against the experience of the MCC. Nevertheless it was an entertaining match and our players gave their all throughout as they did the entire season.

■ **Jeisimhan Diwakar**

2nd XI Cricket

The second XI maintained a 100% win record this season. They won their game away to Bablake by 19 runs. Man of the match was surely George Wager, whose 47 runs were the backbone of the Camp Hill innings, which set Bablake the target of 151 to win off 20 overs. The other notable batsman was Dominic Paver, who scored 16 runs off 13 balls towards the end of the innings when we had wickets in hand – an excellent tactical decision.

Bablake had two very good openers, scoring 52 off the first five overs. However, the dismissal of one of the pair marked the turning point, as the remaining batsmen couldn't keep the runs flowing. Once the second opener fell in the 13th over the rot set in and Camp Hill finished the job efficiently.

Bowling honours were shared. Arjun Nagra was our most economical bowler (20 runs off his 5 overs). Parvesh Konda took two wickets (2 for 26 off 4 overs); Narinder Phull (1 for 17 off 3), Saif Ahmed (1 for 25 off 4) and Adil Ahmed (1 for 34 off 4) were our other bowlers.

■ **M.J.G.**



U15 Cricket

Yet another season when expectations were initially high, only to see some lack-lustre play and sheer carelessness at critical times in most matches played. Inevitably, against even moderate opposition, the pressure proved to be too great to ensure enough victories in order to gain a satisfactory return in terms of winning.

Thus, although most matches were competitive to a point, too many unforced errors whilst batting were to be crucial moments, unfortunately to be repeated match after match. One can only hope that the more "cerebral" team members learn important lessons from these errors and apply them during future seasons.

Despite this rather down-beat assessment there were some moments of pleasure and satisfaction. The bowling was generally more accurate with fewer "extras" given away. One or two innings were noteworthy, especially the unbeaten 70 not out scored by Henry Houlden against KE Stratford!

You may be forgiven for thinking that it has been a miserable season as far as results are concerned, but quite the contrary. All the players certainly gave of their best and even when lunch seemed to have deserted them,

they never capitulated and always adopted a stoical, respectful and somehow determined attitude. Unfortunately this was normally just after they had been clean bowled! Nevertheless, it has been a season which, strangely, I have enjoyed and I would like to thank all play-

ers for their efforts and if not many victories, then certainly some memorable moments of mirth and merriment. Thanks boys.

■ **P.T.C.**



U14 Cricket

Played 6, Won 3, Lost 3. The season was full of expectation as the team looked superb in training and full of confidence. However, these performances in training weren't always transferred into a game.

The first game against KE Five Ways had the whole team excited but the team wasn't so happy after it. After choosing to bat, there was a certain pressure on a new look opening partnership. However, the team got off to an awful start when both openers were out in quick succession and so were the rest of the team. The team was humbled and brought back to Earth and we were all out of 36. KE Five Ways won the match comfortably by 10 wickets. Work needed to be done.

However, the team suddenly bounced back with 3 wins on the trot. Princethorpe, was the school that the team had beaten before and looked to beat them again. Very good bowling, batting and fielding by the team capped an all-round performance, which saw Camp Hill win by 24 runs. Adam Ahmed top scored with 23 and took two wickets for four runs. A match against Hodge Hill in the cup followed where Camp Hill were once again disciplined and focused. Adam Ahmed took 4-2 and scored 22 whilst Garen Boora took 4 wickets and made 18 runs. Camp Hill won by 10 wickets. Camp Hill also won their next match, against Aston, winning by 3 runs in a nervy match where Daniel Hill bowled a terrific last over to seal the win.

This was the last of Camp Hill's victories.

Sadly, after recent success Camp Hill were defeated by a beatable Bablake team. Camp Hill dropped far too many catches and their batting performance let them down. However, we had one last game in the cup against Aston. We had beaten them before but had a slight disadvantage with most of the team observing Ramadan. However, this was no excuse but the team's bowling and fielding was poor, which left us a hard chase. The top order fell quickly but Salah Khan and Mason Jolley rescued the team to put them within winning distance.

However, we came close but not close enough.

The team, this year was inconsistent, although we have made some progress. I would like to thank Mr Warrillow for his help coaching the team.

■ **Adam Ahmed**



U13 Cricket

This year, the U13 Cricket team has had a very productive season making very good progress in all areas, but particularly in the batting department. Unfortunately, as a side we haven't always put it together to get the victories that we should have. Nonetheless, it has been quite a good season.

Our first match of the season was against our rivals Five Ways who had previously beaten us in last year's cup final. The whole team was eager to win and in the match we showed real character. After choosing to bat first, Camp Hill got off to a very sluggish start due to some very timid shots and negative calling by the two opening batsman. After 11 overs Camp Hill were at 11-2 and would need a miracle from the middle order to get us anywhere near the par score. There was more disappointment to come as only Muhammed Kurji, who made a solid 16, went past double-figures, as Camp Hill reached 68 off their 20 overs. Camp Hill would need some excellent bowling and tight fielding, if they were to win this game and everyone delivered. Dhyan Naik topped the bowling figures with 2-13 and Harry Yate and Joel Bell also bowled very economically with both of them taking a wicket, meaning a fantastic victory by 3 runs.

The team had great confidence in themselves and their bowlers, but in the next match against Princethorpe, two brilliant opening batsmen who put together a partnership of 149 in 20 overs hit the bowlers to all parts of the ground. This target seemed a very daunting one to a team who had struggled to 68 in the previous game. However, the batting response was very respectable, but was not enough as Camp Hill reached 119. A repeat



of this match was to follow against Bablake, but the team managed to beat Aston, despite them having two very good batsmen. Camp Hill reached 106 with Owais Akram scoring 20 and Muhammed Kurji top-scoring with 25. The game was finished by a good display of bowling from Abaan Butt and Dhyan Naik.

The next match seemed to be done when Stratford were at 68-8, but some disappointing bowling and fielding led to Stratford reaching 108. Owais Akram lead the bowling attack as he claimed 4-5 with the ball. Camp Hill started badly in response losing both openers in the first four overs. In the end, Camp Hill fell 7 runs short with Harry Yate scoring 18, Kamil Khan 24 and Dhyan Naik 19.

Having got through to the semi-final of the cup without playing a match, Camp Hill went into the game with not as much practice as they could have had, but that did not keep the players down. Having been sent into bat, Camp Hill were off to a very solid start with Owais (23) and Pranav (25) both batting well.

However the middle order collapsed and we reached a disappointing 87. Their captain who opened the batting took no time in settling himself as he hit two full tosses for 6 in the first over. Owais Akram and Dhyan Naik bowled well, but in the end a total of 87 was nowhere near enough with their opener reaching 67 unbeaten, as Aston won convincingly.

A disappointing end to the season, but the whole team can be proud of their efforts in training and in matches. The highest score was Kamil Khan's 29 against Bablake and Owais Akram who claimed 4-5 against Stratford topped the bowling. Special thanks go to Mr Tranter and Mr Duncan who have helped in training and matches and in particular, Mr Southall who has helped the team develop into a better side. Everyone has shown great improvement and the team should look forward to next season and I am sure that our team will be more consistent and have every chance in having a victorious season.

■ **Owais Akram**

U12 Cricket

Before saying anything about the promising U12 cricket team this year, I think we would all like to thank Mr Southall, Mr Duncan and Mr Tranter for making all of this possible. They have done a great job for not just the U12 cricket team, but all the other various teams and sports within the school. We should be grateful for their dedication to keep King Edward's Camp Hill Boys' performing well in other areas than academics (which I believe we are rather good at...).

To be honest, at the start of the year when we had indoor practice sessions in the sports hall, we didn't seem to be that competent. Well, that was what I thought, anyway. Contrastingly, as the season went on, we seemed to get better and better, until we improved into a very strong team.

Captained by myself, we started this year with a match against KE Five Ways. We knew what we needed to do. I lost the toss and we were put in to bat, my first loss of the toss of

very many! We did a good job scoring a solid 93, with myself scoring an initially conservative 33, including a generous 40 extras from our opposition. Despite Mohammed Farooq

dismissal of the Five Ways opener and Captain for a duck, our other bowlers couldn't manage to keep the pressure for the rest of the innings, with a batsman from the opposition slogging



us left-and-right for a lucky fifty. This and our three dropped catches were enough to lose us the game as Five Ways reached their target with just 3 balls to spare! Well done to Mohammed with bowling figures of 2-22 (4 overs).

Despite this initial disappointment, we responded strongly in our first cup game against KE Aston. Having lost the toss and being put in to bat, we made a mess of our innings, with only Madhav Manoj providing some stability with a gritty 16 of our miserly 57 runs. However, we learnt our lesson as we bowled and fielded exceptionally as Aston could only manage 51 from their 20 overs. My economical figures of 2-5 (4 overs) and Sam Hope's great fielding and equally good bowling stood out as well as Madhav's knock in this match.

Our next match was versus Princethorpe. We lost the toss as usual and bowled first, with our seam bowlers Sachin Subramonian, Mohammed Farooq and Madhav Manoj doing most of the damage. We restricted them to a gettable score around the mid-sixties. Starting slowly, wickets kept tumbling at my other end until I made a 44 partnership with Madhav Manoj. I got out just before the winning runs were struck, scoring 27. Madhav saw us through with a more than useful 12.

Gaining some form and rhythm as a team, our next match was a quarter-final cup game versus Washwood Heath. We lost the toss and bowled first, with Sam and I bowling well. Unfortunately, the other bowlers gave away the pressure, so Washwood could reach a decent

74. Sam bagged three wickets and I finished with my best school figures of 4-5 (4 overs). Our batting once again crumbled, however, with some risky hitting from Kiren Marimuthu (playing in his debut for the a team) we managed to save the game and win it with a couple of overs to spare.

We played our next game against Bablake, batting first, we got to our best score so far of 97, with Sam Hope, Nikhil Gupta, Madhav Manoj, Kiren Marimuthu, Sachin Subramonian and especially Mohammed Farooq chipping in with some decent double figure scores ranging from 10-25. We bowled well on a good bowling wicket, with the seamers doing the damage. Mohammed and Sachin bowled very economically and Sachin got a good run-out which I took the bails off very well. Our catching was still something we needed work on, as Mohammed dropped a dolley that came straight to him, that was harder to drop than catch! However, we still won by a huge margin, as we continued our winning streak.

Our penultimate match of the season was the semi-final of the cup against our rivals KE Five Ways. Having lost to them closely in a previous match, we saw a chance for some revenge appearing against our Foundation rivals. A pretty good score of 97 from Camp Hill wasn't enough as Five Ways' great openers finished the match off in less than 16 overs! Dropped catches once again didn't help the cause...

Our last game was against KE Stratford. We finally won the toss and I decided to bat first.

With a bad forecast of rain ahead, we played on. We got off to an absolute flyer, with myself hitting four consecutive fours off their Captain and opening bowler. Mohammed and I were on approx. 10 and 30 respectively, with the score on 60 after 11 overs. Unfortunately, with my 'golden luck', the game was called off! Before the conclusion I would like to congratulate Joe Clarke for his great first-time effort behind the stumps. He did a great job for the school team.

Overall, a great start to our school cricket careers with the whole of the squad doing their bit! Four wins from six is a great performance for our first season and I believe next year we will achieve even greater things. I have the best bowling figures of 4-5 and the highest batting score of 33. Nevertheless, the whole team has contributed extremely well. The entire squad has made sure we have maintained a high standard from the beginning, and all of our four wins have only been because of the effort of the whole team.

I would like to thank the people who have played for the U12 A team during the season. These are: Sachin Subramonian, Sam Hope, Madhav Manoj, Vignesh Venkataramaiah, Mohammed Farooq, Nikhil Gupta, Joe Clarke, Aadam Zafar, Ryan Malhi, Hasan Akhtar, Bilaal Hussain, Kiren Marimuthu, Neal Pankhania, Sufiyan Ahmed, Saksham Shah, Luqmaan Rashid and any others I may have accidentally missed out (sorry if I did!).

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

Starting the new season we were excited to discover we would be playing in an organised school's league for the first time. This added a new dimension to our training and desire to win as we had high expectations for ourselves. We were lucky to have a number of players who had already played 1st team hockey for the school, along with some talented new players being added to the squad. This meant that we potentially had the strongest school 1st XI hockey team for a number of years.

Our first match was against Bablake, we knew they had been on tour and had therefore had a good chance to gel as a team in pre-season, as expected it was a tough match. We lost 5-1, however the team as a whole displayed some very promising signs of what was to come. The next fixture was against Newcastle, it was a very close game that we just lost 4-3 but we continued to gel as a team and show improvement from the previous week.

Next up was King Henry's VII, from the off we were focused and quickly put into practice



what we knew we had to improve from previous weeks. This allowed us to dominate the game and with some skilful sets of play we secured our first well deserved victory of 2-1. This winning form carried on into the next match against Warwick where we managed to hold possession and express ourselves as a team, giving us an encouraging 3-1 victory. We lost the two games that followed but then stormed back with a 5-1 thrashing of Bishop Vesey, the highlight of the match was Jeevahan Murugesu claiming an amazing hat trick. This good form continued against Lawrence

Sheriff with a comfortable 3-0 win.

In the spring term we consistently played well against some experienced sides. We were proud to come away with wins from five out of eight matches, three of which were a satisfying clean sheet. The team was well drilled with our back four in defence being particularly strong, with Captain Hannan Currah acting as a key and vocal back bone to the team. This gave our midfield the confidence and freedom to push up the pitch giving us many opportunities on goal. Thus allowing our talented attackers to make some top class finishes into the back of

the net with Jack Perrin deserving a special mention.

Overall throughout this season we were very lucky as although it was a wet winter, we did not have any matches actually cancelled unlike the previous one. We had a couple of unfortunate injuries as the season went on, but this gave some 2nd team players the chance to step up and experience a higher level and faster pace of hockey. This excellent season meant that we finished joint top of our league on points, but we just missed out on promotion due to an inferior goal difference.

Our successful season was rounded off with us travelling to Liverpool for a weekend hockey tour. We were very lucky and grateful to have this opportunity as teams before us had not always had the chance. Mr Watkins and Mr Hardy kindly drove us up in the mini buses after lunch at school on Friday. Our scheduled match on that evening was unfortunately cancelled, however this gave the team an extra chance for a training session before a weekend of some high level hockey to come. An early start on the Saturday morning accompanied with the luxury of the buffet full English breakfast at the hotel did not prove to be the best preparation for our game that morning against Calday School. A tentative start from the Camp Hill side meant we were soon 1-0 down within five minutes of starting the game. Although we did seem to wake up later in the game, it was too little too late and we lost 6-1. That afternoon we had the chance to watch a high level national league hockey match. This gave the team the chance to relax and appreciate how the game can really be played. In the evening we went bowling, which seemingly was no

1st XI Hockey Tour



coincidence giving Mr Hardy the chance to show off his skill. On the Sunday morning we got up a little later feeling more refreshed after a leisurely full English breakfast and checking out of our rooms. Later that morning we played Bowden hockey club and were keen to get a win as something to take back from tour. We seemed a completely different side creating many chances and producing some very skilful sets of play. This match was arguably the best game of our season and against a very strong opposition we were unlucky to come away with a 4-4 draw. The player of the tour went to Tim Naylor for his exceptional play in this 2nd Match.

To sum up our season we finished with winning a very credible 10 games out of 21 including the tour. These matches were against some extremely strong opponents and even in games where all seemed lost, the Camp Hill resilience came through and we continued to play some amazing hockey. Our top goal scorer was Jeevahan Murugesu with a total of 10 goals from the season. We all came away from the season very proud of what we had accomplished and knowing we had all developed as players from where we started.

■ **Tim Naylor**

2nd XI Hockey

While on paper, the 2013-14 season doesn't look like much of a success, the 2nd XI can be very proud of the progress they have made this

academic year. The season started in a losing fashion, with a 2-1 defeat at home to Bablake, Adersh Saravanaa managed to score the first goal of the season. This match



also saw the loss of our defensive stalwart, Jaskaran Rajput due to injury.

However we bounced back from these early setbacks with an impressive 2-0 win over Newcastle-under-Lyme School. This, sadly, was to be the last win for a long time as we started our five-match losing streak. Despite the fact that some of the losses were by big margins, there were some very impressive performances. The 3-2 away loss to Warwick was one instance where the team showed great spirit and a committed work ethic. This period saw the team slowly get used to their new teammates and this showed in their performances as they started to play with increased fluency. It culminated in a fine performance away to Solihull School; we won the game by a margin of 5-1. Gethin Bradnam stood out with an outstanding hat-trick. The defence also deserved credit as they only conceded one goal.

The remainder of 2013 was disappointing as we slipped to two more defeats

against strong opponents. 2014 signalled change as our first match of the calendar year was a win against our fierce rivals, Five Ways. The score was 2-0 as Adersh grabbed his third brace of the season to continue his scoring run. The next two matches yielded a draw and a win with Gethin getting goals in consecutive matches. The final three matches of the season ended in losses, with the 11-1 defeat in the penultimate fixture at KES being followed up by a revived performance at Aston, which ended 3-2.

While the season didn't end as we may have liked, it was still heartening to see the commitment of the team. Our defence steadily improved over the course of the season with Pavan Bhambra, Aatif Syed and Monish Vijaya Gopal stepping up in Jaskaran's absence. The midfield trio of Louis Allin, Oliver Whitfield and Nimreth Phull were solid throughout the season and started to develop their chemistry, as it was their first season playing together. In attack, Gethin and Adersh showed very good understanding as they both had a productive season in front of goal; Gethin scored 6 while Adersh was top scorer with 9.

The team can be very proud of their efforts and they should aim to continue their development next year.

■ **Adersh Saravanaa**

U15 Hockey

Since last year, it seems the U15 Hockey team has improved vastly, especially shown on the Junior Tour, winning a fair few of their games. We did well against tough opponents such as Bablake and these games showed how much our hockey has developed, not only individually but also as a team. We display brilliant teamwork and good skills in games, but sometimes it has to be said that we cannot convert chances into

goals, which has led to us drawing our games on a few occasions. However, we've also fared well against Aston who are a very strong side, and after having drawn to them earlier on in the season, we won our second game against them.

As the season drew to a close we went on the Junior Hockey Tour, in which we won one game, lost one and drew one, while we were playing against stronger and also older teams.

This proved that we were indeed a strong team, and hopefully we can display these skills in future years. Special mentions go to Thomas Weaver who has improved incredibly over the past year, and also to Beant Thandi for his consistently good performances. Thanks go to Mr Willis for being an excellent coach and for taking us to our matches, enabling us to enjoy thoroughly a good season of hockey.

■ **Sanchudaan Murugesu**

■ **Kabeendan Murugesu**



U14 Hockey

Considering that it was the first year that any of us had played at the school, we were, not surprisingly, a little apprehensive as we prepared for our first match as the Under 14 (Year 9) hockey team. Having practised just for just six weeks in games lessons, we were expecting Aston, whose team had been playing for over a year, to wipe the floor with us. What no-one was expecting however, including myself and our coach, Mr Southall, was for us to hold our own reasonably well and to register just a

3-0 loss, hardly the thorough beating we had been anticipating. But what could this mean? Were we actually okay at hockey? We weren't entirely sure, we would have to wait and see.

Just three weeks after our first game came a match against Old Swinford Hospital we, yet again, feared the worst. However, some goalkeeping errors by them and some clinical finishing from the Camp Hill lads, meant that we defeated Old Swinford by 4 goals to 0, with Victor Kimani, the team's stand-out striker, bagging a hat-trick.

Throughout the rest of the year, the team

built on our skills with the help of Mr Southall, and we finished the season with a fairly respectable set of statistics, which included three wins!

By the end of the season, there was a marked improvement in skills among the team, and this showed when, after losing to Solihull B in the first half of the season 2-0, we turned the tables to win 2-0 in the latter half of the year: a testimony to the team's development.

The team of Greg Black, Hamza Arshad, Ruairi Lynch, Vamsi Pratapa, Tom Mansfield, Monim Wains, Sunil Patel, Daniel Higgins, Brandon Cooke, Victor Kimani, Sam Western, Craig Stewart, Isara Mahalekam and Varshith Desari should be proud of themselves. A special mention goes to Victor Kimani who scored four goals this season, as well as Brandon Cooke and Daniel Higgins who counted three each. Of course, the biggest thank you must go to Mr Southall, who, despite not being a specialist hockey teacher, skilfully guided us through our first, and probably most difficult year of hockey at Camp Hill Boys.

In the 2014-15 season, the team should be looking to register a few more wins, and I am confident that we will be able to do so with the help of Mr Watkins, a skilful and experienced hockey player himself (apparently), and we look forward to holding our own against the tougher opponents. Well done lads!

■ **Daniel Higgins**



After a rather freakish winter with severe rain, the weather became much milder and it turned into a rather pleasant summer with some very pleasing athletics results!

The Senior Foundation match kicked off the season in spectacular form. In the Sixth Form team, Oliver Paulin (800m and 1500m), Kyle Reed (200m and Triple Jump), Jacob Bruten (400m), Dan Miller (Javelin) and Joe Cullen (High Jump) won their events and Dan Mladenovic (800m and 1500m) and Dan Miller (Discus) placed second. In the 800m, it was obvious from the off that this was a two horse race, especially since looking at the times, you may think Oli and Dan may have ridden horses as they finished over 15 seconds before third place! Just to prove their invincibility, they battled away in the 1500m to finish almost exactly 30 seconds before third. This was the most competitive 1500m race between 2 Camp Hill athletes for many years. Year 11 were no slouches either with wins from Will Maclean (200m), Wes Blackhurst (400m and 800m) and the relay team, together with second places by Will (100m) Amman Bhambra (1500m and Javelin) and Jake Webb (Triple Jump). Overall results were excellent, Aston 164.5, KES 191 and Camp Hill 198.

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. Second places went to Cameron Steel in 200m, Richard Deutsch in Long Jump, Alex Bonnor in Shot and the relay team. Year 8 team had some impressive performances with second place by Alex Byrne in both 800m and 1500m, Kamil Khan in Triple Jump and Pranav Thatipamula in Javelin. However the star of the day was Uwais Hafizal who won 100m and Discus, quite an unusual brace of events for one athlete. Both teams placed

second in their age group.

The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is still a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in two 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 Cameron Steele 46 points, Richard Deutsch 35, Alex Bonnor 33 and Ed Connolly 31. In the same competition, the Junior team placed second but couldn't compete in the next round as they were in Conwy. Highest scores here were from Alex Byrne 32 points and Uwais Hafizal 30.

In the regional round, the Year 10 team was selected using standards results so there were changes and although the points total was higher, overall the team placed fifth. Apart from the usual candidates it was pleasing to see improved performances by Beant Thandi, Lewis Evans, Billy Chapman, Ishmael Silvestro and Arran Kingston.

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, being their first outing, but they rose to the challenge. A win from Joe Clarke in the discus and second place by Louis Cooke (100m), Leon Zhang (200m) Judah Daniels (Long Jump) and Tommy Ransbotyn (Javelin) assisted the team to finish second out of 8 teams. Year 8 found the competition fierce and although Alex Byrne placed second, they struggled across the board and finished fifth. Year 9, in one of their few competitions, also found difficulty. Best results came from Tom Mansfield (1500m) and Shreyas Annadate (discus). Year 10 with a depleted squad came third. However when calculated the total scores placed Camp Hill second overall on 271.5 only 3.5 points above third which is testament to those athletes who

filled in at the last minute to achieve important points in gaps left by others.

The Junior Foundation Competition is split into two matches; Years 9 and 10 followed by Years 7 and 8. In the first half of this competition, the Year 9 team consisted of only 5 boys, Johannes Beckett, Dan Higgins, Liam Garside, Chris Marshall and Dan Hill, as it coincided with their end of year exams. However, some superb results were managed with first place for Liam (1500m) and Dan Hill (High Jump) and second place for Johannes (Hurdles) and Chris (Long Jump). Year 10, in their final match of the season, was outstanding. Cameron placed first in both 100m and 200m and second in Long Jump; Ishmael won 800m and came second in 1500m, Lewis won High Jump and Arran was second in 400m. Final scores in this age group were KE Stratford 98 pts, KES 117, KE Aston 118 and Camp Hill 135.

In the second half of the competition, Year 8 placed third with wins from Alex (1500m), Uwais (400m) and Kamil (Triple Jump) and Year 7 came second with wins from Louis (100m), Leon (200m), Zaman Khan (Shot) and pleasing performances from Sachin Subramonian, Josh Birch, Jason Tahiri, Henry Moreau-Smith, Ciaran Cunningham, Henry Hoare, John Byrne, James McNassor, Hao Yang, Jo Clark and Louis Parmar: a promising team for the future.

A small number of athletes were selected for the South Birmingham team in the County Championships. The significant achievement was Cameron Steel, who qualified to compete for the county in the Mason Trophy in the Long Jump.

Final congratulations, however, must go to all athletes who volunteered to fill in events at the last minute. Without their courage, there would not be the competitive spirit, fun and overall success. Potential athletes should look towards joining local clubs, where they can receive expert coaching together with quality competition.

■ **Oliver Paulin**



Badminton

The season traditionally begins in the autumn when we host the Partnership round of the National Center Parcs Championship. By this stage Mr Russell has overseen training and selection for the two teams, coaxing and cajoling them in the sports hall on Friday lunchtimes. I think if they manage to take 10 points of him then they stand a chance of selection!

At U16 level we looked strong, with Parvesh Konda, Shreshth Malik, Jay Chandaran, Sulamaan Rahim and Fazal Shah bringing a fair amount of experience to the line-up. At U14 the players were Isara Mahalekam, Sachin Subramonian, Abbas Mirza and Sami Hamsho.

Both sides came through round one relatively untroubled, winning their groups with ease. This took us to the Birmingham Winter Games in February at the National Indoor Arena. The organisation on the day left much to be desired, the organisers "moving the goalposts" in terms of the rules and qualification method. The U16 team beat all four schools they played, only dropping two sets along the way. They were forming a formidable outfit. The U14 team defeated four schools comfortably, but due to a quirk of the rules we ended up playing Kings Norton for the second time on the day in the deciding final. Having beaten them 4-1 in the morning it may be that complacency played a part. Kings Norton certainly



learnt from the first encounter, adjusted their tactics and turned around to win 3-2 and leave us as runners-up.

The U16 squad progressed to the Regional Finals at Nechells where the standard would undoubtedly be much higher. A solid start saw us defeat William Brookes 4-1, but then a 3-2 reversal to Streety. William Brooks then caused an upset by beating Streety to create a three-way tie and the calculators and slide rules were out! Our record was good enough to put us through to the semis where we faced KES! A tense, gripping contest developed with all players urging their partners on with urgency from courtside. Each of the five rubbers were

extremely close and decided by the odd point of brilliance or error. At two-all the final doubles match was secured by Camp Hill for a memorable 3-2 victory over our rivals.

In the final we played Trentham College and were brought back down to earth with a 5-0 defeat. Trentham had been National Winners 12 months earlier so no disgrace as we pushed hard in all the games with Parvesh playing outstandingly against their England player. The silver medals were richly deserved.

A fine season, well done to both squads and my thanks to messrs Russell and Smith for their support.

■ **M.W.D.**

Basketball

U16 Basketball

With a loss of the schools' league, meaning matches had to be arranged on a match-by-match basis, the U16 basketball team this year were unfortunate to have only two games over the course of the season. The team still trained hard and often, and with a large squad, all the players were able to develop themselves further as basketball players.

The first of our games was against a strong Yardleys team which fielded three players that had represented Birmingham at a national league level. Camp Hill knew that they were facing tough opposition however thanks to early baskets from Asim Shahid, we were ahead in the first few minutes. Unfortunately, the superiority of the Yardleys' more experienced players shone through and Camp Hill were unable to deal with the demands of the game. Some fine baskets from Matija Novovic and Talvin Rai meant we were able to take many positives from the game however the final score read 67-35 to Yardleys.

In addition to these matches, the team were able to compete against our own Year 12s for a couple of games and both age groups registered a win. This allowed all the players to gain valuable court time with all the Year 10s being able to show off their abilities. In our win over the Year 12s some notable performances came from Azeem Hanjra and Amman Bhambra who between them, in the absence of the other Year 11s, managed to score over 30 points.

The squad's last game was against Ninestiles. We were able to exert dominance through a resolute defence and with great counter-attacking play using the swift hands of Andreas Kavalieros and Satnam Ajimal. The team stayed ahead throughout and victory was assured in the third quarter as no baskets were conceded, leaving the final score at 24-15.

Special mention must go to the most improved player of the season, Shihab Mozum-



der, and also MVP of the season, Ashvin Thomas, who played with a consistently good form throughout. The U16 team looks to be in a strong position for next year with Andreas, Asim, Asher Earnest and Usman Naveed at the helm.

■ **Amman Bhambra**

U13 Basketball

Last year the Year 8 basketball team had a successful year – dribbling, passing and lay-uping with finesse and talent... some of the time. The team's first match was back in October 2013 which we comprehensibly won 32-0. The next fixture against Baverstock proved to be a well fought encounter by both teams, but Baverstock came out on top winning 53-44. The team would learn from this experience though.

The team then took on Queensbridge and cruised our way to a 50-12 victory. Next it was Bishop Challenor but they fell as well to the Camp Hill machine. Top performances in this match were from Kamil Khan and Daniel Blyth. These matches qualified us to play in the SSP tournament on the 20th of November in which we had to play a number of different teams. We came out winners against some tough opposition and qualified for the Birmingham winter games on the 6th of February.

League matches followed against Dame Elizabeth and Wheeler's Lane. Dame Elizabeth were tough opposition but we managed to get a 31-23 victory. Next on the fixture list were Wheeler's Lane and the team won comfortably 26-2. In our final match before the winter games we played Baverstock again... This time it decided who won the league (as our match against them before was only a friendly). We played well as a team and grinded out a 44-33 win, Abbas Mirza was Man of the Match.



In the winter games we were playing teams consisting of Year 8s and Year 9s, so we were immediately at a disadvantage. Each match was only 8 minutes long and we lost our first two matches by narrow margins. In our final match though we fought back and secured a win. Sadly these results were not enough to progress us in the tournament.

Having won the South Birmingham League, our final match of the year was played against Kings Norton to decide who would be crowned as Greater Birmingham Basketball Champions. They were beating us comfortably (by 6 or more points for most of the match) but we

raised our level in the final quarter and got ourselves to within 2 points. In the closing stages we had possession and the ball was heading for the basket. Unfortunately the ball ricocheted off the back of the ring and we lost 25-23.

Our top scorer was Kamil Kahn who racked up an amazing 100 points over the season. Haresh Ram and Daniel Blyth both had 10 appearances. My thanks and the team's go to our excellent coach Mr Southall and I would like to say thank you to all who have played in this team. I hope we can continue in the same manner in Year 9.

■ Daniel Blyth

Chess

We started the year with an influx of keen new Year 7s and our annual individual tournament, which this year attracted 84 entries, 54 of which made it through to the final round. Kyle Reed won after an exciting (and rather long) game against Fateh Singh, and 26 boys qualified for the Megafinal stage of the national competition into which it feeds. Of those 26, six (Rohan Aggarwal, Primo Agnello, John Hayton, Ajay John, David Johnson and Vamsi Pratapa) made the trip to Worcester to take part. Rohan won all his matches and is hence the Worcester-shire Under 13 Supremo, and he, John Hayton and Ajay John qualified for the Northern Gigafinal in Manchester. All of them went and acquitted themselves very well.

The other major event of the autumn term was the Millfield tournament. Hok

Chiu wrote his usual epistle to the Camphilians in the December newsletter: it's too long to reproduce here, and his masterful use of the English language will be sadly missed! Despite a great deal of blundering on the second day, we managed to win the Major Division by about one point, and Lewis Hedges, Robert Walters and Hok himself won board prizes. I am also pleased to report that Robert, Max Cheung and Vinul Witharanage completed the Moby Dick Challenge at Winston's fish and chip shop in Weston-super-Mare.

We entered all the regular tournaments during the year. At the Under 18 tournament at KES, we did rather well, although not quite well enough to retain the Best in Birmingham trophy we unexpectedly won in 2012. We lost to KES in the final round, but only by 4½ to 3½. Fateh Singh and Nihaar Udathu (a valuable transfer from KES who certainly made his mark) scored 4/5 and were unlucky not to get board prizes. Then we hosted the Under 14 tournament. Eight teams entered, including two from Camp Hill. Unfortunately there were two from



Nottingham, and KES managed to put a good team together, so both our teams were forced into the "second pool" (no, I didn't understand it either) along with Dixie Grammar School and Mr Jobanputra. "What?", you cry. Well, Van Dyke Upper School had entered, but decided not to come, and forgot to tell me. So we had seven teams. Even an elementary understanding of tournament design (which is about my level) tells you that seven is a bad number of teams for a tournament where teams play each other, so we had to improvise. Mr Jobanputra (father of Rohan) wasn't expecting to play quite so many games of chess on that fine Saturday, but he did come second in the whole tournament. For some rounds, he was assisted by Dr Swain, of Nottingham High School, who won the whole thing of course. Camp Hill players acquitting themselves with credit included Rohan himself, Aditya Dhiran and Shammash Tabraiz, who all scored 3/5 for the A team.

At the Lightning Tournament, hosted by KES, I got pressed into scoring, so didn't see much of the chess, but our Under 13 team came third in a tough section, and Kiren Marimuthu, Ajay John and Nikhil Gupta won board prizes. Our first team won the top division, which was an unexpected and extremely welcome result. Sulamaan Rahim, Max Cheung, Fateh Singh and Oliver Whitfield all won board prizes. Then we had a bit of a problem at the Closed Quickplay Tournament, which we hosted in the Sports Hall. We traditionally win this, and tried really hard, but it was difficult with only seven players (eight were expected: one, who shall remain nameless but may or may not have a garage, couldn't find the venue) and KES beat us by 1½ points.

League matches started after the autumn half-term and occupied almost every Friday evening until the end of the spring term: many thanks are due to boys who played and parents who waited for them! Amazingly, all the matches got played: Camp Hill I were equal first in Division I; Camp Hill II were runners-up in Division II; Camp Hill III were runners-up in Division III, and the Under 13 team runners-up in that division. *(These are not the results reported in the March newsletter. At some point, the League might get a good secretary, but for the foreseeable future, they're stuck with me.)*

In the competition once known as the Times, but now (I think) known as the NSCC (National Schools Chess Competition), we entered a little league, made a good start against Five Ways, and then played KES. Max Cheung was preparing for an interview and Oliver Whitfield was also unavailable, so we did well to only lose 4-2. Having lost this match, we could not progress to the next stage, but still visited Dixie Grammar School in mid-January. Dixie is not in the southern United States, but in Leicestershire, and the trip there was enlivened by a navigational error, which caused me to drive the minibus down an increasingly narrow road, only to find a gate at the end. The gate was locked. Turning round was impossible, but, after 10 minutes and with some help (?) from the first team, we were able to reverse back up the road without hitting anything. While I pondered the question "why do the minibuses have cruise control, but no reversing sensors?" we won the match 6-0. But that was the end.

House Chess was interesting, to say the least. In Round 1, Howard beat Beaufort 4½-3½,

and Tudor beat Seymour 5½-2½. Results were even closer in Round 2: Howard could only produce seven players, so Tudor found it that bit easier to beat them, and did so 5-3. In Beaufort v. Seymour, after nearly two hours, the score was 3½-3½, with the remaining match being Kyle Reed v. Nihaar Udathu. With Nihaar's flag about to fall, Kyle made an illegal move, which gave Nihaar an extra two minutes and put Kyle under time pressure. The pieces started moving so quickly that they could hardly be seen, and when the dust settled, Kyle had checkmated Nihaar, to give Beaufort a 4½-3½ win. This left Tudor on 4 points, Beaufort and Howard on 2, and Seymour on 0, which raised the tantalising prospect of a three-way tie, and in Round 3, everybody seemed to work towards this outcome. In the end, Beaufort beat Tudor 7½-½, and Howard beat Seymour 6-2, to leave Seymour in last place, and everybody else first.

Our thanks are due to Mr Walker, who has continued to provide his excellent series of tuition sessions for our youngest players, and to my wife and Mrs Joan Emanuel for providing refreshments at tournaments. Our senior players Kyle Reed, Max Cheung, Fateh Singh, Jalees Hamid, Hok Chiu, Kieran Bakhtiari, Lewis Hedges, Robert Walters, Narinder Phull, Idris Mohammed and Vinul Witharanage all passed on to higher things: most have played regularly for the school since 2007, and all deserve thanks for their loyalty and skill. Hopefully we'll find some stars among our new expanded intake to succeed them. Once again, by popular demand, Camp Hill Chess continues.

■ **A.M.R.**

Cross-Country

South Birmingham Trials

The trials were held early in September this year so we had little time to prepare. Despite this there were some astounding results. In Year 7, Henry Hoare battled bravely for the lead with another Year 7 who was at least 3 feet taller with size 12 running spikes. Although Henry sneaked ahead towards the end, the other boy stretched his legs and pipped Henry over the finish line. Second place was a marvelous result. Tommy Ransbotyn came 6th, Nesan Pathmakanthan 7th, Sachin Subramonian 10th and Jason Takiri 15th. In Years 8 and 9 combined, Tom Mansfield led from the start and won by a country mile (much further than an urban one)! His main competition was our own Liam Garside who placed 2nd and a little further down the field were Johannes Beckett 10th and Dan Hill 11th. Congratulations to Amman Bhambra, who was the only courageous Year 11 to compete. He placed an excellent 14th in a very competitive race.

County Trials

In October at Sandwell Valley Park, 4 boys from Camp Hill represented South Birmingham in the annual county trials. We all appreciate that Cross Country is by far the most demanding sport at school level so not only is it a real achievement to qualify for the championships but also to show the courage and strength of character to participate, when it is known that the competition will be fierce, is commendable. Congratulations then to Nesan Pathmakanthan and Tommy Ransbotyn both in Year 7 and Liam Garside and Tom Mansfield, Year 9, for their spirited runs. Special mention goes to Tom who placed 6th and qualified for the county squad.

West Midlands Championships and English Schools' Championships

The final West Midlands Schools' Cross Country Championships, which also served as the trials for the prestigious English Schools Cross Country Championships, took place on Saturday 18th January, in Warley

Woods, Oldbury. In the Junior Boys race Tom Mansfield ran well to finish in 6th place. The Senior Boys race consisted of 4 gruelling laps around the park, resulting in a total distance of just over 6km; significantly more than most cross country races for this age group. Despite this, Oliver Paulin and Dan Mladenovic showed good endurance to finish in 5th and 9th, respectively, despite both getting injured less than a week before the event. When the final English Schools team was announced, both boys discovered that they had qualified, which is the first time in a number of years that Camp Hill have had two athletes in the same age group qualify for one of the most prestigious events in the cross country calendar.

Unfortunately, Saturday 15th March came too soon for Dan in his recovery from his knee injury, so only Tom and Oliver travelled with the West Midlands team to Castle Donnington for the English Schools Championships. This new course was situated between East Midlands airport and the Castle Donnington race track. Although the course did not contain any major hills, the whole course was reasonably undulating; however when coupled with a ferocious

wind, which was exacerbated by the lack of tree cover, this course definitely provided a difficult test for the very best runners in the country. The wind was so extreme that most of the races were shortened, as some teams from the south had complained that the course was too tough, an unprecedented event for one of the toughest sports around.

In the Junior race, Tom tried to battle through a slight injury sustained in the run up to the event, however, he, unfortunately, could not carry on, so had to pull out. Despite this, he can be pleased with his efforts as just qualifying for this race is no mean feat, and he still has four more years in which he can compete in this event. In the Senior event, Oliver competed fiercely with a number of his team mates throughout the race, but was just pipped on the line by one of them to finish in 130th place out of a field of over 300. Injury-permitting Oliver hopes to break back into the top 100 next year, in what will be his final English Schools Championships. Overall, our cross country runners

have managed to perform well this year, producing a number of good runs, despite a collective injury-plagued season.

London Mini Marathon

Due to his impressive performances over the Cross Country season, especially in the English Schools Championships, Oliver Paulin was selected to compete for the West Midlands region in the London Mini Marathon on Sunday 13th April. The Mini Marathon is a 3 mile race which covers the last 3 miles of the London Marathon course. This race also serves as the UK Road Race Championships so competition is always fierce, and qualification itself a very impressive achievement.

The West Midlands team travelled down to the Royal Holloway University the night before, where the vast majority of teams were staying. The evening activities were designed to build a strong team morale ahead of the race, and included a Skype call with the Brownlee broth-

ers. The U17 Boys race started at 8:55, which meant that the team woke just before 5 in the morning, in order to get to the start in time.

After about an hour in the holding pen, the race finally got underway, with Oliver making the sensible decision of actually starting at a pace which could be maintained for more than 200m, one which did not seem to be commonplace throughout the rest of the field. After running the first half a mile with one of his team mates, Oliver started to move through the field, and caught another West Midlands athlete with about one mile to go. As the course meandered around the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace and towards the finish on the Mall, many athletes started to tire in the early morning sun, and Oliver came through to finish as the 4th of the six West Midlands runners, in 41st place out of a field of the best 75 runners in the country, in a time of 15:20.

■ **Oliver Paulin**

Football

1st XI Football

It was another year of ups and downs as far as football was concerned, with the team playing 11 games, recording 2 wins, 3 draws and 6 losses. The team also had a few games lined up for the school's third annual football tour; unfortunately some last minute cancellations meant the boys only played one game, resulting in a hard-fought and unlucky 3-0 loss against Lymm School.

However, this season was unique in that we only had one of the previous year's regular 1st XI players with us and he was unavailable due to injury; it's very unusual to have no regular first team players continue into the following season, but the team was quickly able to overcome this inexperience and put in some strong performances. Unfortunately even more injuries further held back the progress of the 1st XI, with several key players falling victim to lengthy spells on the side-lines. This resulted in many 2nd team players having to step in to fill the role, but they did so unfazed, and put in some fantastic performances.

The season started off in an uncharacteristic manner, a 9-a-side game against St Alban's, and the team was hoping to have a positive start to the season. The match started slowly but eventually burst to life and after a 10 minute goal fest the game was 4-2 to Camp Hill with some fantastic goals from Sam Cartmill, Hari Chohan, Matt Jeffs and Matt McKenna. However, St Alban's put us under severe pressure and we were unable to hold onto the lead, with the match finishing 4-4. The team then played their first 11-a-side match



against a strong Kings Norton Boys side. The match could have gone either way in the first half with Andrew Hyde coming close to scoring on several occasions, including a spectacular first time volley. Year 12 full back Luke Greatrex was also enjoying a lot of space on the right hand side and proved a constant threat. Unfortunately, just before the half time whistle, a lapse in concentration resulted in Camp Hill conceding a penalty to make the score 1-0 to Kings Norton. This seemed to spur them on as they proceeded to score another 3 goals after the break, and it could have been more if it wasn't for some fantastic defensive work from Shuranjeet Takhar and Luke Greatrex. Andrew Hyde was then able to grab a late consolation goal for Camp Hill but by that time it was too late to start a comeback, and the game ended 4-1 to Kings Norton.

The boys then played their next two games at a new venue, Bablake, with the first match

ending in a resounding 11-2 victory for Camp Hill. This match was an opportunity for some year 12 players to showcase their ability, and they did so with a certain flair. Aran Chowdhury was able to get on the score sheet 4 times before politely substituting himself off; James Ternent also had an impressive game, in which he was able to find the net twice with some very neat finishing. However, in the repeat fixture it was clear we had faced a weakened team previously, as this game finished 1-1. It was a strong display from Camp Hill, taking the lead early through Andrew Hyde, who buried the ball past the keeper from close range. Unfortunately at the start of the second half, captain Josh Billing was unable to react quickly enough to a Bablake cross, and ended up putting the ball into his own net. Later on in the same game, Billing was seriously injured, meaning the boys had to play the remainder of the match with only 10 men.

The boys then played their next few games with a make-shift team, as the squad was plagued by injury – most notable was Matt McKenna having to step in as captain for the injured Josh Billing. This resulted in some matches being made more difficult than they should have been, including an 8-0 loss at Old Swinford. However, the boys battled valiantly and this score line does not fairly reflect the match. The 1st XI then travelled to St. George's, looking to pick themselves up from the defeat to Old Swinford, and it was here that they recorded their second victory of the season, with the game ending 3-1 to Camp Hill. It was a fantastic display all round with Andrew Hyde getting one goal, and Archie Attack grabbing the other two. Aran Chowdhury was also dangerous going forward and Luke Greatrex had a superb game in defence, keeping St. George's best player quiet for long periods of the game. It was after this that the team played Shenley Academy in a heated match which the boys were unfortunate not to win. The game finished 2-2 with goals from Andrew Hyde and Archie Attack; Andrew Hyde also missed a penalty which probably would have proved decisive.

The team then played King's Worcester and although we had few players to choose from due to injuries, the boys put in the perform-

ance of the season against an incredibly strong opposition. The mis-match defence of Luke Greatrex, Hari Chohan, Michael Jones and Joe McWilliam (two of whom are normally midfielders) put in an outstanding performance, and Aly-Raza Ismail and Connor Burns also played well in midfield to keep the game level until the last second of the game. It was at this point that Camp Hill were finally broken down and the opposition were able to score with the last touch of the game to make it 1-0. It was a thoroughly undeserved loss as the entire team put in a great shift; Mr Speake even described it as "the best defensive performance I've seen for 5 or 6 years".

The final two games of the season both produced losses as well, one was a 4-1 defeat to Old Swinford in a much more evenly contested game than before, and the other was an unfortunate 4-2 loss to Moseley School. In the first game we once again faced strong opposition, but still performed well, with the goal coming from Dan Mladenovic. In the latter, Dan Miller and Andrew Hyde were the scorers, with Andrew able to claim the Golden Boot because of this.

Overall it was another difficult season for the Camp Hill team, but they were still able to play some attractive football and produce some fine goals. Andrew Hyde was a constant

threat up front and eventually came out as top scorer, but he was closely followed by Archie Attack and Aran Chowdhury. Archie and Matt McKenna also worked tenaciously in midfield, and were often the main outlet for the Camp Hill side. At the back, Shuranjeet Takhar was always solid and threw himself in front of anything. Unfortunately, because of injuries, the 1st XI was never really able to field their strongest team; however this gave the year 12 players a chance to show their worth. There are promising signs for next season as Luke Greatrex, Aran Chowdhury and Aly-Raza Ismail all have another year of football ahead of them, and this will hopefully calm the nerves about the strength of next year's team.

I know the team would like to thank Mr Garrod and Mr Speake for all the time and effort they put into coaching the 1st XI and arranging games for them. We also hope that the football tour continues to grow (and runs somewhat smoother) in the future. We would like to think that our efforts have raised the profile of football at Camp Hill, so that it is no longer seen as second rate, and we hope that next year's team can continue to represent the school in the same manner, and enjoy success both on and off the pitch.

■ **Luke Greatrex**

2nd XI Football

Season totals in nine matches: won three, drawn two and lost four; goals for 31, goals against 19. (The goals tallies are a bit meaningless, since we scored 22 goals in two unbalanced matches.) Nine competitive games is a record for the 2nd XI and we recognise that this is entirely due to Mr Speake's tireless efforts to get us fixtures. Thank you!

Two players have played in every game: Hanan Hashami and Sadam Sadiq we salute you! Actually, Hanan is worthy of even greater praise: when our regular goalkeeper, Josh Williams, has been unavailable, Hanan has stepped in to the breach and proved to be a superb keeper, as well as an outstanding defender.

I made the decision at the beginning of the season that there would not be a fixed 2nd XI captain, as this had led to a dilemma when the 1st XI had found themselves needing an extra player and the 1st XI captain was the obvious man. However, Aran Chowdhury has fulfilled that role more than anyone else, and has led by example on those occasions. He has frequently tormented the opposition fullbacks with incisive, darting runs and powerful shots.

The defence started well and grew steadily stronger. As is inevitable in the 2nd XI, the back four often included one or two players playing out of position or simply not experienced in 11-a-side football. This has given Joe Khaliq-Brown and Michael Jones the additional role of



looking after and developing such players. This they have done brilliantly, at the same time proving themselves to be indefatigable and tenacious defenders. One defender they have not had to train has been Kabir Choudry, who has had an excellent season, both as a tackler and also in leading breakouts from defence, often linking effectively with Aran.

Our midfielders have often found themselves promoted to the 1st XI: Connor Burns was more often 1st than 2nd, Aly-Raza played four for the firsts, as did Joe McWilliam. Their contributions to the team were obviously great – that's why they were so often poached. Gurjit Jheeta was another effective midfielder.

James Ternent worked hard up front, often

with very little material. When he did have something to work with (see the two 11 goal matches!) he proved just what he could do.

This has been a very enjoyable season with a cheerful, sporting team. In their last two games of the year they showed exactly what I am always proud to see: determination, enthusiasm and enjoyment even when things just didn't quite go their way (a draw against King's Worcester and a 1-0 loss to Old Swinford). Comparing those two games with the earliest ones of the seasons makes me reflect on the tremendous growth of this team: partly in individual ability, but far more in understanding how to work together as a superb, committed team.

■ **M.J.G.**

Football Tour

14–16 March 2014

It was a warm Friday, and the footballing gladiators were packed and ready to venture to Liverpool into battle, led by the *dynamic duo* of Mr Garrod and Mr May. The minibus departed school at around 12:50pm, and arrived at Lymm High School in the early evening. They had been preparing for what seemed like an eternity.

They changed into the battle gear, and marched onto the field. It was time to show the world what they could do. Lymm were very physical, but their midfield was no match for Luke Greatrex, who left opponents on the floor, crying and shivering in his wake. Unfortunately, after soaking up a lot of pressure, Lymm scored a very lucky goal, with the ball taking about four deflections on its way in. After some good link up play between Aran Chowdhury, Connor Burns and James Ternent, another good chance was conjured, but their goalkeeper made a belter of a save. Another goal was conceded just before half-time, but after an inspiring team talk by 'Il Capitano' Aran

Chowdhury, and Gaffer Garrod, Camp Hill produced an outstanding performance in the second half, with fight and determination shown on the battlefield by every single member of the squad.

Midway through the half, Aly-Raza fed the ball to Gurjit Jheeta, who unleashed a screaming humdinger of an effort from outside the box, just whistling past the post. It was a valiant effort from every single player, but unfortunately a last-second goal clinched the win for Lymm, just as Camp Hill were about to score five goals.

All in all, it was a riveting experience, and we looked forward to our second game. The boys went back to the hotel and relaxed for the rest of the evening, before enjoying a delightful dinner in which Gurjit wasn't given a starter, and Joe Khalique-Brown downed a half-pint in a majestic seven seconds.

The next morning, after breakfast in the hotel, everyone went to the park and played against each other, as the second match was cancelled. After a couple of hours of fierce competition, everyone was tired, so they returned to the hotel for a short break, before

heading to Goodison Park to see Everton vs Cardiff. It was a very good game, with the highlight being West Ham's badge shown on the massive screen instead of Cardiff's, much to the distress of the away fans, and the amusement of the home ones.

The game was tied at 1-1, until, of course, in added time after 90 minutes when Seamus Coleman sliced a shot into the Cardiff goal, winning the game. The boys got back to the hotel just in time to watch the Aston Villa vs Chelsea game, and celebrations were huge when Fabian Delph's flick gave Villa the win, to the delight especially of Joseph McWilliam.

On the Sunday morning, a tour of Goodison Park was undertaken, and a lot was learnt about the club's history, and that they really don't like Wayne Rooney. After a quick stop at McDonald's, it was time to return to Birmingham, exhausted after our adventure. Overall it was a great experience, and many thanks to Mr Garrod and Mr May, who put up with the boys over the weekend, (although they were really, really good). It was a fantastic trip, and what happens in Liverpool, stays in Liverpool.

■ **Aran Chowdhury**

Swimming

On Tuesday 17th September the school had its first gala of the year – for juniors, intermediates and seniors against Warwick School and Solihull School. Following keen competition in their trials, five Year 7s were selected to make their debut for the school, and Joseph Clark, Michael James-Thomas, Leon Zhang, Matthew Dixon and Louis Parmar all gave their best. Warwick was dominant, but the other two teams were evenly matched and the gala was close throughout. All ages swam well, and when the totals were amalgamated, Camp Hill just held off Solihull by four points to take a commendable second place. The gala gave a promising start to the year of swimming.

Two weeks later the swimming team faced Bromsgrove School at the U18, U16 and U14 levels. Although the quality of their opposition has always been very high, the team were not intimidated and kept their hopes up. As the gala progressed it was evident that Bromsgrove were simply too fast for us, with only Daniel Higgins achieving a first place. However, we maintained a good team spirit and looked forward to the next gala.

This was against none other than Camp Hill Girls. The high level of competition promised an intense afternoon. First places were achieved by Joseph Clark, Daniel Higgins, Liam Garside, Henry Belai, Luka Novovic and Fabian Evans. The highlight of the gala was the relays in which the boy's school won all but one (where



the girls were given a half-length head start). This accompanied with the fact that in some events two girl swimmers (each swimming one length) were against one boy swimmer meant the boys school felt they had a comfortable win although in reality they won by 2 points. An unsuspecting and astonished Joe McElroy knew his turns "must need some serious practice" when, at the start of the second length, his opponent came shooting past him. He did not realise he was swimming against two girl swimmers, the second of which had dived in during his turn.

The final gala of the term, again at Bromsgrove, gave a special opportunity to the promising juniors, with separate Year 7 and Year 8 teams, four swimmers in each event. In all, there were seventy individual Camp Hill swims. Bromsgrove School won overall, but there were many good individual results

including wins by Henry Belai, Joseph Clark, and Leon Zhang; and second placings for Adam Li, Muhammed Kurji, Louis Parmar and Ayyub Ali. Twenty one junior swimmers represented Camp Hill and were a credit to the school. Well done!

On Tuesday the 21st of January the team journeyed to St Martins School, full of confidence from past achievement at the event. Arriving just as the warm-up ended meant all the swimmers were feeling 'fresh'. The school had strong performances throughout the years with many first and second places. Special mention must go to the Under 15 team of Tom Weaver, Thomas Haddon, Henry Houlden and Jonathan Freer for achieving first places in all their events and the Under 18 team for achieving firsts in all but one event. Muhammed Ali and Uwais Hafizal also scored firsts. Overall the team placed a deserved joint first.

The following week the junior team (Under 12s to Under 15s) swam again at St Martins giving them another opportunity to show their talent. There were many good swims, including individual wins for Joe Clark, Leon Zhang, Michael James-Thomas and Billy Chapman. The gala remained close meaning the relays were going to be decisive. The team were not fazed by the pressure and won five of the eight relays to gain first place position overall.

The highlight of the term was the House Gala, which took place just before the half-term break. As usual, this was keenly contested, with just nine points separating the Houses at the start of the gala. During the afternoon, Tudor proved dominant in Year 7, Howard in Year 8, Tudor and Seymour in the intermediates and Beaufort in the seniors, with the individual Victor Ludorum trophies going to Joe Clark (T), Henry Belai (B), Daniel Higgins (S) and Fabian Evans (B). Although Tudor won three of the four relays, Beaufort's lead was unassailable,

and Beaufort deservedly became House Swimming Champions for 2014.

On Thursday the 27th of February the team swam against the strong Bromsgrove team. In a keenly contested gala the opposition eventually proved too strong taking the victory. Despite this, Camp Hill swam very well, with our best placings coming from Fabian Evans, Matija Novovic, Alex Lane, Henry Belai, Joe Clark and the U16 medley team.

On Friday the 28th of March, Under 15s Tom Haddan, Henry Houlden, Daniel Higgins, Lewis Evans, Henry Belai, Billy Champman and Under 18s Fabian Evans, Luka Novovic, Gulliver Bates and Matija Novovic travelled to Bromsgrove School for the yearly Midlands Relay Gala, the final event of the year, accompanied by Mr Watkins making his debut with the team. There was tough competition as usual so the team did well in reaching two of the 'A' finals. The Under 18 Medley team were unlucky to miss out on a medal by one place. With nota-

ble swims in the U15 age group, the gala finished with the 'A' Final of the Under 18 Freestyle Relay with Camp Hill just qualifying. Upset with their previous 4th place they were looking for a medal. Unfortunately the competition was too fierce and by the last swimmer it was evident we were going to come fourth. After a long gala, with Mr Watkins regretting not bringing something to do to pass the time, the team couldn't wait for the hot meals prepared by Bromsgrove School.

Well done to Upper Sixth students: Fabian Evans, Luka Novovic, Lewis Hedges, Gulliver Bates, Charlie Song, Kieran Bakhtiari and James Scott for the years of swimming dedication and also thanks to Mr Jack for providing many opportunities for swimming (including the weekly training sessions) and organising the team.

■ P.R.J.

■ Luka Novovic

Tennis

Senior Tennis

The Senior Tennis team (Charlie Song, Tim Naylor, James Ternent, Tom Wood, Ben Miller and on other occasions Saakib Chaudhary, Alex Lane, Oliver Jebson, and Alex Hughes) have had a tough season this year. During the autumn term, the team played three matches in their Senior Students league. The team lost matches to Solihull School 4-8, KES 0-12, but ended their league programme with a 10-2 defeat of Warwickshire College.

During the summer term, our annual match against KES was washed out by a sudden downpour. In the Glanville Cup we were drawn against a very strong Birmingham Metropolitan College team and lost the match 0-12. The season ended with a 1-5 defeat to Solihull again, but this match was closer than the score suggests, as two of the sets were lost 5-7 and 6-7 on a tie break. An encouraging sign was the set won in match one by Alex Hughes of Year 10. He was deputising for one of the senior boys who was ill. Next year, Alex will be 'officially' eligible for the Senior team and there is no doubt that he will add quality to the team. With Tim Naylor, James Ternent and Tom Wood also being available we hope to have a more successful year.

The end of the 2014 season saw the final performance of Charlie Song for the Senior Tennis team. Charlie has been another tennis stalwart over the last seven years and has made a significant contribution to school tennis. Charlie has been an outstanding tennis player and will no doubt go on to play the game at a high level in the future.

■ C.M.J.

U15 Tennis 'A' Team

The U15 'A' team (Alex Hughes, Liam Garside, Johannes Beckett, Harry Atkinson, Ashrit Chohan) have had a mixed season. Our first match against Queensbridge was a very close affair with the score being 3-3 after the singles and doubles rounds. This led to a doubles shoot out, in which Queensbridge proved to be the stronger. Alex and Liam playing at one and two came up against very strong opponents and it was down to the performance of Johannes and Ashrit at three and four that kept us in the match.

The team gained a convincing 6-0 win against Bishop Challoner, but lost their final match against local rivals KES 1-5. However, this match was closer than the score suggests, with all sets being competitive and one of the doubles' rubbers going to a tie break. The season ended with a new fixture against KE Aston played on their newly laid courts at Trinity Road. The opposition proved too strong on the night and despite some competitive sets of doubles we lost the match 0-4.

■ C.M.J.



U15 Tennis 'B' Team

The U15 'B' team (Rohan Sharma, Garen Bhoora, Matin Ahmed, Chris Marshall, Craig Stewart, Vamsi Pratapa) won both matches they played: Priory School 5-1 and Bournville 5-1. They were also awarded a walk-over against Windsor HS which made them league winners.

■ C.M.J.

U13 Tennis 'A' Team

The U13 'A' team (Danny Blythe, Ajay John, Alex Byrne, Josh Hall, Manav Manoj and Aadam Zafar) have had an excellent season winning four out of their five league matches: Kings Norton 6-0, KE Sheldon 6-0, Bishop Challoner 5-1, Queensbridge 5-1. Danny and Ajay proved to be very strong at one and two; winning all their singles and doubles matches.

The highlights were Ajay's tie break win

against his KES singles opponent and Danny and Ajay's tie 12-10 tie break win in the doubles rubber against KES. This took the match to a doubles shoot out which would decide the result and the winner of the league. Unfortunately, KES proved to be the stronger and won the tie break in convincing fashion, making them deserved league winners. The U13 'A' team finished their season with a convincing 3-1 win over KE Aston, the first time we have played our local rivals for many years.

■ C.M.J.

U13 Tennis 'B' Team

The U13 'B' team (Manav Manoj, Aadam Zafar, Henry Belai, Joe Shalabi, Pranav Thatipamula) had two close matches in their league programme, but lost both 2-4 to Bournville and Priory School. It is encouraging that three of the team are Year 7 pupils and will therefore be able to represent the U13 teams next year too.

■ C.M.J.

U12 Tennis

In May, the Year 7 tennis team (Manav Manoj, Aadam Zafar, Simon Halstead, Joe Shalabi, Ciaran Cunningham and Mohammad Farooq) took part in the Tennis Slam at Billesley Tennis Centre. The tournament involved them in playing three matches against local schools. The team beat Queensbridge, drew with Bishop Challoner, but lost to Wheelers Lane. The boys performed well, particularly as their opponents were all from Year 8.

■ C.M.J.

Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership

At the beginning of Year 10 a selected few boys were chosen to take part in the Sports Leaders Course. Many agreed that there would be endless hours of hard work ahead to finally become a sports leader. However, not only was the course laid



back, you also got to get up and do something for a change.

When the 12 of us turned up for the first session we were immediately thrust into some coaching. Suffice to say that the experience highlighted just how much work we had to



do. Over the next few months we slowly learnt the basics of coaching until we were finally allowed to coach some pupils from younger years. We were sent off to coach a variety of different sports including rugby, swimming, hockey, table tennis and badminton in order

to practise coaching younger years. Coaching is by far the best part of the course, not just because you can order Year 7's around but also because it is fun and engaging both for you and (hopefully) the people you are teaching.

This was the main section of the course where we completed our required 10 hours of coaching practise. Throughout the course we completed the required research tasks for each section and developed specific coaching sessions for pupils from Colmore Junior School. The difference between the first and last sessions was striking and showed how we had all developed our coaching abilities. At the end of the course we were all presented with our awards. The course teaches you a surprising amount of different skills and the certificate at the end is a great reward for all of the hard work throughout the year.

■ Lewis Evans



CH Leavers 2013 XV v CH All-Stars XV

When James Featherstone suggested a rugby match between the 2013 leavers and a Camp Hill Old Boys All-Stars team, Mr Caves' eyes lit up. When Mr Caves realised that the only feasible slot in the calendar for such a game to take place was at the start of September on a balmy evening, on a dry pitch that would not slow everyone down to his level, his mood soured somewhat. However, Featherstone was insistent, and a good thing too, because the inaugural Leavers versus All-Stars game played on 5th September 2014 was nothing short of a triumph.

Camp Hill RFC played host to a festival of running rugby seeing some forty-odd ex-Camp Hill schoolboys take to the field in what will surely come to be regarded as one of the greatest games of all time. Okay, so I am building it up a bit, but an excellent evening's rugby was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. The 2013 team were captained by James and 'coached' by Jack Lea. It was with some gratitude that we learned that Jack was not made available for selection due to the terms of his professional contract with Moseley RFC (collective sighs of All-Star relief) but James ensured that his young bucks, many of whom still involved in regular high-level rugby at universities UK-wide, were up for the challenge and a fiercely contested match was assured.

The All-Star team contained leavers from between 1989 and 2014 and so it was hoped that experience would come to the fore and this, fortunately, proved to be the case. The combined guile, nous and weight of the older Old Boys was tough to combat, although the young Old Boys certainly proved to be a very worthwhile opposition. The score line in the end was many points to the All-Stars and not as many to the 2013 Leavers but the score on the night genuinely was of less significance



than the enjoyment of the occasion. The club was filled with pupils, and parents of pupils, past and present, as well as additional support from the wider Camp Hill rugby fraternity and the local community.

The community support came as a result of our decision to try to use the occasion to raise funds for a local family in need of some help. I am extremely grateful to all who were able to support our chosen cause; the final total raised on the evening was a staggering £950 for the Gebruers family who had received the devastating news that both father and son had been diagnosed with brain tumours.

Their full story can be found at:

<http://www.solihullnews.net/news/local-news/solihull-familys-heartbreak-dad-son-7632906>

So overall, an entertaining and very worthwhile night was enjoyed. I would like to thank James Featherstone for the idea and for his part in raising an excellent team. The fact that he was able to raise a team was a real credit to the spirit and comradeship felt amongst the rugby players in his year group. I would also like to applaud the efforts of the All-Star team, many of whom had to retrieve their boots from the depths of the garden shed or the loft. The shirts may have been a little tighter than we remember, but we still wore them with pride. A real sense of occasion was made all the more special by the fact that the referee was one of our own too. Martin Crutchley kindly agreed to

adjudicate and he certainly helped to facilitate a good contest (his decision not to penalise my offside at the ruck was entirely in the spirit of the occasion).

The Leavers versus All-Stars is something that we will certainly seek to do again in the future and it is hoped that this can become an annual event. James (and Andy) Featherstone are already planning for next year and I will be casting my selection net a little wider. So dust off those boots and renew that gym membership; there are no upper age restrictions for an All-Star!

2013 Leavers Squad

James Featherstone, Simon Chan, Ben Evans, Alex Evans, Fabian Evans, Tom Chalklen, Tom Eraifej, Umar Ahmed, Antony Featherstone, Dominic Fitzgerald, Josh Bridgeman, Rory Luscombe, Pavan Harnal, Jordan Clarke, Jake Thomas, James Bruten, Ed Thompson, Evan Phoenix and James Giblin.

All-Star Squad

Andrew Caves, Akeel Hussain, David Watson, James Hyde, Jag Gill, Cameron Fraser, Danny Ingram, Phil Ferdinand, Simon Tansley, David Williams, Ben Connolly, Liam Morrissey, Andrew Simpson, John Simpson, Chris Curtis, Warren Taylor, Ian Briggs, Simon Edwards, Chris Grant, Kyle Reed, Jermaine Bernard, Billy Welch, Mark Eftichou and Josh O'Donnell.

■ A.J.C.



Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 st XV	22	15	0	7	540	260
	2 nd XV	15	7	0	8	228	252
	3 rd XV	4	2	0	2	62	120
	U16	6	4	0	2	128	51
	U15	21	7	2	12	395	546
	U15 B	5	4	0	1	154	119
	U14	18	4	0	14	239	580
	U14 B	4	0	0	4	47	172
	U13	15	9	0	6	422	340
	U13 B	6	4	0	2	142	166
	U13 C	2	2	0	0	49	27
	U13 D	1	0	1	0	20	20
	U12	12	2	0	10	126	330
	U12 B	9	3	0	6	108	211
	U12 C	8	4	0	4	125	103
	U12 D	5	2	0	3	90	126
HOCKEY	1 st XI	22	10	1	11	45	64
	2 nd XI	16	4	1	11	22	49
	U15	11	3	3	5	20	22
	U14	9	3	0	6	10	24
BASKETBALL	U16	2	1	0	1	65	84
	U13	8	6	0	2	270	157
	U12	1	1	0	0	24	16
FOOTBALL	1 st XI	10	0	3	7	13	37
	2 nd XI	9	3	2	4	31	23
BADMINTON	U16	9	7	0	2	32	13
	U14	7	6	0	1	30	5

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	5	2	0	3	Charanjit Kalsi 76*	Vinul Witharanage 4/28
2 nd XI	1	1	0	0	George Wager 47	Parvesh Konda 2/26
U15	7	3	0	4	Henry Houlden 70*	Andreas Kavalieros 3/10
U14	6	3	0	3	Adam Ahmed 23	Adam Ahmed 4/2
U13	6	2	0	4	Kamil Khan 29	Owais Akram 4/5
U12	6	4	0	2	Vignesh Venkataramaiah 33	Vignesh Venkataramaiah 4/5
U12 B	2	1	0	1		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 st IV	6	1	0	5
U15 A	4	1	1	2
U15 B	5	3	0	2
U13 A	6	5	1	0
U13 B	5	2	0	3
U12 A	3	1	1	1

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	16	8	2	7	3

Sports Day







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