

# The Chronicle 2015





# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

## Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



I find it hard to believe that it's already a year since I was writing my previous foreword for the Chronicle. It's been another astonishing year for the school, as you will soon pick up from this year's magazine: trips and visits in this country, trips and visits overseas, House activities, sport, author visits, media day, mock election, quiz upon quiz, drama, music; not to mention extra-curricular fun and games linked to departments.

Every time you blink these days there seems to be an author coming to the school to talk to the boys, and often to children from other schools as well. This is something which seems to have grown impressively this year – many thanks of course to our Librarian, Ms Garvey and our English teacher Mrs Parmar. Thanks to them we have established a local reputation for being hospitable to such visitors and for being well-organised about the events. I suspect the fact that our boys love to read may have a little to do with it as well. Read about the visits of Sally Gardner, Erin Lange, David Massey, Nick Arnold and Patrick Ness.

I do enjoy the fact that it is traditional for boys to write the majority of articles in the magazine. It is fascinating to see which bits of information they pick up and which minor events clearly make a big impression – read Sunil Patel's description of the trip to the Czech Republic, for instance. I don't think there was

a piece of information which slipped past him. Did he spend the whole trip taking notes?

Languages seem to be making a bid to have the highest number of reportable activities – quite a remarkable surge in the last year or two. Obviously there are the trips (German Homestay, German Work Experience, the trip to Frankfurt for the annual participation in a conference run by the Association of German Engineers), but there seems to be a growing list of language days as well: European Day of Languages, Business Language Day, Woodthorpe French Day.

The boys do love their sport, don't they? Well done to some of our younger cricketers: the Under 13's and Under 15's both made it to the finals of their local cup competitions – you'll find exciting accounts of their progress. For the Under 13's, I'm afraid it was not to be, as they were well beaten in the final; the Under 15's will have to wait until the start of next season to know whether they can go one better. The boys may love their sport, but it is still healthy to put them in their place occasionally: when was the last time that staff won both the football and cricket matches against the boys?

I have tried over the last 18 months at least to visit a number of the regular trips. I was fortunate to join the ski trip to Austria in February. What a trip! Idyllic skiing in a stunning location. The boys were spoilt! As usual, I was so impressed by two things: the behaviour of the boys was exemplary – I do so love all the compliments we receive; and the dedication of the staff as they strive to make sure every boy has a wonderful experience.

I was also able to join the junior and senior rugby tours – the former to Carlisle and the latter to Cornwall. It is so valuable to me to get a feel for the special character of each of these trips. I had not realised (although I had been told) just how integral the participation of parents and other supporters was to the very special flavour of these trips. I frequently refer to the Camp Hill family, because that is something that I have grown to recognise and love here; until I had experienced it for myself, I had not realised what a family activity those two sports tours are. The sense that we were one integrated group – staff, pupils and parents –

was extraordinary and precious.

Junior drama will soon be upon us; auditions for the senior production have already begun. Last year's offerings were *Smikey* – an ambitious project indeed, which was a spectacular success – and *The Hollow Crown*, which was a powerful and fascinating piece, very different in flavour from what we have become accustomed to.

Music has thrived, as usual, under Mr Palmer's care. Concerts, soirees (what's a soiree?), carol service have all been of such a high standard, each one with something very special to enjoy. Our individual musicians continue to be extraordinary, year after year. Harry Atkinson is again in the National Youth Orchestra; two trumpeters (Lucas Houldcroft and Ludo De Ventura) who joined our sixth form this year are about to have their second round auditions for the same orchestra. We frequently have soloists playing for us at the start of assembly; it is a privilege to listen to such quality on a regular basis; it is also a privilege to be part of a school where so many of the boys in assembly recognise, enjoy, value and respect such quality.

This year saw the participation of the schools of the King Edward's Foundation in *The Big Hoot*. (In years to come, anyone reading that sentence will be baffled by its meaning; I am going to assume current readers will not be so in the dark.) I do not know who in the Foundation arranged for all the King Edward's owls to be gathered in one place, but the overall effect at St Martin's in the Bullring was wonderful. I do hope many of you had the chance to enjoy that.

2014–15 also saw the start of the construction of our new laboratories and classrooms. It is exciting to see them rising not only from the ground but also over the top of the existing single storey buildings. Two biology labs and three classrooms will be a tremendous addition to the school, enabling us to timetable nearly all our science lessons in labs, even after the expansion of the school is complete.

So another full magazine celebrating another full year. Every year is very special; every year is extraordinary. The staff and the boys make it so.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster

# Editorial

Having now edited *The Chronicle* for three consecutive years, I am growing accustomed to saying two things to staff running trips and activities; first, “take a camera” and secondly “get someone to write something for *The Chronicle*”. By and large, we keep a pretty good track of all the things that go on over the course of a year here at Camp Hill Boys. But, of course, one could never hope to capture everything.

Looking at this year’s magazine, there seem to be fewer gaps, fewer instances in which we don’t have at least some representation of the things that the boys have achieved in the last 12 months. The School Activities section is bigger than it has ever been, for which I thank the tenacity and organisation of those staff responsible for sourcing content related to their events.

Thanks indeed to all staff and students at Camp Hill who have contributed writing and photographs. It is a difficult job to edit *The Chronicle*, but the hardest part of the job is deciding what to leave out, especially when selecting the images. There are so many great photos that capture important moments in the lives of the young men who attend the school. There are also photos that capture fairly mundane moments, but which take on a resonance all their own because of the story they tell about life here. You can never hope to include everything, but this year we seem to have come closer than we have before.

So, perhaps a fully comprehensive view of life at Camp Hill Boys is not out of the question after all. I am reminded of Roy Schneider’s fateful line in the film *Jaws*. To paraphrase Police Chief Martin Brody (with the requisite apologies to Spielberg), “You’re gonna need a bigger book”.

■ **Daniel Wilkins**, Editor

## Acknowledgement

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# The Chronicle 2015

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# Leavers

## Anne James



One Spring day in 1987, the Gods looked down on Camp Hill, and smiled. On that day, entirely by chance, Anne James bumped into Marilyn Kent, a former Maths teacher at Camp Hill, who told her that Roger Dancey was looking for somebody to introduce Economics into the School. Within a short time, Anne had been signed up on a part-time contract to teach Economics, with some History; she would, over the next twenty eight years, become, quite simply, the heart and soul of the Common Room.

Anne was born in South Wales. After attending Pontypridd Girls' Convent School, she went to Cardiff University. Not content with studying one subject - she would remind me, on a daily basis, that women can do two things at the same time! - she decided to pursue a joint degree in History and Economics, before coming to Birmingham in 1974 to study at the University for her PGCE, because it was one of the few places that offered History, with Economics as a subsidiary subject.

Anne's first forage into education was as a student teacher at Byng Kenrick Central, teaching History along with some Religious Studies and just a dash of Economics. Making a hugely successful impression at BKC, she was offered a full-time position, and, eventually, became responsible for the teaching of Economics in the School. Despite enjoying her new job, a break followed, with the birth of her two children, Peter and Bethan, but soon, Anne was easing her way back into education with a series of part time jobs, until, on that Spring day, she met Marilyn Kent ...

For a time, she taught Economics at both Camp Hill Schools - which she did not really enjoy - but by 1993, Economics was flourishing and she became a full time teacher in the Boys' School. Soon came a new challenge; she

was given the task of bringing Business Studies onto the syllabus, something which required huge research and thorough planning. This took her out of the History Department where she had waited patiently, but without hope, for MRS to produce a Year Nine Scheme of Work.

Anne was an outstanding classroom practitioner; her results at A Level were consistently excellent and dozens of young men have been sent off to university, and to the best universities, to study Economics or related subjects. She has given up endless hour in "free" periods helping those who were struggling; she may occasionally have grumbled about a boy's attitude, but she never ever gave up on them.

As Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Anne played a massive part in the UCAS process, spending an infinite amount of time on checking personal statements, making sure references were appropriate and correcting an avalanche of errors made by students on their application forms. Then there was the organisation of delegates, booking rooms, ordering lunches, preparing booklets for staff and students, for the Higher Education Days and Induction Days, assisting with Careers, with Information Evenings, making me at least a dozen cups of tea a day ... this list could go on and on; suffice it to say that she was awesome.

Anne loves drama and her contribution here was overwhelming. Making, mending, altering costumes for big shows, like "Les Misérables" or "Sweeney Todd", is a massive job; Front of House, selling tickets every break, arranging and numbering seating, sorting out staff tickets, looking after the pensioners - no, not just those on the staff - managing the cast backstage during performances and organising final celebrations for Last Night parties. If that was not enough, she even mastered the art of make-up. Surely though, her most significant impact must have been her appearance in many CHAOS productions, where her Burnley accent made strong Lancastrians weep.

Her tireless commitment, as the coordinator of the Common Room Committee, in organising Christmas and end of term celebrations for the benefit of the staff, was incredible. Generosity comes naturally to her; one of many, many examples will perhaps suffice. When Dick and Janet Spiby were going through tough times, Anne and Kate would offer to look after Janet, so that Dick could take a break. All members of Staff, from time to time, have had their problems; few failed to take them to Anne.

The esteem in which Anne was held can be illustrated by a few random comments from

her colleagues. Former Head, Mervyn Brooker, described Anne as "an absolute superstar, not only doing an excellent job in a tough subject, but an ideal foil for the men, in looking after the Sixth Form. Her invaluable, wise council, thoughtfulness in pastoral care of colleagues, and infectious enthusiasm were breath-taking". From Stella Morris: "We all know that Anne is amazing and nothing fazes her. She is kind beyond belief, always listens and offers very sensible advice, is the matriarch of the staff-room, is a good laugh, and brilliant at finding stylish bargains, for example, £5 dresses, or special offers from the Pound shop!" Jim Smith, ever a shrewd observer of the Camp Hill scene said, "If you want something doing, don't bother to find a busy man - just get Anne to do it! Have you ever known anybody so willing to help in so many ways? The Sixth Formers, in particular, have benefitted so much from her expertise, professionalism and the fantastic example she sets".

What will she get up to in retirement? She will probably garden, travel extensively with husband, Jon, in their caravan, and sing, because she has a lovely voice, in various choirs. She will certainly spend time with her delightful children. Bethan became an actress, while Peter followed in his mother's footsteps, making a hugely impressive contribution to Camp Hill, as an outstanding student, singer, actor, Captain of 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey and finally Head Boy. We wish Anne a deservedly long and happy retirement.

However, on a personal note; as Head of Sixth Form, the support she has offered me cannot be adequately measured. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Anne for the last 8 years and I can honestly say she is the most exceptional, perfect colleague I have known. She has supported me to the hilt in everything I have done, and has advised, encouraged and motivated. I am delighted that she will return on a part-time basis to assist with this year's UCAS applications. Everyone is replaceable but we will never find another Anne James.

■ G.H.

■ M.R.S.



## Hayley Norris

**H**ayley Norris joined Camp Hill in 2012 as a teacher of Religious Studies. This was Hayley's first teaching role having completed her PGCE at Oxford University. Hayley immediately made an impression on the department, approaching its changing ethos with enthusiasm.

She has a very creative style of teaching and injected her lessons with innovative ideas and activities which benefited both the department and her students. She ran the department's Philosophy club for Key Stage 3, allowing students to explore ideas far beyond the confines of the national curriculum. Hayley contributed enormously to the pastoral team for Year 8, supporting her form and attending the Year 8 residential.

She looked for many opportunities to support the school beyond her classroom teaching

and her co-direction of *Jungle Book* for Junior drama was a huge success. Hayley worked well with the other teachers in school and was keen to support them through her work with the NAS-UWT union.

She is an intelligent and driven teacher who also studied for a Masters in Teaching and Learning through Oxford University whilst at Camp Hill. Again, it was the department and her students who benefited from this endeavour as she created new resources that will be used after her departure.

On a personal note it was an absolute pleasure to work with a Hayley, she was a tremendous source of fun and support. Together we continued to build and develop the department and increased student numbers, improved results and student passion for the subject were certainly things Hayley helped to build. She is a passionate professional and her commitment to all



that education is, both within and outside of the classroom, is commendable. We wish her the very best of luck in her new school where she will continue to fly the flag for rigours and engaging RS.

■ **E.I.L.**

## Tom Southall



**T**om joined Camp Hill in 2012 fresh from University and perhaps the London Olympics (although we are not sure which event). Little did we know at the time, but Tom's resolve not to wear tracksuit trousers, even in winter, was part of an ongoing acclimatisation program for his later move to Abu Dhabi. Tom in his shorts will perhaps be one of the lasting memories we retain, or so the office staff tell me.

Educated at John Cleveland College in Hinckley, then Durham and Chichester Universities, Tom had just the right credentials when interviewed for his post. A strong rugby and cricket background, he had enjoyed the honour of playing for John Cleveland in the U15 National Schools Final at Twickenham in 2004, gaining a winners medal (for the record, Camp Hill beat them that season!)

Tom met and courted Matilda Davis who was working in our Art department at the time before slipping through the net to CHG. Undeterred, Tom pursued her and we were delighted to hear of their engagement in the summer. They plan to marry in 2017.

After just one year here Tom took over the role of Beaufort House Master and immediately

impressed with his natural leadership style and respect the pupils held for him. He inspired the House to the Championship title in 2014 and has handed the reigns over to Steven O'Malley. Tom is keen to hear of ongoing progress and will be red at heart for ever.

He ran a sports leadership course for two years and provided the boys with opportunities to apply their own talents in encouraging active lifestyles in future generations. He worked closely with our local and regional partners in allowing the leaders to apply their talents at various events.

Tom has been a willing and able member of staff on a number of trips and visits. The Czech Republic, Junior and Senior Rugby, Paris, Anglesey, skiing, the summer sports camp and numerous day trips have marked him as one of our most dependable staff. All that in addition to the many teams he coached and took to fixtures.

I'm not quite sure how he managed to

find the escape tunnel after just three years, although I did receive reports of him dropping soil from the pockets of his shorts onto the field. Most members of staff serve a far longer term here and his leaving is a shame but he and Matilda have taken up the challenge of teaching abroad. Judging by the photographs we have seen since their arrival, there is a great social life in the Emirates as well as teaching opportunities!

A popular (and annoyingly fit and good looking) young member of the Common Room whose company we shall miss. Thoroughly committed to the extra-curricular life of the school, Tom was an outstanding and dedicated professional.

Tom, many thanks from everyone at Camp Hill, and especially from Tim, Chris and myself. It was a pleasure working with you. We wish both you and Matilda all the very best.

■ **M.W.D.**

## Sarah Shelton

**S**arah joined Camp Hill Boys in November 2014 in order to fill a last-minute gap left in the teaching curriculum. She had previously worked with distinction at St Paul's Girls School and was eminently suited to the challenge of engaging and enlivening the History department's routines.

Sarah enjoyed engagement with the students from year 7 through to year 10, her powerpoints especially added a splash of colour to lessons to rival Mrs Balkham's wardrobe. Her GCSE Year 10 class, in particular, will miss the valuable contribution made. Sarah moves on to Doha in Qatar where she, her husband and four children have taken up a new challenge and a new lifestyle, not sure how many grey days in Kings Heath will be sorely missed!



■ **G.N.H.**

## Sophie Hull



**S**ophie Hull spent two years teaching mainly Biology, but also Physics, rugby and cricket. In addition, Miss Hull was a popular and caring Form Tutor. She helped to coach the school footballers and took part in two staff v boys matches. Her passion and aggression on the football field were legendary!

Sophie supported many school trips, including the Y8 residential. She is now teaching Biology at Highclare School. She will also be teaching games, with particular responsibility for Key Stage 3 girls' football. We wish her all the best.

■ **The Biology Department**

## Martin Campos



**M**artin joined Camp Hill in May 2014 to cover Mrs Scofield's maternity leave and immediately improved the Chemistry department's sartorial elegance. A keen geologist, Martin instigated a popular Geology club and could be found at lunch-times passing his knowledge on to a new generation of rock hounds.

He also took this passion into a number of primary schools as part of our outreach programme. We are very grateful for the contributions that Martin made to the Chemistry department during his short stay and wish him well in his new job at Edgbaston High School for Girls.

■ **A.J.T.**

## Duncan Hodgetts

**O**ver the summer a Japanese Cherry Tree was planted in the school grounds outside the main entrance. In Japan these trees are known as Sakura and play an important role in Japanese culture by symbolising the ephemeral nature of life with Sakura trees bursting into life each year, with bright pink blossoms appearing for a fleeting period of time, before disappearing for another year. This is appropriate as the sakura tree is in memory of an old boy of the school (Class of 2008) – Duncan Hodgetts – who took his own life in April of this year whilst away with work in New York, cutting short a colourful and vibrant life. Whilst we will never fully understand the reasons, or come to terms with the absence of one of our closest friends, now is a time to look back at the life Duncan led and celebrate it as the Japanese do for the coming of the Sakura blossoms each year.

In many ways Duncan was a typical Camp Hill boy (and both of Duncan's siblings also went to Camp Hill and thus there is a strong family connection) – intelligent, approachable, articulate, inquisitive about the world and with a wide variety of interests. By this I mean that aside from excelling academically through school and at Durham, where he studied Physics before becoming a Tax Consultant for Ernst and Young, it is Duncan's character which really gave credence to the Camp Hill philosophy of producing well-rounded individuals. From winning Cross Country every year and being selected to run for Solihull and Small Heath to a deep love of travelling – particularly 'off the beaten track' (Duncan spent time in China, Thailand, Laos, India and Madagascar) to running the college bar at university Duncan really got fully involved in the world and people around him.

Personally I met Duncan on my first day at Camp Hill in 2002, having joined late in year 8, and from this point onwards we shared many Camp Hill experiences together – the trips to Cologne and the WWI Battlefields of Northern France, as well as to The Goose some lunch-times in sixth form ... We also spent a lot of time together outside of school – forming a very close knit group with other boys from the school which still remains close to this day.

After university, due to a chance meeting of our mothers in M&S, Duncan and I lived together for 8 months in Birmingham with another old boy – Adam Thomas – with many members of our Camp Hill group still regular visitors. Duncan was a great housemate as well as a great friend – always calm and willing to listen. Whilst never the loudest member of the group Duncan was always central to it – someone that got along with, and looked after, everyone. Duncan also had a great sense

of humour – from wearing his trademark Santa's hat out to every night for about 6 months after xmas to a Pub crawl in Moseley; thinking we'd lost Duncan only to find him perched on a middle-aged woman's lap whilst her husband looked on confused (this actually happened on two occasions in recent years) to pranks played on his housemates at university. Duncan also had a homing-pigeon ability to walk home, no matter the location or time of night, in pursuit of bed and sleep – sometimes even mysteriously getting into friends' houses without a key.

At Duncan's funeral one of the Tax Partners from Ernst and Young made a speech which I think highlights Duncan's ethos very simply: "...if in the future I am rushed and someone asks for help and I have a choice to be quick and rushed and less thoughtful ... or to take that opportunity to spend those extra minutes and be more considerate and helpful ... I know what my choice will be. I will take the Duncan Choice and in taking the Duncan Choice I will be remembering him".

One of the mistakes we all make is the belief that you and those around you are invincible; the belief that you and the people you care about will always be there. In reality no one of us is invincible but it is the memories of us which endure. The good memories Duncan left behind for all of us, rather than the fact he had gone, brought our entire old school group together the night we found out he had died. With this – the final thing Duncan has left with us is the realisation that, when it comes down to it, ultimately, the most important thing we have in life is each other. It is now apparent to me that Duncan always knew this – always taking 'the Duncan choice' and this is something we can all learn from.

I am running the Royal Parks Half Marathon for the mental health charity mind in memory of Duncan – if any one reading this wish to donate it would be most welcome:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Tim-Heard-Half-Marathon>

■ **T.H.**

[Below] The commemorative plaque that stands on the school grounds, before the tree planted in Duncan's name.





# School Activities

## ENGINEERING

### Schools Aerospace Challenge 2015

Something a little different for this year with Lighter Than Air vehicles; LTAs or airships in common parlance. Competitors in this annual Institute of Mechanical Engineers, MoD and industry sponsored challenge had to respond with a short but very focused report to this fictional Royal Air Force requirement:

*The RAF are considering the use of an unmanned multi-role airship to carry bulky and heavy loads and offer an ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) capability. Teams are invited to offer designs that would meet these aims. Submissions should address: size, lifting capacity and payload, power plants, cruise speed, control system, launch and recovery site requirements, role equipment and role changes, weather issues and defensive aids options.*

Preoccupied by the demands of regular schoolwork, our three teams soon became only one, and the 2015 challenge was not easy but they persevered to create a quite remarkable report which saw them qualify as one of twelve national semi-finalists for the Cranfield University residential summer school in August.

I only helped to put things in context in the initial stages. We discovered the great work of the Cranfield based Hybrid Air Vehicles company and their amazing Airlander LTAs, which are now being developed in the old airship sheds at Cardington in Bedfordshire, the former home of the famous, but ill-fated, British airship R101. This company bought back the cancelled prototype US Army Long Endurance Multi Intelligence Vehicle (LEMV) from the US Government, which they and partner Northrop Grumman had designed and built for the Americans, until budget cuts saw the funding withdrawn in 2013. Responding to our enquiries, Hybrid Air Vehicles generously laid on an open web conference with their engineers, which helped our team, and no doubt all the others, to refine and clarify their ideas.

Here in school we looked in detail at the airship designs that were refined from the German Zeppelin technology, the hydrogen and helium controversy of the 1930s and the continued development and use of LTA systems through to the present day, where we found a resurgence of commercial and military interest around the world because of their attractive long endurance and payload lifting capabilities. I then did my level best to help them understand the capabilities of the current RAF

ISR and heavy lift assets. All this from somebody who is still really bemused by the sight of a hired Russian Antonov An124 on an RAF airfield. Oh, and as for reconnaissance capability, whatever happened to the Canberra PR9?

■ C.J.



On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of May, the finalists for the schools aerospace challenge 2015 set off on the train to Milton Keynes, full of anticipation for the week ahead at Cranfield University. The team had been chosen to attend based upon a report that we submitted in the first round of the competition, the brief for which was to investigate the use of unmanned lighter than air vehicles in surveillance and transport. This brief allowed us to investigate the use of alternative lifting gasses, such as ammonia, which means new technologies to be used for a more flexible ballast design.

The week was action packed, with indoor skydiving and a flying experience on NFLA Jetstream, both of which were new and exciting experiences. The NFLA Jetstream flight allowed us to experience the different dynamic modes of motion of the aircraft, as well as to view some of the aerial mapping and communication systems in use in an aircraft. The talks that accompanied the activities were an intriguing aspect of the residential. The first-hand experience of the presenters, many of whom had served in the RAF, coupled with the incredible enthusiasm demonstrated by the RAF recruitment team, complemented the hands on experiences perfectly.

Various team building and project planning activities also comprised the week. These involved building a structure from straws and pins to support a house brick above the floor, and creating a system to allow air dropping of eggs without fracture. Unfortunately both our

egg and our brick ended up on the floor rather too quickly! Even so, despite our limited success, it was a useful learning exercise.

As engineering cannot exist commercially without sound planning and business practices, we also undertook a business simulation exercise, in which the different teams each worked as a company in a simulated marketplace, being affected by supply and demand. Our group stormed ahead in the first few rounds, leading with market share and profit, but soon fell behind as the advertising budgets of other groups began to eat into our market share, which became apparent in the review of the activity.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the visit to the Hybrid Air Vehicles hangars, where we saw the deflated hull of the Airlander being tested for leaks and repaired in preparation for the mounting of the propulsion equipment. The Airlander is a pioneering project that may revolutionise transport and hence developing a better understanding of the science and research behind it was rewarding.

The team had a fantastic week which was enjoyable and informative, and are grateful to all of the people who made it possible, with a special thanks to John Farley, Chris Roberts, Dick Poole, Michael Dales, Andy Wyatt, and Sarah Taylor for their time, commitment and expertise.

■ Thomas Wemyss

And my thanks and congratulations to Thomas Wemyss, Zacariya Khan and Ashley Hung, who as Camp Hill Year 12 students were able to draw upon their sound science education alongside a steep learning curve of military and aerospace systems jargon.

■ C.J.



[Above] The 2015 Entry

[Below] Jetstream 31 National Flying Lab





## Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

The Engineering in Education Scheme has been both a gruelling long-term commitment, and an extremely enjoyable experience. Through the six-month project, the process has given us a greater understanding of the real world of engineering, while letting us develop important 'soft' skills such as teamwork and communication.



Following a selection process involving a written application and interviews, two teams of four were chosen to work with the respective companies: EATON and CDS. The EATON team (consisting of Shreshth Malik, Amit Chaudhari, Farhanal Haque and Nick Marshall) were tasked with designing a packaging solution to protect a fuel tube assembly as it is moved around the factory and 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors during manufacture and testing. EATON Lakeside specialise in the production of fuel tube assemblies for the aerospace industry, with each part we were

tasked to protect costing £900 to produce. The problem the company was facing was that many of these expensive tubes were getting deformed or dented on manufacture, leading to a sizable loss, not only monetarily but also in terms of the extra time given up by quality, production and design engineers to meet the quotas.

Initially we brainstormed ideas, and with the help of the EATON engineers we came to a decision that attaching the tube to a board as it is transported would be the best way forward. Given the awkward shape and size of the tube in question, we had to find ways of attaching it securely, and allowing it to be easily moved and accessed. We used the time on our residential at Birmingham University to model the fixings and the overall design itself. This was a great opportunity to not only make use of the facilities, but also experience Uni life. It was a brilliant trip with great food, the chance to meet new people also on the scheme, and the quizzes and trips to the German Market concluded each evening full of excitement.

Back at school the pressure was on to complete the project. The engineers were otherwise occupied so in the last few months we were almost left to our own devices. We set out to finalise design and manufacture the board, and also a scale model of a design that would house a batch of 5 tubes. With the official EES deadline coming ever closer, the team soldiered on through lunchtimes and afterschool



session. With a last minute stretch of effort, we were just able to submit a complete report and finish our prototypes in time.

After this, our attention turned to the EES celebration and assessment day, where we had to prepare to present our solution to leading engineers from a variety of fields. We managed to assemble our display boards before the day with the help from Mr Nash and Mr Turner, and after having set up our stand, complete with prototypes, we began to appreciate that our last minute effort resulted in quite some success. The presentation went relatively smoothly, and was finished early enough such that we had the chance to walk around and look at other interesting projects from across the West Midlands.

Overall, the Scheme, although highly enjoyable, had not been as straightforward as we had anticipated. But I believe this is akin to the real engineering world and the process had taught us all valuable skills to take with us for the future. In the end it seems that we realised what a rewarding and insightful experience this has been.

■ **Shreshth Malik**

## Engineering in Education Scheme Rolls-Royce CDS

In October last year a team of four year 12s (Sujaan Kang, Thomas Wemyss, Frasier Doshi-Keeble and Tom Meehan) were given the opportunity to work with three graduate engineers from Rolls-Royce Controls and Data Services. The task at hand was to design, manufacture and test a tool to remove a spill valve cap from FMU. The first problem though was finding out what on earth a spill valve cap was, let alone a FMU.

Our questions were all answered during a tour of the company's main plant in Hall Green, which despite being interrupted by a



fire drill, was both informative and fascinating, as we were told that the tool would be used to assemble part of a jet engine that the company was working on.

Now that we understood what we had to do we began researching and pooling potential ideas, guided by the engineers at weekly meetings. This all lead up to a presentation of our initial design to more senior members of the company, who gave us some insightful advice about what we could improve, as well as commending many of our proposals. The team took these recommendations with us to the residential part of the scheme, at Birmingham University. Here we utilised the facilities of the

engineering department to construct a prototype based on all of the research, analysis and criticism. However, the weekend was fraught with challenges, ranging from missing nuts, to non-metric measurements, but despite all this we managed to have both a productive and enjoyable experience.

After returning to school in the new year we had to tweak a few features of the prototype, before giving a second display to the engineers at the company. This time they were very impressed with our progress and allowed testing to be carried out at their plant, which proved that the design worked. Now all that was left was writing the report. This was the most arduous aspect of the whole project, where we were required to provide detailed diagrams and specific calculations to back up our claims, yet the team worked well together to complete everything on schedule.

Overall it was a hugely rewarding enterprise, that helped us develop as engineers and make something of real value, for a real company, who are now using our design.

■ **Tom Meehan**

## Student Robotics Competition

The premise of the Student Robotics competition is deceptively simple. A robot, built over the course of about six months, has to compete against other robots in an apparently trivial task, this year's being "capture the flag" in which the "flags", for ease of manipulation, are in fact cubes on wheels.

As most teams discovered, building a robot capable of reliably moving the cubes on a budget of at most £200 proved to be surprisingly difficult. The real challenge, however, was the ban on remote control: all robots entered had to operate autonomously, relying on sensors and computer vision.

A team (consisting of Matt and Tom Else, Elliot Goddard, Peter Watson, Oscar Bocking, Umar Ahmed, Jenny Lea and Joe Malt) was formed in October and initial development was reasonably speedy – we had a four-wheeled vehicle able to follow Matt's phone round the corridors (to the confusion of the site staff) by December. It would be fair to say that we left the rest of the work a little late, and relatively slow progress was made until the end of the Easter holidays, we realised that we only had two weeks left.



With rapid development came a few problems. An afternoon spent attempting to calibrate the motion control code succeeded only in reducing the number of

working motors from four to three, the fourth producing only grinding noises and smoke, and with two days to go, the motorised arm, critical for grabbing the cubes, was intermittent at best. Nonetheless, engineers on caffeine and a deadline can achieve remarkable things, and by the opening of the competition on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at Newbury Racecourse, the robot was mostly ready.



## James Clayton Undergraduate Scholarships

Joe Lawrence and Andrew Featherstone have won James Clayton Undergraduate Scholarships from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The award is given annually to enable young people to study engineering at university. Apart from the prestige that this award confers, the scholarship provides £2,000 each year while at university.

Of the 14 students awarded the scholarship nationally, Camp Hill Boys was unique in boasting two winners from the same school. Joe and Andy's ability to consider aspects of



design in such a sophisticated way is testament to the DT teaching at Camp Hill Boys.

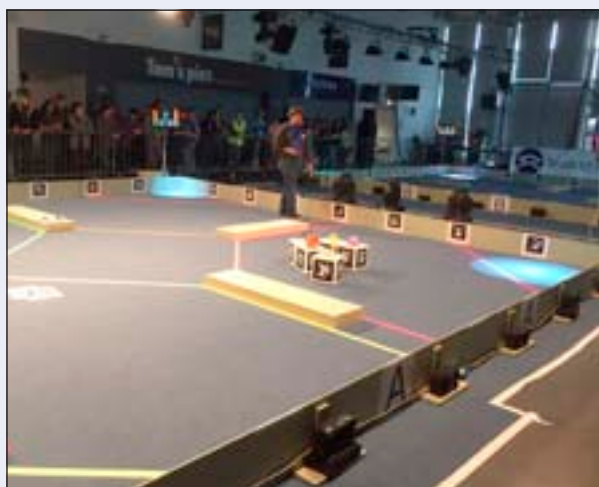
*Photograph [above] shows Joe and Andy with Professor Richard Fulton (President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers).*

■ D.J.W.

The arena contained five flags, one in front of each robot and one in the middle. Capturing the first did not present a challenge to most robots, but the flag in the middle was where the real competition lay, as very few teams initially managed to grab it. The weekend proved to be a race against time and other teams to reliably capture this and return it to the starting point where it could be left, scoring two points and virtually guaranteeing victory in the round.

This goal proved elusive, but after much testing and refinement, in a knock-out round on Sunday afternoon, our robot finally managed to grip the cube and began to turn. Celebration soon gave way to confusion and some language which cannot be repeated here as the steering broke down and the robot mercurially delivered the cube to the team from Barton Peveril College in Hampshire, earning itself the title of "most generous robot", but unfortunately knocking itself out of the competition in the process.

Despite the rather limited success, we've learnt a lot from our first year and intend to



enter the 2016 competition with a hopefully more reliable robot. Special credit must go to Peter, who was responsible for all urgent repairs to the robot throughout the weekend, and continued to help out despite requiring some urgent repairs of his own at Newbury A&E after a nasty fall on the staircase. Thanks must also go of course to the school staff: Mr Nash for his help in building the robot and to both him and his wife for accompanying us to the tournament, not to mention Mr Turner for his technical assistance.

■ Joe Malt





## The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

This year, Camp Hill became a judging panel, yet again, for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. Each year, the Royal Society awards a prize to one of six science books that the judging panels from around the country felt helped them



learn the most about science, was most easily understood and looked the best. This prize was developed to help people who are under fourteen read about different sciences and get involved. The winning book from the six that were shortlisted will win £10,000 and each book will win £1000. Schools may also make videos of the processes they went through to choose the best book and just generally people who enjoy the books.



This year, a group of year 7 and 8 students, formed the judging panel, led by Mrs Atwell and helped by Rohan Tandon and Sicheng Li. We worked our way through the shortlisted books, though some quicker than others, and our first meeting was held shortly after. Luckily, everyone turned up, and each person was allocated roles. In charge of making the video was Andrew Lim, Maninder Kallay created a spreadsheet of people's feedback, Jay Gallagher helped with questions for the authors, and Aarondeep Grewal, Sicheng Li, Siddharth Bagchi, Rohan Tandon, Dhruv Trehan, Gabriel Millet and Sam Gray were in charge of reviewing the books, as well as helping out generally. Soon, material in the form of photos, videos and questions were created, and the video started to take shape. We spent lunchtimes discussing our progress and different ways to encourage others to read the books. With permission from Mr. Hill we got stuck in to taking pictures during a library lesson, and then explored the school for weird

and wonderful places for the rest of the panel to read. Thanks to the many pop-ups, bright pictures and odd diagrams, it wasn't hard at all to put on a smile for the camera. Even the skeleton in the biology lab got involved.

However, the results are in ... Overall, we had a clear first place, but it came down to tiny features that helped us make our final decisions. The rankings in our opinion were as followed:  
1<sup>st</sup>: Utterly Amazing Science  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes  
3<sup>rd</sup>: 365 Science activities  
4<sup>th</sup>: Night Sky Watcher  
5<sup>th</sup>: Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor  
6<sup>th</sup>: Jake's Bones

We await to see the results in November and hope to see more people reading science books and getting into some experiments at home.

■ Sam Gray

## Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2015

The school gained 54 medals in this year's C3L6 paper including 2 Roentgenium Awards, for coming in the top 0.8% in the country, 16 Gold Awards, 16 Silver Awards and 22 Copper Awards. Nathan McClelland and Muhammed Khan's Roentgenium Awards saw them invited to a three-day masterclass at St Catz, Cambridge at the end of August.



**Roentgenium Awards:** Muhammed Ubaid Khan, Nathan McClelland.

**Gold Awards:** Mohammed Abed, Yogeshwar Gohil, Rasched Haidari, Azeem Hanjra, Ashley Hung, Adil Iqbal, Zac Khan, Parvesh Konda, Shaurya Maheshwari, Shreshth Malik, Thomas Meehan, Oliver Millington, Omar Mohammad, Fazal Shah, Ashvin Thomas, Thomas Wemyss.

■ A.J.T.

## Salters Chemistry Camp 2015 Nottingham

Salters' Chemistry Camp 2015 was a fantastic experience. My stay at the University of Nottingham lasted three days, which were action-packed, to say the least. We conducted four large experiments over the course of the three days, spending the majority of the day in the excellent chemistry lab, spending breaks and evenings in the well-maintained university accommodation.

The first experiment involved looking at Landolt Clock Reactions (reagents that suddenly reacted after a constant amount of time then stopped) and Briggs-Rauscher Oscillating Clock Reactions, which were cycles of Landolt Clock Reactions. In the evening we had a lecture on explosives, some mini explosives being detonated to liven up the atmosphere. The second day consisted of two experiments: finding out how much copper there was in a 2p coin, and secondly, the chemical manufacture of pharmaceutical product Benzocaine, both performed in a lab. Not all the activities were based on chemistry, as there was a general knowledge quiz in the evening of the second night. The third day saw us look at chemical luminescence reactions, the best of all the experiments. Two solutions, when mixed, would glow different fluorescent colours, and we investigated why. Overall, the trip was brilliant and exhilarating as not only did it enable me to indulge into other areas of Chemistry, but it also allowed me to experience university life, as well as meet new people on the way.

■ Sami Hamsho

## Salters Chemistry Challenge

Last year, in the summer term, a handful of students (Vignesh, Tommy, Xue-Bang and myself) were chosen to take part in the Salters Chemistry Challenge. On the day, we were all buzzing with excitement as we arrived at Birmingham University.

We put on our lab gear and entered the lab for the first challenge. The first challenge was to solve a murder mystery using chemicals. We all enjoyed it as it allowed us to do exciting chemistry which we would not normally be able to do with the curriculum. After finishing the challenge we had our lunch and had a walk around the Campus and saw all that the University had to offer.

After a delicious lunch, we returned to the lab for the second challenge. We were told to find a cure for both wasp AND bee venom. After many failed attempts and frustration, the answer was then revealed to be Nappy Rash Powder! After the two challenges, we were



escorted into the vast lecture theatre to witness the 'magic show'. The professor performed many tricks using science, but my favourite was when he dunked his hand into liquid nitrogen and appeared to smash it, only to reveal it perfectly safe after. At the end of the day was the prizegiving ceremony. Although we didn't get a podium finish for the second challenge, we came third for the first one and won a molecular construction kit! We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and would like to thank the chemistry department for organising it!

■ **Bhuvan Mahadevaiah**

## Salters Chemistry Camp 2015 Cambridge

This year, four pupils from year 10 were given the opportunity to go to Salters' Chemistry Camp, of which two could go to the University of Cambridge (you may or may not have heard of it). Myself (Jan Rudzki) and Raiyyan Ismail were lucky enough to go. When I told my friends that I am going to a three-day long Chemistry Camp in mid July, most of them reacted similarly, along the lines



of "Why? What is wrong with you?" Nevertheless I had a feeling that the camp would be a nice experience. Well when I got there I realised that I was wrong – it wasn't "nice", it was the best trip I have ever gone on.

Over the course of the Camp there was chemistry of course – but it wasn't difficult and there was no pressure on you to be good at it. Furthermore the kinds of experiments we did and the equipment we used would have never been available or possible in school. The chemistry sure was great, but even better was meeting all the new people there. Since there was a maximum of only two people maximum from one school, barely anyone knew each other – and it was a perfect opportunity to make some great new friends. In fact, I still keep in touch with some of the people who I met there and it seems like we're going to stay in touch for quite some time. All in all, Salter's Chemistry Camp was by far my best decision this year. I went on Battlefields and VDI in year 10, and Salters' was much, much better than both of those put together.

■ **Jan Rudzki**

■ **Raiyyan Ismail**

## Top of the Bench Competition 2015

The Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition is one of most prestigious Chemistry challenges available for students aged under 16 and this year it was the turn of Alex Lee, Ibrahim Ezzeldin, John Hayton and Paul Gardner to do battle. To qualify, the boys undertook a test comprising an array of small topics which included moles, atomic structure, and acids.

They breezed the qualifying round and two weeks later were invited to take part in the West Midlands regional final.

So it was then that on 17<sup>th</sup> January the four chemists travelled to Birmingham University to undertake a challenge that would test all they had learnt about



Chemistry over the past years, plus a whole host of content and skills which were not part of the prescribed curriculum. The day began with the knowledge questions, problem solving, and a 'safety in the labs' talk. A spectacular buffet was provided by Birmingham University which was greeted with much gratitude from the students and Mr O'Malley alike. The day then proceeded with a practical two hour session in which the boys were asked to separate different components of a phial and measure the mass of each ingredient, and the closest would win the most points.

The team from Camp Hill muddled through this test, with some spillages, and their mistakes reached an ultimate high when spillage of the actual components of sand and water devastated the team's morale. The spirit of the team was uplifted through an interesting interactive talk given by a qualified Chemist on infrared spectroscopy and steam power, after which the results were announced. The team was not expecting to be mentioned at all after our major mistakes in the practical, but due to either a well answered paper before, or some lucky guessing of the mass of the components by Paul Gardner, King Edward Camp Hill School for Boys was not only mentioned but also won first prize, along with £20 Amazon vouchers for all students, and a £50 voucher for the school. The team left in much higher spirits than in which they entered, awaiting the national final, which would take place on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Loughborough University against other regional finalists.

The team returned to the labs on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Loughborough University. Their early start and long journey was eased by the continuous and seemingly infinite supply of chocolate biscuits from Ibrahim, and after the short bus ride, the regional finalists gathered in the large hall to receive their instructions on the task ahead of them. The tasks started off with a simple individual question sheet, which grew steadily harder for the older chemists. Another lunch provided by the hosting university was yet again, a welcoming sight to the tired chemists, and followed by the practical challenge

next. This practical was much more advanced than many students there had ever done, as it was advanced for GCSE pupils, as it involved measuring the purity of sports drinks, using a hydrometer. Similar to before, the chemists were marked on accuracy, teamwork, organisation, and a new obstacle; time. The fastest group would also get a bonus, although they must be sure not to rush it. The team had no such major issues this time, and only a minor setback of not understand what on earth a hydrometer was delayed them their start to the task.

1 hr and 30 mins later, the team was nearly finished, with Paul finishing off the final calculations, and in a bid to gain extra marks, Alex and John decided to be of more use, and started to order out equipment in size order with a ruler for extra precision. The group of four Camp Hill students were the second to finish, meaning they would have a reasonably large bonus from the time. After a tense half an hour, the results were out. Camp Hill was not mentioned at fifth place. Nor forth, or third. Tension was thick around the team as they were not pronounced second place, and it was only after ten seconds that we realised we had actually won first place, and been crowned the Top of the Bench champions 2015, the first in the school's history. The wondrous prizes of a £25 voucher each and a large silver cup for the Chemistry department were presented to the team by the RSC, which contributed greatly to an animated bus drive back to the train station.

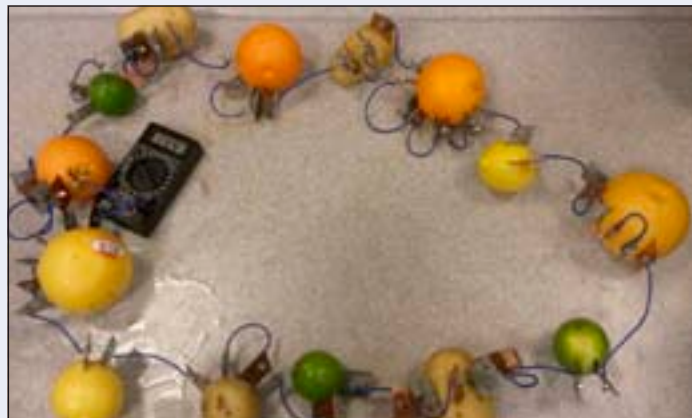
■ **Alex Lee**

## Chemistry Club

Chemistry Club is run every week by Mrs Atwell. It is open to Year 7s and supported by experienced sixth formers.

This lunch time club covers lots of exciting topics and experiments such as crystal gardens, turning pennies to gold, modelling Buckminster fullerene, fruit clocks and blue bottle colour changing reactions. We took part in the RSC Global Experiment investigating the art of crystallisation. A small group of keen members also got the opportunity to experience the Big Bang Fair live at the NEC.

■ **Noah Lloyd**



## Big Bang Fair 2015

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of March Year 7 Chemistry Club members went on an inspiring trip to the popular Big Bang Fair at the NEC. Everybody was excited to leave school at 08:30, eager to see what was there. A short journey to the NEC and the first thing we saw at 9 o'clock were lots of people. Much to Mrs Atwell's and Miss Hull's relief, everyone managed to walk to the event safely.

After a quick picture and an opening using

quite a lot of smoke, we grabbed a seat at the main stage to view the #Error 404 show. As we arrived early, we saw the many seats gradually gain occupants. The presenter was CBBC science star Fran Scott. We didn't really know what to expect as the lights dimmed, however I can tell you it involved lots of explosions, dancing, moving, nearly in-tune singing and another explosion. The hour-long show prepared us for greater things to come.

When Mrs Atwell told us where to meet up, the first dilemma in our groups of four

was where to go. Since the place was so vast, I made the obvious decision to wander around and see what was going on. You could strap into a fast spinning ball that I did not go on, try on virtual reality goggles, or go on a simulation of one of the fastest land speed cars. There were also very friendly people who showed and explained many different aspects of maths and science from technology and engineering to food

and health. They were many demonstrations that were going on, and we all learnt something from it.

At 15:00 we all left without anyone lost, showing hexbugs, calculators, rulers, pens, sweets and other weird and wonderful stuff gained as freebies or from competitions. We were all tired from walking from place to place and consolidated things that we took back from to trip as we travelled back to school, arriving just in time for 15:35.

■ **Andrew Lim**



## Baking Club

Baking club is run every Wednesday lunchtime by Year 8s. It is open to any year 7s who love baking or love food! Our tasty bakes have included chocolate brownies, wookie cookies and gingerbread.

■ **Noah Lloyd**





## Chemistry Ambassadors

The Chemistry Department would like to thank those sixth form Chemistry Ambassadors who have assisted our Year 7 students with practical work throughout the year.



Giving up one study period per week, they have supported the younger boys during lessons with everything from helping them in their understanding, to assisting them in organising their equipment, and even giving small, practical demonstrations. This has been a successful programme for the last three years now, and I can only hope that we get the same high calibre of ambassadors this year.

Well done, and thank you to Yusuf Khan, Oliver Millington, Ben Rigg, Sam Way and Tom Wemyss.

■ E.A.

## Periodic Table of Cupcakes

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 the Chemistry Department endeavoured to repeat the challenging task of producing a periodic table of cupcakes. After hours of baking, icing and decorating the challenge was complete.

Making over 210 cakes in total we had a few to spare (as the more competent chemists among you will realise!). With Hydrogen (H), Arsenic (As) and Mercury (Hg), proving the most popular in previous years we made a few extra of these. As you would expect Gold (Au), Silver (Ag) and Platinum (Pt) were also in great demand throughout the morning. Students and staff alike were very generous with their donations and £381.15 in total was raised for charity. This has been donated to the Pancreatic Cancer Fund, in memory of Simon Fenn. We would like to thank everyone who supported this very worthwhile cause.

■ E.A.



## Ecton Mine

Let's get this out of the way: I did indeed slip and fall in a very large, very fresh cowpat. This is the story of how I got to that point, and how I began to move on with my life after such a traumatic event. A hot June day saw thirty Year 12 chemists pile into two minibuses and set off for Ecton Mine in Staffordshire in the hopes of learning absolutely everything there is to know about transition metals because that would make A2 Chemistry the easiest thing in the world.



Two hours later, the minibuses arrived at the mine and we were introduced to the dedicated volunteers who would be taking care of our group. The morning brought a long trek up Ecton Hill to see the mine and its neighbours from the outside, giving us an insight into where the ore was brought to the surface. It was at this point that it became clear that the area was occupied by large numbers of sheep and indeed cows.

At the top of the hill we collected samples of the various ores that could be found in the hill, searching through the rubble for lead, iron, copper, and calcium ores which we could later use to run some simple chemical tests. The hard labour of breaking apart larger rocks to find the small pieces which would be useful caused Mr O'Malley to rip his shorts, a rather amusing event which would promptly be quite overshadowed by my own idiocy.

As we headed back down the hill toward a well-deserved lunch, my greatest foe awaited me. Sitting right in the middle of the path, it tricked me into believing that it was a simple rock. One step and what I'm told was an impressive slide later, I was sat stewing in filth. The rest of the walk was not fun.

At the bottom of the hill, the group sat down and enjoyed a meal in the sunshine (or the shade for those not built for the outdoors) while I changed into a mysterious pair of shorts that Mr Cookson had found in the minibus and put my soiled bag and jeans into black bin bags

ready for safe disposal back in Birmingham.

The afternoon split us into two groups, with one group going down the mine and marvelling at the precision of engineering that was an almost perfectly straight tunnel made using just chisels and explosives. The other group stayed on the surface and ran tests on the samples we collected earlier and, though not quite managing to learn everything there is to know about transition metals, still gained a great insight into the matter, before mixing a sample of black powder.

The two groups swapped over and when everyone had done everything, we said our goodbyes to the mine by burning all our black powder in our very own mini-fireworks display. The journey back brought traffic, but not even a three hour drive and the faint smell of cow excrement could ruin our day. Well, for most of us.

■ Nathan McClelland

## Sixth Form Lectures at Warwick University

A group of Year 12 and 13 chemistry students were treated to a day of lectures at Warwick University on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

We had the pleasure of the esteemed Dr Jamie Gallagher as the host for the day, and he later gave a talk on "Indestructible Energy" in which we were treated to a wide array of demonstrations of the meaning of energy and the units thereof, and we discovered the exact number of batteries that would be required to power a human for a day

The first lecture was on by Paul Monks, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry and Earth Observation Science from the University of Leicester, and described the application of continuous gas analysis techniques to the breath as a non invasive disease diagnostic method, along with their biochemical and chemical implications and advancements over recent years.

This was shortly followed by a talk by Dr Ann Dixon from the University of Warwick, in which she imparted both her profound scientific knowledge on proteins and their interactions, but also a description of the geographical diversity and richness of her studies. There





[Picture above] Dr Peter Wothers.  
Image taken by Nathan Pitt, Department of Chemistry,  
University of Cambridge.

was also a great deal of information regarding the use of chemistry to understand the structure and function of proteins, and the impact of this in the pharmaceutical industry.

After an engaging talk from a lead examiner on exam technique, the afternoon began with a lecture on the chemistry behind chocolate, by Professor Paul Walton. This involved some chocolate tasting, and a guarantee of the "best chocolate we had ever tasted". Indeed, the students were fully engaged, with some very enthusiastic contributions by David Johnson and other members of the school party, and everyone found the talk both informative and amusing.

The day was brought to an end by a speech by Dr Peter Wothers on "Gods, Devils, and Alcohol", which yielded a fascinating insight into chemical nomenclature, explored via taking examples from

the chemicals contained within a bottle of shampoo.

■ Thomas Wemyss

## Chemistry Department Enrichment

The Chemistry Department would like to thank all of the parents of Year 7 that joined us for our student-parent chemistry lessons during the Autumn Term 2014. This gave our students the opportunity to demonstrate first hand to their parents the progress they had made in science and practical work. It also gave parents the chance to relive their school days.

The sessions involved some test-tube reactions followed by experimentation with hydrogen balloons, woosh bottles and gun cotton. This gave parents and students a taster of what chemistry at Camp Hill would be like, as well

[Picture above right] Noah Lloyd

[Picture below] Neil Lloyds and Noah Lloyd



as offering an opportunity to meet teachers and other parents. The sixth form 'Chemistry

Ambassadors', as always, lent fantastic support to the events and we would like to thank Tom, Oliver, Sam, Yusuf and Ben for their help.

We look forward to running these events again in September for the new Year 7 students, in collaboration with the Physics department.

■ E.A.



## Limestone Inquiry

Just before the summer half term, the whole of Year 9 were briefed on a group project to take place in their chemistry lessons. This project brief consisted of a fictitious scenario in which a limestone quarrying company (Rock Quarry Holdings) were denied rights for digging up limestone from a protected national park.



The individual groups of between four and six people picked a demographic whose fabricated views they wanted to present. After a few weeks of collaboration, the groups presented their argument in a presentation to their class.



Following this, two groups from each class were selected, based on their presentations, to spend an afternoon in the last week of the summer term giving these presentations to external judges who came from all sorts of industrial backgrounds, including some from engineering, and others from architecture.

The afternoon saw many types of scientific as well as persuasive arguments and presentations; from the simple and informative yet influential, to the appearances including a rap deliberating the upsides and downsides of Limestone quarrying in a national park from the now infamous, Dylan Rogers!

All in all, this was an extremely enjoyable and informative event with lots of fun all around. Many thanks go to the Chemistry department, especially Mrs Atwell, for organising and running this great event. Thanks also go to the teachers who supported the pupils in the event.

■ George Hynes

## West Midlands Chemistry Quiz Finals

Tuesday saw Camp Hill return to the Chemistry Quiz finals. The team of Richard Deutsch, Joseph Meehan, Firnaaz Mohideen and John Hayton arrived at Birmingham University looking to regain the trophy we lost narrowly to King Edwards last year.

In the quarter finals Camp Hill faced Rugby School and cruised to a 60–35 victory. This was followed by a 71–52 win against Malvern School in the semi-final.

The final saw a rematch of last year against a crack King Edward's team. With nothing between the teams it all came down to one of the rounds and being able to tell the time.

The teams were asked to imagine a clock where the numbers on the face had been replaced by the first twelve elements of the Periodic Table. They were then asked to describe which elements the big hand and little hand would be pointing to, at specific times. Camp Hill scored 9 out of 14 points.

Then the King Edward's score was read out, zero! They had confused the big hand and little hand and forfeited all the marks. Their time was up and they had handed Camp Hill the trophy.

With an unassailable lead we cantered to victory 74–59 and brought the trophy home for the tenth time in thirteen years. The team can be immensely proud of their



achievements and what was an outstanding team performance.

■ A.J.T.

## RSC Chemistry Olympiad 2015

The school achieved thirteen gold medals in this year's Olympiad with outstanding performances from two Year 12 students, Nathan McClelland and Muhammed Khan. However, their achievements were eclipsed by Thomas Else whose incredible round one score of 73/74 placed him first in the country! Thomas went on to perform well in Round 2 at Cambridge but unfortunately missed out on the final team selection.

**Gold Medalists:** Will Abbot, Gaspard Bulso, Matthew Else, Tom Else (*top in the country*), Sam England, Elliot Goddard, Muhammed Khan, Raghav Manchanda, Nathan McClelland, Oliver Paulin, Aatif Syed, Greg Torlinski, Oliver Whitfield.

■ A.J.T.



[Picture above] Tom Else with Certificate

## Intermediate Olympiad – team picture



### MATHS MATTERS

The 2014–15 year often reminded me of that Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times"! However somehow we got through, and are ready to face 2015–16 with its new GCSE (9–1) syllabus currently being devoured by Year 10. Fortunately changes to A level have been kicked a little down the timeline, but Year 10 will have to cope with those as well. Our GCSE and A level results were excellent in 2014–15: we were especially pleased that 50% of A2 grades in Mathematics were A\*.

#### Individual Challenges

The Senior Mathematical Challenge took place in the autumn term and involved all mathematicians in Year 12, further mathematicians in Year 13 and the top set in Year 11. The boys

came out of the hall saying "That was (comparatively) easy", which appeared to have been the case when the marks were released: the marks were up, but so were the boundaries for the different certificates. Altogether there were 66 bronze, 46 silver and 28 gold certificates from our 171 entries.

Sam England got full marks, and he and Oscar Bocking, Giles Moss and Greg Torlinski of Year 13 and Muhammed Khan of Year 12 qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while 18 boys, including five Year 11s, qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. In the BMO, Sam England achieved a certificate of distinction and Muhammed Khan did even better, scoring full marks in four of the six questions to gain not only a distinction but a place in the second



round. In the Senior Kangaroo, Thomas Else, Uthman Mahmud, David Johnson, Joel Elkin, Michael Jones, Oliver Paulin, Paul Gardner, Adam Titchen and Gaspard Bulso did well to obtain merits.

The Intermediate Challenge, in the spring term, is our largest, with about 260 entries, so the logistics of the day had to be handled with military precision. This was done, and the papers sent off: when the results arrived, the boys had achieved 63 gold certificates, 96 silvers and 61 bronzes. Anthony Lim (scoring 130/135), Stephen Mander (scoring 123), Paul Gardner, Puneey Jain, Jan Rudzki, Monim Wains, John Hayton, Sam Stansfield, Robert Hillier and Alex Byrne did extremely well, all qualifying for the three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition 48 boys qualified for one of two colours of Kangaroo. Of these 47, six got Merits: Muhammad Ali, Youcef Barigou, Daniel Cole, Rohan Jobanputra, Vamsi Pratapa and Ishmael Silvestro. In the Olympiads, Alex Byrne, Paul Gardner, John Hayton, Puneey Jain, Stephen Mander, Jas Rudzki and Monim Wains all got Merits; Robert Hillier got a Distinction, while Anthony Lim and Sam Stansfield got Distinctions, Medals and Prizes.

The Junior Maths Challenge fell during the summer term. As always, the organisation was handled faultlessly by Mr Jack, and when the results arrived, we were very pleased. The boys were awarded 74 gold certificates, 81 silvers, and 37 bronzes; 5 qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, and 29 for the new Junior Kangaroo, which both took place in June. The Kangaroo is taken by students all over Europe: the top 5,000 students (from 1,463 schools) were invited to take part, and the top 25% get Merits. 11 of our boys achieved Merits: Miles Balderson, Qiyuan Chen, Judah Daniels, Ross Evans, Muaz Ghafoor, Kevin Mathew, Sukhjote Sotal, Hao Yang, William Yang and Leon Zhang. Hao got the highest score with an astonishing 129/135. Meanwhile, Proshanto Chanda, Xue Bang Chen, Punith Premachandra, Saksham Shah and Kevin Xu had qualified for the Olympiad, and all did very well: Proshanto, Punith and Kevin got Merits, and Xue Bang and Saksham got Distinctions, with Xue Bang's performance good enough to win him a bronze medal, placing him in the top 210 in the country. Well done to all!



## Team Challenges

In late November, we hosted the regional Senior Team Challenge which attracted 25 team entries, 24 of whom turned up. This is a competition for teams of four, and we entered an A team and a secret B team. The A team, consisting of Sam England and Giles Moss of Year 13, Muhammed Khan of Year 12 and Anthony Lim of Year 11, made one error in Round 1 and one error in the cross-number in Round 2 (BIDMAS, anybody?) which put them in equal first place going into the final round. This was a "shuttle" round where answers depended on the previous answer, with a bonus for finishing quickly, so the boys had to work accurately under pressure. This they managed admirably, scoring 60 out of 60. No other team came anywhere near them, so they won the whole competition by something over 20 points.

The B team, consisting of Uthman Mahmud of Year 13, Rasched Haidari, David Johnson and Thomas Wemyss of Year 12, finished in a very creditable seventh and showed that, for once, we had the team selection the right way round! The A team went forward to the national final in London, to which great city they travelled with Mr Thompson. I think they only made three mistakes in the whole competition, but the standard is very high and they finished in a very creditable tenth place overall.

In the spring term, we also had the privilege of hosting the regional (Junior) Team Challenge. Here, I must record a slight communication problem. For the Senior event, I was sent templates of letters (well, e-mails) to send out to participating schools, which I adapted to suit Camp Hill. For this competition, the UKMT sent all the materials out from a central office, so I didn't see them. I assumed the catering arrangements would be the same as for the senior competition, so

arranged lunch for all competitors, only to find that they had been told to bring packed lunches. Never mind, nothing was wasted! As for the maths, we entered two teams. The B team consisting of Alex Byrne, Alfie Green, Tommy Ransbotyn and Andrew Lim (see above) were recruited the previous day after one school dropped out.



The A team [pictured above], which consisted of Sam Stansfield, Robert Hillier, Hao Yang and Neal Pankhania, had had the benefit of Mr Thompson's rigorous training schedule, but for historical reasons I was not surprised when, after the group round and the cross number, the B team were 1 point ahead of the A team. The competition was as fierce as usual, and the girls from King Edward's High School were 1 point ahead of them. The shuttle round sorted them out, though, and the A team pulled well ahead, to win the competition and a place in the national finals in London in June. The



B team did very well to finish third!

The fourth round of the competition was a relay round which involved moving around the hall. This resulted in a health and safety issue and we had to record our first ever Maths injury when a boy from a visiting school was a bit over-enthusiastic about moving and cut his head open. Many thanks are due to Mrs Hollins in the office for her first aid!

In the national finals, we competed against 87 (yes, eighty-seven) other school teams. The challenges were rigorous, but Mr Thompson's training regime had been equally rigorous, and we were delighted when the team finished





seventh in the country and highest in the West Midlands region (thereby beating A.N.Other school in Edgbaston). Even better than this, their poster, on Colouring in Mathematics, came third in the country. This was an outstanding achievement and thanks and praise is due to the team and to Mr Thompson for training and taking them.

In March, a team of four Year 10s, Daniel Hill, John Hayton, Monim Wains and Jan Rudzki, went to the University of Birmingham to participate in a team competition called "Maths Feast". An enjoyable afternoon found the boys participating in rounds titled Amuse-Bouche, Hors d'oeuvres, Entrée, Mains, Dessert and Petits Fours. (No, I don't get it either.) They battled with equivalent algebraic expressions, comparisons, set theory, word problems, relays and origami. The origami round, which involved making stackable Columbus cubes, was great fun, with John Hayton being our star paper folder. They were already certain of victory before the final round and thoroughly deserved their first place. Well done to them and thanks to Mr Bruton for taking them.

On Sports Day, we managed to fit in yet another team competition, the South Area Network Challenge for Year 9 at King's Nor-

ton Girls' School. The team [pictured top right] consisted of Daniel Cole, Alfie Green, Robert Hillier, Ajay John, James Mander and Rohan Jobanputra who stood in at the last minute for the ailing Sam Stansfield. Last year we came second to a certain girls' school not too far away, so we attempted to distract them with some of Mr Watkins' driving. This worked perfectly and we won by rather a long way. Once again many thanks are due to Mr Thompson for his rigorous training regime!

We said hello to two new members of the department in September 2014: Miss Sarah Hatchcroft and Miss Amy Hunt. Miss Hunt had to leave us in November and I would like to say a particularly big thank you to Mr Mohammed Azam, who stepped into the breach and served for two terms as an outstanding member of the department; his classes all appreciated his



humour and thoroughness. The permanent replacement for Miss Hunt turned out to be Mrs Sallyann Bourne, who joined us in September 2015 and whose husband Simon I taught in the not-so-distant past. I particularly remember Simon's report for this august publication on the subject of a German trip, which he rated as "overall quite good".

Let's hope for a less "interesting" 2015-16, although I fear that the Government may have other ideas!

■ A.M.R.

## LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

### Business Languages Day

Upon their return after half term, Year 9 were presented with the promise of a Business Language Day, organised by Mrs Wells, which constituted a full day taking part in workshops and attending talks in order for us to discover how people had made a career using their linguistic abilities.

The day began with the whole of the year filling the hall to listen to a speech presented by Ludovic (an international student from France) which focused on how languages allow him to explore the world. Following that was another speech from Sandra (another international student from Germany). Both of these speeches placed emphasis on how being multilingual



allowed us to present and communicate more effectively when in another country.

Then we split up in to groups and returned to classrooms to listen to talks from people who worked in an industry, where their knowledge of multiple languages allowed them to excel. There were also presentations by students who were studying MFLs at university. After lunch, we regrouped and worked in teams to produce an advert for a new, healthy cereal, in our preferred language (but not English).

Finally, to conclude our day, we gathered in the hall to present the best adverts to decide a winner. Overall the day was lots of fun and I know we all learnt a lot from it. I'd like to thank, on behalf of Year 9, Mrs Wells and the rest of the MFL department for putting together an amazing day.

■ George Hynes



### European Day of Languages

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, it was the European Day of Languages. Mrs Wells, a trilingual languages teacher, set up many activities during the day.

Mrs Wells, who teaches French and German, created a French and German "treasure hunt", with sweets and chocolate as a prize. Students had to go round the school, collecting clues to lead them to the next teacher, who would give the next foreign language clue. The treasure took place on Friday afternoon and Monday with clues such as, 'un petit animal blanc,' (a small white animal) which would have led to Ms Lamb.

Sam Gray, who took part in the treasure hunt, alongside Noah Lloyd, Krishan Solanki, and Giovanni Trevisan, quoted, "It was good fun with tricky clues and lots of teachers to go through, the hardest being Miss Hunt." The quintet were second to complete the treasure hunt, as Andrew Lim, Krish Agharwal, Amar Jandu and Sukhjote Sohal were the first.

A food tasting activity also took place in the afternoon. Food included a foreign ham, meatballs, and Mr Renault's own cheese baguette. There was a drink which, when diluted, was very tasty. Many people were lined up outside the classroom five minutes before the event started, showing they were eager to try some new foods.

Kevin Xu, a pupil from 7K said that the food tasting was very good with lots of

foreign food that he would never have thought of trying before. He wants to try even more new foreign foods as the taster was very enjoyable. Mr Renault's cheese baguette was the best though!

One other activity was to make a presentation on a language you knew or on a French-speaking country. Pupils such as Giovanni Trevisan, Sukhjote Sohal and Shaunak Dabir, who speak foreign languages, gave presentations in class on them. Other countries, such as Monaco, were also shown. There were several languages that were demonstrated ranging from Punjabi to Chinese. Josh Malhi said that

it was very fun to learn the basics of new languages and to present his own.

Overall, the day was a complete success with many activities being enjoyed by several students throughout the whole school.

■ **Andrew Lim**  
■ **Sukhjote Sohal**



## Woodthorpe Primary School: French Day

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Zikriya Bukhari, Prithvi Karthik, Ahmed Iqbal and I went to help out with the French Day at Woodthorpe Primary School. The day started with a taxi journey to the school, which was running a bit late. That meant we did not get there as early as we had hoped, and had less time to set up our presentation. When we had got set up, all the children were already in the hall. The presentation went well, with a few technical glitches, all the children learning lots of facts and laughing at our videos.

After the presentation and the assembly, we started playing fun games with all the years between Reception and Year 6. One of the games Mr Renault taught us to play was called 'Ball on a bucket.' To play this game, you take a (large-ish) bucket and turn it so that the hole is on the bottom. Then you get a ball (e.g. a tennis ball or a bouncy ball) and place it on the bucket. When a leader says 'Alley-Z' you have bounce the ball on the bucket while walking over to the other side of the room. If the ball touches the floor before you reach the end you have to start all over again! My favourite year group was probably Year 5 because they were funny and let me join in.

Later in the day we went round the KS2 classes and the children asked Mr Renault lots of questions. We found lots of interesting facts about France like the fact that French classes start at 8 a.m. and end at about 5 p.m. The best thing is that they do not have to wear school uniform but when some children were asked if they wanted to have a uniform they actually said yes!

The end of the day had come too early and we got the taxi back, arriving at school at about 3:30. That meant that I was able to get the bus and got home earlier! Merci à Monsieur Renault pour l'organisation de la journée. C'était génial et drôle.

■ **Miles Balderson**

## Author Visits

It has been a fantastic year for author visits at Camp Hill. Due to the excellent reputation of the school as hosts and enthusiastic readers, many of the authors chose Camp Hill as one of the only schools they would visit on their book tour. It has been thrilling to listen to and meet inspirational writers for both staff and students.



In January, Sally Gardner (*pictured above*) came to speak to our year 7, 8 and 9 students about her latest book for teenagers, *The door that led to where*. Sally's books are often set in the real world with a fantastical element woven in and it was interesting to see images of London and stories from her childhood that inspired her latest work. She was also delighted to stay behind and chat to our students and sign copies of her books, even while nursing a broken wrist!

Erin Jade Lange (*pictured below*) swung by in March on her whistle stop tour of the UK. Erin was unknown to many of us at the time of her visit but by the end of her talk with our year 8s and 9s, she had gained 200+ new fans. She spoke eloquently and passionately about her childhood and the bullying she suffered. She also described how her job as a TV news producer in the USA influenced her work. Her books *Butter* and *Dead Ends* both

deal with the often harsh realities of school life and disability while still maintaining a sense of optimism about the power of the human spirit. The book sale after Erin's talk was the most successful we've had which is a testament to her inspirational talk.

In an attempt to address the imbalance of the author event experience, I organised a visit from David Massey to come and talk to our older students in year 10 about his Young Adult

books, *Torn* and *Taken*. Both of his books are set in war torn countries and by placing his teenage protagonists in the middle of these situations, the effects of war are all too apparent. His presentation was interactive and uplifting. He also carefully broke down his own writing processes to give some insight into the kind of effort and planning that's involved. There was plenty of time at the end for students to ask questions about the life of an author and chat to

David individually.

For many of our author events we have the opportunity to invite students along from other secondary schools, which is great fun as a host and a unique experience for our visitors. When Nick Arnold visited the school in July we had a hall full of primary school pupils (and our own year 7s), from all over Birmingham. There was a great buzz about the place which was multiplied by Nick's full on performance! As Nick is the author of the *Horrible Science* series of books, he treated us to a range of madcap





experiments that required the involvement of many brave volunteers. If you weren't a fan of science before, you certainly were after Nick's visit!

Finally, this September, we welcomed Patrick Ness [pictured right] to Camp Hill. Hours before his visit he had been informed that he would be creating and writing the new Dr. Who spinoff, Class. I tried my best to get this information out of him at the time (he had hinted something on Twitter), but he wasn't at liberty to say. What a scoop that would have been! The hall was full of students from years 8 to 11, from local schools and all the way from



Worcester. Many in attendance were fans of Patrick's Chaos Walking trilogy which he talked about enthusiastically, even though he was here to promote another book! He also discussed the writing process and how easy it is to get started if you take inspiration from your own life.

All of these visits have had a positive impact on the school as a whole and the library in particular. Books written by these authors are rarely available which is always great news for a librarian. But not so great if you're the poor soul waiting for the latest Patrick Ness!

■ A.G.

## Poetry Publication

Jamie John (9J) celebrated publication success this year as his poem 'Salt March' was selected to appear in the collection 'Inspired by Gandhi', published by the South Asian arts group Sampad.

### Salt March

A man begins walking  
His image is framed, a silhouette on the horizon  
His steps are slow, peaceful  
Behind him, a wave  
A sea of heads  
No. An ocean  
An ocean at war

It floods over the parched ground  
Saturating the earth  
An oasis in a desert  
A quest for survival  
A journey to freedom

But it is the man who starts  
An ordinary old man, bent with wisdom  
Like glass, brittle yet solid  
He bends down and picks something up  
So insignificant yet so meaningful  
Almost invisible

The man stands up  
Lifting the object high into the air  
A grain of salt, caught in the light  
A law broken

The ocean shallows  
The people bend down  
Pick something up  
So insignificant yet so meaningful.  
The deed is done

A man begins walking  
His image is framed, a silhouette on the horizon  
His steps are slow, peaceful  
Behind him, a wave  
A sea of heads  
No. An ocean  
An ocean at peace.

The collection commemorates the life of Mahatma Gandhi and contains pieces inspired by Gandhi, by writers from all over the world. The published writers are winners of Sampad's 2014–15 international writing competition, in which Jamie's poem won the 8–15 year-old category. Congratulations, Jamie.

■ D.J.W.

[Picture below left] Jamie reads his poem as part of Birmingham Literature Festival.

[Picture below right] Jamie receives his copy of 'Inspired by Gandhi' and is announced as the overall winner of the 8–15 year-old category by J.K. Sharma, the Consul General of India, Birmingham.



## ARTS & MEDIA

### Year 8 Media Day

When we first got our calendars for Year 8, most of us were wondering what we were actually supposed to do on 'Media Day'. We were bright enough to deduce that it had something to do with the media! However, once we were told that it would be a full day of fun group activities without any lessons, we were obviously content.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, we were split into mixed-form groups of: radio, TV, documentary, blog and newspapers. We had many high-profile guests to come in and help each group with their tasks throughout the day. The radio group were lucky enough to have Jim Lee, currently a freelance continuity announcer and newsreader on BBC Radio 4 and 4 Extra, who has been doing Camp Hill Year 8 Media day for quite a while now. Radio also had Mr Rogers, who unbelievably knows each radio station's frequency off by heart! Carly Manktelow, currently a Technical Demonstrator for TV at Birmingham University, came in to help the



Documentary Group along with Mrs Atwell and Mr Wilkins. The Newspaper Group was extremely lucky to have the privilege of meeting Nick Hudson, a former national news editor who has been all over Britain and now has his own press and PR business. Not forgetting Mrs Parmar, who had put a lot of effort in behind the scenes to make this all happen. Mr Hill, Mr Tucker and Stan Illic, a widely experienced



Freelance Sport Producer, ably led the TV Group. Last but not least, the Blog Group had Mr Pitt, Mr Downing and Carinya Sharples, a freelance journalist who has worked for the BBC and Channel 4.

The overall aim for the day for all groups was to produce a finished media product whilst dealing with all the pressure and time constraints enforced upon them, which was supposed to emulate how it would be like to work in the media industry in reality. The only group that had to do extensive extra work before the day was the Documentary Group, who had started a few weeks before to have more time to record and edit all their filming. Media Day ended up being more challenging than we expected!

After the introduction at 08:50, we went into our groups. We were given a general idea of what was going to happen and we elected leaders, other roles and our jobs for the day.



After that, we were off. Many people were trying to get some good stories and interviews with the teachers. The main stories we could cover were: the expansion of the school's pupil intake, the thoughts about the new school building, the various sports gossip centered around Sports Day and the lack of space in school.

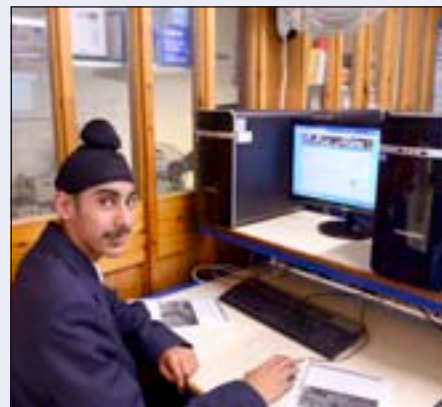
In my group, radio, I had to record interviews with teachers and question them on some of these issues. It was quite frantic but it was quite enjoyable at the same time. After I had done this, I had to write the scripts for the newsreaders to say on the radio broadcast.

At 14:00, we had a Q&A session with all the guests, which gave us valuable insight into many topics to do with the media industry.



However, by far the best part of the day was watching what everyone else had been up to ...

Our final product, a Fishface FM news broadcast, went as planned and was very funny, with Luqmaan recording an interesting interview about Miss Li's views on the ducks at Camp Hill, which was an instant success amongst all of us. The Newspaper Group also made a well-presented newspaper The Daily Pelican, the name obviously chosen by Kieron (inside joke). When he was quizzed on stage about why he chose the name, he said it was because 'a pelican's beak is very big



and can hold lots of stuff, just like the masses of content in a newspaper.' The TV Group did a great job by creating quite a comical, 'news-worthy' broadcast. Ciaran's interview with Richard about his Sports Day controversy made most of us laugh! Mohammad and Belal did a great job as presenters. The blog was also produced to a high standard and seemed quite professional. The documentary was very funny too, and it was also one of the highlights of the day.

After Media Day, we all experienced some great moments that we will not easily forget for the rest of our school days! This amazing day would not have been running without the unwavering Mrs Parmar, who worked extremely hard to recruit all of the guests, plan out the day and many other numerous things that would take too long to mention. We all owe her a huge thank you! It was an exhilarating day, definitely not to be missed! I hope that it will take place for many years to come so that all the Year 8 pupils at Camp Hill can experience it. Overall, filled with enthusiasm, hard work and laughter!

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**





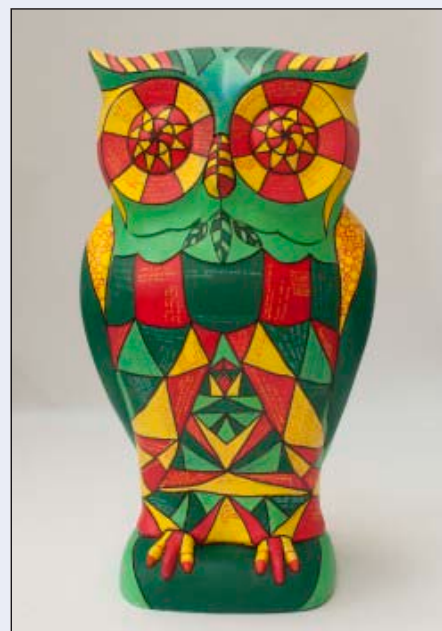
## Little Hoot

As part of Birmingham's Big Hoot cultural event, Camp Hill students were invited create their own design for a 'Little Hoot', the smaller cousins of the larger 'Big Hoot' owls that were placed around Birmingham in the summer of 2015.

Boys were asked to complete the sentence, "When I grow up, I want to achieve ..." recorded on the owl itself, the boys' ideas give a snapshot of their serious and sometimes curious aspirations for the future. The colourful design is the work of Yusof Elsherbing and Finton Hogan in Year 7, who were inspired by the vibrant and eye catching work of professional artist, Hew Locke. Owlets Name: When I Grow Up Trail Location: St Martin's Church

■ R.P.

■ D.J.W.



## Summer 2015 Art Exhibition

### Margaret Street Studios

At Camp Hill Boys, students are encouraged to explore the breadth and depth of creativity and imagination to discover something new and inspiring for themselves. Students are exposed the variety that Art can offer as a subject in order to make a positive impact and on their development and lives. With the work submitted, students have created work from set starting points and from project themes of their own choosing. The Art department takes pride in the variety and individuality of students work and how each piece is personal to the student that has created it.

A selection of this year's GCSE and A-Level artwork was put forward for an exhibition of 16 schools in the south Birmingham area at BCU studios, Margaret Street in the city centre. This was the first time that Camp Hill Boys had

taken part in the exhibition showcasing the best works from students in the south of the city. It was the hard work from a small group of A-level artists that made the presentation of work form our school possible and professional in the studio space that we set up in. Our students work stood shoulder to shoulder with work form other schools and was well received by students and the public on the opening evening - one of our students was even lucky enough to sell his work!

I look forward to next year's summer 2016



exhibition and once again showing the best of our artwork that Camp Hill Boys has to offer.

■ R.P.



## Mock Election 2015

During the early summer term, the school was gripped in election fever as six candidates sought to be returned as representative for Camp Hill Boys in our mock election. In order to allow all year groups to participate, the date of the election was brought forward to 30 April.

The process involved the selection of candidates for the six parties represented in our local constituency (Birmingham Hall Green) and for each of these parties to launch and sustain a campaign covering media, meetings and debates. The pupils selected to represent the parties were: Faaris Zaki (Conservative), Nathan McClelland (Labour), Carl Lawrence (Respect), Matty Blayney (UKIP), Primo Agnello (Green) and Siddarth Rao (Liberal Democrat).

The highlight of the campaign was the lunchtime debate in which all parties were able to field questions from the floor and challenges from their rivals. The eloquence and conviction shown by each candidate was a joy to behold – they even showed that they understood and represented their party's manifesto commitments. The poster campaign was conducted in good humour and able to get messages across to the wider school public. All parties even produced a short Party Election Broadcast, each of which was shown in assembly to the whole school and, in the case of three, to the visiting Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Shafique Shah.

Polling Day came and a huge thank you has to go out to the polling clerks and tellers who ensured that the election was run smoothly and the results could be counted and verified in a very short time. Elections are a means to show how personality and policy together can determine the fate of nations, however the Camp Hill result failed to provide any guidance to the national swing in polling one week later. The result was as follows: Carl Lawrence (Respect) 155 votes, Faaris Zaki (Conservative) 118 votes, Nathan McClelland (Labour) 77 votes, Siddarth Rao (Liberal Democrats) 50 votes, Matty Blayney (UKIP) 29 votes and Primo Agnello (Green) 26 votes. Many thanks, not just to the candidates, but to their teams of supporters for making democracy triumph above all else.

■ G.N.H.

## Schools Challenge and Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz

In November, our school quiz teams were out and about seeking to put the name of Camp Hill Boys firmly on the map. Two successive Thursday visits to Edgbaston yielded outstanding returns. On 13 November we sent two teams to King Edward's School to compete in the regional heats of the national Schools Challenge competition. We were able to field our strongest squad ever and had hopes to make good progress.

In a knock-out format our teams of two seniors and two juniors (meaning up to Year 10) needed to quickly get into the swing of things. After leading throughout, Camp Hill two were unlucky to miss out on the final buzzer question to Alcester Grammar and lost out 570-530, still it was a strong performance from Jacob Bruten, Gethin Bradnam, Rohan Kaya and Alfie Green who represented the school ably. The Camp Hill 1 team sailed through the early rounds defeating KES 3 and KEHS 1 by clear margins to make it through to the semi-finals, the furthest we had ever reached in the competition thus far. In the Semi, the team of Sulamaan Rahim, Nathan McClelland, Primo Agnello and Muhammad Ali won through by a margin of 610 to 280 and would meet old rivals KES 1 in the final. This last hurdle proved just

too high and we finished as runners-up to a KES team which went on to become runners-up in the national finals.

A chance for redress was not slow in coming. On 20 November in the Great Hall at Birmingham University, we were represented by two teams out of 32 from across the city in the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz – this is a team format where group decisions rather than speed on the buzzer is decisive. We were looking for a chance to repeat the victory made by Camp Hill Alpha two years ago, and to avenge losing out to (you guessed it) KES last year. Representing year 13 were Camp Hill Gamma and the Year 12s Camp Hill Delta. Delta played well in the early rounds and played their joker near the start to develop a healthy lead in the competition by the half way stage. KES, Bishop Vesey and Aston were all snapping at their heels. Gamma played it cautiously and, having finally played their joker on the Natural World, shot up the leaderboard – into second place.

With two rounds to go it was Camp Hill's trophy to lose, it became a question of which team could win out. When the scores from the final rounds on sport and 2014 were totted up: in third place came KES, in second place on 91 points came Camp Hill Gamma and the winners were Camp Hill Delta with 92. A well deserved one-two. Happy times in the quizzing firmament reinforced by Aled Walker's successful foray into University Challenge for Trinity College, Cambridge.

■ G.N.H.



## Historical Association Great Debate

On 20 November, three Year 13 students competed in the regional round of the Great Debate public speaking competition hosted at school. Although there were supposed to be six schools in the contest, only one other team, Bournside in Cheltenham, brought along competitors.

The judges were treated to five very different and fascinating speeches on "What does Magna Carta mean to me?" The standard of entry was very high and Philip Massoud and Faaris Zaki were both able to present a clear perspective on the importance of Magna Carta and answer pertinent questions fielded by the judges from the Historical Association and Birmingham University. The overall winner though was Vikram Patel who impressed the judges with his personal, wide-ranging and well-reasoned submission. He went on to represent the West Midlands in the national final of the competition in March at Royal Holloway College in London.

■ G.N.H.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

In response to a number of parental requests Camp Hill Boys is now able to deliver The DofE Award scheme. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2015 the school gained its *Direct Licensing Organisation* status which enables the scheme to be delivered.



As the scheme is new to most members of staff the decision was made to offer only the Bronze Award for the first year. At the start of the new term the scheme was offered to Years 10 and 11, with the hope that we may attract up to 50 applicants. To everyone's surprise 106 boys have signed up so far. This is a tremendous response, and has justified the commitment that has been made on behalf of the school in offering the scheme.

There are a lot of people who need to be thanked for without the help of others Camp Hill would not be able to run the DofE. The AFS have committed to support DofE and have already ran a cake stall and are planning a bag pack later in December; any money raised will be used to provide camping equipment, necessary if we are to manage the expedition phase without having to buy in services at added expense to the students. The fact that we are able to cater for so many students is

a tribute to the generosity of the number of school staff who have volunteered to act as Group Leaders and are willing to give up some of their weekends to supervise students when on expedition.

Of course there will be many other beneficiaries of the boy's efforts as the scheme requires students to undertake four areas of activity: Volunteering, Physical, a Skill and the Expedition. These need to be undertaken for three months with the third requiring a commitment of at least six months. In their outline proposals boys have indicated that they intend to help and support many groups, organisations and charitable bodies when volunteering.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Morris (Scheme Co-ordinator) and Mr Downing (Scheme Manager) were invited to attend the Gold Presentation Ceremony taking place in St James' Palace. The ceremony was overseen by Mr Phil Brown (British Olympian and Director Central England), the guest speaker Reanne Evans (WLB SA Ladies World Snooker Champion ten times and the first lady to compete in a Men's World Ranking event) and the Gold Certificates presented by His Royal Highness Edward, Duke of Wessex. As part of the ceremony Mrs Morris and Mr Downing were presented with the School Licence, which is now proudly displayed in the foyer area.

With the current level of help and support it is hoped that the Scheme will flourish here at Camp Hill and plans are afoot to open up the scheme into the Silver Award in future years. Perhaps it may not be many years before staff are able to witness members of Camp Hill Boys receiving their Gold Award.

■ K.D.



## Work experience 2015

I arrived in Birmingham at the 23 of January in order to spend two and a half weeks here. I decided to do my work experience in Birmingham, because I thought it would be great to gain some different experiences that I would get in Germany. I imagined it would be interesting and of course would help me to improve my English skills.

One of the highlights of my visit was definitely the daytrip to London on the first weekend. One day is too short to see all the important things, so I think I want to come back one day. We only visited the most impressive sights, but I think there's a lot more to see. On the second Saturday we caught the train to Stratford. Even though it was very cold, I liked both trips a lot.

I worked in the library during the week and it was a great opportunity to get to know a few processes I didn't know before. I did something new nearly every day. In my first week there was an author event, where Sally Gardner visited the school and presented her new book 'The Door That Led to Where'. She was very nice and spent a lot of time signing books for the students. After that I processed all the new books that came into the library. I prepared a display for the Stan Lee Excelsior Award and processed all the comics for this year's short list. Also I joined the first meeting for the students who are taking part.

I really enjoyed the time I spent in Birmingham and would recommend an exchange to everybody who wants to explore something different and is interested in learning a lot about a different culture. Also it is a great opportunity to learn about a task you don't know yet.

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■ Linda Enseroth



# House Reports

The  
**House Championship Results Table**  
can be found with the  
**Sports Results Summaries**  
on page 73

## Beaufort

With this year being Mr Southall's last before his move to Abu Dhabi, the Beaufort boys knew they needed to do him proud before his departure. The 2014–2015 championship was an extremely close affair and Beaufort had their fair share of ups and downs. The year began with commendable performances in soccer, particularly from captain Luke Greatrex and the greatly missed Harjeet Singh and Talvin Rai. This was shortly followed by cross country, in which all junior and intermediate boys must participate by competing in the standards event, and badminton, leaving Beaufort in a close third just behind Seymour. Through strong performances in the basketball, ably led by house captain Jacob Smith, and chess, we were able to narrow the lead Tudor had at the top of the table. Beaufort maintained this fine form in the closely contested swimming competition where we were able to achieve a creditable second, with acclaim to the admirable individual performances of Matija Novovic and Lewis Evans.

The Spring term offered mixed fortune for Beaufort. The rugby competition came to a close with the senior house rugby, where the stakes were running high with everything to play for between the houses. After some closely fought games, Beaufort managed to register second in the competition thanks to memorable performances from Wesley Blackhurst, assisted well by Samson Gahir and Ed Connolly. However, the hockey was to be Beaufort's most successful event of the year, winning outright first by a clear margin. Several stellar performances from the intermediates as well as the seniors ensured this victory, with particular mention to Shresth Malik and Bhupinder Singh. A disappointment came in house music after only managing third position, even though we hold numerous high calibre musicians. Music captain Azeem Hanjra did a great job organising the junior and senior ensembles however the absence of the third best recorder player in the world, Fazal Shah, meant we were certainly at a disadvantage. No exaggeration needed there as he did indeed come third in an international recorder competition.

Going into the Summer term it seemed Beaufort had the chance to oust Tudor from their lead using the few events remaining. The cricket and tennis came first, unfortunately poor performances here meant we were relying on nothing short of a catastrophe from Tudor to allow us a chance at the overall championship. A pleasant summer's afternoon put

us in high spirits for the biggest event of the calendar, sports day. It was a successful day for the seniors and the younger junior years, years 7, 8 and 12 all managing first in their age groups, however miserable efforts from the intermediate years meant the chance of victory was not to be. Special mentions to athletics captain Wesley Blackhurst for leading by example and winning the Victor Ludorum, as well as Shaurya Maheswari for stepping in at the last minute and achieving first in his event.

And so Beaufort house ended the year in third position with 57 points only narrowly beaten by Seymour with 58.5. My congratulations to everyone who participated in or supported events throughout the year. Special mention to the great work from Mr Southall over the past few years as Beaufort house master and the 2014–2015 house captain Jacob Smith. We now look forward to challenging for the title in 2015–2016 under the stewardship of Mr O'Malley.

■ **Amman Singh Bhambra**

## Howard

The reign of Mr Hill began with an astounding championship win back in 2013 and we had a strong performance last year finishing second. It seemed he had bought the Midas touch to a broken Howard House, re-invigorating the blue wave to glory it had not seen for aeons. Nonetheless, it seemed as though the success had come too fast and the year can only be described as a capitulation. Marred by indecisions and a missing clinical touch, the year was one we will look to put behind us.

The season began with the Soccer tournaments and despite this being an event that Howard have excelled in the past, it seemed we could just not get the job done. With a decent senior 11-a-side performance, things looked promising and with the juniors and intermediates putting in good 5-a-side showings, all the seniors needed to do was pull off a couple of wins in the 5-a-side. Despite playing the better football, it seemed that the other houses had placed brick walls in front of the goals and the ball could not quite find its way into the net. We finished third, far from what he hoped and this only seemed to foreshadow the rest of our year.

After cross country standards we were in a comfortable second and despite Oliver Paulin running an outstanding record-breaking time in the Senior Finals race, we couldn't match his success overall and somehow found ourselves languishing in bottom spot after the Autumn

term. After the Christmas break we started off strong, with an overall victory in House Quiz for the third year in a row (other houses found this dubious considering Mr Hill runs the event) paired with a joint victory in the chess only seemed to further raise our hopes. But hopes they remained... finishing a disappointing third in major events including rugby and swimming and an uncharacteristically bad showing in basketball meant we could not quite capitalise on the successes of the quiz and chess events. Even in the senior hockey, despite only conceding three goals in three fixtures, we still managed to finish a mere third. It seemed that three really was the (not so) magic number for Howard in the Autumn term.

The Summer term looked to be promising with cricket, an event we have traditionally found success in. Despite some good performances in the junior years, the Year 7's finishing joint winners and a second place finish for the Year 8's, the seniors again could not get the job done as Seymour ran out victors and took the overall cricket title. It was at this point in the season we succumbed to the fact that we would be finishing in the bottom half of the overall standings and looked for some salvage at Sports Day to brighten what had been a bleak season. We started the afternoon slowly, at one point in third behind Tudor and Seymour but some excellent individual showings in track events across the years backed by a concerted effort from all those taking part put us in a strong position. We managed to win the relay trophy, finishing second in each of the five races following some of the most enthralling encounters and an especially tight photo finish in the senior relay. With relays counting for double points, we managed to capture the final trophy of the year, the Athletics Championship, a prize that has eluded us since before the turn of the millennium.

Although it was a very frustrating year, the commitment and the effort of the boys cannot be questioned and this was characterised by Howard lifting the Athletics trophy after what felt like an eternity. Special thanks must go to Vivian Bird winner Oliver Paulin who has been a pivotal part of the house for the last seven years and also to Connor Burns, our House Captain and of course the ever inspirational Mr Hill who kept us going through the trials and tribulations we faced this year. Finishing last should hopefully serve to give us a kick up the rear as we will look to emulate the performances that we produced in the golden year of 2013 and hopefully we can turn those third places into firsts or seconds and recapture the House Title.

■ **Satnam Ajimal**



## Seymour

As is always the case, September marks the start of a new academic year. Furthermore this marks the start of a new House Championship, giving all those in Seymour; new and old, the chance to prove themselves. Missing out on a podium finish at the end of the 2013–14 season, Jacob Brutenable lead the boys to a great start by winning the house Soccer. We continued through the autumn in high spirits and performed well in Cross Country, placing second behind Tudor. The performance and effort of the boys in this difficult event was commendable.

After only two events we were looking likely to finish the term strongly, holding 14 points: three more than second place Tudor. However, as other houses managed to find their feet, we struggled to hold onto this lead. Suffering some low scoring in the events leading up to Christmas and early on in the winter term, we were not looking too strong. Regularly finishing third or fourth in events such as Rugby and swimming our chances of winning the championship were looking slim.

However, to coin the infamous phrase of Mr Jack: “some may settle for silver, but we will go for gold,” we started to regain top spot in many major events. House Music was the start of this as we placed second and gained a vital three points. Further success came from sporting events such as Tennis and Table Tennis, where we achieved first place in both, and more importantly gained another eight points. Nonetheless we knew that if we were to push for a high podium finish we needed some serious points. Cricket was undeniably our best performing of the year. All boys across all age groups played well and managed to secure us the full ten points available.

Having performed so well over the Spring and Summer terms we went into the final event of the year in a strong position. Athletics, like swimming and rugby, is a high scoring event and we knew that scoring well here could prove vital for a strong finish. Credit must go to Alex Byrne, who started us off well by winning the coveted Victor Ludorum and netting 24 points for our overall athletics total. Placing third in the relays we were not so successful and in the end were unable to gain enough points to win the overall championship. Overall we finished a very respectable second place, even beating Beaufort who were ahead of us going into the last event.

Despite a great comeback in the Summer term, we cannot rest upon our laurels and must look to continue with that same attitude over the course of the whole year. As another cohort of boys enters the system we must look to capitalise on this through turning some of those lower scoring events into wins. Thanks must go to Mr Watkins for his motivation of all competitors, as well as the Year 13s who have contrib-

uted so much to the House over the course of their school careers. With this in mind, there is every possibility that Seymour can go on to win the House Championship in 2016.

■ **Tom Wood**

## Tudor

Finally — Tudor won. After coming second for as long as anyone (save Mr Jack) can remember, we pushed ourselves that extra mile, scored that extra basket and won that extra scrum to lead the Green Machine to the top of the scoreboard. It was a year that saw Tudor back up its historical strength in standards with solid performance in finals, but also saw changes in house assemblies, with a speaker system being installed so that we could all hear Mr Nash's quite, timid voice, which also led to the introduction of the ever popular spectacle of audience participation.

The first term set the tone for the rest of the year with Tudor winning in many of the most important and prestigious events. The first of these was house rugby, where some disappointments in the lower school were counted by the hugely impressive performance of the seniors, ably directed by head boy and 1<sup>st</sup> XV captain Giles Moss. The pace and agility of the squad was especially noticeable in the sevens matches. Next came the cross country championship and a determined effort from all boys in the standards put Tudor in a comfortable position going into finals day. Here our strength in depth shone through, for although Howard had the powerhouse of Oliver Paulin, we had many runners who recorded convincing times, with captain Oliver Whitfield coming second. After this positive result, Tudor kept up the momentum by clinching victory in the basketball and the badminton players following suit only a couple of weeks later.

The Spring term was a bit more shaky with poor outcomes in the usual safe areas of House Quiz and chess, but the house managed to reassert itself by winning the coveted swimming championship and a surprise second place in the relatively new table tennis competition. As the year pressed forward so did the unstoppable march of the Green Machine, claiming triumphs in cricket and house music. The win in music was due in no small part to Harry Atkinson and his skill playing the double bass.

The climax of the competition, as always, was the athletics standards followed by sports day and after all the points had been tallied up it came down to this – Tudor had to come second in sports day to win the overall tournament. So it was with some trepidation that the boys took their marks, got ready, and went for a Green victory. Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, we couldn't achieve a clean sweep on the day, but still achieved the second

place needed to secure the title. Jake Webb (of Year 12) was awarded the senior Victor Ludorum, which he shared with Wesley Blackhurst (of Beaufort).

All that is left is to thank house captain Andy Featherstone, for his dedication to the house, Mr Nash, for leading us through good times and bad, and finally to the entirety of Tudor for doing the legwork necessary. Next year's captain Dominic Paver can look forward to inheriting a legacy of success and the hope that we can replicate this triumph.

■ **Tom Meehan**

## House Quiz 2015

The astronomical charts suggested that Howard and Seymour would again fight out this year's competition. Capably led by quiz luminaries Sulamaan Rahim and Nathan McClelland; after many years of friendly rivalry, could they mould their respective houses into championship winning units? Which house would cast a shadow over the other one?

In November, first blood went to Howard who snatched the senior honours with a 35-33 victory over Seymour in the final decider, mainly thanks to the lightning buzzing of the captain. In the intermediate section, Howard suffered a gravitational wobble against Beaufort but then recovered to beat Tudor and Seymour and steal a lead of two wins going into the final series of fixtures.

It was the Junior competitors who needed to wrap up the victory for the Blue Wave. A defeat to Seymour in the first fixture, thanks to magnificent buzzing from Ajay John, threw Howard out of orbit and meant that the Golden Ticket could still snatch overall victory, a second victory for Seymour over Beaufort meant that they could still finish up winners, however a win for Howard against Tudor meant that the championship could only be shared. It came to the final fixtures to determine the Junior honours, Seymour were denied by the odd point to Tudor in the last round and Howard's strength totally eclipsed Beaufort. After a mini crisis, the Blue Planet had again emerged from the darkness to share the Junior title with Seymour and Tudor.

This left the overall standings as follows: Beaufort and Tudor – joint third place; Seymour – second place and Howard as winners. *Apologies for the astronomically bad puns, but the championship was decided in the week of the eclipse!*

■ **G.N.H.**

# Domestic Trips

## Conwy Year 8 Residential Trip 2015

In June Year 8 took part in the five day residential trip to Conwy in Wales. The air was buzzing with excitement as we boarded the coach on Monday June 8 to embark on the three and a half hours journey to Conwy. Halfway into the journey we stopped, trekked up a rocky mountain to a lake where everyone enjoyed their packed lunches.

When we arrived at the centre, we were quickly sorted into dormitories, ate dinner and it was off to our first set of activities which was kayaking for my group. Later that evening we met to discuss the next day's activities and were sent to our dormitories. The dormitories were well laid out, clean and simple. The beds were separate so there were no arguments over top and bottom bunks. As you can expect there was the usual midnight antics taking place in the dorms after lights out but everyone always eventually fell asleep.

We received a wake up call at 08:00 and had half an hour to get ready and be downstairs in the hall for breakfast. After breakfast we met up with our instructors who briefed us on where we were to meet for our day's activity and ensured we were appropriately dressed for what lay ahead.

Conwy exposed us to many activities we hadn't tried before and challenged us to accomplish different physical and skillful activities to encourage teamwork and build confidence. The activities were either land based or water based but equally challenging. We



kayaked, canoed, built rafts, and paddle-boarded on surf boards standing up which saw many of us having an early bath as we fell in countless times. My team had hardly left the shore when our raft to our surprise fell apart but other teams had more success in raft building obviously learning from our failure.



Our land-based activities included balancing on high-suspended ropes, climbing man made walls and mountain biking. One of my best memories is of mountain biking as I had the chance to ride down some stairs. It was awesome. These activities were fun confidence building challenges that created bonds through teamwork. But most importantly they were performed in a safe environment with experienced instructors who were not afraid to tell us off if you were putting ourselves and team mates in unnecessary danger.

The trip did not just include adventurous activities as on Tuesday we visited Aber Falls and Caernarfon Castle which was practically an outdoor lesson in History, Biology and Geography combined. At Aber Falls we measured the width and depth of the lake and the speed of the current. We collected samples of water, placed them in tubs and identified the tiny insects in our samples. Caernarfon Castle, we learnt, was built in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century by Edward the First and had survived Welsh rebellions. This Castle was stunningly preserved and steeped in history refreshing my knowledge







on moats and castles done in Year 7.

I enjoyed mealtimes as there was a large variety of food: chicken, bacon, egg, toast, chips and pizza as well as Vegetarian options. We all enjoyed the food so much that we were scrambling for seconds, with some even grabbing a few extra desserts! During any free time, we had the option of playing on the fields, going to the shop, showering or participating in activities organized by our teachers. This included ultimate frisbee, football, softball, touch rugby and board games.

Football proved to be the most popular, especially with staff on the teams. It was especially difficult to beat Mr Watkins with his brute force and Lionel Messi like skills. On the final day we had a staff vs student football and ultimate frisbee game. The staff eventually won out, capitalizing on our tiredness from a full week of activities.

Our 3½ hour journey back proved long and difficult as we were caught up in traffic caused by an accident on the motorway. We had a fantastic time on this trip and the opportunity to interact with our peers and teachers outside of the classroom was priceless. The trip was educational in more ways than one and a superb way to kick back and relax after the end of year exams.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Camp Hill for the opportunity and especially the staff who gave up their time to organize and chaperone the trip.

■ **Michael James-Thomas**



## St. David's Rock Climbing Trip 2015

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, Hardy and Cookson. Mr Downing was unable to join us this year so my son stepped in to help in the kitchen and do some belaying.

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 at Whitesand's Bay and trips into St. David's to shop. 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.**



## Wimbledon Trip

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of July a party of eight boys and two members of staff embarked on what would be a long drive to the hallowed tennis grounds of Wimbledon. Meeting at a time so early it was unfamiliar to the then retired Year 13s, the boys and staff set off, readying themselves for what promised to be a great day of tennis.



Despite the early start the minibus was filled with an electrified atmosphere of excitement and so it wasn't long before the topic of conversation soon moved on to the order of play for that day. Of all the players to choose from, there was really only one person on everyone's mind: Andy Murray. With the epitome of English tennis about to befall us the excitement became too much for some as we stopped at the services for a quick break, only to continue our discussions of the day's events.



As we pulled closer and closer to SW19 itself we soon began to see the hoards of people with the same intent of watching some great tennis at what can only be argued as the greatest tournament in the world. Thanks to some great navigating from Mr Jones we found ourselves parked outside the gates, first in line and ready to descend upon the courts.

Although we arrived nice and early, play didn't start until later on so, after the mandatory photo atop of Henman Hill we split off to see what else the grounds had to offer. Dodging our way in and out of people's photographs of the beautiful grounds and heritage, we soon walked into a crowd of people. However, it soon became apparent that the man everyone was hoping to see was warming up on the court next to us: Andy Murray. Phones were being waved about everywhere, desperately trying to catch a glimpse of the home hero, yet no sooner had we arrived did he leave, and so we set back to wandering the grounds.

It was at this point that the ever reliant British weather came through and it was soon raining, although this certainly didn't dampen our spirits as we were soon faced with a great doubles match featuring the legendary Lleyton Hewitt. This was soon forgotten though as it was time for the main event. Still in disbelief that

we were going to see Murray, we made our way to court 1 and as if it had all been planned,



even the weather fined up into what would later become a very warm and sunny day. Play started and Murray got off to a great start, winning the first set 6-1. After winning the second set 6-1 as well, it became apparent who was the better player although that was not to say that it wasn't going to be an entertaining match. Haase proved this as he came back in the third set, narrowly losing it 6-4 in what was a very exciting game to watch. It seemed that the BBC could sense that those two were not the only players in the stadium, as they soon turned their attention to filming many a frame of the Camp Hill party as we were all sat trying to look as photogenic as possible.

The day was not done there



though, as there was still a lot of tennis to be played. Staying on court 1 we then saw a ladies match of Nara/Kvitova and then the ever entertaining Tsonga/Vinolas. The greatest surprise came at the end of the day when we were treated with an unexpected extra match, which was very close and a great way to end the day.

Alas we left Wimbledon and headed back to school, reminiscing of the day's events. Thanks should go to Mr Jones for organising such an entertaining trip, as well as to Mr Duncan for accompanying us and helping drive the bus as we now hope to emulate the success of the players at Wimbledon in the upcoming schools winter league.

■ Thomas Wood





## Joint European Torus (JET)

Two minibuses full of bright eyed young physicists once again set off to find fusion in Oxfordshire. A destination so astounding, not even the QuizUp desserts title could prepare us for the magnitude of the confectionery with which we were to be met. This was the Joint European Torus – or donut for food fanatics out there. The largest man-made magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment currently in operation. Its main purpose is to open the way to future nuclear fusion experimental reactors such as ITER (see the shabby poster stuck to the wall outside the EPL).

We had a whirlwind tour of the whole magnificent facility and even got a peak, through the two 2 metre thick concrete doors, at the huge device itself. Five million amps of electricity heating a plasma to 100 million degrees Celsius with incredibly strong magnetic fields preventing that same plasma touching the walls of the evacuated torus vessel. Much to the boys disappointment, this was the only donut we'd be seeing but it was enough to get Mr White and Mr D salivating. On behalf of everyone that went on the trip, I'd like to thank Mr White for organising it.

■ M.K.



## Warwick Castle Trip

As a break from the old routine, and due to increased numbers of students, the decision was made to move the annual castle trip for Year 7 ten miles from Kenilworth to Warwick. Was this a case of the History Department dumbing down and caving into to commercialism or a welcome opportunity to refresh and revitalise a staple part of the Middle Ages curriculum?

The visit proved to be a marked success with all four classes able to explore aspects of castle design and development for defence and comfort over the centuries with the assistance of pencil, clipboard and worksheet. We were helped by the weather which constantly threatened rain but failed to deliver any more than a few spots. Highlights of the tour of the castle included the spectacular rampart walk – from which the panoramas show just how useful a spot Warwick Castle is on, commanding the locality through shock and awe.

The Kingmaker and Time Tower exhibits were also able to further our knowledge of the practice of medieval warfare, siegecraft and castle design. A bonus to the day was the archery display next to the river, with gory details not for the faint-hearted and the Horrible Histories "Wicked Warwick" production which kept the troops tickled while chomping on their lunch. There was some disappointment that the trebuchet was not firing, however we did see the evidence of its capability with the burnt-out shell of the Victorian boathouse, victim of a rogue fireball launched some weeks earlier. Parents will be pleased to know that access to the overpriced souvenir outlets was limited, in most part by their failure to put on enough staff at the tills. Apologies for any families who still ended up with a couple of bits of wood tied together and called a sword cluttering up their house for the price of a king's ransom.

■ G.N.H.





# Foreign Trips

## The Battlefields Trip May 2015

After a hard day at school, 36 budding historians embarked on this year's visit to the First World War battlefields in Belgium and France. At 23:30 we arrived at School, bleary eyed, yet full of excitement, ready for a long night's sleep on the coach. Despite a raucous celebration of Chris Marshall's birthday and the driver's blend of Heart FM and Smooth Radio, many of us did get some limited rest.

The trip began in earnest on a grey Belgium dawn at the Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, near Ypres, where Captain Noel Chavasse, a doctor and former Olympic athlete, lies buried, one of only three people to win the VC twice. For most of us, this was the first time that we had seen a war cemetery and the mood was one of quiet contemplation. Seeing row upon row of fallen soldiers was quite unnerving, but nonetheless, it gave us some appreciation of the huge sacrifice made by those who went to war in 1914.

The rest of the day was taken up with visits to the Menin Gate, a huge memorial to over 53,000 men who died in the Salient – only up to August 1917 – and have no known resting place, and to the Hooze Crater Museum. The Essex Farm Cemetery provided a sobering moment when we came across the grave of Private V. J. Strudwick, a fifteen year old.

A warm diner, some heated football and "high" stakes poker completed our day, before we were rounded up for bed.

Those who remember Mr Bulloch will not be surprised to learn that being woken up by his stentorian Scottish accent was not the most pleasant of experiences. We started Saturday at Thiepval Wood, where there are some very accurately reconstructed trenches, occu-

pied, at the opening of the Somme Battle on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, by the Ulster Division. Our engaging guide was Ulsterman Teddy Collihan, who had helped to carry out the original excavations.

In a nearby cemetery, we found a Camp Hill Old Edwardian, Private George Thompson [pictured below]. As with each Old Boy's grave we came across, Mr Bulloch read us the details from his research into their lives; one of the boys placed a poppy cross on his grave.



We then stopped off at a French supermarket; after what seemed like an age, Mr Caves and Mr Bulloch reappeared with 40 baguettes and a wide variety of cheeses for lunch ... they also brought our lunch! The highlights of the afternoon were visits to the Hawthorne Ridge mine, so foolishly detonate 10 minutes before zero hour on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, and to Newfoundland Park, a rare preserved area of the original battlefield, where the Newfoundland Regiment suffered horrific casualties.

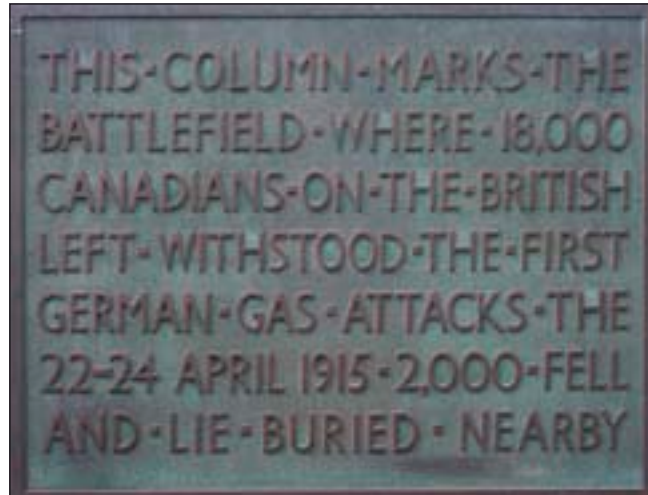
Sunday dawned bright and sunny, persuading Mr Bulloch to appear in vivid pink shorts, which were



almost as awful as the goats cheese he tried to force us to eat at lunch time. The day began with Vimy Ridge and a guided tour round the preserved trenches and tunnels, marking the site of the brilliant operation carried out by Canadian forces in April 1917. We also admired the twin white columns of the staggering Canadian National Memorial. A relaxed lunch at the Lochnagar Crater was followed by the Guillemont Road cemetery, the resting place of Prime Minister Herbert Asquith's son, and of another Camp Hillian, Sergeant F. J. Truman. Finally the Thiepval Memorial; this towering edifice has inscribed on its many walls the names of over 74,000 soldiers who died on the Somme and who have no known grave.

On Monday, it was back to Ypres; Bayewald (Bavarian Wood) has an impressive layout of original German dugouts and reconstructed trenches. Here served one Adolf Hitler, a battalion runner, who won his first Iron Cross in this area. After visiting the "Pool of Peace", the site of a massive 74,000 lbs British mine from the Battle of Messines in 1917, we went to Ypres for a traditional burger and chips lunch, after which many of the party were pressurised into buying vast amounts of, admittedly, delicious Belgium chocolate.

The last part of the day was sombre; we went to the Langemark German cemetery, the largest in Belgium, including a mass grave containing 25,000 German soldiers. The dark







headstones and gloomy atmosphere were chilling; it was rather upsetting to see how run-down the cemetery seemed, especially when compared with the pristine Commonwealth cemeteries to which we had become accustomed. And we concluded the day at the Tyne Cot cemetery, with its 12,000 burials, the largest of all the British cemeteries. Here we found the grave of another Camp Hill man, Corporal Long, who died within three weeks of reaching France.

In the final evening, Mr Hill produced a quiz for all to enjoy. After many tense rounds, this was concluded in failing light, with Mr Caves surprising everybody with his vast knowledge of Disney Princesses!

On Tuesday, it was time to pack – or rather haphazardly cram everything into our cases. There was one more battlefield to visit; the Battle of Fromelles in mid-July 1916, was the first to be fought by Australian forces on the Western Front. Known in Australia as “the worst twenty four hours in Australia’s entire history”, they lost 5,533 men in one short day, in a futile battle which was a classic example of British generalship at its most tragically inept. 250 Australians, whose mass grave was discovered only five years ago, now lie reburied in the newest of the Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries, the Pheasant Wood Fromelles Cemetery.

And then it was back to England and the looming threat of examinations: we should like to thank Mr Southworth, Mr Bulloch, Mr Caves, Mr Hill and Mrs James for organising the trip and making it an enjoyable, enlightening and unforgettable experience.

■ Alex Prins

■ Sunil Patel

*Editor’s note: The photographs were taken by Alex Prins.*

*Staff veterans of the Battlefields Tours regarded this group as one of the very best in all the 35 visits we have arranged.*









## German Homestay Visit – October 2014

On the morning of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014, nine tired Year 9/10 students met Frau Wells at Birmingham Airport at the extremely early time of 07:15, in preparation for our Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt Airport at 09:20 that morning.

But before take-off, we had to check in to the flight and drop off our baggage. Some cases weighed as much as 15kg, but some others I doubt even weighed half of that. Some looked like they wanted to permanently move in with their German hosts, while others looked like they were only staying a day or two! After a short wait in security, we emerged into the award-winning (!) duty-free zone at Birmingham airport. Some people went straight for the food, while others, who had packed their toiletries in their hand baggage, went to Boots to buy some ridiculously overpriced emergency Lynx! Not much later we were allowed to board the aeroplane. Mrs Wells had told the flight assistants that we were on a German exchange trip, so they insisted on us ordering drinks in German.

After we landed, we collected our bags and got the train from the airport to Enkheim. A short wait for an S-Bahn train to Konstablerwache was the first leg of the journey. We then changed onto an underground train to Enkheim. A five minute walk, which later turned out to be 10 minutes, then 20 minutes, took us to the Schule am Ried. Rather than let us wait in the rather British-German weather, (warm and rainy not cold and rainy!), they took us into the staff room, which we later learnt most of the exchange students had never been inside. After a conversation in rapid German (to us anyway) our German partners took us to either parents waiting in cars or walked home.

After taking part in a variety of activities on the Wednesday afternoon, the next time we saw each other was at school the next morning at a worryingly early time of 07:45. We received lessons (in double 45-minute blocks) until 13:00. Subjects taught included English, which was probably the most enjoyable for us, all the way down to French.

The activity for the afternoon for was a town trail of Enkheim, which for some included a walk UP the Roehrborgasse, which was, according to Jake's partner, the steepest street in the whole of Frankfurt. Despite this, we all arrived back at the school more or less in time (some not exactly arriving at the agreed time of 15:00). After collecting a chocolate bar from Mrs Wells, we were allowed to have some free time exploring Enkheim. Some went to the Hessen-Center, the main shopping centre of the area, while others explored other areas of the district. That evening, we returned home to our host families.

On Friday, the plan was to attend the first two lessons (until 09:15) then meet Mrs Wells in the playground and walk to the underground station, to take us into the city, and go up the Helaba Tower and visit the Cathedral. A train change at the Hauptwache station onto a train to a station called Willy-Brandt-Platz which we alighted at. From the exit of the station, there was a perfect view of the Helaba Tower, except for the fog circling the top viewing point of the tower, meaning the trip up the tower was called off, and we took the underground to the cathedral, which was just as imposing as it was picturesque. Inside were extraordinarily high ceilings, with stained glass windows looking as good as ever. Many pictures were taken, and rightfully so.

Following the cathedral, we walked to Frankfurt Square, where there were souvenir shops wherever you looked. Many of us bought gifts for our families back in England here. One thing we noticed about Frankfurt city was how new everything looked – even the cathedral, which was built in 1897, looked like it was built yesterday. We then went to the zoo, which has its own U-Bahn station and clever, animal themed furnishing. Our group spent most of the time in the reptile/fish enclosure. After taking photos with some very uncooperative penguins, we had to leave. A short journey to Enkheim station later, most of us went to Laser Tag. We paid for three rounds, and three great rounds they were. In the last round, some good-natured German insults to the other team left them so confused that they were easy pickings for our team (it was exchangers vs the world).

Monday, our final full day in Frankfurt, finally rolled around, and, if all went to plan, we would spend the day at the Rebstockbad, basically an indoor water park. After attending the first two lessons, we met Mrs Wells in the playground, and walked to the underground station. An underground train to the Hauptbahnhof was followed by a short tram ride, and



a five-minute walk, which, for once, was actually five minutes. We arrived at the front door of the Rebstockbad at around half past ten, only to find the pool didn't open till half two (which considering every other day it was open from 06:30, left us all pretty miffed). After much heated debate in the middle of the Hauptbahnhof, it was decided that we would go to the EXPERIMINTA science museum. Inside, we looked at many exhibits, some of which were pretty fascinating. A tram and underground ride later, we were in Enkheim, and began hastily packing for the flight home the next day.

On the day that we came back, we had to meet at Enkheim station at 09:00. This meant a lie-in for most of us – German schools start earlier, and our exchange partners were mainly out of the house by 07:30, while we had until 08:45. An uneventful trip pressed against the doors of the train as German rush hour passed quickly, and we were soon at the airport, soon on our flight and soon back home. It was a great trip and thanks to Mrs Wells for taking us.

■ **Jake Holloway**

■ **Shrey Bohra**



## German Work Experience

When leaving Birmingham for Frankfurt, we were hoping for better weather than the snow and rain that our exchange partners had experienced when they visited us in February. The weather certainly exceeded our expectations with temperatures reaching 40°C during our trip. We were therefore very pleased to have the opportunity to visit Riedbad, which is an outdoor pool in Enkheim, the area of Frankfurt in which we were staying.



The work experience placements are organised through our partner school in Frankfurt, the Schule am Ried. There is always a wide selection of placements to choose from. Paul Gardner worked at a crane hire company, which gave him the opportunity to travel around Frankfurt. Philip Eburne worked at a primary school, and Joe Meehan worked at a kindergarten. These placements were very rewarding since they provided plenty of opportunities to practice and improve German skills. Hitesh Verma and Ataa both did their work experience at the German Red Cross charity clothes shop. Kushal Verma did his work experience at the "Schöne Aussicht" hotel. My placement was at the automotive engineering department at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt. This involved two days at the "August-Euler Flugplatz", an old airfield owned by the Technische Universität Darmstadt, which is now used for car testing.

Travelling to a foreign country and staying with an exchange family can be daunting, however both our host families and work experience mentors were very friendly and welcoming. We are also very grateful that our host families organised fantastic excursions for us, including to the Rhein Valley, and let us try very tasty traditional German foods.

I would definitely recommend this trip to



anyone in Year 11 or 12 since it is very enjoyable, the weather is fantastic and the food is very tasty. Many thanks to our host families for welcoming us into their homes, as well as to Mrs Wells and Mrs Thomson, for organising the trip

■ **Fraser Doshi-Keeble**

## VDI Forum Visit Frankfurt's University of Applied Sciences

After waking up at a time far earlier than any ordinary school day, nine Year 10 GCSE German students wearily made their way to Birmingham International Airport, on a chilly Thursday morning.

As everyone started to gather near the Lufthansa check-in gates, we were all rather confused as Mr Jackson seemed to be 'missing'. This was the same Mr Jackson who, the day before, had told us he would be there to wave at us if we were lost. Parents said their goodbyes, though there seemed to be a mix of happiness and tension in their faces, as they were leaving us for a four day visit in Germany ... on our own. By now, even Mrs Thomson was slightly alarmed at Mr Jackson's absence, but we began the process of checking-in. Mr Jackson then arrived, albeit half an hour late due to some mysterious delays, but as the good saying goes, "better late than never". As we made our way to the plane, we were intrigued by Jas' remarkable stories as to what "dangerous substances" to take on a plane you could create using just what was available in Duty Free ... rather alarming, if you ask me.

Anyway, boarding went according to schedule and, before we knew it, we were in the air at around 10:00 (on an Airbus A319 as Hassan "expertly" guessed).

After a seemingly quick flight, we landed at Europe's third busiest airport, Frankfurt International, and we were amazed as to the size and efficiency of the airport (in true German fashion). Mr Jackson and Mrs Thomson guided us in to the crowded underground system of S-Bahn and U-Bahn, which served as the quick transit from the airport to the region of Enkheim, where our host families were waiting for us. Most of us were taken directly to our host families' houses to wind down after the travel, yet Sam was stuck doing PE with his partner, so he joined in, though we never quite managed to find out if he enjoyed or hated this! The evening was mostly a relaxed affair spent with our families, with some being lucky enough to have a massive BBQ party or paid a visit to the local ice cream parlour, where they had a delightful 'Spaghetti-Eis', which is a special ice cream which looks like spaghetti – a bit quirky!

On the morning of the Friday, everyone gathered early at the Enkheim U-Bahn station, fuelled for the big day by the seemingly universal German breakfast of toasted Nutella sandwiches. Mr Jackson had learned his les-

son from the day before, and with Mrs Thomson's beady eye upon him, hustled us onto the U-Bahn where final preparations for the day were made. The group of Firnaaz, Muhammad and Nick were frantically crossing out large portions of their script, Jas was practising unpronounceable Polish words and Ishaam was frantically guarding his headphones from a bored Liam.

After about an hour, we arrived early (!) at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, where we were greeted by the Principal, Dr Bernhard Kup and told where and when we were presenting. Hassan, Ishaam and Liam's group seemed to have drawn the shortest of straws, as they were not only presenting first, but also had to perform thrice, once more than the other groups. This, however, proved fortunate as their first presentation was an unqualified disaster! Despite Hassan having bragged about having his video in "three different file formats", he was left awkwardly standing next to a black screen of shame as various technical underlings strove to remedy the issue.

With true Camp Hill spirit, he then proceeded undaunted to deafen the entire audience by shouting into the hypersensitive microphone! Luckily, these glitches were sorted out for their other two presentations, so all was well. The other groups, having learned from





superb experience, but everyone had to have an early night due to the extreme exhaustion caused by multiple presentations!

The next day, it was safe to say that all of us were still recovering from the day before, so most of us just slept in during the morn-

ing. For the remainder of the day, most of the families decided to take us out to the Frankfurt inner City, where a plethora of events awaited us. The Main Tower was a popular attraction, as the towering observation deck 57 storeys high was a nice area to take panoramic photos of the brilliant Frankfurt skyline. From the top, we could see many buildings including the offices of banks such as UBS and Deutsche Bank, and even the airport on the other side of Frankfurt. It definitely wasn't a place for those scared of heights! Others were also fortunate enough to go inside the 'Zeil Shopping Centre' which featured some massive shops and amazing architectural features, like a glass tunnel running down the entirety of the building. Even though we all did different activities, we all had an amazing time and the perfect way to settle down, we agreed, was a great dinner at our host families' houses.

After a free lunch consisting of fish and chips (or an entire family size pizza in Liam's case), we were then treated to a German "mixed-media" event, which was a little confusing to say the least. Despite our three years of learning the German language, we found the presentations of the prizes to be almost completely unintelligible, and were about to doze off when we were rudely awakened by some unwelcome news. We were not allowed to win prizes as our flights had been paid for by the university! We were not left entirely unrewarded however, as we came away with certificates, notebooks and copies of "Inflight Science" by Brian Clegg. Overall, the day was a

Sunday was the day, however, to say goodbye to our families, who had so kindly offered us an amazing time in the brilliant city that is Frankfurt. The morning was spent socialis-

ing with them and talking to them about our past few days, but at noon it was time for them to drop us off at the U-Bahn station to begin the return journey to Birmingham. Getting to the airport was far quicker than we expected, as the journey took less than half an hour, yet again proving just how efficient the public transport system was. But the irony was that we found ourselves waiting an hour before we could board our flight, as some logistical problems meant the A320 plane could not be loaded on time (this time, Firnaaz being spot on with the plane spotting). Nevertheless, we kept ourselves occupied by watching movies with Ihsaam, and, most importantly for Mr Jackson and Mrs Thomson, by listening to Muhammad tell us intriguing stories of his escapades with airports and security officers alike. Soon we were on the plane and at 19:00 we landed back at Birmingham to be greeted by our parents, or, in Firnaaz's case, be held up for an hour due to his not owning an EU passport!

I think it's safe to say that it was sad to leave Germany behind, and four days was far too short a time to explore the great country. On behalf of us all we'd like to thank the German, Chemistry, and DT departments for making this possible, as without their help we would have never been able to prepare our presentations effectively, and would not have been able to go on the trip in the first place. Special thanks should also go to Mrs Thomson and Mr Jackson, who shepherded us through various hurdles and shared many laughs with us on the way.

■ **Muhammad Ali**  
■ **Firnaaz Mohideen**





## Czech Republic Trip

Following what seemed like an age at school, on 17<sup>th</sup> July, a cohort of 40 Edwardians departed for the hotly anticipated trip to the Kořen Youth Camp in the Czech Republic. However, before the merriment could begin, a day of travelling across Europe by coach awaited us. Traffic along the motorway meant that our travel time was extended to 26 hours, but a box of tasty samosas courtesy of Garen Boora's mum provided much respite from the tiresome journey, even after Mr Nash and Mr O'Malley had been through the box – a big thanks to her!

We arrived at the camp the following evening and were directed to our chalets: our homes for the next nine days. Despite our fatigue, we explored the camp and quickly discovered the football pitch and before we knew it, a heated game of football ensued. True to their nature, the teachers settled down to end the day with a round of cold beers.

On our first morning at the camp, we participated in various sports activities. Undeterred by the sweltering Czech heatwave, six brave Brits took on six cheerful Czechs in a game of football. Mr McDermott, the referee for the match, commented that Camp Hill were the stronger team from the outset of the game. Had Mr Garrod been there, he would have been surprised to find that the efforts of the team DID in fact reflect the scoreline of 4-1 to us... Some took shelter from the sun and dabbled in table tennis, whilst others engaged with the German party in a casual game of volleyball.

Our first venture away from the camp was



a walk along Kosi Potok, or Blackbird Brook. We ambled alongside the brook and took in the idyllic Czech countryside until we came to a grassy clearing. Here we were split into several groups and we were instructed to build "ecologically friendly" shelters that could protect us from the elements. Several ravaged trees and plants later, it was evident that our architectural skills were not up to scratch, with less than half of the groups remembering an integral feature – a roof. Mr Nash was most disappointed. I think it was out of pity that the judges decided that we were "all winners" when it came to deciding the best structure, yet the activity was enjoyed by all.

This was highly pertinent to the individual that stuck his hand in 70°C water...

Ensuing this, we were allowed some free time in the city. Many of us decided to climb to the summit of the city and take a cable car ride over the town – providing a view of some of the filming locations of the 2009 Bond film *Casino Royale*. There was opportunity to buy souvenirs for home and eventually we discovered, much to our delight, several ice cream stands and confectionery stores. In their usual fashion, the teachers settled on what was described as a "giant feast" by one student and "a light lunch" by Mr Nash.

We had all enjoyed Karlovy Vary, but we all knew that the "highlight of the entire week" was approaching in the words of Mr May: the singing competition. We had been informed that this had long been an affair dominated by the Germans, so as evening dawned on the camp, so did the apprehension tinged with excitement of the boys. After perfecting their performances for mere minutes, the competition began with strong performances from a Czech soloist and German duet. Eventually, the time had come for Camp Hill to leave their mark on the competition and they certainly did. With their shrill rendition of Wiz Khalifa's "See You Again", Chalet Four managed to get the lowest score ever recorded at the camp. They may have hit the high notes, but the high scores eluded them. Chalet Two fared slightly better with their take on "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" – gaining bonus points from the judges by "doing everyone a favour and leaving the stage". With forlorn faces we watched more performances, but we had one last secret weapon: Tom Mansfield. With his loud and powerful performance of "Good Riddance" by Green Day, Tom won over the crowd and the judges, scoring twenty out of twenty and winning the competition for the UK for



In the evening, we went to the spa town of Mariánské Lázně. While many of us could not pronounce its name, we could all appreciate the picturesque town: a mosaic of parks, noble houses and impressive edifices. We also bore witness to the majestic and aptly named Singing Fountain. Coupled with Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On", the atmosphere was almost ethereal.

The following day we were brought to the grand and, in both senses of the word, colourful city of Karlovy Vary. It is historically famous for its hot springs and is the most visited spa town in the Czech Republic. Many boys drank the mineral rich water, as there is much evidence that indicates it aids cognitive development.





the first time in years. The conviviality of the event ended with the teachers wailing "Rockin' All Over the World" to a perturbed crowd with Mr Nash's drone making Chalet Four seem almost melodious.

With the zest of the previous night in the back of our minds, Tuesday was to be a day of sports and activities. Both the table tennis and basketball tournaments took place at the camp and in the town of Tachov, we engaged in a few mini-golf courses, partook in archery, cavorted around a football pitch and competed against one another in the bowling alleys. After much

frivolity, a huge outdoor swimming pool with a vast array of rides coupled with baking hot weather provided a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

The evening at the camp presented an opportunity for us to integrate much more with the Czech and German parties, as it was the first of two discos. An excellent DJ provided an effective gateway to improve "diplomatic relations" between the Brits, Czechs and Germans.

Though tired from a night of hard partying, we somehow managed to emerge from

our slumbers and leave for Prague at eight the next morning. Despite temperatures in excess of 35°C, everyone was full of enthusiasm for the day. We began our day just outside the enormous, yet architecturally magnificent St Vitus Cathedral. The historic element of this lively city was apparent with its countless and colourful baroque buildings. Just around the corner from here was the stunning Prague castle complex dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, which is the largest ancient castle in the world. Although the official residence of the President, sadly he was not in to greet us ...



From here we ventured further into Prague passing yet more picturesque buildings until we finally arrived at Charles Bridge. Here we were given some free time to take in all 516 m of the bridge, adorned with statues of various Catholic saints. We also saw some of the shooting locations for the film *Mission Impossible*, though sadly there were no undercover missions going on. After taking many photos, we went onto the rectangular Wenceslas Square. At one o'clock in the square, we witnessed the hourly "Walk of the Apostles" of the famous Prague astronomical clock, which is the oldest working astronomical clock in the world. With more free time in the square, many of us decided to visit the more modern parts of Prague to eat lunch; namely the nearby McDonald's and Starbucks. There were also many souvenir shops to buy gifts and there were countless places to pose for photos. A large spot outside the National Museum provided the perfect place for our obligatory group photo shot to end the outing.

For our evening meal, we were to have a fiery barbeque at the camp. We could really experience the "fieriness" when many of the sausages spontaneously combusted and there was a small skirmish with the flames, but in the end, we all enjoyed some hearty food.

The next day we spent in the grand city of Plzeň, beginning our day at the award-winning Plzeň Zoo. The zoo is home to a wide variety of species from lions and lemurs to bears and baboons, and we thoroughly enjoyed our time seeing these animals.

We were also given some free time to explore the rest of the city, with many of us

choosing to climb to the top of the cathedral of St. Bartholomew. Although most of us were out of breath when we reached the top of the seemingly endless staircase, the view of Plzeň's skyline was worth it.

To end the day, we returned to the town of Tachov for ice-skating – or rather attempting to ice skate. For the German and Czech parties, ice-skating is part of their weekly PE lesson, so naturally we all looked helpless in front of them. However, this was not necessarily a bad thing, as many of us feigned difficulty and were rewarded with help ice-skating by other kind skaters. The activity was truly a great ice breaker (pun not intended), with Sid Sharma impressing all with his graceful falls.

We awoke on Friday knowing that this would be the final day of activity for the trip, but we took full advantage of our daytrip to the town of Domažlice. The town boasts a market where all sorts of items were for sale at very cheap prices. The boys entertained themselves haggling with stall owners to get the best price possible for "authentic" watches and wallets.

Our final activity was the awards ceremony for the sporting events with Mason and Ruairi coming first in the basketball and Sid coming first in the table tennis. To end our trip, the farewell disco ensued in which "diplomatic relations" improved even further between the boys and their new friends. There was a raucous cele-



bration when Mr O'Malley stole the dance floor with his signature move: bobbing up and down with his arms out. After numerous chants of "O'Malley, O'Malley", we returned to our chalets a little sad that the trip was over, but happy that we had had such a great time. We departed the next day at the ungodly hour of six in the morning, and thankfully our return journey back to Camp Hill was less than 20 hours.

On behalf of all of the boys that went on the trip, I would like to express thanks to Mr May, Mr O'Malley, Mr Duncan, Mr Nash and honorary Edwardian Mr McDermott for organising the trip and making it a brilliant and unforgettable experience.

■ **Sunil Patel**









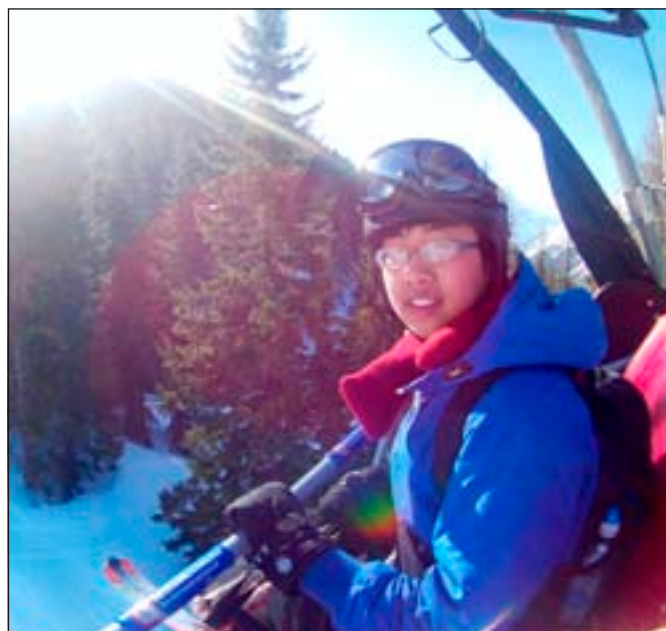
## Ski Trip 2015

A large party of boys from Years 8 to 13 enjoyed a fantastic week on the slopes in the Schladming area of Austria. The resort was made up of small interconnected areas and we enjoyed a varied week visiting a number of these.

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, a family run affair on a working farm, was very well appointed with a games room and superb cinema room. They looked after us brilliantly; food was wonderful and plentiful, while the lounge area was comfortable and welcoming. We enjoyed a range of evening activities that included quiz nights (where Mr Cookson's "countryside" round went down very well),

swimming and films. A safe and easy journey home ended another successful ski trip. Almost all the boys and staff made it home injury free (Mr Garrod volunteered to accompany our one injury home by plane) 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, Southall and Garrod – who all played an enormous part in the success of the trip.

■ P.B.



[Picture above] The beginners group

[Picture below] The whole group at the end of the week







[Picture above top left] View from the hotel

[Picture above centre] Intermediate ski group

[Picture below] Top intermediate group





# Drama

## Senior Drama

### The Hollow Crown

This year's production was something of a change from the usual play or musical and was staged at the end of the Summer Term, rather than just before Easter. Our resident Director, Mr Southworth, chose *The Hollow Crown*, which records the foibles and eccentricities, triumphs and failures, of the British monarchy, from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, through chronicles, plays, poems, letters, and speeches, interspersed with songs and music appropriate to each period.

Though such a show does not demand the learning of lines, and involves only minimum movement, it nevertheless is very challenging, because you are almost entirely acting with your voice; think, perhaps of radio plays. Here,

each actor had to play an array of roles and try to make each one distinctive; the result was impressive. Max Lavery, Carl Lawrence and Kingsley Bates quickly showed how much they have matured as actors, while Oliver Garrett impressed with everything he did, especially his rather scary rendition of James I's passionate diatribe against smoking. Jordan McDonagh, now a veteran of our productions, as always commanded the stage; he was an outstanding talent in *Me and My Girl* and *Death of a Salesman*, and his performance eloquently demonstrated why he will be greatly missed.

Kate Ramsden had to play all the female parts; coming into the show at the last minute, her performance was a delight, as she ranged from Henry II's formidable wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, to a tragic Anne Boleyn, writing her final letter to Henry VIII, a precocious Jane Austen and a sweet, ingenue Queen Victoria, happily remembering her chaotic Coronation.

As always, whenever Mr Palmer is involved, the music was superb. Fazal Shah opened the evening with a brilliant performance of a piece written for the Recorder. Tom Meehan sang and

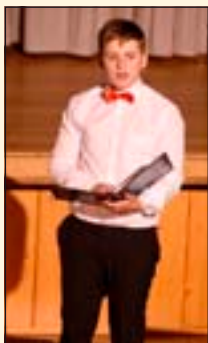
played the trombone with an easy expertise, and Ruth Owens, when she was not playing her violin, sang like an angel; her long lament on the death of Jane Seymour could have been a dirge, but, on the contrary, it was hauntingly beautiful.

If you do not believe all this, let me conclude with this comment from one parent who came to see the show. "I was really impressed with how intelligently the cast read, bringing real understanding and life to some difficult texts. I also enjoyed the variety of speech and music. All the young performers, both musical and dramatic, were excellent."

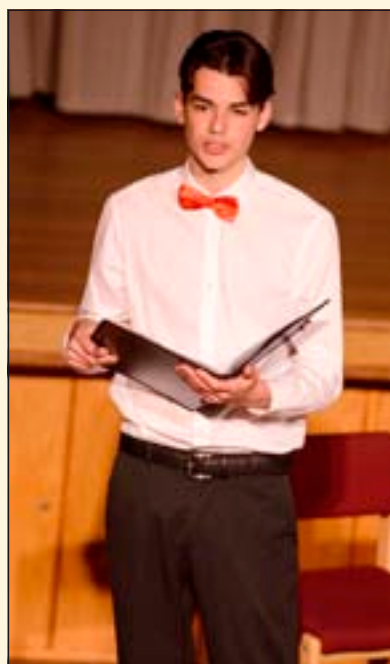
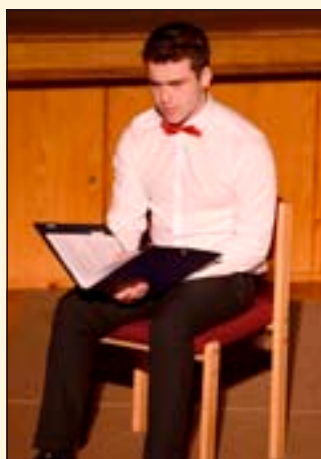
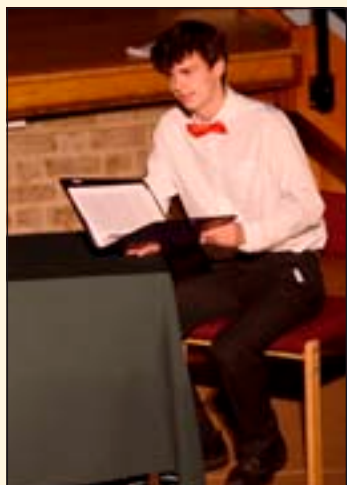
We must thank also Mr Downing and Mr Cattermole for their help and advice with the staging, but, above all, there was Mrs James. Over almost three decades, her contribution to every aspect of School Drama has been stunning; we had the privilege, on behalf of several generations of Camp Hill students, of expressing our gratitude and wishing her well in her retirement.

■ **Oliver Garrett**

– with a little help from his friends









# Junior Drama

## Smike

This year's junior drama production was a musical, *Smike*, a piece written in 1976 for Kingston Grammar School by Simon May, a Modern Language teacher at the School, who went on to a successful career in film and television music, most famously composing the theme tune for *EastEnders*.

*Smike* is set in a modern school where a newly appointed English teacher decides to encourage interest in studying *Nicholas Nickleby* by setting part of the novel to music. The children then act out the episode where Nicholas Nickleby is forced to teach in an appalling boarding school in Yorkshire, run by an infamous couple, Mr and Mrs Squeers.

As usual the direction of the play was undertaken by three Upper Sixth Formers – this year, Katie Weir, Jordan McDonagh and Andy Featherstone. All three can be very proud of their achievement. They had to work under pretty intense time pressures, but they never panicked, maintained a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere in rehearsals and produced

a show with some splendid set pieces for the chorus, especially the vibrant *Dotheboys Rock*, along with a wealth of excellent acting from the soloists.

Mr Palmer was the Musical Director and it showed; the singing was uniformly first rate and the accompanying band had all the usual splendid qualities of Palmer ensemble. Moreover, we must not forget the endless hours Mr Palmer spent acting as repetiteur.

The young cast, largely from Years 7 and 8, had to work incredibly hard; that the production was so successful owed much to their unflagging energy and cheery enthusiasm. It was obvious that the chorus was enjoying every minute of their time on stage, which added so much to the play's appeal.

The small cameo roles, such as Ryan Humphreys as Mr Snawley, Kareem Ahmed as Ralph Nickleby and Evie Wynne as Tilda, were carried off with aplomb and all the main soloists were impressive. Georgina Birt, was a convincing drama teacher who also played Squeer's unpleasant daughter, Fanny. Together with Oliver Ebenezer, as Master Wackford Squeers, she created an unlovely pair of spoilt brats;

both, incidentally, had tremendous voices. Rhea Deshpande's heartless, grasping Mrs Squeers also took the eye, and the ear; her high soprano voice was superb. Bilal Stitan – another lovely singing voice – was a calm, dignified and, in the end, very angry Nickelby, while Sam Gray, as the eponymous Smike, certainly knew how to tug at the heart strings.

He sang beautifully and his haunting lament about his neglectful parents, who had condemned him to a life of slavery at Dotheboys Hall, had more than one member of the audience reaching for the tissues. Finally, there was Mr Squeers, a massive part; hardly ever off the stage, Reuben Jones-Rigby acted and sang with style and invention; it was an outstanding performance which will be long remembered.

Finally, the Directors would wish to thank the lighting and sound crew and the stage crew, together with Mr Downing who was responsible for the set and to Mr Parkinson who painted it. Mrs James played her usual multi-tasking role, organising the costumes, Front of House and Make-up.

■ **Sam Gray**

■ *With help from M.R.S.*









# Music

## Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert is the first joint concert of the academic year, and an opportunity for pupils at all levels to perform. The Training Groups – String Orchestra and Training Band – played very well, particularly considering that they had only been rehearsing for half a term. There were a number of very good performances from chamber groups such as the Clarinet Ensemble, Cello Ensemble and Tabla Ensemble, plus some excellent solos.

■ S.P.F.







## The Hollow Crown

Usually, our Senior Musical was not in the Spring Term this year, but had been arranged for the penultimate week of the Summer Term. The piece was called *The Hollow Crown* and was an entertainment by and about the kings and queens of England.

With this historical theme, it was fitting to have period instruments. So it was that we had a small group of versatile musicians to sing and play in amongst the readings.

Fazal Shah gave real class to the production with some wonderfully subtle playing on recorders and flute.

Tom Meehan was a dramatic and effective solo Baritone and played stirring Trombone fanfares.

Ruth Owens' voice suited the music well, and she sang with a really good sense of the words, and also played violin.

Performed over three evenings, it was a most effective and moving evening's drama.

■ S.P.F.

## Birmingham Cathedral

On 1<sup>st</sup> February our Concert Orchestra performed in Birmingham Cathedral. The event was a Festival Service of the Royal School of Church Music to celebrate the Cathedral's Tercentenary. The orchestra accompanied a massed RSCM

choir of over 100 in music by Handel, Haydn, Stanford and Rutter. We had a very complimentary letter from the RSCM thanking us for our "significant contribution to the success of the event".

■ S.P.F.



## Smike

Junior Drama in the Autumn Term was *Smike*, a musical dramatization of Nicholas Nicholby. It was a great opportunity for boys and girls in Years 7–9 to develop their singing and acting skills, and we were pleased to have large numbers coming forward to audition for parts.

The cast worked really hard over a few weeks, including long sessions on Sundays, and produced an excellent show. *Smike* was played by Sam Gray, who sang his part most convincingly. Two other leads with solo sing-

ing roles were "The Headmaster" played by Reuben Jones-Rigby and "Mr Nicholls" played by Belal Stitan, and they did a really good job in bringing their parts to life. The cast were supported by an excellent band made up of school musicians.

■ S.P.F.





## Senior Concert

Before the Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils go on study leave we hold our Senior Concert. This is an opportunity for our best school musicians to perform, and is a chance for us to say "goodbye and thank you" to our musical Year 13 pupils before they leave us.

We were pleased to have a good audience, and the standard of the music was high. There were a number of excellent Chamber Music items, including String Quartets and Wind

Ensembles, plus slightly larger ensembles such as Cello Ensemble and Flute Choir. Saxophone Ensemble performed some excellent close harmony arrangements, one of which was by Mr John Meadows, their conductor, and Guitar Ensemble played two atmospheric pieces inspired by Spain.

Concert Band was on form in Discovery 1492 and then The Symphonic Beatles, and Concert Orchestra was enjoyed by all playing Theme from The Big Country and the James Bond hit For Your Eyes Only.

Towards the end of the concert we had the much anticipated, now traditional, "leavers' items". Again the leavers had done well, preparing songs for their last concert. They much enjoyed embarrassing Ms Hawthorne and I, making us sing a duet from the Disney film Frozen, re-titled "music is so much more". We did our best! After these items, Swing Band brought the concert to a rousing finish, ably directed by Richard English who will be studying music at Oxford next year.

■ S.P.F.





# Summer Soirée

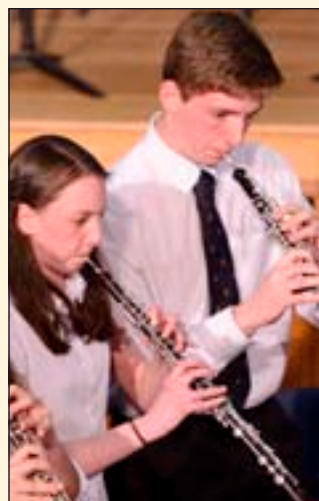
The last big joint concert of the year is the Summer Soirée. This is a chance for our Junior and Intermediate musicians to perform. Held in the boys' Hall, we were delighted to get great support from parents, so much, in fact, that the hall was completely full and pupils were sitting on seats out

in the school lobby! It was a very good evening of music making.

The Intermediate Orchestra began the evening, and there was some very good playing in an effective arrangement of *The Firebird* by Stravinsky. Many good chamber groups followed, which included Brass Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble and Tabla Ensemble. Of particular note were two solo

items: Qiyuan Chen (7S) gave a most sensitive performance of Schubert's *Impromptu No 3* for piano, and Jamie Wen (7J) a bold performance of Brahms's *Hungarian Dance* for violin. The evening closed with a tight and exciting version of *Flashdance* – what a feeling! – played by the Wind Band. A full evening of music, but we finished in good time at 20:55!

■ S.P.F.

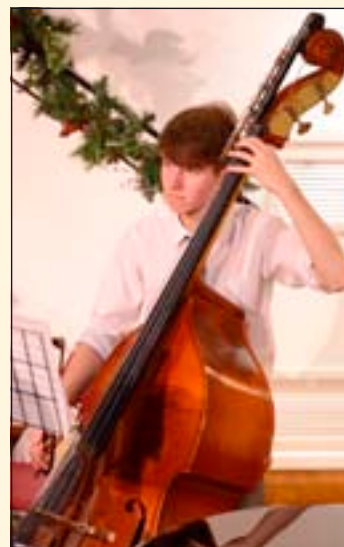
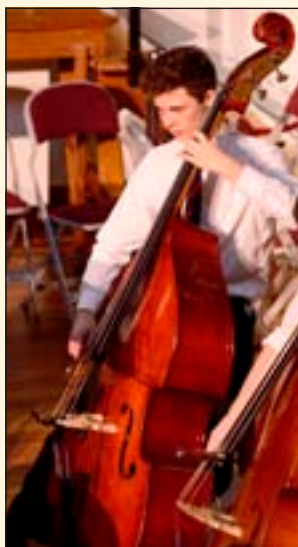




## Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is the main concert of the Autumn Term. Our senior and intermediate orchestras and bands perform, and there is a wide range of seasonal music from choirs from both schools. Concert Orchestra finish the concert with a rousing performance of Sleigh Ride during which Santa generally makes a visit and passes out chocolates to the children in the audience.

■ S.P.F.







## Carol Service

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 we had the School Carol Service, a most important event for the School Choir. This year we sang *Stille Nacht!* with guitar trio, remembering Christmas in the trenches during the First World War. There were also a range of other attractive carols, one featuring recorder player Fazal Shah, and another employing our Brass Ensemble. I am delighted that Old Boy David Todd [pictured right] returned to Camp Hill to play the organ for us. David is now an organist in London and studying choral conducting at the Royal Academy of Music.

■ S.P.F.





## Musical success outside school

Special mention must be made of Harry Atkinson [pictured below] who took his grade 8 Double Bass examination recently. He was awarded 146 out of 150 marks, and because of this the Associated Board have awarded him with one of their **Silver Awards**.



The certificate reads: "ABRSM Silver Award as a result of attaining one of the highest marks in Grade 8 in 2014". He also received a cheque for £150 to use to further his musical studies, which he was very pleased about! Harry is again a member of the National Youth Orchestra this year.

Fazal Shah [pictured above right] took part in the



Solihull Competitive Music Festival in September. Playing recorder, he beat 25 other young musicians to be judged "Solihull Musician of the Year 2014". He was awarded the **Helen Willies Trophy**, and a £250 bursary to further his musical education. Fazal also took part in the International Young Recorder Soloist competition in November and was awarded third place. The prize was a hamper of sheet music for recorder!

We were also very pleased with the large number of pupils who have been accepted into the Birmingham Music Service Orchestras, Bands and other ensembles. In addition to the many pupils who are already playing for the Music Service, these boys [see table right] found out that they were successful in gaining a place.

■ **S.P.F.**

## CBSO Concert

We maintain good links with Birmingham Music Service and our local 'Music Hub' which has a role in linking schools and other Arts organisations. We were delighted to take all our Year 7 pupils to

a free CBSO concert in Symphony Hall organised by the Hub called "The CBSO Guide to the Orchestra". The presentation and performances were excellent, and the boys really enjoyed the trip and got a lot out of it.

■ **S.P.F.**

## Academic Music

Boys have composed some excellent compositions as part of their GCSE and A level music courses.

**Folk Tune**

Harry Atkinson

Molto Allegro  $\text{♩} = 142$

Double Bass

Piano

6

com. aggressivo

11

Canabile

mf

**Dream**

Jonathan Hart

Grave  $\text{♩} = 75$

Oboe

Piano

6

mf

11

mf

### Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Fazal Shah ..... Flute  
Thomas Isaac ..... Violin  
Alec Lee ..... Violin  
Albert Chang ..... Violin  
Rohan Jobanputra ..... Violin

### Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra

Ravi Bange ..... Clarinet  
Isara Mahalekam ..... Flute  
Kushal Varma ..... Flute  
Max Johnson ..... Trumpet  
George Hynes ..... Trumpet

### Birmingham Schools' Concert Band

Primo Agnello ..... Clarinet  
Varshith Dasari ..... Clarinet  
Mohammad Farooq ..... Clarinet  
Craig Stewart ..... Clarinet  
Abhinash Nirantharakumar ..... Euphonium  
Yuhan Guo ..... Tuba  
Joseph Meehan ..... Clarinet

### Birmingham Schools' Concert Brass Band

Alexander Simpson ..... Tenor Horn

### Birmingham Schools' Training Wind Orchestra

Dave Rodrigues ..... Clarinet

### Birmingham Schools' String Sinfonia

Bradley Williams ..... Double Bass  
Jamie Devine ..... Violin  
Kevin Xu ..... Violin

### Birmingham Schools' Recorder Sinfonia

Kevin Matthew ..... Recorder

## Poetry and Music Concert

The Poetry and Music Concert is now a regular fixture in the school calendar.

It is a great opportunity for musicians to perform to an enthusiastic audience, and many boys offered to play. The musicians were Sam Gray (piano), Ibraheem Mohammed (guitar), Noah Lloyd (drum kit), Qiyuan Chen (flute), Toby Little (piano), Abhinash Nirantharakumar (euphonium), Miles Balderson (keyboard), Joe Thompson (guitar) and Jamie Wen (guitar).

There were also songs from the Chamber Choir plus a joint instrumental ensemble with our Year 10 GCSE group and Wheelers Lane Primary School musicians. The event was a great success.

■ **S.P.F.**

[See pictures: below and at the top of page 51]







## Teatime Concert

**O**n 11<sup>th</sup> March we held our Teatime Concert. This short concert, held at 5pm, is a chance for our training groups and a few ensembles to perform. The pupils enjoy it as they are given tea before the

concert; parents enjoy it as it's not too long! String Orchestra played first, and there was some very neat playing under the baton of Mr Richard Jones.

There were then a selection of excellent junior solos and ensembles. Junior Guitar Ensemble gave a stylish performance of

*I Giorni* by Einaudi, and there were fine solos from Qiyen Chen (flute) and Jamie Wen (violin). Training Wind Band finished off the evening with rousing versions of *Climb Ev'ry Mountain* and *Twist and Shout!*

■ **S.P.F.**





# Sport

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## Rugby

### 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby

2014–15 was not a classic year as far as results go. However, the overall enjoyment of a rugby season is based on more than just results. The squad of senior players was an absolute pleasure to coach; hard-working, spirited, and maintaining a good sense of humour (which was vital after some of the results). But in spite of all of the good work in training, the victories did not come about as often as we hoped they might.

However, let us not dwell upon the miseries of defeat. We won some games too! Victories against King Henry VIII Coventry, Prince Henry's Evesham and Lawrence Sheriff were notable amongst others, and many of our defeats were close run affairs. Several opposition coaches noted that our boys had given a stern test to their teams and competed strongly; many of the results were tight. And though the wins were few and far between, the spirit within the squad remained strong.

Several prominent and distinguished senior players left us at the end of 2014–15, and it is largely because of their attitude that we had such an enjoyable season. We shall all miss the intense (and mainly friendly) training rivalry between Jacob Bruten and Andy Featherstone, as well as their uncompromising and industrious centre partnership. Also, the effectiveness and mobility of our forward pack was never in doubt; we may have been out-muscled on one or two occasions, but our determination to compete remained as keen in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute as in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Will shall miss the fortitude of the likes of Ahsan Khan, Samson Gahir, Balraj Rai and Will Stenson. Our back-line too was full of Year 13 boys. Matt Lord played a significant role, supported ably by the likes of Jordan McDonagh. Ayrton Gill's meteoric progress as a player over the season saw him develop into a solid and dependable 1<sup>st</sup> XV player and once Chad Atkinson had fully recovered from his hundreds of injuries, he too became a fearless and important fixture in the team.

I have yet to mention Joe Cullen, who was our top try scorer with 14 in the season.

Of course most of these were scored in spite of having to contend with hulking, 17 stone, opposition forwards trying to remove his head from his shoulders. However, Joe's capacity to run through a gap that is not really there certainly helped to build his try tally.

Giles Moss, our captain for the season is the final player I'll mention. Giles was a superb rugby captain – quite how he achieved this I'm really not sure. With one or two other commitments and little things going on like being Head Boy and achieving 150 A\* grades at A Level, the fact that Giles had time enough even to play rugby is amazing. His calm and assured captaincy, during a tough season, should not be underestimated. He galvanised the side during the tough times and led from the front in the better times. And there were better times...

We finished the year on tour in Cornwall; a new venture for us following a number of years in Newcastle or Ireland. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Phil Carman for his organisation of a superb and highly enjoyable tour. And if the results of the season were a little disappointing, then they only served to motivate and inspire in Cornwall. Three fantastic matches saw us beating Devonport High School 31-5 and Bodmin RFC 20-0, and, in the most exciting game of schoolboy rugby in living memory, we thrashed Helston RFC 3-0.

So overall, a highly enjoyable season with much to reflect upon and commit to the long-term-rugby-memory section of our brains. My thanks go to all of the players (particularly those leaving for pastures new) and to all of the parents, teachers and others who have supported Camp Hill Rugby this year and over many years.

My final thanks are reserved for Phil Carman, whose commitment to school rugby over many, many years has been first class. He has been a great source of sage advice to me. In many rugby settings, a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV coach is often an unsung hero with the team playing "second-fiddle" to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Phil, to his enormous credit, has never allowed this to happen. Senior rugby as a whole entity has benefitted hugely from his tireless commitment and he will be missed next year.

■ A.J.C.





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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV started their season full of ambition with a considerable proportion of the team being Under 16s looking to prove their enthusiasm for senior rugby. It was also the final year of coaching for Mr Carman, the determined, influential and thoroughly competitive leader of the squad. These two factors lead to strong and dedicated performances from the team in every game of the season, resulting in several impressive results.

After a disappointing defeat to Old Swinford in the team's first fixture, we looked to make amends against a strong Bablake side. Tries from Alex Bonnor, Harry Atkinson and Alex 'the legend' Lane provided a first win for the side with a score of 20-12. This performance was very encouraging but a loss to KES in the next game meant the team were extremely fired up to take on Aston in what was to be one of the highlight matches of the year.

Forced to maintain a strong defence in the first quarter of the game, the Seconds were allowed to hit back with attacks of their own before the end of the half. Senior rugby veteran Ayrton Gill scored a superb try gliding straight through the Aston defence and this was quickly followed by a passage of forward play which was finished off by captain, Kingsley Bates to leave the half time score at 14-0. More strong defensive work, led by man of the



match Sachin Seneviratne, and a third try from Ahmed Ayad concluded a magnificent team performance: 21-0 to Camp Hill.

The momentum of this game rolled into the next fixture against Lawrence Sheriff, leading to a satisfying 22-17 victory for the team. However the next two fixtures were less pleasing, with two losses to Adams GS and KE Stratford. Tour followed these matches, and the team were extremely determined to finish the season on a high note. Wins in the first two games against Devonport High school and Bodmin were exactly what the team wanted, but a narrow loss in the final game against a strong Helston side was a slight disappointment. Player of the season, Edward Connolly was instrumental in both the victories and player of the tour and line out wonder man,

Richard Deutsch, also played a huge part in the squad's successful season.

Overall the season was extremely enjoyable and allowed the younger players to develop into a strong and cohesive squad, setting themselves up for promising seasons to come. In addition, on behalf of the team as a whole, I would like to thank Mr Carman for his work and commitment to the Second team over this year and many previous years. I feel proud that we were able to finish his period of leadership with a great series of games. His competitive nature, knowledge of the laws and dedication to the team and to senior rugby as a whole will not be soon forgotten.

■ **Kingsley Bates**

## U15 Rugby

This year we began the season with a promising start, having lost to Fairfax by a close margin. Two notable players in the match were Sid Sharma and Zulfiqar Khan, both having shown strong performances, which we continued to see throughout the rest of the season. In this game there was a noteworthy try scored by Dan Hill who executed the infamous 'F-Bomb'.

In the following match our convincing performance came through again. This led to a 42-36 victory over Prince Henry's, with Sid and Tom Perry both scoring two tries as well as Nick Surr and Zulfiqar scoring one apiece and Will Butler converting all six.

In spite of the encouraging win in the previous match, disaster struck and we lost three consecutive games against commendable opponents. After this point, we played some good rugby due to the forwards showing their potential and implementing the "pick and drive" play in the matches leading up to Christmas.

In this time period we won four of our eight matches, beating Southam, King's Norton, Lichfield and Wolverhampton G.S. In the matches running up to the end of term, Rizwan Qureshi scored three tries, one of which was an extraordinary catch from a cross-pitch kick against King's Norton that led to him scoring.

Within these eight matches two other prominent players, Zulfiqar and Murtaza

Nomani, played well, each scored three tries. We also had a tough match in awful conditions against Aston in November; the result (7-10) showed the overall improvement of our team as we had a very close game unlike our previous encounters over the years.

Following our return from the Christmas holidays, it took a while for the team to get back to its aforementioned standard of play, having only scored three tries in our first three matches in January. Then came the final games prior to the Junior Tour, It was our third match of the season against Fairfax, and there was a lot of pressure on us to perform well. Fortunately, we played very well; Tom scored a try and Sid scored two and was awarded man of the match for an excellent performance. This led to the remarkable result of 17-5, and it marked our first ever win against Fairfax.

At the end of our U15 rugby season, we went on the annual tour to Carlisle; this meant three last matches against Cockermouth, Wigton RFC and Keswick RFC. Unfortunately we only won one of the matches, yet the other two matches were close defeats. We had a 17-0 victory over Wigton in a 40-minute game, tries were scored by Sid, Zulfiqar and Hamza. Hamza's try in particular was very impressive, as it involved a 50-metre sprint down the pitch whilst weaving through several players.





All of the players deserve congratulations for their excellent performances throughout the year. In particular Tom Perry, back of the year, and Sid Sharma, forward of the year,

deserve commendation for their play.

We also owe our thanks and gratitude to Mr Southall and Mr Warrillow who coached us throughout the year. I wish all players the very

best for senior rugby.

■ **Will Butler**

## U14 Rugby

A great season, with much to congratulate and reminisce, there is also room for improvement and work on over the coming year.

The opening match of the year, Fairfax, proved tough partly due to the fact that we were missing key players such as Kamil Khan and Will Lyons, but also due to the vast improvement of the Fairfax side, a team who we had comfortably beaten before, now gave us something to concentrate on. Tries from Max Mulligan and Uwais Hafizal and a conversion from Dylan Rogers helped us win the match which kicked off a winning season.

Unfortunately after this win we suffered heavy blows in the following matches against Prince Henry's and Old Swinford Hospital. However successful matches against KES, Southam and Bablake proved that we can play quality rugby against good teams. Other notable matches would be the high scoring 45-45 game against Kings Norton, mention to Jake Tucker who scored two tries, amongst other scorers were Kamil who managed 4 tries in this one match alone. Another memorable match would be the close fought contest on the windy field of Adams Grammar which saw us come out on top in a 40-31 victory helped by hooker Adam Li which proved vital over the course over the season. Of course we cannot forget the gigantic win over Wolverhampton Grammar with four conversion from Josh Hall and first tries of the season from Faiq Syed, Harry Yate and Rhys Rogers (56-0).



Perhaps one of the highlights of the season would have to be the Carlisle Rugby Tour which saw the team prove themselves mighty in strong wins against Cockermouth School, Wigton RFC (which included players from the year above) and Carlisle RFC. Strong pack work from Ed Dempsey and Haseeb Mahboob helped secure possession while good communication and vision of play by Dominic Poole gave good ball to the backs which gave Ossama Chihani, Danny Blyth, Oliver Maclean and Harry clean ball to make use of in the try-scoring process. Unfortunately we saw forward prowess Harry Wells injured in the dying minutes of the Carlisle match but we didn't let this hinder the glory of coming home with three out of three wins on our first rugby tour. Elliot Spalding was missed on tour, but this loss was combated by the appearance of Henry Belai who successfully gave the forward pack

strength to win ball. Man of the match awards on tour were given to Dylan Rogers, Will Lyons and Kamil Kahn.

Notable mentions to Haresh Ram Abaan Butt, Haroon Choudry, Ahmed Syed, Faisal Zubair Alex Chudassama, Haseeb Ali and Joel Bell for fantastic play during the season and did credit to the team. Adam Li was the only player to feature in every game. Kamil top-scored with 41 tries.

A successful season which saw the development of players which would come in useful over the next year and we look forward to the next one. Many thanks to Mr Duncan who aside from being a great coach saw the best in everyone's playing ability. Good luck for the next season.

■ **Max Mulligan**

## U13 Rugby

A new year, a new rugby season and a new dawn for the U13 Rugby Squad. The 2014 season was a good learning experience for the team and offered us a chance to strategically appreciate the game more and gel as a team. The difference this year being we were more familiar with the rules and tactically, all credit to Mr Jones our coach, we knew exactly what we were doing and when to do it.

Our first match really set the tone for the rest of the season. We started the season away to Fairfax and were evenly pegged at the start, but found ourselves suddenly 10-0 down after two quick tries in succession. While, in the previous season our heads would have dropped and we may have capitulated and let in more tries, this year was different. It was game on! We fought back and tries from Leon Zhang, Judah Daniels and myself swiftly brought us back into the game and the score ended 29-10



to us. There is nothing like the thrill of victory especially when you come from behind and snatch the win.

We went on to win matches against: King Henry's 22-15, KE Aston 35-0, Bishop Vesey 34-5 and KE Stratford 19-17. There were a few

blips during the season with narrow losses to some very good teams but all in all, it was a great season and a huge confidence booster to us as a team. We finished off the season taking 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Greater Birmingham Cup, losing 10-5 to KES, winning 10-7 against KE



Aston and then losing 15-7 to KE Five Ways.

In my position as Forward, I have been ably supported by my determined colleagues. Matt Dixon was solid at prop and Pierre Lee adjusted well after moving up from the B team to become our new hooker throughout the season. Zaman Khan and Simon Halstead gave 110% regularly at second row, having recently stepped up from the B team along with Louis Parmar. The back row has been the main strength of our forwards with Rory Price and Jason Tahiri making strong carries at number 8 and Joe Clark and Henry Moreau-Smith turning in regular man of match performances at flanker.

The backs have been incredibly consistent this season. Tommy Ramsbotyn was very vocal and excellent at distributing the ball from rucks at scrum-half. Sachin Subramonian and Oliver Ebenezer showed consistent resolve at fly half, delivering outstanding balls down the line to the wing and kicking with a great success rate. Josh Birch and Judah Daniels formed a formidable centre partnership with Judah scoring 21 tries this season and getting us out of many a tight spot.

There has been strong contention between Bradley Williams, Ryan McNamee and Bilal Hussain on one wing. However another big source of tries came from Leon Zhang on the

other wing, who scored 15 tries with Kieron Taylor being solid at full back.

2014 has been an unforgettably successful season and I would like to thank the team for their massive commitment, support, work ethic, and for never giving up when things got tough. Our coach Mr Jones deserves great credit for his belief in us as a team, his rigorous training and preparation and let's not forget his vociferous shouting at the side lines. As you can imagine our goals are set even higher for Year 9. Well-done guys!!

■ **Michael James-Thomas**

## U12 Rugby

The rugby season started with a very daunting task on our hands. With most people in the squad never having played rugby before, it would be a tough job to bring the team up to a game-winning standard before our first games. We started the season with some pretty tough losses to teams like Old Swinford, Bishop Vesey and King Henry VIII due to the lack of experience in the team.

There were some games we were showing dominance and won massive victories, but there were also many games where we would lose by a few points or less. However the team was ever improving and the more we played the better we got. Our two matches against Old Swinford best show how much we improved throughout the season. We played them early in the season and we lost by over thirty points but we never gave up. As we trained and improved we played them several months later at their home ground, and after a hard fought game and a lot of effort put in by the whole team we came away with a pleasing victory. This victory gave us a massive confi-



dence boost as the season came towards and end but not before beating Fairfax, Kings Norton and Southam.

We ended the season on a high with a great performance in the Greater Birmingham tournament with good performances put in by all that led us to a win against KES and a narrow defeat to Five Ways. The entire squad played well with top try scorers including Ross Evans, Fintan Hogan and Richard Amoshe as

well as numerous conversion kicks from Luke Hemmings. The forward pack provided a huge contribution which led to a lot of possession and opportunity for the backs with a leading performance throughout the season from Jonathan Anderson. We are confident that Year 8 will see even greater success as the squad works together and continues to improve.

■ **Ross Evans**

## Cricket

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

The Camp Hill cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI season got off to a difficult start against KE Aston. With a new blend of players not quite starting the season with a bang, it was only Dom Paver's fluent 43 that provided some solace in our 32 run defeat.

This was quickly rectified in the next game against KE Stratford, a strong bowling performance limited the opposition to just 132-7 off their 20 overs, with Mustafa Chowdary and Henry Houlden taking two wickets a piece. The run chase proved to be a comfortable affair with an excellent knock of 74 by Ed Saunders, ably supported by Alex Lane (28), leading the way with the bat to 133-3 and a seven wicket win.

Our next challenge was a cup tie against



Bishop Vesey and it was clear from the outset that it would be a tough mountain to climb. The Vesey batting line-up ran deep but it was to our credit that we restricted them to 166-7

off their 20 overs, with Will Houlden claiming our best bowling figures of the season with 2/18. The run chase got off to the worst of starts with both openers falling without



seriously troubling the scorers. An excellent third wicket partnership between Jei Diwakar (49) and Alex (51) brought Camp Hill firmly back into the race, but after this pair was dismissed the innings stuttered to a 151-6 which was a disappointing conclusion having put us back into a winning position.

The resolve of the team was truly highlighted in the emphatic way that they bounced back from this tough loss to beat KE Fiveways. A tight bowling performance meant the opposition's innings never got going, Chad Atkinson led the way with the ball taking 2/21 and the Fiveways innings eventually crept to 105-5 off their 20 overs. An explosive innings by Ed supported by the cool head of Jei at the top of the

innings forged the path for a comfortable victory, with the openers finishing on (69\*) and (35\*) respectively. To win by 10 wickets was extremely satisfying!

The season continued with an enjoyable game against the MCC played at Kings Heath CC. Despite the result not going in our favour, huge credit has to be given to the boys for the determination to not give up fighting for victory. The MCC posted 222-3 and we were bowled out for 138, Dom top-scoring with 32.

The 2015 season was one of mixed fortunes for the senior side, but the manner in which the team carried themselves along with the talented cricketers making a name

for themselves, there is great promise going into 2016.

■ **Alex Lane**

Alex forgot to mention that the final game of the season was actually against the Staff XI who won by six wickets! In reply to the boys' 181 all out (Will 41, Mr Watkins 3/34) Mr Azam scored 99 not out for the staff. Together with Mr Southall's 66 (partnership 141) staff scored 184-4. A mighty victory for age and experience.

■ **M.W.D.**

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

In what was a very brief season for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, we contested two extremely close games of cricket. Our first fixture was against a strong Aston side who batted well to score 115-4 off their 20 overs. Captain Tom Else led the way with the pick of the bowling taking a commendable 2/28 off four overs and Ekamroop Takhar took a very economical 1/6 off his three despite his unorthodox off-spin style. With an achievable target in sight we started out strongly with openers Balraj Singh and Adi Thakral making 14 and 34 respectively. Ekamroop also scored a quick 17 but lackadaisical running between the stumps by the middle order inevitably lost us the game, falling an agonising 7 runs short of the target after being bowled out for 108.

In our other match we travelled to Stratford. After putting them into bat we got off to a good start with Satnam Ajimal taking a wicket maiden. Unfortunately sloppy bowling leading to 33 extras coupled with a strong Stratford middle order led to them making 145-5,



with Ekamroop taking 2/28 off of his four overs. Despite a top order collapse early on we managed to fight back with the bat through a strong middle order performance by Zidan Salim and Aqeel Zulfiqar who made 21 and 14 respectively. With wickets falling Satnam made a quick 14\* but despite a valiant effort in the

last three overs we fell just short scoring 133 all out.

Thanks must go to captain Tom Else who remained positive and led by example. The team put up good performances and many will look to break into the 1<sup>st</sup> XI next summer.

■ **Satnam Ajimal**

## U15 Cricket

The season started off with Camp Hill's U15 side looking to improve on last season's performances. The first game of the season proved to be a difficult affair again Lawrence Sherriff. Camp Hill batted first and after losing 3 early wickets, Salah Khan came to the crease and scored a respectable 32 runs – however that left Camp Hill being 91 all out when it came to the end. This proved no feat for the opposition who comfortably chased the target with overs to spare.

After this start, we were motivated to win our first fixture of the season, against old rivals Five Ways. Again, we batted first and it was left to Salah to score 52 runs with aid from his fellow batsmen to score a total of 118. Five Ways looked strong but our pressure in the field combined with our mental composure allowed us to secure our first win of the season. Into the first cup game of the season, against Fairfax we



were looking to secure a first round win and progress through the tournament. We batted first and with Adam Ahmed scoring 49 in addition to Safee Saleem's 38, we looked in dev-

astating form, as we totalled a huge 213 runs for a loss of five wickets. We thought this was a highly defensible score, but the opposition started off with a bang, With their star batsman



scoring 50 runs off around 20 balls the pressure was on – Until Salah took the ball and knocked the bails off. We were then eased into our first cup win of the season. After progressing through several rounds of the Docker Shield, we came into the semi – final against Washwood Heath, With our batting order crumbling, we were left with a very vulnerable score of 89

all out. But, after taking some vital wickets early on in the game via Aditya Dhiran, a win looked a possible prospect. It came down to the final 2 overs, in which Washwood Heath needed 20. Adam took the ball. The first wicket, then the second, and the third in succession to secure a hat-trick performance, but more importantly the win in the cup semi final. The team now

look forward to competing in the final at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in April. I would like to thank Mr Carman for his input and effort as a coach as well as Mr Duncan for organising these fixtures. Hopefully we will come back to Camp Hill in April with some silverware added to our cabinet!

■ **Safee Saleem**

## U14 Cricket

**T**he U14 XI team started the year demonstrating their skill and determination; clearly we had improved as individuals but more importantly as a team. Our first match was against Lawrence Sheriff and it was immediately clear we were keen to not lose our first home match.

The atmosphere was tense and Camp Hill already had their opposition on the back foot with some excellent batting moving the score along to 106-7. Fuelled by the scent of a win, Camp Hill produced a powerful bowling attack with the opening bowlers restricting the opposition where possible. Harry Yate took 3 wickets for 6 runs and Pranav Thatipamula took 2 wickets for 9, meaning that wickets were falling fast and victory was drawing nearer. As the game progressed the opposition chipped away at the Camp Hill lead and it looked like the effort of the team would be all in vain. However, tight fielding and well timed wickets from Owais Akram, Dhian Naik and Gurvinder Bhojie meant that our opponents fell short of our total, with a valiant score of 83 for 9. An amazing effort from Camp Hill was rewarded with a win by 23 runs.

Throughout the season each and every one of the players have contributed; against KE Five Ways Pranav scored 44 not out, and whilst we went on to lose this match it taught us a valuable lesson, never to assume the game was won and to always surpass expectations. This was a bitter pill to swallow although, I feel, it was to help us improve our game, and prepare us for even matches such as the one we were to face away to Princethorpe.

We arrived feeling regretful, nervous and embarrassed by last year's attempt, nevertheless we didn't want the match to be a repeat of an onslaught from both their strong bowling and their batting line-up. With Camp Hill field-



ing first, there was a tense start to the match; but Camp Hill did not buckle under pressure and produced several amazing spells of bowling. Muhammed Kurji took 2 for 21 and Joel Bell made sure he wasn't going to be hit out the grounds, with an impressive one wicket for just 5 runs. With a total of 97 set by Princethorpe, Camp Hill eased some of the early nerves as runs flowed from the start of the innings, Owais made an impressive 24 and Harry Yate hit a quick 27. How games can change with only two overs to go and Camp Hill closing in on the required runs wickets began to fall. What had appeared to be a likely unexpected victory started to fade. Then a few quick singles right at the end injected a new hope and we were all equally disappointed and pleased as the match was tied. Celebrations soon began when each player was issued with an excellent packed lunch provided by Princethorpe.

On a miserable rainy Saturday morning we played Bablake, despite the slippery surface the Camp Hill team played well. With Camp Hill batting first we needed to get off to the best start, Harry got 30 before being later dismissed

to the sight of the leg stump flying out of the ground. Pranav stabilised the team with 34 and Dhian made a quick 22 to help the team to a 133 total. Kamil Khan produced an excellent display on "how to field" and Owais took 3 wickets for 22. The bowlers deserved more but game-changing catches were dropped, as Joel once said "catches win matches". Despite the team's best efforts Bablake were too strong and won by 3 wickets.

In the final game of the season we played Queen Marys, Abbas Mirza kept very well behind the stumps, allowing the extras to be restricted. However catches were missed and Camp Hill had the opportunities but unfortunately didn't take them with only one wicket being taken. We took a lot from this game, despite losing we now know which aspects of the game to improve on.

I would like to say thank you to Mr Warrilow for coaching us this season and helping us to improve our level of play, I would also like to thank the team that played this year to make my time as captain a pleasurable one.

■ **Harry Yate**

## U13 Cricket

**T**he U13 Cricket Team had a very successful season this year, one which started slowly but gathered momentum and confidence near the end. The season started with a home game against Lawrence Sheriff in which we batted first and got 91 which in hindsight wasn't a very competitive score and the opposition managed to chase it down quite comfortably within 18 overs.

Our next match was against arch rivals Five

Ways. Five Ways batted first and managed to get 114 which we believed wasn't a high score at all and we felt quite confident in ourselves to chase it down. Unfortunately even though Vignesh Venkataramaiah and Sachin Subramonian got respectable scores of 23 and 26 we just fell short losing by 5 runs. Even though the team was disheartened by this result it just motivated us more throughout the season.

The week after the Five Ways game we travelled to Stratford to face them. After they

won the toss they put us into bat on a cloudy day. We didn't get off to a good start losing quick wickets but an incredible 65 run partnership between Kiren Marimuthu and Aadam Zafar managed to push our total to 108. Fortunately for us they only had one good batsman and after some tight bowling from all of our bowlers and a 10 ball over from Nikhil Gupta at the end we emerged victors by 23 runs, our first win of the season.

Our next match of the season was against



Princethorpe at home. Having won the toss we decided to bat and after contributions from Vignesh and Aadam we ended up with 128 a very defendable score. Feeling confident of bagging a few wickets Madhav Manoj bowled superbly taking 3 wickets for only 4 runs in his 4 overs and with that we managed to bowl them out for 46 winning the game by 82 runs.

Next up was our first cup game which was against Fairfax. The match was shortened to 18 overs and having being put in to bat we were confident of getting a high score. After losing both openers within the first few overs Vignesh came in and steadied the innings before accelerating at the end, ending up on 66 not out and taking our team's total to a huge 140. We went into the field very confident of defending this mammoth total which we did and we let everyone in the team have a chance to bowl with Hasan Akthar, Nikhil and Kiren all picking up wickets in a 81 run victory.

Our next match was again in the cup but this time against Broadway School. Broadway School batted first and after some amazing bowling from Sam Hope, Madhav and Vignesh we bowled them out for 51, an easy total for us to chase. But we got too complacent and switched round the order so that others could have a chance to bat. This ended up being a disastrous decision and after having an incredible collapse we only just managed to scrape through winning by 2 wickets. So we advanced through in the cup to face Handsworth and having lost the toss we were put into bat. Remarkably we managed to post an extraordi-



nary total of 138 with extras top scoring with 47. We bowled well in the game as well with Ryan Malhi taking 4 wickets as we won by 46 runs and marched on into the final where we would face Five Ways.

So the day of the final came and it was our chance of redemption. On a cold wet day after losing the toss we were put into bat and we managed to struggle to 95 with Vignesh top scoring with 36. We knew how good Five Ways were and after many intervals of rain the second innings started and even though we tried as hard as we could to defend the total we didn't have enough runs on the board and after another rain interval Five Ways chased down the total within 16 overs. Even though we lost the final the team can be proud of their

efforts during the season. The highest score was made by Vignesh with 66 runs and Vignesh also got the best figures with 2.4-2-0-4. There were also amazing performances throughout the season from Aadam and Kiren in the batting and Mohammed, Sam, Sachin and Madhav in the bowling with Saksham, Luqmaan, Hasan, Nikhil and Sufiyan with some good fielding performances with Bilal being reliable behind the stumps.

Thanks to Mr Tranter for helping during training sessions and Mr Southall for being an amazing coach and we wish him the best of luck in his new job.

■ **Sachin Subramonian**

## U12 Cricket

This year, the U12 Cricket team has made significant progress, helping us win a healthy 4 out of 7 games. As a side, our bowling has improved the most, making it our strongest area of the three. However, our batting and fielding often let us down. Nevertheless, it was quite a good season for the U12s.

We started the season in late April against Lawrence Sheriff. Having won the toss, we decided to have a bowl. Some good restrictive bowling from us held them to a par score of 96, largely due to a lot of extras (particularly wides). A couple of early wickets at the start of our run chase held us back but we eventually got there, after steady scores from Abhinash Nirantharakumar and Thomas Heppel, capping a good display all round.

The next game proved to be a large disappointment for the team against a strong KE Stratford side. We bowled first but let the match slip out of our hands. A total of 161 proved to be too difficult, despite good bowling from Sanjay Suresh, as we replied with 95, after determined contributions from Ibraheem Mohammed (39) and Amar Jandu (21\*).

We hit back after the disappointment of



the previous match with a strong result against a good Aston side. Keeping them to 106 was a good effort, considering the strength of their opening batsman. We replied with a bad start but managed to get there in the end with Abhinash top scoring with 46\*. More success was to follow, with the next game against Princethorpe producing a convincing nine wicket victory. Everyone contributed in this result at a time when we were playing our best cricket in the season.

Our next game was against Kings Heath where we batted first and produced a very good score of 101-2 (15 overs), once again being helped by extras (49). Strong bowling helped us reducing them to 55, congratulations to Aaryan Deshpande with the outstanding bowling figures of 3/9 (3 overs). An abandoned game against Queen Marys followed before our worst display in the season against Bablake. Batting first, we put up a mere 48 before they finished it off within nine overs in



our penultimate game of the season.

Looking to improve against a strong Fiveways side in the semi-final of the cup, we bowled first, reducing them to a score of 119. Unfortunately, our batting let us down once again and we only reached 66. Despite the disappointing last two matches,

overall the team has made significant progress especially with the ball in hand. Special thanks must go to Mr Tranter, Mr Southall and Mr Duncan for helping us, as a team, to improve as much as we did. Without them all of this wouldn't be possible. The highest score and best bowling figures were 46 not out and 3/6,

both by Abhinash, there were other notable performances by Ibraheem and Aaryan (39 and 3/9 respectively). The U12 cricket team should look forward to next season as I am sure it will be a successful one.

■ **Abhinash Nirantharakumar**

## Hockey

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

Going into the season we were confident in our squad's ability, and were happy to welcome a number of Year 11s stepping up to senior hockey after strong junior careers. The season didn't get off to the best of starts, but we put in a solid attacking performance in a 5-3 loss to a good King Henry's side, and defended strongly in a 2-1 defeat to Newcastle. We finally combined these two key aspects of the game and got the ball truly rolling with a 1-0 victory over a well-drilled Solihull School side, working well together as a team.

We followed this up with a frustrating 5-1 loss against a talented Bishop Vesey side, yet, despite the scoreline, our young defence displayed character, with Michael Pearce and Beant Thandi both showing they could make the step up to senior hockey. We bounced back from this humbling defeat with aplomb by steaming to a 2-1 victory over foundation rivals Five Ways, Nimreth Phull proving the star man with a strong all round performance, including a stint at centre back whilst everyone else in the team thought he was playing up front.

Buoyed by this empowering victory, we ambled to Rugby for a thrilling match against a strong Lawrence Sheriff team. This finished in a dramatic 5-4 scoreline, sadly going the wrong way for us. However, the match did see the team realise their attacking potential, Gethin Bradnam surprising even himself with his goal-scoring nous, ably supported by

Oliver Whitfield. The season then took a repetitive turn with a 4-2 loss at Vesey. But we were not disheartened, and put in a strong all round showing against Wolverhampton Grammar in the harsh local climate, with Jacob Smith the epicentre of a genuinely seismic performance.

After a tough mock exam season, the team was entirely revitalised and began the new term with a spring in its step, beating Old Swinford 7-0. This seven-goal thriller saw the disturbingly telepathic Kabeendan and Sanchudaan Murugesu lead the way, setting the tone for what we are all sure will be accomplished school hockey careers. A 3-0 loss to a much stronger Solihull side was followed by one of our strongest performances of the season, a 2-2 draw with King Henry's – a truly nail-biting experience for the usually unflappable Mr Watkins.

We followed this up with a pleasing victory against Queen Mary's (1-0). However, we couldn't capitalise on the head of steam we

appeared to be building up, and lost 3-1 to a powerful Stratford side. Our final game of the season at Aston was an emotional affair for those who were leaving school, and a strong performance duly came from all of our year 13s, but we couldn't quite close out the game, and it finished in a draw. This final match was arguably a microcosm of the entire season: a classic case of swings and roundabouts.

Gethin Bradnam ended the season as our highest-scoring player. Special mention must also go to Timothy Naylor for his captaincy, and to his two deputies, Jacob Smith and Nimreth Phull, without whom he wouldn't have had such a successful reign, and who constantly led from the front. These three senior players embodied the ethos of Camp Hill hockey and instilled it in all those around them, giving the season a positive and powerful feel throughout, and for that we thank them.

■ **Dom Paver**



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

Having lost a number of our key players from last year to the first team, it was always going to be difficult. In the first half of the Autumn term, as the team were getting used to playing together, we lost all our matches, conceding 23 and scoring 1, courtesy of Monish Vijaya Gopal and the assist from Greg Torkinski.

After half term we started to settle down and as a result became much more competitive, securing a 1-1 draw with Solihull 4<sup>th</sup>, with the goal from Alex Davis, before narrowly losing out 1-0 to Solihull 3<sup>rd</sup> XI; despite losing, this was by far our best performance to date.

Unfortunately, despite our improved form,





we were rarely able to field a full strength side, as interviews robbed us of a number of senior players. As a result, heavy defeats meant that we ended the term having conceded 39 goals and having scored 2!

There was a considerable improvement in the Spring term since new Year 11 players Aran Shubb, Adam Paulin and George Downing helped to strengthen our back line, and Azeem Hanjra, with Shaurya Maheshwari, provided some creativity up front, as they managed to

score goals which trebled the total for the season. The highlight of the term came against King Henry VIII School. As we went into half time only 1-0 down, we were hopeful of securing a positive result, and Zeyad Khalil duly found some scintillating form, scoring the two goals which gave us our first, and only, win of the season.

Despite the overall results, the boys can be proud of their efforts and the positive attitude they showed in the face of often far superior

opposition. Many thanks and farewell go to some already mentioned and also Aatif Syed, voted Most Valuable Player most often; Tom Holt, Most Improved Player and Oliver Paulin, Captain and Mr Reliable for the match reports. Given a strong group of highly motivated younger players coming through, the future looks promising and hopefully more successful.

■ **Oliver Paulin**

## U15 XI Hockey

After a decent first year of hockey, the Under 15 team were eager to see how they could fare for the following year. The arrival of Mr Watkins as the team's coach was promising due to his expertise as both a coach and a player and the team got off to a flying start.

Against Old Swinford Hospital on November 10<sup>th</sup>, Camp Hill won by a massive 8 goals to 0, with team captain, Dan Higgins, scoring 4 of them. Next up was Aston, who had proven to be tough opposition in the past, and, although the team battled well, they couldn't stop a 2-0 loss to the home side. The following game took us back to Old Swinford, who again were dispatched easily by Camp Hill in a 7-0 thrashing.

In early March, the team was ready to embark on a journey to Carlisle, where they would play Cockermouth, Ullswater and Austin Friars schools on the Junior Hockey Tour. Here the team unluckily lost 2-1 to Cockermouth, but then put in their best performances of the season against the other two schools winning 4-0 and 3-1 respectively. The team was very pleased with the results and Mr Smith, who accompanied them to the matches, described



the performances as some of the best he has ever seen by a Camp Hill U15 side, which is saying something.

Once back on home soil the final game of the season was a disappointing loss. Overall though, the 2014-15 season saw some great play and good results and will surely be remembered fondly by all.

Well done to everyone who played in the team. Special mentions go to Varshith Dasari

for Goal of the Tour, Isara Mahalekam for Player of the Tour, Sam Western for Most Improved Player, and Dan Higgins for Player of the Season. Good luck to everyone who will be playing hockey in the senior sides this year, they have developed well over the last two years and on the evidence of last season will be an asset to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

■ **Dan Higgins**

## U14 XI Hockey

At the start of the year in September 2014 there was not yet an U14 hockey team, but a few weeks into the term, the trials took place and the squad for this season was selected. As we still don't have an actual hockey pitch, the team played on the tennis courts, which we soon found out was not the best surface for hockey, or for the hockey sticks.

Unfortunately, the first match against Old Swinford ended in a 2-1 loss, largely because we had not had much practice on astroturf, which was much easier to play on than the tennis courts the team had become accustomed to. After the first game we were more aware of our strengths and weaknesses and we were able to address them in our fortnightly games session at the Olton training fields.

As the season progressed we soon started to develop as a team and we had a tight second game against Old Swinford. However the next game against King Henry's was a much



harder match, which the team lost 4-0, regrettably we didn't score in it. However, after our loss we realised what we needed to do to beat King Henry's the next time we played them.

Accordingly, in our second game against King Henry's we had our best result of the season, our first draw of 1-1. This is a great example of how all the individuals in the team and the



team as a whole have developed since our first game.

The whole team performed to the best of their ability and had a total score of 4 goals in our four games, all being scored by captain

Abaan Butt and all being assisted by vice-captain Alex Byrne.

The season has been a promising start for the team and we look to improve further for the 2015–16 season. The team are much

obliged to Mr Azam for his undying devotion to the development of the team, and to Mr Duncan for acquiring the training grounds for practice.

■ **Abaan Butt**

## Athletics

What happened to global warming? This season was spoilt by the weather, certainly through the first half of the summer term.

The Senior Foundation match did take place and although there was a good turn-out, our performance didn't match former years. In the Sixth Form team, as in previous years, Oliver Paulin won both the 800m and 1500m, Joe Cullen was successful at 200m, Jacob Bruten won his 400m race and 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Wes Blackhurst (400m), Will Stenson (Shot) and Samson Gahir (Discus). In the 800m, Oliver finished 9 seconds before 2<sup>nd</sup> place and in the 1500m he led from the start ending with 4.39.02 only 17 seconds ahead of the rest! Year 11 had wins with Cameron Steel (Long Jump) and Lewis Evans (High Jump) with second places by Cameron (100m and 200m) Lewis (400m) Edward Connolly (Hurdles and 1500m) and the relay team. Overall results were, Aston 267, KES 260, Camp Hill 240 and KE Stratford 108.

The next two matches were cancelled due to rain which was disappointing as it would have been the first opportunity for Year 7 to compete.

The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is still a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in 2 events and scores points for both performances. These points are added together for the whole team. Again the weather was poor for the first round and a number of events were cancelled. Despite this, the teams did superbly to finish 1<sup>st</sup> at both age groups and so qualified for the Midlands Regional A final. Best intermediate individual scores came from Chris Marshall 30 points, Dan Charlesworth 17 points in just one event (300m) and

Shreyas Annadate 20 points also in one event (discus). The Junior team had some outstanding results with Louis Cooke 47 points, (which is possibly the highest individual score since 2007 when the team reached the national final) and Leon Zhang 35 points. Sadly the Regional round occurred on a teacher day and we were unable to field our strongest teams. However, there were superb performances by Louis and Leon again but also Judah Daniels, Tommy Ransbotyn and Joe Clark. Highest scores in the intermediates were by Nick Surr and Dan Hill.

We did manage to squeeze in a Year 10 match with Solihull, Warwick and KE Stratford. Tom Mansfield was our most notable success with first in the 1500m and although we beat Solihull we eventually came third.

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 were outstanding. Finishing first were Kamil Khan (Hurdles), Alex Byrne (1500m) and Dylan Rodgers (800m) and second place to Kamil (Triple Jump). The rest of the team performed so well that the team placed second beating KE Stratford, Aston and Sheldon Heath. Year 10 had a similar result placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Well done to the usual ones but also to Johannes Beckett, Zulfikar Khan, Mason Jolley, Isara Mahalekam, Dan Higgins, Dan Hill, Liam Garside and Ruairi Lynch.

In the second half of the competition, both Year 8 and 7 competed superbly but sadly we have still not received the results from KES. I can recall that the Year 8 team looked as if they would be strong contenders for a win and there were some excellent results from Year 7. Congratulations to future stars such as Richard Amoshe, Ross Evans, Dylan Rees, Abi Nirantharakumar, Aadam Audhali, Andrew Lim, Joe Thompson, Miles Balderson, Fintan Hogan,

Joel Foster, Noah Lloyd, Gabriel Millet, Pavan Rana, Raj Tiwana, Usmaan Nadeem and Yusof Elsherbiny.

A small number of athletes were selected for the West Birmingham team in the County Championships. Notable performances at Intermediate age group came from Cameron Steel 5.80m in Long Jump and Tom Mansfield 4m 42s in 1500m; at Junior age group Alex Byrne with 4m 49s in 1500m and at Under 14 age group Louis Cooke 12.3 in 100m and Leon Zhang 26.7 in 200m.

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

■ **Oliver Paulin**

Oliver has been one of the strongest middle distance athletes at the school for many years. At school level he has dominated his events completely and it was last year, in the annual KES match, where the only serious competition he faced, came from our own Dan Mladenovic. Beyond school, his achievements have been many and significant; to mention a few, he won the Warwickshire U20 County Championships at both 3000m and 5000m; placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Kenilworth Half Marathon with a PB of 1:15:50 which ranks him in the UK top ten for his age group over this distance and finishing a 5 miles race in 26:55 placing him overall 13<sup>th</sup> in the UK. We wish him well at university and look forward to hearing of his future running career.

■ **G.H.**





## Badminton

The badminton club ran on a Wednesday evening for all players, on Friday lunchtime for team players. We are still very much indebted to Mr Russell for his continuing enthusiasm, expertise and coaching in preparing our boys.

In the Regional Championships we finished runners-up to KES at both U16 and U14 ages. Victories over Wheelers Lane and Bishop Challoner were convincing, but KES had strength in depth and duly qualified for the second stage.

We did exact an element of revenge in the Spring with victory over KES in a 10-man U15 match which included some exciting games. We also had matches for U18 and U17 teams. The number of boys entering the school at Year 12 who are fine players has increased and this together with some budding juniors has boosted both the numbers playing and the



standard as well.

A good many boys played for the school last year, well done to all of them. Particular thanks to Amit Chaudhari, Parvesh Konda, Isara Mahalekam and Sachin Subramonian for their commitment and organisation.

In House Badminton, Howard won at Senior level and Tudor at Junior level. Tudor were victorious overall due to their strength in depth.

■ **M.W.D.**

## Basketball

### U14 Basketball

The Under 14 Basketball team had a wonderful season, with only one loss in the league. We began our season against Bishop Challoner and with some terrific shooting from Haresh Ram, we managed to win the game 32-16.

The next game happened to be a Partnership Tournament, which if we won, would take the team into the Birmingham Winter Games. We won all 3 of our games, and only conceded 3 baskets all together.

Following our tournament, we played games against Queensbridge School, and Landau Forte, both of which we won comfortably, with high scores from Kamil Khan and Haresh. Then the team came into our toughest fix-

ture of the league, Baverstock. Unfortunately we narrowly lost the game 14-8, with all 4 baskets from Alex Byrne.

Following our defeat at Baverstock, we went into the Winter Games Tournament eager to impress. Without our highest point scorer, Haresh Ram, we had Sachin Subramonian fill in to complete our team. We lost 3 games out of 5 in our group, and were defeated by eventual finalists, George Dixon School, and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. Our final game of the season was against Kings Heath Boys School:

we won 31-13 with baskets scored by 6 of our players including; Owais Akram, Danny Blyth and Abbas Mirza.

The team had a very successful season,



with Rumun Ark being the only player who played in every game, and Haresh Ram who was top scorer with 54 points in 6 games.

■ **Rumun Ark**

### U13 Basketball

After only playing one match last year the U13 team were looking forward to a new season of basketball, facing some new, more challenging opposition. Our first game was against Nishkam HS, this was a comfortable win of 38-4 with Jacob Reeves being the top scorer with 10.

The next match was against Bishop Challoner, who had a team of 3, so we had to lend them some players. The players they did bring proved to be quite good but we won the match 33-19, the top scorer being Sachin Subramonian with an impressive 18.

Our third match proved to be the hardest of the eight games we played in the season, Landau Forte, they had some strong players

and ended up winning the game 30-13, scorers being Leon Zhang with 4, Joe Clarke with 3, Tommy Ransbotyn, Sachin Subramonian and Josh Birch with 2 apiece.

Our next three games were a breeze, Wheelers Lane (29-18), Baverstock (29-8) and KE Sheldon Heath (32-10). In February we had a rematch against Bishop Challoner, this time they managed to bring 5 players, this was a closer game than the first one but we still managed to emerge victorious, winning 24-18.

What turned out to be the last match of our season was one





against Turves Green – we had won the South Birmingham cup and now faced the winners of the North Birmingham league – this was the closest game we had played so far. With Turves Green getting many rebounds, we were winning at the half time break, 8-6. But by the last quarter the score was just tipped to the opponent's side, 8-12. We put our strongest team out, in an attempt to win the game but Turves Green had enough rebounds to score again twice, making the score 8-16 with three min-

utes to go. We had many chances but did not get enough rebounds to score more than once so at the final whistle the score was 10-16, the team played really well in that game but just missed out on a win.

A big thank you to Mr Southall for coaching us and for getting the team to the matches after school. I would also like to congratulate the players in the team who played in all of the eight games (six of which we won) these are: Tommy Ransbotyn, Sachin Subramonian

– who was also the top scorer with 68 points – Leon Zhang, Michael James-Thomas and Jacob Reeves. Thanks also to the other 11 members of the U13 basketball team – Simon Halstead and Joe Clarke (who both only missed 1 match each), Josh Birch, John Byrne, Mohammed Farooq, Esrom Abreham, Matt Dixon, Eyob Mekonnen, Ciaran Cunningham, Judah Daniels and Bilal Hussein.

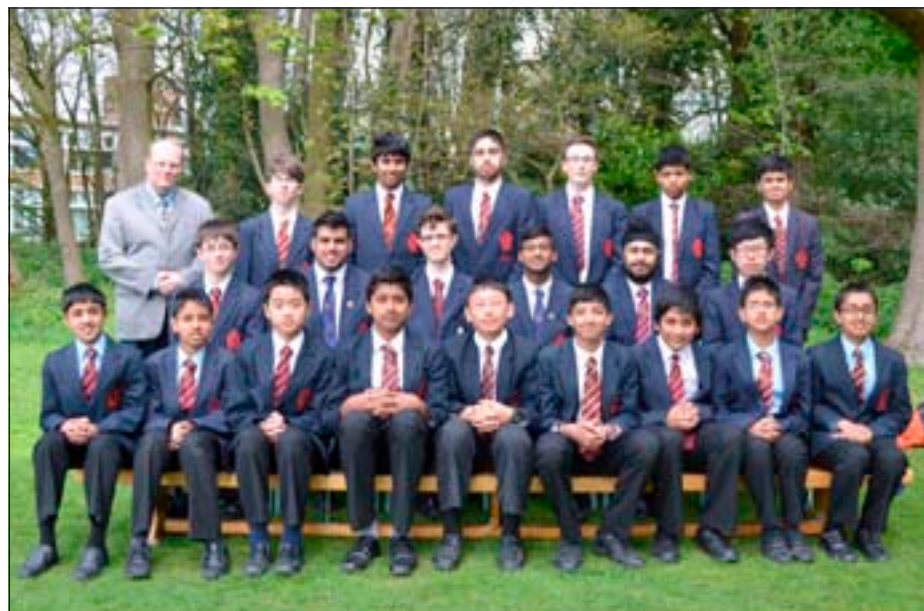
■ **Tommy Ransbotyn**

## Chess

We started the year with our annual individual tournament, which took place over seven weeks. Lots of boys entered, of whom 54 made it into the last round. The winner was Aman Chawla, and 30 boys qualified for the Megafinal stage of the national competition into which it feeds. This took place in Worcester in May. Nine Camp Hill players travelled there, and the day's excitement included dealing with extremely unco-operative car-park pay machines! Ajay John finished as Worcestershire U14 Supremo, while in the Under 15 section, Camp Hill took four of the top five places, with John Hayton finishing on 5½/6 and the U15 Supremo, and Vamsi Pratapa, Chris Marshall and Shammas Tabraiz, along with Ajay, all qualifying for the Northern Gigafinal at Wright Robinson College, Manchester, in July. At this tournament Chris and Ajay did exceptionally well, each scoring 3½/6 in exalted company and qualifying for the national Plate competition.

We hosted a new team competition in early November. This was for teams of four, and had a fiendishly complex structure which I did not understand. Fortunately, Alex Holowczak, our new chess tutor, was controlling and did understand it. Another thing I did not understand was why KES didn't bring their best players. The result was that our two teams came first and second, and the A team went forward to a national final at Imperial College in April. Mr Renault took them, and they came last but one. But they had a nice day.

Then there was the Under 18 tournament at KES, which occupied all of a Saturday late in November. This was also controlled by Alex Holowczak, and his improvisatory powers were stretched to their limit by the withdrawal of one school at the last minute. This left us with seven teams (I can remember when we would routinely get twenty teams in tournaments like this) so we decided to make an eighth team by detaching all the Board 8s, which meant that Ashley Hung didn't quite get the day he expected! The results ran true to form: we beat Wilson's B, Nottingham B and the team of Board 8s, and lost to Nottingham A and the



correct apostrophes of Haberdashers' Aske's.

There were two tournaments in the Spring term. In the Under 12 in mid-January, five teams took part, and we won, with Qiyuan Chen, William Yang and Tarun Sangha winning both their games. In the Closed Quickplay in March, we scored 8/8 in the first round, then another 8/8 in the second. We then needed one more point to be certain of victory, and got it rather easily, although we only scored 5/8 in the third round. Well done to all who played in these two tournaments.

League matches started after the October half-term and occupied most Friday evenings until March: many thanks are due to boys who played and parents who waited for them! KES are supreme in the League these days and the best we could do was to finish in second place in Divisions I and III. (I won't reveal how many entries there were in Division I, but it was an even number.)

In the competition once known as the Times, we had to travel to Leek, in Staffordshire, on a dark Tuesday afternoon in late November. On the way there, my sat-nav performed admirably, only taking us down one cul-de-sac, and then parking in a car park designed for small cars proved challenging. The match was played in an excellent spirit: our opponents were a Middle School, whose Board 1, when confronted by Oliver Whitfield, could only gasp "He's so tall!". We won 5½-½. Then we had to get back to Birmingham. My sat-nav suggested the

best route would involve going down the M5 to Junction 1. I did not connect this route with radio reports of West Brom v. West Ham, but I wish I had. It was much easier when the equally pleasant boys from Dixie Grammar School visited us the following Thursday. We won that match 6-0. Then we had to play KES, and our participation in that competition ended.

In House Chess, the results in Round 1 were Beaufort 5, Howard 3; and Tudor 6, Seymour 2. In Round 2 we had Seymour 4½, Beaufort 3½; Howard 6, Tudor 2. So we entered Round 3 with all four houses level on one win each. It could have been an exciting evening, but Seymour quickly crumbled before a strong Howard attack, and Beaufort finished off Tudor almost as easily, despite wins for Tudor on the bottom two boards. The House championship was therefore shared by Beaufort and Howard.

Mr Walker continued to provide his very valuable lunchtime tuition sessions to Year 7 chess learners, and will continue next year even though his son Aled is now only remembered by sixth formers. And, as mentioned above, Alex Holowczak started providing some "advanced" sessions after school on a Monday, which involved worksheets and homework! Once again, by popular demand, Camp Hill chess continues.

■ **A.M.R.**



## Cross-Country

### English Schools Cross Country Cup

We all know that Cross-Country is the most demanding activity and only those with real strength of character and determination attempt this sport; and the English Schools Competition is always an extremely challenging race. The combined Year 7/8 team ran well but lost position at the start, since the course was narrow. Best position in the team was Ciaran Cunningham then Henry Moreau-Smith, Joe Thompson and Josh Birch.

The Year 9/10 team, with seasoned campaigners, did very well. First in the team here was Alex Byrne, noteworthy since he was running against boys a year older, and was followed by Liam Garside, Tom Mansfield and Victor Kimani. They successfully qualified for the

Regional Final. This event was held 84.2 miles north, up the M6 near Warrington.

The team were competing against fierce opposition many of whom came from independent schools. Alex, Liam, Dan Hill and Rohan Sharma were our top 4 runners and given the conditions, did tremendously well. Sadly Tom sprained an ankle and Victor suffered with a stitch otherwise the overall result would have been higher. In fact reaching this stage was a triumph since, as a school, we have not qualified for this round for many years.

■ **Liam Garside**

### English Counties Cross Country Championships

Following a strong performance at the County Championships in January, Oliver Paulin was selected to compete for the West Midlands Schools team at the prestigious English Counties Cross Country

Championships; the highlight of any young athlete's calendar.

This year, the event took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March in Witton Park, Blackburn. Unsurprisingly the course was very tough including 3 laps with what some described as a small mountain! Oliver found the initial sprint pace demanding but as the race entered the final lap, the brutal gradient of the climb had clearly had a large effect on many athletes. As the pace slowed, Oliver's endurance shone through as he passed many to come home in 99<sup>th</sup> position, out of a field of over 300 of the country's best young runners, and complete the 6.7km course in 27:06, as the third finisher for a talented West Midlands team.

A cold in the run up to the event meant that Oliver did not finish quite as highly as he would have liked, but this was still an improvement on last year's 130<sup>th</sup> position, and was a pleasing return to the top 100.

■ **Liam Garside**

## Football

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

The 2014–15 football season of football at Camp Hill was a tough one. Results often went in favour of the opposition resulting in 2 wins, 1 draw and 9 losses, with Camp Hill scoring 8 goals in the process. However this does not do justice to the effort, commitment and attitude of the team throughout the year. Having played 12 fixtures, this equalled the record set in 2011–12 for the most games in a year, for which Mr Speake deserves great credit for consistently organising fixtures.

The season began with the traditional Kings Norton Boys fixture. Camp Hill were able to dominate both territory and possession from the off. The breakthrough came mid-way through the second half after a slick move allowed Aran Chowdhury to back heel to Aly-Raza Ismail to give Camp Hill the lead. Goalkeeper Josh Williams then kept Camp Hill in the game with a string of saves. After some solid defending, the game finished with Camp Hill as victors, something that would only happen once more.

Following our first success, we were keen to keep our winning ways going with a short trip to Moseley School. In a tense game, Camp Hill were able to come out on top and continue our run of form. Aran Chowdhury chipped in to score both of our goals, one from open play and the other converting his own rebound after their keeper saved his penalty. They managed to score but we were still able to hold on to run out as 2-1 victors.

With the taste of victory still fresh, we travelled to Heart of England School to kick-off our



cup campaign. Much of the first half was a stalemate, until the deadlock was broken when Heart of England whipped in a vicious corner, which somehow ended up in the Camp Hill goal. After the break, Heart of England were able to find another goal and double the score. Promising flurries from Aly-Raza Ismail and Satnam Ajimal gave hope, but this was quickly lost as a flood of Heart of England attacks left the score line at 5-0.

Our next games were both to be difficult games. Trips to Arden and Old Swinford both promised to be a test. Arden's strength proved to be too much as we lost the game 3-0, despite a strong second half performance. We suffered a similar fate at Old Swinford; even though we were first to score, the lead did not last, as they ran out as 4-1 victors.

Eager to change our fortunes, we travelled once more to Moseley school. In what was often a heated encounter, Camp Hill bossed the game from the outset, with possession being rewarded as Max O'Brien scored with a long range effort to put Camp Hill ahead. Despite our dominance, Moseley somehow managed

to equalise to put the score at 1-1. Camp Hill continued to dominate and were unlucky not to regain the advantage when Luke Greatrex struck a 25-yard free-kick off the bar; the game finished level.

A rematch against Kings Norton marked the return to the scene of our only victory to date. With this in mind, the team were keen to show they were able to do it again. This idea was quickly put to bed as Kings Norton managed to steal 3 cheap goals and were comfortably in the lead. A change of approach, moving Luke Greatrex into midfield and Connor Burns into defence, had an almost instant impact. A new sense of urgency radiated from the front line who were unlucky not to score prior to Luke Greatrex's last minute consolation. That left the score at 3-1, a disappointing result all-round for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

In the first of a two-leg fixture, we played Kings Worcester. Strong first half performances in both games were in vain, as on both occasions King Worcester dominated the second half and turned the game into a rout. Kings



Worcester were far superior in both games and left the score at 5-1 in the first leg and 5-0 in the second. The score line was harsh on the boys in both legs and the perseverance shown was commendable, particularly that of Luke Grea-trex and Joe McWilliam.

Our final fixture of the campaign was away to John Henry Newman Catholic College and the boys were eager to finish what can only be described as frustrating season on a high. Camp Hill were able to dominate the first half, but were unable to turn possession into goals. After regrouping at half time, JHN scored 2 in quick succession, leaving the players wondering how the game had turned so quickly. In search of a goal, the Camp Hill team were left exposed letting in their striker to make it 3-0, giving them the victory where the score line

did not tell the story of the match.

Overall, the season was a troubled one. Despite often cruel score lines, we tried to play an attractive brand of football and were still able to produce goals against some of the tightest defences around. The goals were evenly shared around the team but top scorer was shared between Aran Chowdhury and Max O'Brien, both registering 2 goals. Aly-Raza Ismail and Aran Chowdhury should be noted for their direct dribbling and flair that were ever present throughout the season, providing a great outlet when we suffered long spells under pressure. Joe McWilliam and Max O'Brien formed a strong midfield bond and Luke Grea-trex was a constant figure, who deserves credit for regularly keeping the score to a modest figure. Luke was also a great captain who set

a perfect example and his influence can't be overstated.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI would like to thank Mr Garrod and Mr Speake for their help running training sessions and organising fixtures, making football at Camp Hill possible, something the whole team is grateful for. The last year of football at Camp Hill has gone a large way to consolidating the sport as an important part of sixth form life and I am in no doubt that football will continue to play a bigger role at Camp Hill as time goes on. If next year's team can carry the spirit and desire of last year's XI, then it is certain they will enjoy playing football as much as we have this year, with the possibility of kinder results.

■ **Max O'Brien**

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI football season was an eventful one to say the least. Everyone who had a part to play gave it their all in each of the six matches that we played over the year.

The first game of the season was played away at Kings Norton Boys School in mid-September. The game seemed to come a few weeks too early for the inexperienced team, as we were still getting used to playing with our new teammates, which included a number of new Year 12's to the school. One player who took no time to show his worth was Max O'Brien, who made an excellent debut in the centre of midfield. However, we were outplayed by a far more experienced Kings Norton side that had been together far longer than us, and so we lost 6-2, with our goals being scored by Motaz Haider and Alex Tassa.

Our second game of the season came against Moseley School. In what can only be described as one of our worst attacking performances, we created absolutely no chances, and so when we went 1-0 down, it looked unlikely that we'd be able to conjure up a goal to equalise. Our defensive performance, on the other hand, was brilliant, as our defence deflected wave after wave of attack from Moseley. The match finished 1-0 to Moseley in what was a disappointing defeat.

Our next game of the season came in November, against a strong Old Swinford Hospital side. We started off strongly, causing the Old Swinford defence all sorts of problems, but a mix up in defence led to Old Swinford taking the lead. However, we didn't let this get to us, and Talvin Rai scored a brilliant equaliser to get us back in the game. However, it wasn't meant to be, as Old Swinford scored what proved to be the winner late on. We deserved more from this game, which finished 2-1 to Old Swinford.

We deservedly achieved our first win of the season in our next game, which was a rematch against Kings Norton Boys. Following our 6-2



loss to them earlier in the season, Kings Norton were full of confidence before kick-off. However, this led to their downfall as Motaz Haider stole the ball off their keeper to give us the lead. Kings Norton responded strongly, but our defence put in a spectacular performance to keep them at bay. Eventually, they were able to break through our defence, and equalised. Their happiness was short-lived, however, as Motaz scored again, with what turned out to be the winner for us. The match finished 2-1 in what was our best performance of the season.

Full of confidence following our win, we went into the next match against Kings Worcester full of belief that we could win again. Our defensive performance was fantastic, with Harjeet Andev keeping us in the game on a number of occasions, and our midfield trio of Oscar McNaughton, Satnam Ajimal and Ibrahim Muhumed were excellent, creating a number of chances for our attackers. Sadly, we were unable to take any of them, and Worcester made us pay for these missed chances, scoring two late goals to win 2-0.

Our next game was a rematch against Old Swinford Hospital. We were hoping for a

better result than our previous visit to them. We started off slowly, and conceded early on following good attacking play by Swinford. However, desperate to get a result, we soon equalised through a brilliant goal from Talvin Rai. We pushed for a winner, but sadly couldn't find it, with the match ending in a 1-1 draw. We were unlucky not to win in what was our final game of the season.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable season for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI football team. Even though we didn't always get the results we deserved, the whole squad played excellently throughout. 22 different players represented the team in our 6 games, with every single one of them giving 100% in each match. Our top scorer was Motaz Haider, who scored a respectable 3 goals, with Talvin Rai also scoring twice, and Alex Tassa once. We ended the season with 1 win, 1 draw and 4 losses; however these results do not represent our performances and the desire that we put into every game. The team has a lot of potential, and if we play the way we have over the last year, we look forward to a successful year as the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team.

■ **Mohammed Abed**



## Swimming

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, the swimming team set out on their first gala of the year against Warwick and Solihull School. Emerging from the previous week's Year 7 trials, three students made their debut appearance for the school; Ross Evans, Bowan Wang and Aditiya Bajpai. They represented the school well, particularly Ross who finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place against five older swimmers. The whole team put in a good performance, with several podium finishes across all age groups. Overall Warwick showed a dominating performance, but Camp Hill managed to hold off Solihull School to finish a respectable 2<sup>nd</sup>. Well done to seniors such as Alex Lane and Balraj Singh who led by example.

The next fixture featured only the juniors, and was against Bromsgrove. Despite our best efforts, Bromsgrove took the honours for the Under-12 age group. The Under-13s did an excellent job in winning their age category, in particular winning both relays. Well done to Joe Clark, Leon Zhang, Michael James-Thomas, Matthew Dixon, Simon Halstead, Yusuf Ahmad, Jason Tahiri and Ayyub Ali. Unfortunately the success of the Year 8s was just too little to win the gala, as Bromsgrove edged the victory by a mere two points.

In the corresponding senior gala at Camp Hill, Bromsgrove were again too strong, but special mention must go to Tom Weaver who, not daunted by the size and weight advantage of his opposition, came away with a convincing first place in the U16 backstroke. It is important to look at the small victories, such as watching the away team shiver and complain about the winter temperature of a pool with which we are all too familiar.

The term concluded with a series of Under-



18 and Under-15 relays hosted at Bromsgrove School, which featured around a dozen top schools in the Midlands. Our highest finishers were the senior medley team who came 7<sup>th</sup>, composed of Tom Weaver, Alex Lane, Matija Novovic and Alex Mishev, though Lewis Evans, Muhammad Ali, Adam Li and Henry Belai also swam well in their respective races. Despite not qualifying for the finals the team enjoyed their afternoon and it was satisfying watching the strongest teams finish with some very impressive times.

Our first school gala of the Spring term was our most successful. We were swimming at St. Martin's against three other schools in a fast paced event where each swim was only one length of the pool. The competition flew by, and in some extremely close races, Camp Hill surged ahead of the other schools with many first and second place finishes. It was a convincing win, with Camp Hill finishing first in four out of five age groups.

The highlight of the term was the House Swimming Gala, due to the competitiveness

of the event and the atmosphere created. This was always set to be an exciting prospect with school swimmers finally swimming against one another, competing for their House. In each age group the swimmer who collected the most points was the Victor Ludorum. This year that honour went to Ross Evans of Y7, Joe Clark and Leon Zhang of Y8, for the intermediates, Daniel Higgins of Y10 and in the seniors, Matija Novovic of Y12. The points between the top three teams: Tudor, Howard and Beaufort were tight as the gala drew to a climax. With the relays worth double points for each position there was huge potential for a comeback. However, Tudor managed to come out on top of the relays, and so cemented their existing lead to win the gala.

Well done to upper sixth students: Joe McElroy and Balraj Rai for their seven years representing their House and School, and thanks to Mr O'Malley and Dr Higgins for facilitating the regular Friday after school training.

■ P.R.J.

## Tennis

### Senior Tennis

The Senior Tennis Team (Tom Wood, Tim Naylor, Giles Moss, James Ternent, Ashrit Chohan) completed their season with three matches during the Summer term. We lost both our usual fixtures against KES 0-6 and Solihull School 2-4, and were unlucky to be drawn against Rugby School (last year's National Champions) in the Glanville Cup, this unsurprisingly resulted in a 0-6 defeat.

Despite it being a season where results have gone against us, the team has played with enthusiasm and good humour. In most cases they have been up against players with higher rankings, but have always played their matches



in the right spirit.

We say farewell to two Camp Hill Tennis stalwarts. James Ternent has represented

school tennis teams since joining the school and played in 15 matches during his time in the senior tennis team. Giles Moss is another player



who has made a strong commitment over the years. Although Giles did not play during Year 12, he has represented the school on 5 occasions this year. Tim Naylor joined Camp Hill in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form and has since been a regular in the senior team. We wish them well in the future and hope they continue to enjoy the sport. Tom Wood remains next year and we hope that Ashrit Chohan and Alex Hughes of Year 11 will form the basis of a strong squad. Well done to the senior tennis players. It has been a pleasure to take you this year.

## U15 Tennis

The U15 'A' team (Danny Blyth, Liam Garside, Ajay John, Alex Byrne and Johannes Beckett) have had an excellent season coming a very close second to KES 'A' in the league.

The highlights were 3 wins against Solihull School 6-0, KE Fiveways 4-1 and KES 'B' 4-2, but the match of the season was the league decider against KES 'A' played in September. There was

nothing to choose between the teams with the match score 2-2 after the singles rubbers. In the doubles, Camp Hill took the lead and were within a point of securing a win, but let KES back into the match to tie at 3-3. In the Championship tie break KES held their nerve better than the Camp Hill team to win the tie break 10-5 and progressed to the regional stages of the competition.

Particular credit must be given to Liam, who has remained unbeaten in all his matches this term and Danny who only lost once. They have also been ably supported by Ajay, Alex and Johannes. With Danny, Ajay and Alex all being still available next year the U15 team can hopefully look forward to another successful season.

The U15 'B' team (Johannes Beckett, Rohan Sharma, Vamsi Pratapa, Chris Marshall, Alex Byrne and Matin Ahmed) have a tough league programme against the 'A' teams of other schools. They had competitive matches against Priory School and Bishop Challoner; losing both 2-4, but beat Bournville 6-0.

## U13 Tennis

The U13 'A' team (Madhav Manoj, Aadam Zafar, Simon Halstead, Luke Hemming, Aryan Deshpande, Karthik Bhardawaj, Michael James Thomas and Mohammed Farooq). The highlight of the season was a fine performance in the Bishop Challoner School Games in which the team beat Wheelers Lane, Queensbridge, Bishop Challoner and KES to win the competition.

Our performance in the leagues, however, was less impressive, managing a win and a draw in 5 matches. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that 3 of the team are Year 7 players and they have undoubtedly gained valuable experience for next year.

The 'B' team (Aadam Zafar, Joe Shalabi, Sai Potluri, Kiran Maramuthu, Simon Halstead and Michael James Thomas) like their U15 counterparts also had a league programme of matches against 'A' teams from other local schools. Their one win was against Bournville 6-0.

■ C.M.J.

## Sports Day





















# Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	19	8	0	11	337	390
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	7	3	0	4	108	189
	U16	12	7	0	5	343	196
	U15	20	7	0	13	218	553
	U15 B	4	1	0	3	58	131
	U14	19	13	1	5	540	416
	U14 B	3	1	0	2	61	77
	U13	18	11	0	7	464	282
	U13 B	5	2	0	3	103	103
	U13 C	3	1	0	2	26	76
	U12	15	7	0	8	283	333
	U12 B	10	2	0	8	130	330
	U12 C	8	5	0	3	148	88
	U12 D	6	3	2	1	192	122
HOCKEY	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	18	5	2	11	33	49
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	17	1	1	15	6	62
	U15	7	4	0	3	23	12
	U14	5	0	1	4	4	13
BASKETBALL	U14	8	7	0	1	170	68
	U13	8	6	0	2	208	123
FOOTBALL	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	12	2	1	9	8	42
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	6	1	1	4	7	14
BADMINTON	U18	1	0	0	1	8	16
	U17	1	0	0	1	14	18
	U16	2	1	0	1	5	5
	U15	1	1	0	0	20	12
	U14	3	2	0	1	9	6

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	11	5	2	2	3

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	10	8	4	9	0



CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	5	2	0	3	E. Saunders 74	W. Houlden 2/18
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	2	0	0	2	A. Thakral 34	T. Else 2/28 E. Takhar 2/28
U15 A	6	3	0	3	S. Khan 52	A. Ahmed 3/11
U15 B	1	0	0	1		
U14 A	6	1	1	4	P. Thatimapura 44*	H. Yate 3/6
U14 B	3	2	0	1		
U13 A	7	5	0	2	V. Venkatamaraiah 66*	V. Venkatamaraiah 4/0
U13 B	3	2	0	1		
U12 A	7	4	0	3	A. Nirantharakumar 44*	A. Nirantharakumar 3/6
U12 B	3	2	0	1		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 <sup>st</sup> IV	6	1	0	5
U15 A	5	5	0	0
U15 B	3	2	1	0
U13 A	9	4	2	3
U13 B	4	2	0	2

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 – 2015				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	3	10	5	7
BADMINTON	3	1	2	4
BASKETBALL	6	2	2	6
CHESS	3.5	3.5	1.5	1.5
CRICKET	3	6	10	6
CROSS COUNTRY	5	3	7	10
FOOTBALL	5	3	7	1
HOCKEY	7	4	4	1
MUSIC	2	1	3	4
QUIZ	1.5	4	3	1.5
RUGBY	7	5	3	10
SWIMMING	7	5	3	10
TABLE TENNIS	2	1	4	3
TENNIS	2	3	4	1
OVERALL TOTAL	57	51.5	58.5	66







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