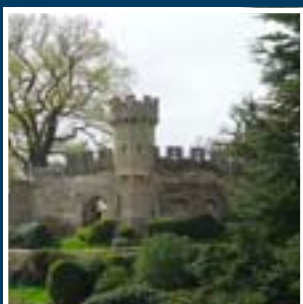


The Chronicle 2016





KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Read all about it! And you can, so enjoy this year's extraordinary offering from an extraordinary year. What springs to my mind as I try to think back over the last twelve months or so of another busy, busy year?

First up — Duke of Edinburgh. I am still bruised from year after year of gentle prodding from parents. Why doesn't Camp Hill Boys run a Duke of Edinburgh scheme? My answer was always the same: I would love the school to run the scheme, but the burden on at least one member of staff is inevitably great, much as we try to share the load. Indeed, it was six years ago this month that the school previously ran a bronze D of E programme, supported by external funding and an external organisation. Following that, I and another teacher looked into the possibility of continuing the offer; we both decided we simply couldn't find the time. So I was absolutely delighted when, last year, Keith Downing and Stella Morris stepped forward and said they believed so strongly in the scheme that they would run it. The AFS quickly put their money where their prods had previously been and Mr Downing went on a spending spree so that we could start the ball rolling. Sure enough, the demand was as expected —

massive: 104 boys signed up to take the bronze award. That cohort has just about finished; if only the last few would do the paperwork we could be signing them all off by half-term. My gratitude to Mr Downing and Mrs Morris is enormous; they have undertaken the work with enthusiasm and commitment, and I know 104 boys are as grateful to them as I am.

Another happy memory is only a month or so old (as I write): 60 years minus one day from the day when boys first stepped over the threshold of the Kings Heath site, we welcomed one of those boys back — Peter Barnwell MBE — to open our new classrooms and laboratories. The new facilities are a wonderful enrichment of the site. We've created some of the best views to be had from the school. If you haven't yet stood on the greenhouse terrace to survey the playing fields you've missed a treat. It commands a superb view of the cricket pitch in the summer and of the playing fields in general at any time. One of the biology labs has a beautiful large window, also enjoying a stunning aspect over our green spaces. Seymour has profited from the new facility, as we have been enjoying having all our House meetings back in our own school, rather than having to borrow a space from the girls' school — as we can open out the three new classrooms to make a single, large meeting space. In addition, Dr Barnwell also spoke to the whole school in assembly the following day, reflecting on his life as a businessman, academic, scientist and entrepreneur.

That sixty-year celebration followed hot on the heels on our celebration of the teaching career of Mike Southworth. Make sure you read Alistair Bulloch's tribute to our colleague, who worked at this school for 50 years. Mike Southworth's contribution to the life of Camp Hill Boys is staggering and humbling. From cricket to hockey, from Head of History to Chair of the Staff Common Room, from founder of the Battlefields trip to director of school drama, his work for the school has been as varied as it has been committed. Mr Southworth remains a part of the community as he will continue to direct senior and junior drama this year and,

we hope, for many more years to come. To have worked with Mr Southworth has been a privilege; his enthusiasm and positive view of all things related to the school are infectious. His kindness to colleagues and his wisdom when supporting them in his role as a union rep are well-known and fondly remembered. Staff, and many others, will of course remember the productions he himself wrote for performance by CHAOS (the Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society) as a vehicle to display Keith Phipps's comic genius and the teachers' complete lack of acting talent. CHAOS notwithstanding, he has inspired actors, writers, singers and historians, as well as many teachers. Whenever I meet old boys, no matter how old they may be, they always respond with fond recollections (as well as astonishment) when I tell them Mr Southworth is still here.

Mr Southworth isn't the only reason the press has shown an interest in Camp Hill. Suddenly in September all the King Edward's Foundation grammar schools found themselves flavour of the month with the country's journalists. Theresa May's announcement that the Conservatives would seek to reverse the law that prevents the opening of new grammar schools seems to have created enormous national interest. That interest focused particularly on proposals to increase the role played by academically selective schools in encouraging social mobility. That need had been identified some years previously by the King Edward's Schools and our work in widening access to our schools was suddenly recognised as a model for the country to follow.

Wonderful activities, wonderful facilities, wonderful staff and wonderful initiatives. Read all about it!

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster

Editorial

On accepting the role of Second in Charge, I knew the role would involve editing the Chronicle. Dan Wilkins has been the previous editor of the Chronicle before moving on to bigger and better things at Edgbaston High – he was and will remain a hard act to follow – particularly as he was a magazine editor in a previous life. So I felt no real fear or trepidation stepping into his shoes ...

In addition, as many of you will be aware, I like to be organised. (Dan was far more laid back than I am!) Sometimes, I am sure, members of staff feel that annoyingly I live in future time and try to organise several years ahead. Therefore, being the editor of *The Chronicle* for the first time, has been an interesting, challenging and humbling experience.

Despite (and hopefully because of) my increasingly desperate pleas, staff and students alike have risen to the challenge. Yet again, this year's edition, showcases the breadth of experiences that are offered to students at Camp Hill. From the domestic and exotic, from amazing Chemistry experiments to Sports and Music events galore – it is all covered here.

As editor, I was particularly interested in reading about the events that Chemistry have run this year. As a humble English teacher, reading about amazing (and potentially hazardous) experiments was fascinating and took me back to my school days, when I narrowly avoided losing my eye-brows for eternity. I am sure that health and safety is much better now!

Furthermore, it never ceases to amaze me the variety of trips that are offered at Camp Hill, from foreign trips to Iceland and Europe to domestic trips to the theatre, castles, conventions and even Wimbledon (a sneaky excuse for a staff jolly in my opinion Mr Jones). In difficult times, this can only be a tribute to a dedicated and ever enthusiastic staff.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this 2016 edition, as much as I have enjoyed editing it. And we can only look forward now to see what exciting events will take place in 2017, ready to furnish the pages of next year's Chronicle – the folder will be available shortly on the network – I do, you see, like to be organised ...

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

The Chronicle 2016

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Leavers

Mike Southworth



The summer of 2016 witnessed an event that many thought would never come, the retirement of Michael Robert Southworth. Mike finally bought the curtain down on a most distinguished career after he had completed 50 years at Camp Hill, an achievement unsurpassed in the history of the school. Few people, in any walk of life, can claim to have served with such distinction: I'm afraid that it is well-nigh impossible to sum up in a few words the remarkable contribution he made to Camp Hill.

The School to which Mike came in 1966 had only recently moved from its original, inner city site on the Stratford Road. In many respects, the foundations of the modern school we all recognise were there: the highly educated staff (in a Staff Room regarded as one of the finest gentlemen's clubs in the city), the intake of intelligent boys, the thriving House system, the numerous clubs and societies, the superb grounds and facilities and a reputation for sports. But it was, in fact, a very different place then: an all-male staff, virtually no pupils from the ethnic minorities and none from beyond the boundaries of the city, a significant number of leavers at the end of the fifth year (Year 11) and therefore a significant number who did not reach university. Camp Hill was one of many grammar schools in the city, albeit probably the best even then. And, in keeping with the period, no league tables, a very sparse inspection regime, limited parental involvement in school affairs, a very small administrative team and few visual aids bar chalk and blackboard. The pastoral system would not be in place for nearly three decades, special needs were unheard of, terms such as teaching and learning, or assessment were yet to bother teachers who had plenty of time in the summer term to play tennis and cricket

or even wander into Kings Heath Park to play bowls.

During Mike's time at the School much changed, not least its transformation into one of the very best schools in the country. Mike played a full part in that process, adapting to the new while retaining many of his "old school" values. He is the last connection with an era that is long gone.

Mike took up his post as teacher of History in September 1966, fresh from Exeter University where he had completed his PGCE after taking his degree at Bristol. This dalliance with the south west (during which he met his wife-to-be, Carole) belied his original roots – Mike is a man of the Red Rose county, Lancashire. He was born in sedate Southport and educated at Rufford J and I, Croxton Prep and Merchant Taylor's, Crosby before heading off to university. Though a long-time resident of Solihull, Mike's affinities remain steadfastly with Lancashire CCC and Preston North End.

In fact, Mike's association with Lancashire was instrumental in gaining him his post. Interviewed by the then Head, Alan Cholmondeley, Mike's knowledge of Cyril Washbrook's offside play and fielding at cover, rather than anything he knew about History, won him the job. Mike knew nothing of the school, bar a recommendation from his tutor at Exeter – the latter had apparently heard of Camp Hill even down in deepest Devon. And so began, perhaps a little fortuitously, an extraordinary career: it proved, yet again, that Alan Cholmondeley was a very perceptive man. He surely recognised that the tall, gangly, hirsute teacher of History was a gem, but I doubt if even he understood the impression that Mike would make on Camp Hill.

During what is generally acknowledged as an illustrious career, Mike made an enormous impact on life at Camp Hill. He is renowned for his tremendous contribution to sport in the school. For decades, he ran the senior cricket and hockey teams: he was in charge of both by 1973, introducing hockey to senior games in that year. Literally hundreds of young men were given the opportunity to play high class organised sport under Mike's guidance. His relationship with these young men was remarkable: if I might use hockey as an illustration, he allowed captains considerable leeway, expecting them to shoulder responsibility. Players were not cajoled or criticised, but were encouraged to express themselves on the field. And, teams were coached according to their needs – the glorious 1999–2000 team (including a young Tim Watkins) were managed without too much tinkering: the 2002–3 team, a much weaker outfit, were more intensively coached, Mike giving a huge amount of time to developing their ball skills and confidence. The boys reacted as very talented and intelligent young men are apt to do – very positively and often with great success. Mike's reaction to all this was, typically, to deny any credit and

suggest that his main contribution was in driving his teams to various matches. Much the same could be said of cricket where Mike spent long hours in coaching and, of course, umpiring: he looks back upon the demise of senior cricket with sadness – the extended summer examination period and the decline of cricket in many schools has seriously truncated the season. Mark Duncan who joined the staff in 1996, as Head of Games instantly recognised Mike's qualities and was very grateful that Mike had everything in hand and was quite happy to leave him to it.

Mike also ran Beaufort House for 31 years. I compare Mike favourably with Louis Van Gaal, late manager of Manchester United. The Dutchman was sacked recently for essentially not getting the Reds into the top four of the Premier League. Mike, having been asked to take over Beaufort from Dennis Marsden for just a year never failed in 31 years to keep his House, also the Reds, in the top four. And, unlike Van Gaal, Mike actually won the championship: true, it took a couple of years or so to get there, but he relinquished control in 2010 to Richard Surr after four wins on the trot. It is interesting to speak to those whom Mike trained and led over the years: their huge affection for him is undiluted by time.

Mike's commitment to sport was remarkable but it is possible that he will be even better remembered for drama, putting on over 50 productions (initially musicals and then straight drama too) of the highest quality. This golden era for Camp Hill started in 1971 with Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* and Richard Rodney Bennett's *All The King's Men*, before Mike developed a taste for drama, kicking off with *Journey's End* in 2004. Many will recall their own favourites – *Oliver* in 1975 (in which the aforesaid Mark Billingham played the Artful Dodger, alongside a young Keith Phipps as Bumble), the heart-stopping *Cabaret* (twice), the brilliant *Les Misérables*, *Sweeney Todd* (which Mike never wanted to do until he ran out of alternatives), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A View from the Bridge* or *Death of a Salesman*. As with sport, many young men (and ladies too – Camp Hill girls flocked to join these productions) were given the opportunity to show that they had other skills to match their undoubted academic prowess.

I have included the remarkable CHAOS shows (secretly venerated by the many staff and guests who performed in them), in part because of Mike's brilliant scripts, which suggested that he could easily have carved out a career for himself outside school. They also highlighted his ability to inspire the kids as Mark Billingham (actor, stand-up comedian and now a very successful author) testifies. He paid tribute when asked to look back:

“The CHAOS shows, without question, were the highlight of my time at school. You don't need me to tell you what a delightful man



Mike is, or what an inspirational teacher, but I can tell you that he was always hugely supportive of boys like me – those whose skill-sets might not always be... conventional. Thanks to Mike, I began to think that there might be a career in showing-off. It was Mike that encouraged me to perform... I have so much to thank Dougal for, not least for enabling me to avoid a proper job for the best part of 40 years. It is not overstating the case to say that, were it not for him, I would not be doing what I am now.”

Colleagues Keith Phipps and Nathan Hill agree that Mike has the gift of spotting and developing talent: Nathan cites the fairly recent staging of *A View from the Bridge* as an example. As he put it, “Mike eked every last ounce of talent from his cast, with Tom Dowling’s performance as Eddie Carbone being truly extraordinary”. Mike will also tell anyone willing to listen that it’s all due to the kids: as he tells it, they outshone the adult companies that Mike at one time worked with outside school. But Mike handled them with enormous skill and patience: he spent untold hours in perfecting scenes, working with individuals, working with groups in his calm and unflappable manner when faced with yet another catastrophic dress rehearsal. On top of that, Mike would also attend to the myriad of additional issues such as caretakers, tickets, seating and lighting. Nor would he refuse to help out (even save) junior drama productions: it was just in his nature. As usual, he would emphasise the contribution of so many others without whom these magnificent productions would not have seen the light of day but they were more than happy to help Mike. So, if Mike could have fashioned a career in script writing, then so too could he have done in direction and stage production.

Unsurprisingly though, Mike is most proud of his work as Head of History. He started under the great Geoff Sanders, famous for his love of kayaks and the canals of the Industrial Revolution. Geoff had the good grace to become Deputy Head in 1968 (before going on to be Head of KE Five Ways), leaving the way open for Mike to step into his shoes as HOD after

only two years of teaching. Another rigorous interview did it for him: Alan Cholmondeley enquired whether Mike fancied taking over from Geoff as Head of Department and Mike found the correct response. There followed a period of about 40 years as Head of a flourishing and very successful department.

Mike’s tenure as HOD was interesting and enlightening. I think that it’s safe to say that Mike was no stickler for administration: he was never too keen on Schemes of Work, for instance. He was not the tidiest of individuals: neither his office nor his desk at the end of the staffroom were adverts for good organisation. Nor did he enjoy an easy relationship with technology as a broken video recorder once revealed. However, none of this really mattered because, behind the old school persona lay a professional, and a highly intelligent one, too. Mike was genuine old school, letting his people get on with their jobs in the classroom, unencumbered by regular visits from him. He



inspired great loyalty and devotion from those who worked in the department over the years. Time and again, farewell speeches from those moving on would reflect the enormous respect and affection they had for Mike: the words of Rachel Turner and John Thomas still resonate. Even if he did lose the occasional set of books or mislay that pile of examination papers, he led a department which stood out on the Humanities side of a school dominated by Science and Mathematics.

Numbers choosing to take History A-level were always impressive, retention rates from AS to A2 remarkable, results brilliant as dozens and dozens of lads went off to top universities (including Oxbridge) to read History. Dan Stone, now lecturing at Royal Holloway, attributes his love of the subject to Mike’s teaching and his sentiments are echoed by a host of others. Although not his specialism upon arrival at CH, Mike quickly grew to love the C18th (a legacy of Geoff Sanders’ tenure), a period which was the cradle of the current political system. Indeed, Mike timed his resignation to coincide with examination boards’ unwillingness to offer a syllabus based upon the period. The success of his A-level teaching drew accolades from an unexpected quarter. I recall going to an Examiners’ Meeting in Coventry with him some years ago: when we arrived, there was no-one there bar a chief examiner. We began to chat and, when the fellow grasped who Mike was, he was delighted to inform Mike that he was a legend in the Examining community. Mike’s reputation rested on the quality of the lads’ papers, the marks/grades they duly achieved and the pleasure examiners had in reading their superb scripts. And, as the examiners recognised, the papers were so good because Mike’s teaching was brilliant. It is true, of course, that we have bright lads at Camp Hill, but Mike connected with them: his mastery of a subject he loved, his friendly approach, his slightly Mr Chips persona and, believe it or not, his occasionally steely look (one lad said that “he had a look that could kill from 20 yards”) ensured that he had them in his grasp.

Mike leaves one other legacy – he has established the annual Battlefields Trip (run since 1982) as one of the great School institutions, introducing literally hundreds of lads to the intricacies of the Western Front. This is Mike’s other great love besides the C18th. He is an avid reader of anything on the period and he likes nothing better than a quiet visit of a few days, on his own, to carry out some research. Staff who have been lucky enough to accompany him on the Battlefields visits recognise his expertise and his way with the lads.

Mike will always be remembered for these magnificent achievements, but his colleagues will also recall his more intangible impact upon the Staff Room. He was a great servant of the staff, occupying a variety of formal roles – as Staff Governor for many years, ATL union rep,

chair of the drama committee and Chairman of the Common Room Committee, for instance. It is in this latter role that he performed one of his most memorable functions, the delivery of the Xmas speech, a good-tempered, faintly libellous misrepresentation of the year's events and non-events. Usually written on the way to the venue, Mike was always sharp and occasionally a little brutal: staff rolled in the aisles, welcoming Mike's acidic comments invariably aimed at the biggest of targets – senior management, who had to stand there and take it, tight-lipped smiles at all times. The saving grace for many was that Mike's filing system for newsworthy events through the year was not terribly efficient.

However, it is Mike's informal role that will be equally hard to fill: his support and advice for so many, his role as spokesman for the Staff Room, his quiet work in tidying up the mess left by others (correction and re-writing of poor UCAS statements for instance), sorting out Junior Drama, organising and clearing up after staff functions, all done without fuss or recrimination. In said role, he has acted as father of the Common Room.

In addition, Mike has always been a regular participant in staff events – for instance, he is an ever present on the annual walking trip to the Lake District or Yorkshire. No mean sportsman himself (playing to a very decent level at King's Heath Hockey Club and CHOE CC), for years, he was goalkeeper in the staff football team and, of course, a regular (and long-time captain) of the Staff cricket team. He was always adept at keeping the score ticking along, usually when bowling, but occasionally when batting.

He was also a supporter of trips – Keith Phipps recalls his great support, helping on

several cruises: diligent in his duties, patrolling decks until the small hours and drinking large quantities of alcohol once kids were safely out of the way and yet ready at 6 am for another day.

Mike is a very decent and kind man. Seldom did he get annoyed at kids, always finding a way to approach an issue without confrontation – he would always be as positive as possible in writing reports or UCAS comments. Similarly, he would seldom express negative views at Parents' Evenings, invariably seeking to emphasise strengths rather than weaknesses. He also took a fairly liberal view when it came to dealing with miscreants.

As for staff, Mike's dealings with them were always polite, cheerful and constructive – he had little time for open and unhelpful criticism. John Dinham relates how Mike dealt very cleverly with him when John, having just joined the School, sought to make an impression in the staff cricket team. Beginning well up the order and fielding at first slip, it soon became clear that John was, perhaps, challenged. Quietly, he was moved down the order and positioned somewhere in the field where the ball was unlikely to go. All done without any fuss. Similarly, John was set to perform a fairly complex ballroom scene in one of Mike's early productions (*Oh! What a Lovely War*). However, once Mike ascertained that John (unkindly referred to as a flying pig by one member of staff – a Yorkshire biologist I believe) was not quite up to it, again his role was quietly downgraded with a minimum of fuss or embarrassment. John was very grateful and, now, over 40 years later, barely harbours a grudge.

So, little wonder that Mike received the

Ted Wragg Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2009, a fitting tribute to a tremendous and varied career. It spanned two generations, a period of enormous change at Camp Hill and in the education system as a whole. The School has survived the departure of many stalwarts over the years but Mike's retirement offers perhaps its biggest challenge. All in all, it is not clear how the Staff Room, let alone the school, is going to cope. The far end of the Staff Room will be a tidier place, no doubt, but that is small compensation for the loss. Mike is a giant, one of the truly great characters in the long history of a very fine school and he can retire, safe in the knowledge that he, more than most, made a major contribution to this hugely successful era in Camp Hill's history.

I would be surprised if Mike managed to effect a complete break – he will surely find the allure of the stage and the Western Front too much to resist. However, his days as a teacher and member of the Staff Room are over. The entire School community – past and present – will wish Mike and Carole a long and happy retirement, during which they will doubtless spend more time with the extended family, although apparently Mike will not be allowed to indulge his passion for decorating. His tireless work, deep intellect, modesty, unflappable nature, genuine affection for the lads, easy manner with all staff and lovely sense of humour have endeared him to everyone with whom he has come into contact. They can count themselves fortunate because they will not see his like again.

■ **A.J.B.**

Rachel Turner



Rachel Turner retired from Camp Hill at the May half-term, after twenty years of sterling service in the History Department. Born in Devon, she read History at Birmingham University and went on to teach

in various schools, including a spell at Camp Hill Girls' School. She took a break in 1994, when her daughter, Alice, was born, returning to us a couple of years later.

It was to the detriment of the Department that Rachel chose to teach part-time, and only in the morning; rumours that this was because of her infatuation with afternoon TV programmes were, possibly, scurrilous. What is clear is that she was, first and foremost, a fantastic teacher. I had the privilege of observing some of her lessons and, goodness, was I impressed! Always very thorough, she had the imagination to devise lessons which not only forced students to think for themselves, but also allowed them to relish the subject. Over the years, when looking through the comments of Sixth Formers writing in their Year Book as they left the School, it was noticeable that a significant number remembered, as one of the highlights of their time here, the enjoyment and inspiration of being taught History by "Mrs T".

Rachel wore her greatness as a teacher lightly. She was firmly down to earth and unpretentious; she rarely blew her own trumpet and could be disarmingly self-deprecating. Ever eager to pass on to her pupils her love of the subject, she challenged the brightest but, also, would never give up on those who, through shortage of ability and/or effort, found themselves struggling. Not surprisingly, her GCSE results were quite outstanding – almost always the best in the Department.

Rachel will be missed by her colleagues. She had a sharp sense of humour, which allowed her, in the daily banter which typifies life at Camp Hill, to take on, and even get the better of, the Common Room wits. To work with her was simply great fun. She leaves the School with our gratitude, best wishes and genuine affection.

■ **M.R.S.**

Daniel Wilkins



Following in the footsteps of Camp Hill luminary, Ms Lamb, Dan Wilkins joined the school from Arthur Terry in September 2013. After years of waiting, he was my first Second in Department and I knew from day one that he was destined for great things in the world of teaching. It's hardly any surprise, therefore, that we bid a reluctant farewell to him, after only three years at Camp Hill; his promotion to Head of Department at Edgbaston

High School for Girls is very much deserved and they are very lucky to have him.

Dan's one of the most intelligent people that I've ever come across (which probably isn't saying much when you look at who I hang around with), and his knowledge about all things English was phenomenal. He'd read more or less everything that has ever been printed in the English language and he was a human dictionary. The boys at Camp Hill have always respected intelligence and they quickly became in awe of the fountain of all knowledge that was Mr Wilkins. However, despite being a naturally reserved character, his ability to 'understand' the students never failed to impress. He was ever in demand for charity events, and there was always someone looking for Mr Wilkins just to have a chat. He was a real role model, someone they wanted to be like – I'm just surprised we didn't see a resurgence of the skin-head at Camp Hill!

Dan did a huge amount in the relatively short time he was here. I'm sure that Mrs Parmar has already commented on the fact in her editorial, that he produced three memorable editions of this very magazine, but he also played an integral role in much more. Along with Mrs Parmar, he was instrumental in reinvigorating the KS3 schemes of work, he ran Debating Society and was also pivotal in resur-

recting the library committee, which of course led on to the much needed changes in the library itself with the appointment of Ms Garvey. Rumour has it, that he even managed to get some of the staff to read books, though I'll believe that when I see it.

Dan's superb teaching enthused many students, and though he didn't give Maths or Chemistry any sleepless nights over A-level numbers, he certainly did his bit in increasing the popularity of the subject. His results, especially at A-level, were outstanding and testament to his abilities as a teacher. He clearly inspired several students to study English at university and his dedication to promoting the arts at Camp Hill is something I'm very grateful for.

It's fair to say therefore, that I'm really going to miss Dan. I'll miss the chats we had about 'Breaking Bad', graphic novels, films ('Blade Runner' and 'Fight Club' amongst others), life in general and even the odd book. I'll even miss the students telling me to ask Mr Wilkins! His departure is a real loss for the school, but as alluded to earlier, a loss that was always very much on the cards. Therefore, I wish him and his family all the best for the future, and good luck for his next educational venture.

■ N.H.

Ray Turner



This summer saw the retirement of Ray Turner, a well-respected character, in the Design Department. Ray served the Department for ten years, and over that time he became an established and essential member of the team. Having previously worked as a tool maker Ray was able to bring his talents to the fore, helping students to correctly (and safely) operate the manufacturing tools and thus to ease the delivery of the Design curriculum.

Ray was a true Camp Hill man; not only did he do his job to the best of his ability; he often went far beyond what was required or expected. In his service to the Department and

its students, Ray often gave of his time before and after school to help in any way he could. I am sure that students past and present appreciated his experience, particularly at coursework panic time.

A gregarious character, Ray was probably the only person I know who did not want to give up the responsibility of the photocopying duties, enjoying talking with a range of members of staff, as they came into the photocopying room for that last minute bit of copying.

In his day, Ray also took pleasure in participating in a number of sporting events; representing the staff at cricket and football and also enjoying the social badminton.

Not always blessed with the best of health, I am sure that Ray will enjoy his retirement to the full and I know that he has plans to tour the country in his nice new Corsa – *he was obviously paid far too much*. It was typical of Ray that when he should have retired at Easter, he offered to fill in until a new appointment could begin work – an offer that was gratefully accepted. I am sure that I represent many in wishing Ray and his wife Carol a very long and happy retirement.

■ K.D.

Dr Raj Varma



The Chemistry Department is indebted to Raj for the work he has carried out during his brief stay at Camp Hill. He was always enthusiastic about his teaching and passed this on to the boys. Outside of the classroom our hoards of medicine applicants benefited from his personal experiences and appreciated his invaluable help in writing their personal statements. Raj also willingly gave his time to help with DoE.

He has left us to join the newly opened Warwick International College and we wish him well in his new post.

■ A.J.T.

School Activities

ENGINEERING

Schools Aerospace Challenge 2016

Although this report is normally a regular feature of *The Chronicle*, that was not necessarily a foregone conclusion this year. The National Challenge is an annual competition organised and promoted by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Cranfield University, The Royal Air Force and other leading companies in the UK Aerospace Industry. It is therefore, with pleasure, that I can report, that once more, the Camp Hill Boys teams got through the selection process to become one of just twelve chosen nationally.

Initially, when we began the competition we had seven teams of three engaged in the



challenge. Eventually three reports were submitted and one team of three students from Year 12: Team Helios with Daniel Rodriguez, Paul Gardner and El-Amin Ahmed, who qualified on the basis of the quality of their report. They then went on to attend a residential week at Cranfield University in late July, where they met the other eleven teams, were introduced to the world of aero engineering and had the opportunity to go flying.

The theme for 2016 was Synergetic Air Breathing Rocket Engine (SABRE) technology. This is a revolutionary, integrated air breathing jet and rocket propulsion system that could potentially allow long range travel at Mach 5 within our atmosphere and could be used in space. Students were asked to make proposals showing how this technology could be adopted by the RAF in the future.

Our initial early lunchtime meetings in school put forward a variety of ideas and with some amateur tuition and background from me on the history of the development of high altitude, high performance aircraft and the current work of the UK pioneers, Reaction Engines Ltd, who specialise in this engine technology, and receive funding from the UK Space Agency, they began to get to work.

Eventually though, there comes a point

where the teams become, in sense, like commercial companies and ideas are no longer shared. Our successful Team Helios adopted an innovative airframe and engines materials technology approach in their proposals, with a strong supporting model for alternative payload systems.

The report from the team itself follows.

■ **C.J.**

Team Report

With our team lacking a lot of prior knowledge in aircraft design, let alone hypersonic aircraft design, we first went about researching the problem area. Most research was conducted around the SKYLON concept plane, which was an early design for an aircraft utilising SABRE technology.

Our own design [below left] was heavily inspired by this, using a very similar overall

shape, although with some novel features of our own, such as our Dynamic Panels and Interchangeable Modules idea. Other aspects of the design included a custom composite airframe and advanced control

system, with the quality of the report and design resulting in our progression to the finals. This took the form of a weeklong residential at Cranfield University.

The week was extremely enjoyable, having a good mix of talks, sports and other leisure activities. The presentations that we saw covered a diverse range of topics, including careers in the aerospace industry, overviews on different aircraft and even a session on the SABRE engines, delivered by the COO of Reaction



Engines. This was highly relevant and interesting, giving us a deeper understanding and appreciation of the underlying technology used in our aircraft. We also participated in a mock crash investigation to help broaden our awareness of careers in aerospace, and had a flight in the Jetstream National Flying Laboratory to experience the different dynamic modes of motion for the aircraft, both providing an enjoyable environment for learning.

Site visits complemented the aforementioned experiences, with a trip to both Marshall Aerospace and Hybrid Air Vehicles. At the latter, we were given the opportunity to see the Airlander 10, the world's largest aircraft, which is being developed for transport of heavy cargo over long distances. At the end of the week, we were also given the opportunity to try indoor skydiving, which was great fun for all of us.

On the whole, our team had a fantastic experience throughout the competition, made most enjoyable by the breadth of events, most of which we would not have had the opportunity to take part in if it had not have been for the Schools Aerospace Challenge. A special thanks to all those who helped organise the competition and the week at Cranfield University. We strongly recommend that others interested in engineering or aerospace participate in the competition in following years.

■ **Daniel Rodriguez**

Next Year

The 2017 Aerospace Challenge will start in January and is open to Teams of three who will be 16 to 18 years of age at some point in July and August 2017. See these links:

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

<http://www.reactionengines.co.uk/>

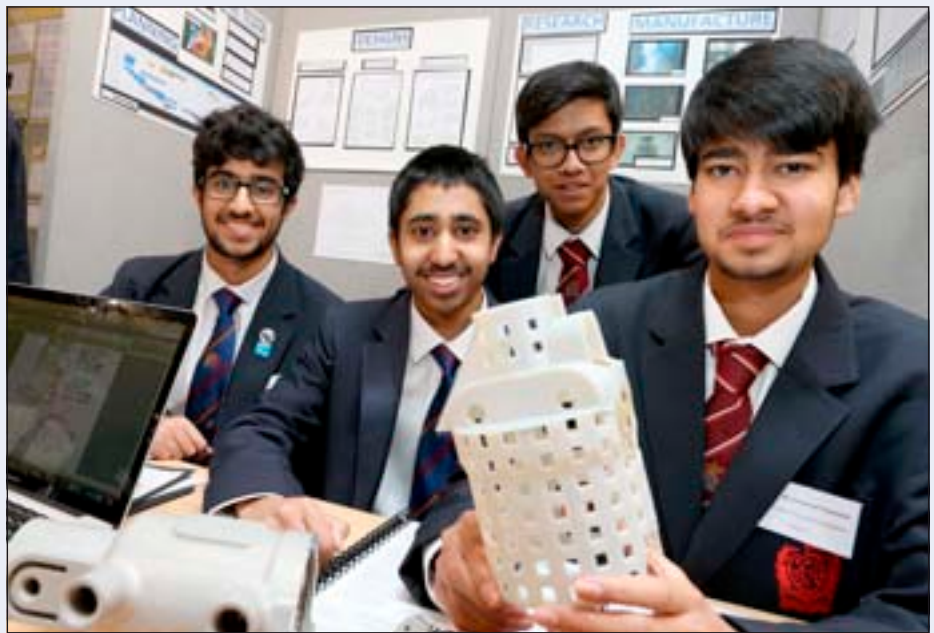
■ **C.J.**

Pictured below: Team Helios and other team members with the BAe Jetstream Flying Laboratory aircraft



Engineering in Education Scheme Rolls-Royce CDS

During October last year, a team of four Year 12 students (Daniel Rodrigues, Madhav Ramesh, Mo Rajabali and Muhammad Yasseen) were given the opportunity to work with three graduate engineers from Rolls-Royce to solve a real-life engineering problem. Our task was to design a method to improve the lifespan of elastomeric seals within a VSVA, a part of the jet engine which was failing to meet safety requirements. Having no idea what a VSVA was, we began with a tour of Rolls-Royce's factory, where we shown their machining capabilities and were given a physical unit and a detailed project briefing. We also decided on a time during the school week when we could meet for a weekly meeting, in order to update the engineers on the project's progress.



each possible design. When we tried this, the aluminium option melted, the mesh combusted and only the steel sheet was left, thus we concluded that the steel heat shield was the most effective solution.

Following this, we attended a two-day residential at the University of Birmingham. During this event, we were expected to produce our product. We were, however, well prepared, and had managed to produce 2D file of our design in

advance. This meant that we simply needed to cut the profile upon arrival using a waterjet and then in the proceeding time bend and weld the unit, whilst admiring the frantic struggles of other teams to get their items completed.

Following the workshop, we conducted a final fire test to evaluate the success of our product. The test was carried out much the same way as before, although this time using a

thermocouple to log the temperature against time, whilst this time the heat was provided by a propane torch. We conducted our experiment both with and without the heat shield and the results were astounding. With such a simple design (estimated at around £30), we had managed to halve the temperatures experienced. Now all that was left was producing the documentation to accompany the project, this was probably the most boring part, yet one of the important nonetheless. As a team, we managed to complete this quickly and efficiently through great team work and frequent communication, with everything ready to be sent off by the final deadline.

Overall, the scheme was an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience. Through taking part, we have all had our interest in engineering strengthened and proved that we were able to communicate and work as a team. Other than these personal benefits, the ultimate reward of the scheme is the unique experience that it provides, working on a project with real benefits to an actual company, something which will not have been experienced by many others of our age.

■ Daniel Rodrigues



Back at school, we started to research suitable materials and to produce a range of designs. After some discussion and a meeting with the engineers, we managed to narrow it down to a single material (steel) and three optimal designs. We found the best design by conducting a rudimentary fire test, this involved aiming a propane torch at the VSVA – a sheet of material was then roughly used to emulate

Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

Let me start with a question. How many opportunities do students have to witness the real world applications of science? Or to explore the use of cutting-edge technology? And how about experiencing project management at an international level? Then what about an all-inclusive package with all of the above and more? Say hello to the Engineering Education Scheme (EES).

As always, there were a plethora of applicants for EES here at Camp Hill and after a

rigorous selection and interview process, two teams of four students were selected, with our team collaborating with EATON Aerospace, a company specialising in fuel distribution in aircrafts of all sizes. Our team led by Lewis Evans consisted of Devan Patel, Adam Titchen and Hudhaifah Khanani [pictured on the next page], and were tasked with redesigning the layout of a workspace in the Easton Redditch site, which is used for a process which involved bending tubes to be used in aircraft. To help us do this we used our initiative and computer modelling packages. Working outside of school hours, we generated, tested and prototyped ideas. Although this sounds trivial, our numerous factory visits quickly made us realise what an

important task we had been set; our research and solutions would help increase the efficiency of one of the most important processes in the factory and potentially save the company thousands of pounds!

As part of this seven month project, we had the opportunity to use the University of Birmingham's fantastic engineering facilities as part of our two day residential. After finalising our plan of action for the mission ahead, we had a clear understanding of what we wanted to achieve. However, we were only able to accomplish some of these goals, the technology we had planned on using at the University was too small. Eventually we decided on our final idea and, while on the residential, despite



[Above Left] Tube Bend Cell Workshop [Above Right] Layouts before (above) and after [Below Left] Our Team [Below Right] Some of the bending components used in the workshop



the chime of witty Christmas jokes in the background, were able to design to a to scale model of the tube bending area as we envisaged it.

Despite the surprising complexity of our project and the time that had to be put into it, it was extremely worthwhile. As four hopeful engineers, this scheme allowed us to get a flavour of the range of fields that we could

pursue and would suggest that taken part in this scheme would be extremely beneficial for anyone who wishes to choose a career in engineering – particularly as it led to a Gold Crest Award. Furthermore, completing this scheme allowed us to improve our team working skills, as well as allowing us to learn how to make a valid engineering report.

As always, extra-curricular schemes such as this are made possible by the fantastic commitment of the teachers here at Camp Hill, in particular Mr Nash, whose support throughout the project was instrumental in our completion of the scheme.

■ **Devan Patel**

Student Robotics Competition 2016

The premise of the Student Robotics competition is deceptively simple. You need to build a robot, over the course of six months and then this has to compete against other robots in an apparently trivial task. This year's task was called "Sunny Side Up" and its objective was to create a robot that could turn as many coded coloured cubes on a pitch to your team's colour as possible.

Unfortunately, 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 controls: all robots entered had to operate autonomously, relying on sensors and computer vision.

The CHB Team, which consisted of Team



Leader Joe Malt, Tom Wemyss, Thomas Meehan, Jon Saad, Anna Turitsyna and Lucy Walsh [all pictured on the next page] was formed in October 2015 and initial development was reasonably speedy. We brainstormed ideas immediately

and got on with putting together our initial designs at the Kickstart Launch Day, which took place at Bristol University.

Back at school, the number of manufacturing hours rose and saw Tom Meehan and



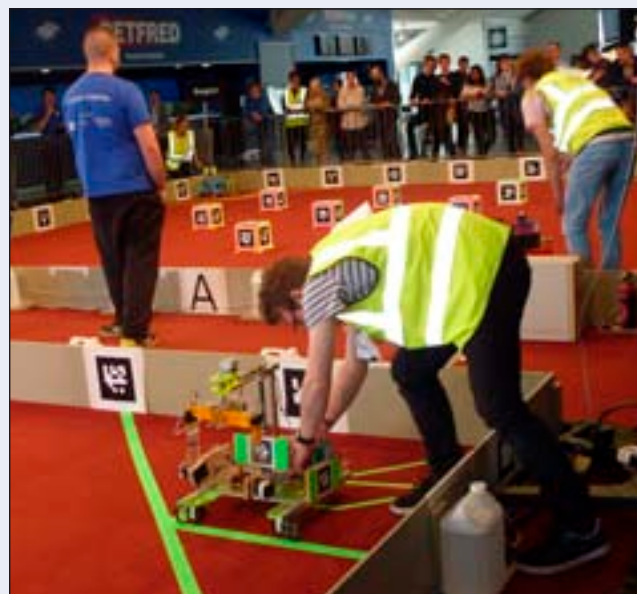
Tom Wemyss working on the robot flipping device. Unfortunately, this snapped on its first visit to the competition arena and was therefore redundant for the rest of the competition weekend. Over the next few months we created a running chassis, but it would be fair to say that this was a little late and we only made relatively slow progress until the end of the Easter holidays. This resulted in problems and testing time.

In addition, we were not quick enough on the mark on the programming side and the majority was done the night before the competition at a team member's house. Nonetheless, stimulated by caffeine and a deadline, remarkable things happened and, by the opening of the competition on Saturday 30th April at Newbury Racecourse, the robot was mostly ready to do battle.

Within the competition arena we had limited success, but still achieved a finish within the top half of the competitors and hope to build on this in future years. Hopefully, with improved organisation, planning and development we can produce a more reliable robot to do battle.

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.

■ **The Student Robotics Team 2016**



CHEMISTRY & SCIENCE

Ecton Mine

Last July, a group of Year 12 chemists embarked on a journey to Ecton Mine, which is in the heart of rural Derbyshire, to discover more about transition metal chemistry and the history of the mine itself, once the largest mine in Europe. After a two hour journey, and a few wrong turns, we arrived at the site, eager to see what we could find out from such a unique place.

Firstly, we were given a tour of the mine from the surface of Ecton Hill, giving us glimpses into the mine shafts that have existed since the 18th century, and their effects on the landscape since. We were also able to see the buildings recently restored by the National Trust; including an engine house designed by Watt and Bolton, the oldest of its kind still surviving. This proved that there is also much to learn about the chemistry and geology of the landscape, as well as the history of the area, which has been mined for 3500 years. Unfortunately the tour of the site also led to me to being shocked (literally) by the electric fence that surrounds the mine – the guide said he'd





“leave it to us to decide if it was live or not”, and unfortunately I made the wrong decision.

While there we also had to identify and collect rocks containing transitional metal compounds from the hillside, which we would use later in chemical tests. These tests involved preparing samples and carrying out experiments to identify the metals within the compounds, and was a great chance to gain first-hand experience in the science of transition metal chemistry.

We then moved on to our next task, which was to make black powder, and, after being given the equation for its combustion in oxygen, calculate the mass of charcoal, sulphur and potassium nitrate required. We had to be careful as to how we did this, as we needed to avoid accidentally triggering an explosion! Thankfully, we successfully ignited the black powder (safely) outside later that afternoon.

The tour into the mine itself was by far the most intriguing and exciting part of the day, as we could now see into the shafts that we had previously only observed from the surface in the morning. We were led through a series of dark tunnels and vast caverns, occasionally

having to walk bent double, as the ceiling was so low. There was much to see, from unusual rock formations and mineral deposits to the scars left from explosives used centuries ago, and it was definitely unlike anything many of us had ever experienced before.

We then went to the recently restored the dressing floor of the mine, where copper ore was cleaned and processed. This project had been undertaken by Historic England, and was due to be opened officially on the same day, and some of us were given a chance to take part in the official grand unveiling. Devon officially cut the ribbon, and for some of us there was an opportunity for a photo that made it into the local paper. This means that every avid reader of the *Ashbourne News Telegraph* has now seen Adi sporting his Camp Hill rugby jumper.

Lastly, I would like to this opportunity to thank Mrs Atwell for organising such an enjoyable trip and also to Mr O'Malley, Mrs Mitchell and Mr Jackson for giving up their time to accompany us for the day.

■ **Ismael Silvestro**



‘Chemistry in Action’ Lectures at Warwick University

On Tuesday 17th November 2015, a lucky few of us, who had decided to take on the challenge of Chemistry at A-level, were picked to go on a Chemistry trip to Warwick University to watch a series of interesting lectures from lecturers from a range of major universities in England.

Surprisingly, this was a very intriguing experience, as we all learnt a lot of interesting chemical facts that were both practical and helpful in helping us to understand the world around us. Our first lecture, on “The Wonders of Carbon”, explained how one element can have

a colossal impact on our lives. From phone batteries to medical resources to army technology, carbon has a range of different benefits, as it can exist in a vast number of forms. At the end of the lecture, the lecturer presented us with a diamond knife and a large ice block. We all stubbornly assumed

that no matter what knife was being used, ice would be difficult to cut through and would not be smooth. However the majority of the audience were shocked and confused to see that the diamond knife could cut through the ice block like it was butter. After seeing one



person do this the whole lecture hall wanted to try, and we were all equally astounded when we discovered that this was no magic trick: diamond knives are extremely powerful.

Following a short break, we got ready to listen to the next lecture. Once we found out

that this would be the famed "3D lecture", we all got excited and started taking out our 3D glasses and waiting patiently for the ultra-realistic images. This lecture was entertaining and informative, was made more funny by the fact that we all began to doze off in between the 3D images. Still we learnt how lithium ion batteries work.

Next up was an interesting lecture on herbal and plant based chemistry, which forms an important part of our medicine today. We were taught about the work of Nobel Prize winner Tu Youyou, who is still relatively unknown in our society despite her spectacular achievements. Through her research in China, Tu Youyou developed a drug that cures malaria.

What is so astounding about her achievements is that it was all done in China (she was the first Nobel Peace Prize winner to do this), and that she used traditional Chinese herbal medicine and nature to find out the cure. Who could have thought that the cure for one of the world's most deadly diseases could be found in ordinary plants around us that most of us ignore. It is this that makes her achievements more astounding. Adding evidence to the fact that plants are more useful and wonderful than we even know, with limitless properties that can help and aid the human race.

The final lecture was another thrilling and deeply interesting one. If you are superhero fan like me then you would have also found

this fascinating and almost revolutionary. Ever thought of becoming Iron Man? Ever wanted to have the powers of the human torch? Well this lecture explained that this could become very possible in the not-so-far future. Aerogel: a seemingly useless substance that was made for fun could in fact help us to make our own human torch. The gel is fire-proof and very resistant to other dangerous things. Although it isn't practical to smear aerogel all over our body and cover ourselves in flames to make us the human torch, this invention shows that we are not too far from becoming superheroes ourselves.

■ **Ravi Bange**

■ **Aaditya Ravindranath**

2016 Top of the Bench Competition Final

On the 16th April 2016, an elite team of CHB Chemists from Years 9–11 set off for the National Finals of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench Competition. Having wiped out their regional rivals earlier in the year, they were now representing the whole of the West Midlands area against about 30 other teams from the whole of the UK.

Spurred on to win, (as last year's team won) and 'death threats' from a certain Head of Chemistry if they didn't win, the team of Kevin Mathew, Tommy Ransbotyn, Sam Stansfield and Jas Rudzki set off to Loughborough University with Mr O'Malley.

Upon arrival we were met with a surprising amount of goodies and, more importantly, free WiFi. The day was split into two parts; a 30 minute individual written test in the morning and a two-hour practical in the afternoon. The

boys seemed to breeze through the paper, which was mostly to do with the year's theme of energy. After a light lunch and a team talk from Mr O'Malley, the team set off to the labs to commence the very challenging practical, which was based around the construction of electro-chemical cells, and how different factors can affect their voltage. After the practical, we got a much needed break with an activity entitled 'choose a future'.

And then we came to what we had all been waiting for... the results. Slowly, the announcer trickled through the top teams; we weren't sixth, or fifth, fourth, third, or second. There were only two possibilities and in the next minute they would know the truth – we



had won!

Our team brought home a £500 prize for the school, Amazon vouchers for themselves and the title of *Royal Society of Chemistry National Champions*. This is the second year in a row that our school has come top in the country and that success is down to all of the boys who took part. Well done boys.

■ **Kevin Mathew**

'Colourful Chemistry' Lecture at Aston University

On Wednesday 18th November 2015 the Year 7 Chemistry Club members went to Aston University for a lecture called "Colourful Chemistry". Arriving in plenty of time, we had a chance to look around the grounds and take a quick picture. At 12:55 we went inside and grabbed front row seats, as we were the first ones there.

As this event was celebrating the International Year of Light, we started by looking at the colours of the electromagnetic spectrum. The first thing we learned that day was about how energy varies from radio waves to gamma rays in the spectrum. Dr Peter Hoare (Newcastle University) and Anne Willis (Northumbria University) followed, looking at lots of chemicals that showed how colours change in



experiments; for example we put a chemical in a violet solution that caused it to turn a green and then became blue! Another experiment demonstrated a reaction where a colourless solution turned blue when shaken.

After this volunteers were selected from the audience and given glow sticks that had hydrogen peroxide inside; when broken and mixed with other reagents, the glow sticks

unsurprisingly glowed. Over the course of the day we saw a range of other experiments, including flash bang explosions, which featured a screaming jelly baby. The experiment actually burnt the jelly bean's head off!

Finally, we finished off by watching the sun set by sulphur clock and returned just in time for the end of the school day.

■ **Zidane Nadeem**

Big Bang Fair, NEC

Year 7 Chemistry Club visit

On Thursday 17th of March 2016, the Year 7 Chemistry Club went to the Big Bang fair at the NEC. The purpose of the fair was to inspire children to take up science in the future, whether through just A-levels or as a full-time job.

The club gave positive feedback about the trip and the activities that were on offer. These activities ranged from dressing up as toilets, to making coloured putty, or finding out what job would be suitable for them. An amazed and astonished reaction was given to the Hollywood Special Effects show, as it demonstrated how easily some big movie effects are to make.

While there, the teachers kept a close



ion us, while we looked at exciting stalls, which taught us about one thing or another. Overall, I had a good time, and *isotope* everyone else

had one too. — And sorry for the bad puns, all the good ones *Argon!*

■ **George Lanham**

Merry Chemistry-mas!

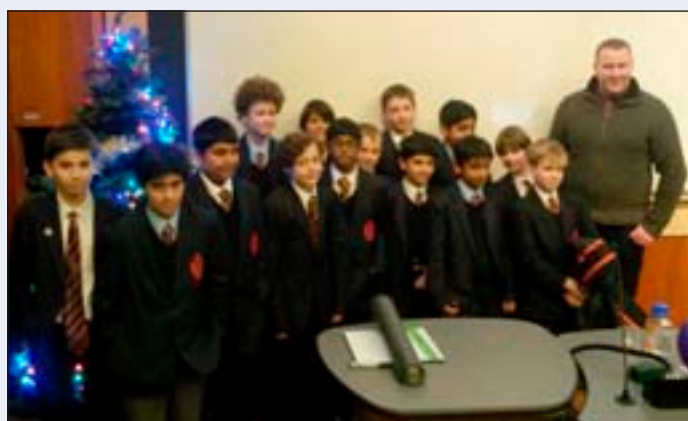
On Tuesday the 12th of December 2015, a group of Year 7 boys, including three students called Sam (very confusing...) went to Birmingham University for the *Merry Chemistry-mas Lecture*.

Once we had arrived, we were taken to the School of Chemistry. We were greeted by a Christmas song sing-along. As more schools rushed in for the lecture, Sam Satodia gave his all to Disney's "Let it go!", as others sat quietly looking too embarrassed to sing. To round off the main singing part, there was a teachers versus students sing-off (the teachers didn't seem too happy) and a member of the University staff told us afterwards that that it was some of the worst singing he had ever heard!

To start the Chemistry lecture, Dr Mark Read started by thinking about Christmas carols, beginning with the words: "We three men of Orient are...". He talked about the reference

to the star and that scientists can obtain various information from stars in the present day too. After that, he explained the different uses and functions of many chemicals, with some help from the audience, in a series of experiments including making energy from a chemical reaction; spraying chemicals into a flame to create different colours and using liquid nitrogen to freeze some balloons and a banana (and then rather inhumanely bashing it with metal tongs).

Once the lecture was over, it was time for a quick toilet break (without breaking any toilets!) and then a little look in the Great Hall of the University of Birmingham.



As the time was getting late and some children were beginning to hope they might miss fourth period, it was time to get back on the road. After confirming the minibus was actually a minibus and not a coach, bus, van or UDO (Unidentified Driving Object) we made it back to school just in time for period 4!

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**

The Limestone Inquiry 2016

On the afternoon of Thursday 21st July 2016, the whole of Year 9 were taken off timetable for *The Limestone Inquiry*. Six groups, two from each form, were to battle it out to try and persuade a panel of expert judges that their view on whether to extend an imaginary Limestone Quarry was the right one.

First up was 9M's Rock Quarry Holdings, who owned the quarry and wanted the extension to happen. This presentation included a song, which was sung by Sid, which outlined why the quarry should be extended. Next it was 9J's Local residents group; they had created a video which included the thoughts and ideas of 'local people' who lived in the residential areas near the quarry. To be honest this looked a lot like Handsworth!

The following group, from 9S, represented members from industry. They wanted the extension to go ahead and gave an informative presentation about the extension. 9M's Conservationists were next; their presentation dealt with the environmental threat that an extension to the quarry could pose. In the penultimate group, Simon Halstead represented the trade unions by himself, as the rest of the team had dropped out at the last minute. Even allowing for this, Simon's presentation was one of the best, especially seeing that he did it by himself. Finally, my group were up and we represented "The National Park Authority" of 9J. Our presentation was lighthearted but informative, including a rap from DJ 'Dullah and a visit from Ciaran, an on-site quarry worker.

The judging panel consisted of experts, including engineers from Birmingham City University, environmen-

talists and even a hydrogeologist! They concluded that there was not enough evidence for them to pick one presentation as the overall winner, but the student vote favoured the Rock Quarry Holdings!

Overall it was a fun afternoon, which gave us an insight into limestone quarrying and the impact it can have, as well as letting us demonstrate our presenting skills.

■ **Rohan Tandon**



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2016

In June 2016, Year 12 chemists sat the C3L6 paper, which this year focused on the chemistry of titanium dioxide and Pyrethroid insecticides. As in previous years, the school continued its run of medals in this competition, with thirty-eight boys gaining recognition for their efforts, which included five gold awards and one Roentgenium Award.

Anthony Lim's Roentgenium Award [pictured below] placed him in the top 0.76% of the competitors and he has been invited to a chemistry summer school at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, in August.

■ A.J.T.



Salters Festival of Chemistry

On Thursday 21st April 2016, a team of four Year 8 boys (Asher Brostoff, Giovanni Trevisan, Hamzah Iqbal and Miles Balderson) went to Birmingham University to compete in the Salter's Festival of Chemistry. This is a competition that we have not won before, so we had to do well in it.

The day was split into two parts: two practicals and a lecture on chemical magic. The Salters Challenge in the morning was based on the theme "Murder comes to Saltersville". In this challenge, the team was split into two pairs, both trying to decide who the murderer was. The dead body was found with some white powder and ink from a handkerchief, and by using chromatography and test tube reactions, we managed find matches to these materials, thus meaning we had found the murderer.

We then moved onto the University Challenge, which involved making colours, using Universal Indicator and different liquids. We had Hydrochloric Acid, Deionized Water and Sodium Hydroxide to make the colours red, yellow, orange, green, blue and violet. Using

our knowledge of acids and alkalis, we were able to complete the task with full marks.

However, the task wasn't over. We then had to make the colour yellow from a set of instructions – this took ages, but it worked perfectly and meant we went away with full marks. Throughout the day we were also marked on teamwork and safety in the lab. After the final challenge we had a challenge on *Chemical Magic*, which involved liquid nitrogen, colourless liquids that changed colours when poured into a glass, and making light from Coors Light beer.

Then came the results. On the first challenge, we had done well and came joint first! However, we were given second prize because it was not about the competition, more about chemistry, and Tudor Hall, the team that beat us, came from Banbury! Our prize was a molecular modelling kit, to go with the many we have won in the last few years. In the second challenge, we were not awarded a prize, as no team was allowed more than one.

It was a great day, and we would all like to thank Mr O'Malley for taking us, and the Chemistry Department for organizing it.

■ Miles Balderson



RSC Chemistry Olympiad 2016

After last year's success where Thomas Else's success meant he was placed first in the country in round one of the RSC Olympiad! It is pleasing to report that this year's crop of budding chemistry equalled his achievements.

In round one, the school gained an impressive thirty-five medals, which included ten gold and fifteen silver medals. The highlight of round one was Muhammed Khan's amazing score of 93% which placed him first in the country!

At Easter, Muhammed travelled to Cambridge to compete in the second round of the

competition. After a gruelling four hour practical exam and four hour theory paper, he gained one of the four highest marks and was chosen to represent the UK in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Tbilisi, Georgia. This was the first time a Camp Hill student has progressed in the competition!

■ A.J.T.



Y7 Chemistry Club

Another great year for Year 7 Chemistry Club. All the usual activities from making crystal gardens, blue bottle reaction, changing pennies to gold (or brass to be more chemically correct), making glue from milk and mentoes and diet coke. Not to forget the oozing pumpkins at Halloween and crystal Christmas trees for festive specials.

We also took part in the 2015 Global experiment looking at the water and the impact of hydrogels. In addition, we must mention the 2016 Starlight Global Experiment, which looked at the issues surrounding UV protection. I was pleased to see so many keen young chemists taking part as always and we couldn't do it without the valuable help from the sixth formers.

Finally, we must mention our trip to Aston University for a lecture on "Colourful Chemistry" and a visit to Birmingham University for "Merry Chemistry-mas" and it wouldn't be the same without our annual trip to the NEC for the "Big Bang Fair".

■ **E.T.A.**



MATHS MATTERS

In the autumn term, there were two major mathematical events, the Senior Team Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge. The Senior Mathematical Challenge involved all mathematicians in Year 12, further mathematicians in Year 13 and the top set in Year 11. Altogether there were 62 bronze, 59 silver and 22 gold certificates from our 171 entries. Muhammed Khan got full marks, and he and Anthony Lim of Year 12 and, impressively, John Hayton of Year 11 qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while eight boys in Years 12 and 13 qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. The British Maths Olympiad is very hard, but Anthony Lim obtained a Certificate of Distinction. In the Senior Kangaroo, David Johnson, Paul Gardner, Fraser Doshi-Keeble and Oliver Millington did well to obtain merits.

In late November 2015, we hosted the Senior Team Challenge which attracted 25 team entries, 23 of whom turned up. This is a competition for teams of four, and we entered an A team and a secret B team. The day got off to a stressful start when it was revealed that the King Edward's Consortium also had an event on, and the car park I had hoped visiting teams could use was full. Nothing in the "Handbook for Heads of Department" prepares you for such things, but we got round it by moving our own school minibuses. Then the competition started. The A team, consisting of Rasched Haidari and Muhammed Khan of Year

13, Anthony Lim of Year 12 and John Hayton of Year 11, made a small number of errors (how many ways can you disorder the digits 2, 0, 1, 5?) and, in this company, finished in third place, which saved rail fares later in the year. The B team, consisting of Fraser Doshi Keeble of Year 13 and Paul Gardner, Ian Roberts and Adam Titchen of Year 12, finished in a very creditable fifth place. Nobody was injured this time.

The individual challenge of the spring term was the Intermediate Challenge. This is also the largest, with about 260 entries, so the logistics of the morning had to be handled with military precision. This was done, and the papers sent off: when the results arrived, the boys had achieved 64 gold certificates, 69 silvers and 62 bronzes. Thirteen boys, including nine in Year 10, did extremely well, all qualifying for the three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition 41 boys qualified for one of two colours of Kangaroo. In the Kangaroos, thirteen got Merits: Harry Balfe, Jaiden Lall, Judah Daniels, Kevin Mathew, Proshanto Chanda, Rohan Tandon and Saksham Shah of Year 9, and Alex Baldock, Alfie Green, Craig Stewart, Daniel Hill, Shuayb Ayub and Vamsi Pratapa from the older years. In the Olympiads, Alex Byrne, Amartya Maheshwari, Chaitan Mohr, James Mander, John Hayton, Nikhil Gupta and Sam Stansfield all got Merits; Daniel Cole got a Distinction, Xue Bang Chen got a Distinction and a Medal, while Leon Zhang (58/60) and Robert Hillier (59/60) got Distinctions, Medals

and Prizes. We also participated in two Team Challenges (Year 10 Maths Feast and the Junior Team Challenge) both detailed below.

■ **A.M.R.**

Year 10 Maths Feast

On Thursday 11th February 2016 a team of four year 10 boys travelled to Birmingham University to take part in the Year 10 Maths Feast Competition. Our team consisted of Sam Stansfield, Alex Byrne, Robert Hillier and Ajay John, who were faced with 5 rounds on a variety of topics.

The team scored all but two marks in the group question round, before moving on to a 'Countdown round'. The team continued their good form by once again only dropping two marks. The majority of the other teams had the most trouble during a round on complex numbers, a topic new to most of the students there. However, our team confidently breezed through the round, scoring full marks. After scoring highly on rounds on shapes and another full mark performance on the final relay, the team were confident in their efforts going into the results.

The competition did not give an overall winner, though individual round winners were announced. Camp Hill ended up walking away with 4 of the 5 round prizes, which meant considering their scores, it was mathematically impossible they didn't win overall by a big margin. This was a comfortable victory for Camp Hill, and every member of the team can be proud of their performances.

■ **Sam Stansfield**



[Above] Y9 SAN Maths Challenge Team

[Below] UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Team



[Above] Y10 Maths Feast Team



Junior Team Challenge

On Tuesday 8th March 2016, a team of two Year 8s (Kevin Xu and Qiyuan Chen) and two Year 9s (Xue Bang Chen and Saksham Shah) took part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge Regional Final, held here in the hall. We had been preparing for it almost every lunchtime for over a week, and felt ready to take on the other 25 teams taking part. The day consisted of 4 rounds with questions that required logic and general maths knowledge.

The first round was a group round, where all four of us had to add up our efforts to answer as many questions right as possible. Our strategy was to divide up the ten questions among us, and it worked: we only got one of the ten questions wrong, scoring 54 out of a possible 60 points.

The second round was a cross number. It's like a crossword puzzle, but the answers are all numbers, and the clues are maths related, featuring simple addition sums to things like square roots or sums of digits. On top of this, we were divided into two pairs – one pair had the down clues while the other had the across ones, and there was to be no communication. In addition to this, some clues needed other answers, to be answered. Although it sounds quite confusing, we added, multiplied and squared our way through this round, scoring 55 out of a maximum 56 points.

After lunch, we had the shuttle round. It featured 4 mini 'shuttles' – a set of 4 questions where each question needed the correct answer to the previous question in order to answer it. This round also offered bonus points for speed, which had been one of our strong points in the previous rounds. We made some

errors, but still managed to score a good 50 points out of 60.

Finally, there was the relay – 30 questions to answer and 45 minutes to answer them in. We knew we had to give it our all if we wanted to win the

competition and get to the National Final, and we got 58 out of 60 points. This made our final score 217, but was it enough to win? Almost, as we came second, beaten by King Edward VI High School for Girls.

Still, we had fun the whole day, and it was a great experience. Although it is unlikely that we will get through to the National Final this year, there's always next time, and second place is still something to be proud of.

■ **Saksham Shah**

Summer Term

For the summer term, there was one challenge left, the Junior version. As always, the organisation was handled faultlessly by Mr Jack, and when the results arrived, we were very pleased. The boys were awarded 86 gold certificates, 74 silvers, and 49 bronzes; 13 (which must be our best ever) qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, and 30 for the new Junior Kangaroo, which both took place on the second Teacher Day in June. The Kangaroo is taken by students all over Europe: the top 5,000 students (from well over a thousand schools) were invited to take part, and the top 25% get Merits. Eight of our boys achieved Merits: Adam Ahmed, Awais Zmarak, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Joe Day, Kareem Mehanna, Karthik Bharadwaj, Rajiv Nailadi and Sukhjote Sohal. Deniz (Year 7) got the highest score. In the Olympiad, all our candidates got at least a Merit; Qiyuan Chen got a Distinction, Benjamin Hobson-Taher got a Distinction and a Bronze Medal, placing him in the top 210 in the country, and William Yang and Peter Kippax (Year 7) got Distinctions and Silver Medals, placing them in the top 90 in the country. Well done to all!

After the excitement of the Junior Chal-

lenge, the EU Referendum, and the start of study leave for our exam candidates (and the end of study leave, for Year 12) it was time for the next team competition. This happened on Sports Day, and was the South Area Network Challenge for Year 9 at Queensbridge School. The team consisted of Neal Pankhania, Saksham Shah, Xue Bang Chen, Kevin Mathew, Jaiden Lall and Proshanto Chanda. Despite struggling to build a tower (out of paper) which would support an egg for 10 seconds, they won the whole competition fairly easily.

Finally, Robert Hillier was invited to the UKMT Summer School after his outstanding result in one of the Intermediate Olympiads (*his report follows*).

■ **A.M.R.**

UKMT Summer School

On the first day, we were divided into groups: six teams of eight (my team was called 'The Eulerians') for the morning sessions and two groups of 25 for the afternoon sessions. Each of the six teams included a 'senior,' a slightly older student who had been on the course before and helped answer any queries.

During the week, we covered topics such as geometry and number theory. We also had a lot of free time to relax, mostly spent outdoors as the weather was very good. In the evenings, there were scheduled activities, which included a bowling trip to Bradford and a concert in which the students themselves provided the entertainment: some played musical instruments or sang, and one even tap-danced! At the end of the concert, everyone was upstanding to join in a rousing rendition of 'The Complex Number Song' (to the tune of John Brown's Body).

Although at the beginning of the week I was slightly nervous at the prospect of spending a week with people I didn't know, by the end of the week, I had made many friends and was really enjoying it. So Maths is fun! There was our "routine" work as well: 883 AS and A2 module exams were taken, not to mention 185 GCSE papers (yes, 185) and 40 FSMQs. But that's for another place.

■ **Robert Hillier**

Author Visits

We had some big hitters visit Camp Hill in 2016. The cartoonist Laura Howell (*Beano*, *The Regular Show*) helped us celebrate World Book Day by leading a cartoon drawing workshop with a group of Year 7s. She managed to get even the most reluctant artist to draw something great by combining random jobs with animals. The students had great fun drawing giraffe dentists, tiger librarians and creating a simple four panel story. We look forward to having Laura back with us again for World Book Day next year.

The World Book Day celebrations continued with a visit from the ever-popular Chris Bradford. The level of anticipation for this visit was unprecedented as students here are already massive fans of his *Young Samurai* and *Bodyguard* series of books. On the day we were treated to a kidnapping (me), a one-inch punch (a well-padded Ajit Sandhu) and a Samurai sword display. To say that the students in attendance were whipped up into a frenzy, would be an understatement. There was an endless queue to buy Chris's books and to get a chance to speak to him after the event. He praised our students and those visiting from other schools for their enthusiasm, which is always great to hear. Chris is normally booked up years in advance, but we may well see him again, sooner rather than later. Watch this space.

Finally, at the end of March we had the multi-million-selling author, Cecelia Ahern. Scarily her publishers requested beforehand



[Above Left and Right] Cecelia Ahern visit [Below Left] Chris Bradford visit [Below Right] Laura Howell visit



that I interview her during the session as she does not do presentations. In fact, Camp Hill Boys was the first school she'd ever visited as an author. No pressure then. I got sent my advance copy of her book for teens, *Flawed*, to read ahead of time and roped Sulamaan Rahim into helping me come up with some incisive

questions. We had a packed house on the day with students from other schools invited along for the afternoon. Cecelia was a funny and thoughtful interviewee and she managed to win over lots of new fans. Needless to say, I asked her back to promote the sequel.

■ **A.G.**

'The German Play' Visit

On the 8th of March 2016 students from both Camp Hill Girls and Boys met up to watch what had been explained to us only as *'The German Play'*.

Naturally many of us didn't know what to expect from it and were understandably curious. With the boys settled into the unfamiliar setting of the Girls' school hall, the show began.

The play was a story about a mix-up involving two 'Zwillinge' – twins that is – leading to them being confused and seen as being one person. During the performance, the actors picked on members of the audience (one of them being me) to assist and even to perform a few of the parts! All in all it was an enjoyable play, performed by two very talented actors.

■ **Pranav Thatipamula**

Food Tasting Day

On the 28th of September 2015, the Modern Language Department ran a range of events to celebrate European Day of Languages. One of the more delicious options was food tasting, which took place in room 9 at lunchtime. Everyone was given the chance to sample many German and French delicacies, which included Frikadellen (German meatballs), salami, fromage, Käse and brioche.

I think everyone really enjoyed themselves because from what I could see, the whole of room 9 was really packed for the whole of lunch. Sam from 8K said that it was great, especially the salami and the meatballs.

As well as the food tasting, there was also a treasure hunt. Here you were

given clues and you had to go to the corresponding teacher that the clue directed you to. If you ended up with Mr G Hill, he would have told you to go to Mrs Wells and she would've given you prizes which were chocolate. I had a go and it was really fun. Sometimes the clues were a bit hard, but I got there in the end.

■ **Sicheng Li**



German Outreach Football Project

As part of the German Outreach Project, Mrs Wells accompanied by four Sports Leaders travelled to two Primary schools in attempt to teach German through the universal language of football.

Firstly a short German lesson was held in order to teach the pupils the required vocabulary for the game, as they were not allowed to speak any English or otherwise they would be sanctioned. After many fun activities in the classroom and many stickers later the students finally knew enough German to begin the long awaited activities.

The activities consisted of a skills-based game, as well as the grand football match. The skills game required the pupils to do basic math sums, but in German. Surprisingly, they caught on very quickly and did much better than all of us expected. Afterwards, the pupils played a game similar to Simon-Says, but in German and had to carry out instructions. Again, they caught on very quickly and it was difficult to decide a winner, but eventually someone prevailed and won the grand prize of a postcard.

The Football match was just like any other, fun, exciting and engaging – except it was in German! No English was allowed and once again the pupils managed this very well and



exceeded in only speaking German. Prizes were awarded to the best German speakers and they were praised as they had tried really hard.

This was a successful outreach project and both the pupils and the Sports Leaders benefited from it. The pupils showed a lot of promise and will now hopefully continue learning German thanks to this engaging day. We would

like to thank Mrs Wells for the opportunity, Dylan Rogers, Harry Wells and Deven Solanki for their contribution and also wish the pupils all the best for the future.

■ **Gurvinder Bhojie**

■ **Rohan Aggarwal**

Languages Taster Masterclass

Dōzo yoroshiku! After a long and arduous morning, a group of Year 10 students set off to Birmingham University to have a 'taste' of a new language that is not readily provided in schools. This taster session, which was taught by native speakers, provided a series of sessions on range of languages: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Portuguese and Russian were all included in the package.

We were also accompanied by Mr Renault, who was attentively engaged alongside us. All of us were amazed by the complexity and imaginative pictograms of the Japanese language, such as 初めまし, which means: 'How do you do?' In addition, we also appreciated learning about different country's greeting styles. In Japan this requires an inclination of the head, rather than the customary hand shake and the angle of the inclination indicates your degree of respect towards your intended recipient.

Furthermore, different positions are required by males and females in order to meet the traditional Japanese greeting etiquette. Women tend to place their hands in front, whereas men place them flat against either side. Understanding and adopting such

customs in relevant scenarios is intrinsically essential to discovering the culture of not only a different language, but a different country and communicating with foreigners.

Following on from that particular session, we then had a good stab at Russian, which, to our surprise shared Latin symbols yet had completely different pronunciations. For instance, the Cyrillic alphabet contained the letter "y" which is usually pronounced as 'oo'.

Lastly, we identified basic introductory sentences and questions in Italian, as well as recognising landmarks and cultural themes that are symbolic of that particular nation. This language, unlike all the others, proved particularly easy since the pronunciation of most of the letters concurred with our understanding of the phonetics behind English, French and German.

The trip overall was a success since we engaged and learnt languages that we thought we would never have the opportunity to observe

at close hand. It has also widened our understanding of the various cultures that influence people all over the world.

We are grateful for the efforts of Mrs Wells who organised the trip for us, Mr Bruten who drove us there and back, Mr Renault who supported our efforts and the individuals at Birmingham University who provided the masterclass in the first place. Sayōnara!

■ **Ibrahim Ezzeldin**



Young REP Workshop (Birmingham Repertory Theatre)

On Wednesday the 27th April 2016, a Director from the Young REP (Birmingham Repertory Theatre) named Tom Saunders came into Camp Hill Boys to lead a workshop on *Romeo and Juliet* for Year 9. This event was organised and coordinated by Mrs Parmar. There were four sessions in total, one for each form in the morning and one in the afternoon, which involved a select group of students from each form.

The morning session consisted of various activities, which really helped us to get a feel for the characters in the play. We began with Tom introducing himself and explaining how he got into Shakespeare even after he previously hated it. After this we split into groups

and practised acting out some Shakespearean insults. You could really feel the emotion as we shouted at each other, almost as if we wanted to say these things to each other anyway! We then moved on to acting out an actual scene between Romeo and Benvolio which focused on love in the play in pairs. This required us to discuss which emotions and tones were necessary for each line and then act it out accordingly. It was a very enjoyable experience and we all learnt a lot about some characters from Romeo and Juliet, really being able to connect with them more easily because we had acted it out.

The afternoon session for the select group of students from each form contained a much deeper analysis element of a longer scene. In the Balcony scene Juliet yearns for Romeo, while Romeo sneaks around watching her.

We discussed the scene before splitting up into groups to analyse the scene. After this we came back together as a group and decided parts before acting out the scene. I was chosen to be Juliet because someone had to do it and bravely went up to the balcony in the hall to deliver my performance. I was congratulated for this endeavor. The role of Romeo was changed each time to see the different ways in which it could be acted.

After the session had ended we all thanked Tom for his workshop and he told us to check out the Young REP if we were interested. In the end it was a worthwhile experience because we were able to act out some scenes from the play which helped us to understand a Shakespeare play on a greater level.

■ **Michael James-Thomas**

Spelling Bee

A few months ago, as normal, my form and I walked into our form room and sat down. Mr Renault had some news for us. There was going to be a Spelling Bee in the Language that we were learning, which of course, was French! This was amazing as it would allow us to show off the amount of French, we knew.

Me, Matthew Skaria, Ojas Supe, Hemal Aggarwal, Pranav Juloori and Adnan Chaudry immediately put our hands up, as we knew it would be a great experience. Many other people from other Forms also wanted to participate, so we knew it wasn't going to be easy to get through.

Weeks passed as we practised and practised and then the first selection round begun. Only me, Ojas, Matthew and Adnan (in our form) got through, it had been a tough challenge for the rest. In addition, we now faced another selection round with the other forms as well. Sadly, some of us didn't get through and we were whittled down to the final 3. These 3 would have to go to Aston University to participate in the quarter-finals!

When we arrived at the University, we

immediately knew it was going to be extremely tough. Some people were rapidly shooting out words in French, while others were slowly pronouncing their first word. It was going to be hard. Matthew, Ali and Prithu were nervous, but determined to win it. They walked into the room and were prepared for anything. They walked down separately and started the Spelling Bee! And the winner was... Matthew. Matthew had made it to the semi-finals in Cambridge!

Following this, on the 23rd of June, Matthew, Ojas and me met at New Street station to board the train for the 2½ hour journey to Cambridge. We went with Miss Nijran and she was an amazing supervisor for the trip. We said bye to our parents and got onto the train. For most of the journey we played on our Nintendo DS, but near the end of the journey, we started to test Matthew on the French he would need to know.

Eventually we got off the train and began our long walk towards the Angela Ruskin University. When we got in, the staff were extremely helpful and nice towards us. We rushed towards the room to get good seats, so we could hear what we needed to do. We were instructed to go into another room close

by and start to prepare for the Spelling Bee.

We began spelling. Each person was amazing as they rattled off a long list of French words so quickly that even the judges couldn't understand what they were saying. Matthew was also good as he managed to keep his cool and answer all of the words he was asked. We then went into the main hall to discover who won. Sadly Matthew did not win, but he tried his best.

Finally we started back to the train station, only to hit a massive queue! Apparently the overhead lines for the trains had been damaged and they were working as fast as they could to fix it. We waited for an hour and then they reported back that one train was able to go back to New Street. We ran like the wind towards the platform and barely got on as the train was so packed. For the next three hours we did random things, but as we got off the train I realized how much fun it had been and what a great experience we had had.

We would like to thank Mr Renault and Mrs Nijran for coming with us and organizing the trips.

■ **Arjun Pandit**

■ **Matthew Skaria**

■ **Ojas Supe**

Y7 French Presentation Woodthorpe Primary School

On the 6th December 2015, Mr Renault and three students: Chanut Wilegoda, Ojas Supe and Han Kang travelled to Woodthorpe Primary School to aid the students there about their understanding of France and French; this was their French day. The schedule was brimmed with exciting, but educational activities.

The day began with a brief presentation

about France during their assembly. This was presented by and made by Camp Hill students – with the aid of Mr Renault. During this event we discussed the topics: food, travel, attractions and famous personalities with the students of Woodthorpe. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Next, we took charge of a year group, each taking part in a unique activity, for example: fisherman's net, ball bouncing and catch. The year groups all had a wonderful experience learning several French words along the way. The students of Camp Hill assisted Mr Renault with the activities causing some of us to

become mildly deaf!

After lunch and one more session of activities, the students and Mr Renault went around the school answering some of Woodthorpe students' questions and presenting a quiz. The quiz proved extremely popular, as each student would receive a sweet, if several questions were answered correctly.

The day concluded with everyone saying their goodbyes. With one last glance at Woodthorpe, the heavy hearted, students of Camp Hill ascended the steep trek to their taxi. This was a truly worthwhile experience.

■ **Chanut Wilegoda**

China Day

On Monday 20th June 2016, Year 7 had a Languages Day, or more specifically, a China Day. Each of the five groups took part in five different lessons: Music, Chinese Language, History, Geography and Art.

The Art lesson focused on a magnificent Chinese dragon from the Zodiac, which was created in a variety of vivid colours. In Music we learnt about the Peking opera and the Chinese theatre with its powerful music. We also learnt about the popularity of the piano and how it is spreading like the plague through China, with professionals like Lang Lang.

Our Geography lesson involved a quiz with Mr Jackson about food, movies, Chinese celebrities, the country's geography, cities and landscapes. In the History lesson we learnt about how China has evolved since it was

created, with a cheesy American video called "Crash Course".

Finally to the Chinese Language lesson. The tutor Susan Guo (and her pet panda called "Panda"), taught us lots of phrases to introduce ourselves like hello (ni hao) or how old are you.

To sum up, the 20th of June was exciting and interesting day, which was enjoyed by all of Year 7.

■ **Zach Hobson-Taher**



Year 9 GCSE Skills Morning

On the 12th of July 2016, a group of Year 9 Wheelers' Lane students travelled the short distance to Camp Hill Boys for a GCSE skills session with Year 9 from Camp Hill. It was to be a morning session from 09:30 to 11:30 split into two; the first half with Mrs Parmar, the second with the Head of English from Wheelers' Lane, Susanne Bunn.

Mrs Parmar's session focused on the analysis of unseen poetry. We started with an introduction explaining how this is part of the GCSE exam, and were given some starting techniques to help us analyse a poem. The chosen poem was D H Lawrence's "The Last Lesson of the Afternoon". Throughout the session we worked in cross-school pairs and although we had never seen the text before, everyone came out with some good ideas. After trying to go into a bit more detail, some of us fell into the trap of translating the text, instead of analysing, but we were soon back on track. We were told to focus on creating a conceptual argument for the poem, which most pairs did; before finish-

ing off by writing an extended 'PEEL' paragraph on "The Last Lesson of the Afternoon" which we all did well.

After the successful first part of the morning, we had a fifteen minute break, although it was shortened as the morning session had overrun. Initially we didn't really mingle with the Wheelers' Lane boys. After Florian almost hit Mr Nash's car with his rugby ball and got it confiscated, and with the rain gently falling, we thought there would be no hope of doing much in this ever-shortening break. But then Abu emerged with 9J's football, and both schools quickly organised themselves to start a football match: Camp Hill Boys vs Wheelers' Lane. In the end the match only lasted for five minutes, but it was a good intense game; although no one actually managed to score. Amazing how football acts as a bonding activity, even in just a few minutes.

We were swiftly called back inside to start our second session of the morning, with the Wheelers' Lane English teacher Susanne Bunn. Ms Bunn's session focused on creative writing. She showed us a picture of an underwater scene, and told us to write constantly for three minutes about breathing underwater. We were

all a little confused, but went along with it anyway. We were then informed that this is a common technique used by writers to help them write an actual story. We picked out the best things from our brainstorm, and turned them into the start of a story. This technique we were shown made this surprisingly easy, and helped us to easily write a lot from a little. We shared our results with our partners, and were all surprised at how well we had done. Next Ms Bunn got us to do a similar thing, apart from, instead of brainstorming, we listened to our partner talk about a recent event that had happened to them, whilst we made notes, and vice versa. We then, again, wrote the start of a story using our notes. This also, turned out to be surprisingly easy, with some impressive and interesting results.

In conclusion, I think that this session was very useful in developing our English skills. We have all taken something away from this experience that will surely help us going forward into our GCSE course. I must give a big thanks to both Mrs Parmar and Ms Bunn for organising this session, as well as all the students that took part.

■ **Rohan Tandon**

Y9 Languages Day

On Thursday 25th February 2016, all three Year 9 forms took part in a Languages Day. This was a fun experience in which we learnt several new things about Modern Foreign Languages.

The day kicked off with a talk in which we learnt about the importance of languages in careers. It was an interesting and influential lecture, as we learnt about the benefits of learning a foreign language.

After break, the students were separated into four large classes taken by the four languages teachers. During this lesson we took part in an activity in which we were tasked with creating an advertising campaign and a poster to advertise an innovative, new cereal. This task had to be completed in small groups of four. My group, which comprised of Nikhil Gupta, Ryan Malhi, Jacob Reeves, and me, were the winners of our class, however this could

not have been done without the help of some older boys (shout-out to Aqueel Zulficar). Winning meant that that we would go head-to-head with the winners of the other three classes, and the show-down was to take place after lunch.

Unfortunately, Proshanto Chanda's impeccable vocals as well as his group-members' implausible contribution on-stage won over the judges, and my group had to do with second place. However, our disappointment was soon to be vanquished, as we then returned back to our classes and took part in two fun language tasters, which, for our class, was Dutch and Portuguese.

Overall it was a great day, as we learnt many new things, and, most importantly, we learnt about the benefits of languages in careers. I am sure that we will remember this experience for a long time, and for some, it may have changed the way we initially thought about languages.

■ **Sufiyan Ahmed**



Poetry

The Concert of Birmingham

Quietly in anticipation at the middle of row C,
I wait for the concert to begin.
The constant, unfaltering beat of the timps echo,
Much like the ever-present traffic.
The distinctive sound of the majestic oboe,
Breaks the pattern of intricate percussion,
Reminiscent of a wicket at Edgbaston.
Its graceful tune flows through my head,
As sweet as sugar coated crepes at the German market.
The violin enters, bringing a serene tranquility,
Skilled and knowledgeable amongst its peers,
A library; an ocean of calm,
At the heart of a bustling city centre.
Sharp and shrill and spellbinding,
The flute demonstrates its fast-paced prowess.
Travelling up and down - using its vast range,
Like the ceaseless surge of people at Bullring.
An astonishing reverberation switches the mood,
Crashing cymbals bellow passionately,
The contrast results to an animated rivalry.
Recreating the historic Villa-Blues derby spirit!
With the concert drawing to a close,
All the instruments now play in unison.
Building a beautiful, breathtaking texture,
As smooth and soft as Cadbury's Dairy Milk.
They are all different, but part of something bigger,
Like all the motorways in "Spaghetti Junction."
I realise that people are like concerts,
They are complex: full of notes and rhythms,
Different genres, sounds and abilities,
But even the most contrasting - play better together.
As the concert finishes and the round of applause is won,
I sit quietly in the middle of row C,
This time not in anticipation,
But in admiration.

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**

The Fall

Darkness. I know nothing.
I know no light though I see it.
The flashing torture of the creatures,
Engulf me as I rise out of the crimson seed,
Screaming, screaming to escape
The rope that imprisons me.

But now I'm free, I feel the warmth of the benevolence
That brought me to this paradise, I see the lushness
Of the swaying grass and majesty of the woodland reflected in the jade pool
And although from its nurturing presence flows
a river of joy that floods me so that I feel a bird,
I wonder... why? Why?

As the rain falls, the flower blooms,
I see the thorns hidden behind the emerald leaves,
Smell the trace of a ghastly stench shrouded by a blanket of jasmine.
Pushing away the ordered rows of soothing sunflowers,
I feel the betraying stings of praying nettles, covering me in scars of pain,
Out of which, grows my first thorn, pricking the fall of the first bee.

Shining and enticing, the mirage showed benevolence becoming malevolence,
And so I cut the answer of the invisible rope,
Though quite visible to me was the path laid out by the script of truth,
At the end of which, I discerned lay the ultimate light,

But as the bumblebees fell about me,
as the thorns skewed the bugs that gnawed the script,
a tiny voice spoke from the abyss,
that this path did not lead to light,
For before the sickle severed me,
I saw in the dark, red pool of the corpses,
The end of the road leading to
The inescapable hands of Darkness unknown

■ **Shyam Iyer**

Y8 Languages Trip to Birmingham University

In mid-November 2015, I and 13 other students went to Birmingham University for the Languages in Action Masterclass organised by students from the University. It served as an excellent way to expand our linguistic knowledge. Organised by Mrs Wells and the Modern Foreign Languages Department, this was an opportunity for us to have a taster session in a range of foreign languages, for example: Russian and Japanese. Whilst we were there we learnt basic phrases such as 'Ohayō', which means 'hello' in Japanese and 'Paka', which means 'goodbye' in Russian. We were also given information about all of the careers that involve languages.

This gave us a very interesting insight into the doors that learning a language can open for you in the future. In addition, we were informed about the range of companies, including Google and Jaguar Land Rover, which are recruiting people with existing language knowledge, to connect with foreign customers. These jobs could include being a



translator for websites or being a travel writer.

Whilst there we also attended classes in German and French which renewed and refreshed our existing knowledge, consolidating our understanding and making sure we could remember animal names including 'ours' for bear and 'lapin' for rabbit.

It was a great afternoon for us and we all enjoyed traveling to a different place of education to learn foreign languages. It was a very worthwhile and memorable experience, and it definitely improved our linguistic knowledge.

■ **Andrew Lim**

■ **Noah Lloyd**

Y10 Languages Morning

On the morning of Thursday 14th July 2016, the entirety of Year 10 gathered in the school hall for what we assumed would be a morning of language-based activities. In actuality, no-one in the year knew what exactly we would be doing, but given the event had been organised by Mrs Wells, we knew it had to have something to do with languages.

During period 1, two guest speakers gave a presentation on their experiences of studying languages beyond GCSE, such as years abroad in other countries as part of university courses, and they did their best to convince us to continue in our language studies after Year 11. One of these speakers was Miss Potter, who taught Mr Renault's French set for around half of the spring term.

In the days before the event, we had been told whether we were 'East' or 'West', which we



knew would form part of what we did on the day. It turned out that, in small groups of three or four, we were to play the role of either com-

ing from the East or the West. If we were 'West', we were a group of delegates from a Western country sent to try buy the sole precious artefact of an Eastern country. If, however, we were 'East', we were a group of delegates from the Eastern country, who wanted to persuade the Westerners away from buying the

artefact. The activity was designed to show us how contrasting cultures from different parts of the world interact with each other and the difficulties in doing so, due to different social and cultural norms.

Depending on which teacher we had been assigned to, we were also given a taster session in either Italian (from Miss Potter) or Spanish (from the other guest speaker, Miss Wade). We were mainly shown how to introduce ourselves in the language, as well as describing jobs.

It was a very enjoyable morning, and thanks go to Mrs Wells for organising a thoroughly entertaining event.

■ **Jake Holloway**



Y8 Media Event

On Friday 15th July 2016, the Year 8 Media Event took place over the school day. It was organised by Mrs Parmar. As the bell rang for school lessons, we instead went to Room 18 to meet guests: Jim Lee, a freelance presenter for BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 4 Extra and BBC World Service and Nick Hudson, ex-regional, national and international newspaper Editor.

We did a variety of interesting workshops,

including how to voiceover, how Social Media affects news, newspapers and radio. The focus was on debate – much about Brexit (obviously) and not very many practical events, but it was all in all a very fun day; especially the afternoon when we heard radio fails which included mispronounced names (like Jeremy Hunt.)

With fierce debates, interesting political views and many scathing comments about certain news channels and papers, including

the famous quote *"Birmingham is officially a Muslim country."* There were some moments of comedy and some of deep felt anger.

In conclusion, the Media Event was informative and interesting. It taught us to be wary of news and biased opinions, and not to take everything for granted. It was an amazing day we won't forget in a hurry!

■ **Gabriel Millet**



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

On 17th November 2015, two Camp Hill teams went to the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham, in order to defend our title in the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz.

As the reigning champions, great things were once again expected. However, things did not bode well. Firstly, some key team members were on university interviews and arrived late as there were delays on the 76 bus. In addition, poor strategic decisions were made, for example our timing when playing our 'joker' was out and we soon found ourselves playing catch-up with teams from KES, Five Ways and Vesey. Moreover, with six members in each team, on occasions it was felt that perhaps there were 'too many cooks', and this led to some correct answers being over-ruled.

In the end we ended up finishing fourth and fifth behind the winners from KES. One tradition though was maintained, the Year 12 team managed to score higher than the Year 13s.

Could we recover our damaged pride the following day at KES where it was the regional round of the Schools Challenge? This is an annual competition and follows the model of the Jeremy Paxman's BBC2 favourite. Last year our team finished second and we were hoping to go one better.

After the preliminary rounds and quarter-finals, both Camp Hill teams proceeded to the semi-finals versus KES. Undaunted by KES's underhand tactics of providing half-time cookies so hard they would wrench your teeth out, we felt a wave of confidence. Our first team faced the KES team as a collective and pushed them hard all the way, but, unfortunately, our speed on the buzzer was not quite up to it. In another room, under the watchful eye of M. Renault, the second team comfortably beat the KES second team line-up. This left us up against the old rival (and national runners-up from last year) in the final – and third place play-off. Both of which were won by... Camp Hill Boys.

Our first team of Sulamaan Rahim, Nathan McClelland, Alfie Green and Sreekar Somayajulu progressed to inter-regional finals. The second team of Tom Meehan, Harry Wilson, Ajay John and Rohan Jobanputra also deserve a mention for their fantastic third place performance in the regionals.

To end the spring term, the Schools Challenge Team went down to London to the City of London School on the banks of the Thames. This was the Inter-Regional Final and whoever won

would be through to the last eight in the country and would take part in the national finals at Westminster School that were to follow the following month.

It was the first time Camp Hill or the London school had got through to this stage of the competition. The City of London School had beaten Eton and Haberdasher's Aske to get through to this stage, so it was always going to be tough.

City of London started well and had amassed a lead of 100 points by around the halfway stage. However, Camp Hill were able to claw back some points through the junior rounds and this led to a tense finale. Eventually, the match evened out with seconds to Camp Hill got level on points by a hair's breadth, thanks to a commanding knowledge of bullocks (ask Sulamaan...). In the sudden death play-off, Nathan buzzed in to show off his knowledge of Norse mythology and this sealed the contest with a victory by 590 points to 570.

The contest was played in a wonderful spirit and both sides were generous and appreciative of the talents shown.

Finally, the team managed to see the tourist sights of the capital through Mr Hill's forced marches too and from the station. They then headed home to bask in the glory of a job well done.

The finals were at Westminster School, which stands in the shadow of the Houses of Parliament and is adjoined to Westminster Abbey. After making our way through the crowds that had gathered for the London Marathon. We arrived last of all the eight teams and found we were the only team not in uniform – it seemed like too much of an ask on a Sunday.

The competition followed a knockout format. We were drawn against Calday Grange Grammar School from Merseyside. In a fine competition between two state grammars, Camp Hill succeeded in drawing ahead in the final minutes to win 710 to 650 and our rivals



went through to become runners-up in the plate competition.

This took us into a semi-final against the Perse School from Cambridge – they had been winners of the competition in 2014. In a nail-biting affair, including some hotly disputed responses, it ended 750-750 after thirty minutes of intense questioning. This led into 'extra time', but our nerve held and Camp Hill came out as 940-820 winners.

Scarcely believing we had made it through to the final, we had a nervous wait before resuming the competition. This was made easier by either finding some strong coffee or discussing Further Maths modules with our rival co-finalists, the hosts and all-time championship record holders, Westminster School (£33,000 a year for boarders).

The final was a close run and with only ten minutes remaining, no team could gain a clear advantage and it was difficult to even gain a bonus point. The match was dependent on a few 'buzzered' interventions where, if we had thought it through, the answer would

have been much more obvious! The educated (albeit wrong) guesses left the field open to the opposing side to respond at leisure. In the end it was 740-540 to Westminster School.

Over all been national runners-up and getting all the way through to the bitter end was no mean feat, and for Nathan and Sulamaan this had been a project that has been six years in the making.

■ G.N.H.



Running a Marathon for Epilepsy Research UK

It all started one Thursday in the summer of 2016, while our form tutor, Dr White, was teaching us PSHE. We had just finished a topic on the subject of money, when she made the point that life is hard for people and suggested that we should raise money for disadvantaged groups. We were divided into groups of three and were asked to produce a pitch for a charity that we wanted to raise money. To raise the money we were going to run a mile-a-day marathon.

My group consisted of me, Eashan and Deniz. We decided to choose Epilepsy Research UK as our charity. This is a charity devoted to finding a cure for epilepsy. I personally felt very strongly about this because I know what it is like to live with someone with epilepsy. My seven-year old brother has suffered from this condition since he was a baby. It makes me feel sad to see how many small children in the UK suffer from such a horrible illness, often having seizures every day, no matter what the weather, the time or place.

Initially we prepared a Powerpoint and speech and then pitched our idea to the class. I took on the task of delivering the speech, I felt really emotional when I was writing it because I had never shared my experiences of living with



someone with epilepsy with anyone before.

The next Thursday, everyone worked very hard and delivered very passionate pitches for the following charities: Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support, Oxfam, BBC Children in Need, Water Aid, RSPCA and Barnardos. They were all very worthwhile causes, but Epilepsy Research UK won the most number of votes. Eashan, Deniz and I were so excited that our pitch had won.

Two weeks later, we headed outside, initially running two laps of the playground and one of the higher playing fields to make our first mile. Over the term each of us collected sponsorship money from friends and family. It was a hot summer and we ran every day after

form time, we were determined to run as much as possible so we could raise as much money as possible. In the end we clocked up an astounding 27 miles each!

We enjoyed running against each other and had great fun getting fitter, whilst raising money. We beat our original class target of £250, and then beat our second target of £600! Our friends and families were very generous and in the end we managed to raise a massive £1045!

I would like to thank everyone in 7M and to Dr White for their support of a charity that is so close to my heart.

■ Uzair Tahir

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2016

I hope that by now you will be aware that since September 2015 Camp Hill Boys has become a Duke of Edinburgh Award, Direct Licencing Organisation.

After many requests from parents, there were some dedicated staff, who were prepared to take on the responsibility of managing and coordinating the delivery of the scheme. In order to set this up staff were required to attend a number of training courses; luckily, however, as we are situated in Birmingham and the Duke of Edinburgh Area Office is situated in Sutton Coldfield, they were easy to get to. We gained accreditation in September 2015 and Mr Downing and Mrs Morris were fortunate enough to be asked to attend a Gold Award Ceremony at St James's Palace, where they received the school licence, which was presented to them by Mr Phil Brown (Commonwealth and GB Olympian).

As this was the initial year, the decision was made to only offer students the opportunity to take the Bronze Award if they were in Years 10 and 11. Staff were pleased with the enthusiastic response from students, with 104 students signing up to take part.

The Bronze Award requires persons to

commit to three outside activities that will improve their skills or help in the community for either three or six months. In addition, they are also required to undertake an expedition. These activities could include:

Volunteering

This involves helping others by offering support in some way. For example, helping at a care home, a mosque, a church or a temple. Mentoring or instructing others at a club, team or at subject level and so on.

Physical

To put this simply this is anything that is likely to make you sweat. Activities undertaken by students have been many and varied. They have ranged from taking part in a range of sports, including martial arts, rock climbing and sailing and many more.

Skill

Here students are asked to undertake to learn a NEW skill, whether that is cooking, calligraphy, language, musical instrument or taking part in the Sports Leadership Scheme.

The Expedition

The expedition phase was the one area that required direct input from members of staff. Before students can venture out they have to undertake a training program, this is designed to make them self-proficient and able to use a map and compass. They have to be able to plan

a route – and follow it without mishap! In addition, they learn camp craft and menu planning, food preparation and cooking. Finally, the expedition teaches students what they should do in an

emergency and some basic first aid. Students then practice these skills in and around Cannock Chase and are assessed over two days. They finally spend one night in Long Mynd in Shropshire.

This phase has proved to be hugely successful with a number of students venturing out into the hills for the first time. It has come as quite an eye opener at times, particularly when students have failed to heed advice about their food choices. When carrying everything on your back, it is advisable not to include 5lb of spuds, loaves of bread or meals which require cooking in an oven or microwave! I will, however, state for the record that no boy starved and all survived unharmed.

Finally, as a result of our students' commitment, a wide variety of organisations have benefitted from the help and support of our



boys. It has been hugely rewarding to read the reports, which invariably give such positive views of our students. Here is an example of a typical report written by an assessor at an Age UK Charity shop:

While at Age UK he worked on the till, served customers and helped with the running of the shop. He was fab at everything he did. A wonderful young man, I wish him all the best for the future. He will be missed greatly.

Any scheme has teething problems and starting a scheme from scratch is always going to have its problems, particularly when you need to organise a series of expeditions. This year we used a specialist outdoor company to run the expeditions, as they have all the expertise and equipment necessary. Our final aim is to be able to deliver this phase 'in house', but in order to do so, we will have to purchase a range of equipment including: tents, stoves, maps, compasses, first aid equipment and so on.

As always, I would like to thank the AFS, whose invaluable fundraising support has been tremendous. This has enabled us to purchase enough kit for seven groups. I am now seeking to buy rucksacks and other items, so that no student is precluded due to their personal circumstances.

At this point, with a bit of luck and a lot of persuasion, I am sure that the majority of those enrolled will complete all of their requirements by the October half-term. We will then open the scheme to the current Year 10, who will be



able to begin the challenge for themselves.

The leads on nicely to the Diamond Challenge. This year is the 60th anniversary of the DofE Scheme. Consequently, the Duke of Edinburgh has set all of those involved in DofE the challenge of raising money for charity by undertaking a personal challenge. As I am a keen walker, I have decided to attempt to 'summit' as many of the highest points in the English Counties over the course of the year. I began in

April, with the highest point in Cornwall – a top called Brown Willy on Bodmin Moor and have so far 'bagged' ten Counties.

If you would like to support me and the School's DofE programme by committing some money you can contact me on my email address:

k.downing@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

■ **K.D.**



House Reports

The
House Championship Results Table
can be found with the
Sports Results Summaries
on page 81

Beaufort

We emerged from the autumn term with 20 championship points, three points behind Howard. As the spring term began, excitingly it was to prove to be full of highlights, which included winning the prestigious rugby, swimming and House music competitions, as well as achieving a second place in chess and respectable final positions in the hockey and House Quiz. By the end of

Vignesh Venkatramaiah, Madhav Manoj, Ammar Malik, Tom Heppel and Joe Day for their exceptional contributions.

As the athletics competition approached, it was time to organise the Captaincy for next year. The result of the voting was very close and in the end it is Lewis Evans who will be our House Captain next year, with Ashrit Chohan as Vice House Captain. Mr O'Malley was thrilled

here, but a couple of special mentions must go to the year group leaders Ben Brown and Kar-eem Mehanna, Ross Evans, Jason Tahiri, Dylan Rogers and Lewis Evans, plus some of the star performers of the day: Peter Kippax, Joe Day, Richard Amoshe, Ibrahim Ali, Anant Kapoor, Ed Connolly and Beant Thandi. The effort that everybody put in paid off, and Beaufort won the athletics competition, securing us a big enough lead over the other houses to assure victory in the overall House Championship – very well done everybody!

This year we also bid farewell to the Beaufort (and Camp Hill) legend Mr Southworth, who led Beaufort through thick and thin for 31 glorious years from 1979 to 2010. In the 2009 issue of *The Chronicle* he wrote of a 'Golden Era' of Beaufort; could this be the dawn of a new age of sustained success for our House? Only time will tell. Come on Beaufort!

■ S.O.M.



the spring term Beaufort had passed Howard by; clinching the top spot with 52 points to Howard's 45 and leaving Seymour and the Green Machine trailing in the dust.

The summer term didn't start well. Despite the boys' best efforts we were placed last in the table tennis and tennis competitions, enabling Howard to close the gap on us by 3 points: our 54 to their 48. We had been waiting all year for a chance to shine in House cricket, but unfortunately the senior leg of the competition was rained off and couldn't be completed before the Upper Sixth students stood down for their exam leave. None the less, Humair Hussain, Amar Jandu and Owais Akram stepped up to captain their respective Year 7, Year 8 and Intermediate teams to great effect.

The Beaufort cricketers that did play, all managed to achieve second place, while Howard, Seymour and Tudor claimed one victory each. Three second places scored better than a first, third and fourth and so Beaufort were declared this year's House Cricket Champions – excellent work! Had the senior competition taken place though, the outcome could have been different. Next year it will be imperative that we work hard to recreate this success. Extra mentions go to the Captains and to

to have the choice of five excellent candidates and all of them can take credit for what was a difficult choice: Ed Connolly, Arran Kingston, Anant Kapoor, Lewis Evans and Ashrit Chohan. In addition, it is pleasing to see that the Head Boy and two of the three Deputy Head Boys are all members of Beaufort!

Our athletics standards for Years 7 to 10 felt quite a lot to be desired and it looked like the outcome of Sports Day would be the decider between Beaufort and Howard for first and second place. By that point in the year Mr Watkins had clearly given up all hope and was wearing red shirts around school, while Mr Nash had mysteriously lost his voice.

As we have grown to expect from Beaufort, many boys were willing to do their bit in support of their House and once again it was excellent to see so many students taking part in Sports Day, either by competing, being prepared to step in at the last minute, or by getting themselves whipped up into a supportive frenzy (or was it a red mist?) with the help of the AFS-sponsored discounted sugar products, which were on sale.

There were far too many superb displays of determination and team spirit coming from the Beaufort camp on Sports Day to mention

Howard

A fresh start to the House Championship was warmly welcomed by the Blue Wave last September, on the back of a disappointing 2014–15 season. Although a win on Sports Day had given us the confidence to go into the year hopeful of similar feats, and we started very strongly. An early lead was obtained, with the opening salvos of success achieved on the rugby pitch, capably led by Kamil Khan with three triumphs. This was followed by the senior footballers scraping out wins to create a platform for overall victory at the Futsal Arena in October.

Furthermore, the quiz squad, led by Sulamaan Rahim and Harry Wilson were able to maintain this standard, coming out victorious in the senior rubbers with the other sections following suit later in the year.

The latter part of autumn term ended with a valiant third place in Cross-Country following a worthy victory in the standards, a big effort by all Howard boys who took part. In both basketball and badminton, fiercely competitive rounds resulted in Howard victories with

special mention going to Amartya Maheshwari on his house debut with racquet and shuttlecock, and the junior basketballers who enjoyed three victories. The only disappointment came with the senior rugby where early expectations foundered in the mud and indiscipline of a wet, Wednesday afternoon. All round, it was a very positive start that we wanted to continue.

This was not to be, however, as our good form wavered. Early on concern was expressed as Beaufort were a particular threat in the swimming pool. Eventually we finished third in the swimming, and honours go to captain Alex Lane and to his senior relay squad in particular. Furthermore, we felt a glimmer of hope in the rugby, as each of the junior squads recorded two wins, but lady luck was not on our side and the loss in the final games were to Mr O'Malley's outfit. Perhaps this foreshadowed the senior 7s, who faltered at the last hurdle of Beaufort and were left to rue the chances missed earlier in the competition.

House Quiz, however, a competition that we regularly perform strongly in, mitigated some of the disappointment with a victory. With a fighting chance of first place going into the final term. Unfortunately, however, points slipped from our grasp in hockey and music and we were placed second at the end of the spring term.

Looking to close the blue water with Beaufort, who were in first place, the summer term was set to be tense. To be in this position after last place in the previous year was progress in itself. However, a damp early summer left us feeling blue with 'what ifs?' We came third in table tennis, second in cricket, but we must value that the fact that we achieved six first places through the year, including chess and tennis. Shout-outs go to Ludo de Ventura, Tom Haddon, Danny Blyth, Will Lyons, Luke Hemmings and Abhinash Nirantharakumar for fantastic summer performances.

Where we lost out this year was in the big tickets events – namely the rugby and then the cricket, in part due to our skilled seniors being unable to take to the crease due to the (un)seasonal weather. But a well-deserved second on Sports Day has shown that we have developed an athletics team to be reckoned with going into next year.

Special thanks must go to our House Captain: Satnam Ajimal, and all the departing Howard boys. Congratulations to Alex Lane for being awarded the Vivian Bird trophy for consistent commitment over the last seven years. Alex Tassa was also our nominee for the Simon Fenn Award.

Finally, thanks must go to Mr Hill for coming out to support us at every opportunity, a real motivational force. We now look to replicate our strong start and maintain it, this time, throughout 2016–17.

■ **Adi Thakral**

Seymour

Seymour's 2015–16 season marked one of consistency and hard work, though unfortunately this doesn't always translate into results.

The autumn term opened with house football. Seymour eagerly hoped to retain the title for a third year running. However, despite impressive performances in the 5-a-side competition, we were narrowly pipped to the post by Howard, coming second by a single point. House cross-country was equally as tight and resulted in us coming second (again) by six points. Struggling to find our feet, House basketball and badminton registered last place finishes, in spite of our impressive performance in senior badminton.

The lack of momentum, paradoxically, carried into early 2016. Swimming and chess presented us with a chance to regain lost ground, at least theoretically. However, both events reported last place finishes. Even so, special mentions must be given to Daniel Higgins and Victor Kimani for the senior section, and Matthew Anderson of Year Seven; these were particularly impressive performances. Music saw a slight pick-up, with us finishing third overall (only two points behind winners, Beaufort) – this, unfortunately, does not reflect the fact that we actually scored 92%. Rugby followed and was yet another bottom place finish. On a more positive note, the hockey and quiz teams brought in more favourable results. Our quiz team was unlucky to lose the title by just half a point (an unfortunate spell of bad luck that seemed to have plagued us all year), yet hockey saw us record our first win of 2016. The intermediate section was instrumental in delivering this, racking up an impressive six points.

With the taste of victory still in our mouths, we entered tennis with enthusiasm and high hopes. As we were relatively consistent in terms of our average point score across the age groups this meant we finished a respectable joint second place, though not quite enough to reclaim tennis for a fourth year. The table tennis team fared much the same, with us also ending second, mainly due in part to the intermediate section. This did not look an incredible outcome on paper, but when taking into consideration how we had fared in the first two terms, it was impressive.

I am pleased to report that this attitude of carrying on to the end really epitomises the Camp Hill spirit. Cricket and athletics closed the year, with neither event really favouring us. However, a strong performance from the Year 7 cricketers ensured at least a joint second place finish overall, keeping to our unwavering pattern of coming second for the term. At least until the athletics, in which we finished last. Nonetheless, the Year 10 relay team managed to register a win and Alex Byrne collected the

Victor Ludorum cup.

Overall, this was a fairly forgettable year for Seymour. One title claimed of a possible fourteen and a joint last place finish. These figures do not do us justice, failing to show the efforts that had been made and closeness of all the events. It is unfortunate that very slight differences would have spelt entirely different results. Yet with a new year dawning all we can do is learn from these mistakes and muster the much needed energy to ensure this is our year.

■ **Jonty Hart**

Tudor

This 2015–16 season did not go as hoped for the Tudor House. After winning the House Championship the year before, this year we had our fair share of highs and lows and ended up finishing joint third overall. This did not, of course, reflect our efforts throughout the year, but there is clear evidence we have room for improvement and we have recognised that if success is to be achieved, all members of the House will need to complete their standards to the best of their ability. Despite all of this, it was evident whenever we played, that there is still a sense of Tudor team spirit.

Our students' commitment to their House was epitomized by many, including our Year 9s. Their willingness to contribute in the Intermediate section of the Championship was fantastic and they particularly enjoyed the range of activities on offer – including, swimming, rugby, cricket and athletics.

I would also like to congratulate all of the boys in the House, they should not feel that their efforts went unnoticed. Special mention goes to our swimmers: Joe Clark and Leon Zhang who were won joint first place in the inter Victor Ludorum Cup, as well as Will Smith (Y7), Aditya Bajpai (Y8) and Anil Sivakumar (Y8) who were second in the Victor Ludorum Cup competition, which was aimed at their age group. Also, Louis Cook showed his athletic prowess by achieving a resounding first place in the Year 9 Victor Ludorum event on Sports Day.

Finally, when reflecting on this year's performances, there are clearly many things we can be proud of, as well as areas we will need to work hard to improve. We must put the disappointment of this year behind us and work to ensure success for the coming year. Power to the Green Machine!

■ **A.J.N.**

Domestic Trips

Warwick Castle Trip

On 21st April 2016, the whole of Year 7 ventured to Warwick Castle. Having experienced the Castle last year at the height of the school visit season in July, it was a pleasant surprise to arrive at 10:00, as the Castle opened, to encounter no crowds whatsoever. We were also lucky enough to time our visit to coincide with Science Week and, whilst there, enjoyed performances by Mad Science and were able to participate in their wacky experiments.

However, the main focus was on the history. Armed with clipboards and worksheets, the four class groups ventured around the grounds and ramparts to enjoy the surroundings and discover how Warwick developed as a fortress and palace over the centuries.

Lucky Camp Hill Year 7s were able to witness a variety of different activities whilst there,



including witnessing the firing of the great trebuchet; luckily its fireball failed to hit any buildings this time. In addition, students were able to enter the Horrible Histories Maze, a new attraction at Warwick Castle. This managed to confound many a member of Year 7, and left

some perilously close to missing the bus back to school.

Yet again, staff managed to gaze in wonder as the students took advantage of the minimal queues to raid the gift shop and return with unparalleled glee as they showed off their acquisitions – only to discover that their expensive tastes would not always be practical,

or enduring – such is the lesson of history.

■ G.N.H.



RAF Museum, Cosford National Cold War Exhibition

On Tuesday 3rd November 2015 Year 11 historians ventured to the RAF Museum at Cosford to learn about the Cold War. This year the trip had the dual purpose of providing background for their GCSE module on the Vietnam War and also to enable them to the airborne warfare that took place over the two World Wars for the coursework element of the GCSE course.

The visit started with a lecture from Dr Phylomena Badsey from the University of Wolverhampton, which put the Vietnam War into a broader Cold War context. This was then followed by a visit to the various hangars and students were allowed to go on the ever-entertaining 4-D WWI Dogfight immersive experience.

Over the course of the day students were impressive, continually willing to question the museum staff about the various exhibits displayed. In addition, an exhibit exploring the development of flight and the role of the RAF over during the two World Wars. Students also visited the Cold War hangar, where they could look at nuclear warheads and V-Bombers and examine the 'hot-spots', which gave them more information about the Cold War. This included exhibits on various issues from nuclear diplomacy, through to the Cuban Missiles Crisis and the Vietnam War, onto the Space Race and finally onto the improvement of superpower relations under Reagan and Gorbachev.

■ G.N.H.

Nottingham University Y9 Modern Foreign Languages Trip

On Monday 29th February 2016, a group of 11 students from Year 9 travelled to Nottingham University to find out how important studying a language can be and the type of careers we could pursue with a Modern Foreign Language under our belts.

After starting promptly at 07:30 in the morning, we endured an exhausting 90 minute journey to Nottingham; however our spirits were kept high as we were entertained by the jolly Mrs Balkham and Mr Azam along the way. Finally, we arrived at the campus, and after having a few difficulties finding our way around the campus, Mr Azam parked the mini-bus and we all got out.

Firstly, we were awed by the sheer size of the University Campus – it was huge! We were then given a tour by two of the students, who showed us around the University, ensuring that we had a good understanding of the many different Language Departments that Nottingham has to offer and whilst there we also saw the University's own radio booth and their extravagant home-cinema.

After looking around, we thoroughly enjoyed a brief Chinese class, learning various different greetings and how to draw several different Chinese characters. Although it was challenging at first, we all grasped the idea of it very quickly. At midday, we all sat down to have lunch. Whilst doing so, we discussed about how well our day was going while enjoying a cold, Chocolate Cream Frappuccino from the Starbucks at the University.



Lunch came and went and we then attended a lecture about the benefits of studying a language. After a minor delay, we walked in and sat in rows ready for the session. At first a Lecturer from the University told us what studying a language would be like. I was amazed at the fact that people taking languages at University were given the opportunity to go to another country as part of their degree. This could be very useful, as you would undertake work experience, whilst learning more about the language and culture of the country. It would also offer the opportunity to visit a range of places and give you the opportunity to make friends who you could talk too, even when you returned from that country.

During the day we discovered that linguists are needed by many companies and that someone with language skills would be paid more

than many other people. We found out that having a language makes you stand out to employers, thus boosting your employability. In addition, we discussed the types of jobs that require the knowledge of a language: such as being a translator and interpreter. We were told about the benefits of studying a language and given the example of a colleague of the woman teaching us, who now travels around the world almost every day as part of her job. This amazed me and I am pretty sure that many of us changed our ideas about studying a language at university for the better.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Azam, Mrs Balkham and Mrs Wells for organising the trip and getting us there and back safely.

■ James Thomas

■ Mikias Lemma

Y8 Theatre Visit

In March 2016, Year 8 went to Stratford to see an RSC performance of arguably Shakespeare's most famous play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Mrs Parmar organised the coaches to transport the 120 hyped-up boys to Stratford, more specifically a coach park from which we would walk to the Swan Theatre. After wolfing down our sandwiches, we entered the dark, musky theatre. We all found our seats on the top two rows and the play, performed by understudies, began. It was very funny, with a diverse cast including school children from the local area. Particularly amusing was that although the cast was limited and actors played multiple roles – Bottom/ The-seus and vice versa – it still made perfect sense.

During the interval we all bought ridiculously overpriced food, chatted and stretched our legs, making it a more enjoyable, shorter second half. Afterwards, the teachers had to shepherd us back to the coach park; where, tired and weary, we settled down for the journey home.

All in all, it was a once in a lifetime opportu-

nity to go to the Swan Theatre and see the play performed by some of the best actors in the country. It was a brilliant experience which will be hard to forget.

■ Gabriel Millet

Y10 Theatre Visits

During the first half of the school year, Year 10 witnessed performances of two of the texts that they will study for GCSE: William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, and perhaps Shakespeare's most famous play, *Macbeth*.

The first was *Lord of the Flies*, in Stratford, and the directors gave a contemporary twist to the novel, which was written in the 1950s, with the nation still recovering from World War II. Despite the often downright bizarre directorial choices, the performance stayed very faithful to the original story, of a collection of young boys stranded on an island and their attempts to survive amongst the various schisms that form between them. The characters were also

surprisingly well portrayed, despite the youth of the cast. We left the theatre certainly with a greater understanding of the plot and general themes of the book, despite being a bit confused.

Later in the year, we visited the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to see a production of Shakespeare's revered play *Macbeth*. Again, the play was given a modern, and this time almost futuristic twist, but the plot and the majority of the characters were still clearly recognisable. As the 410-year-old story of power, ambition, and the natural world was played out before us, there was also a large amount of interpretive dancing from several characters, which was perhaps too artistic for an audience of 14- and 15-year-olds.

The entire Year 10 had a great time watching these two plays, and feel that our knowledge of the two texts has been greatly enhanced by the experiences. Thanks should go to Mr Wilkins and Mrs Parmar for organising the two trips, as well as Ms Garvey, Mrs Morris and Mr Jones for accompanying us.

■ Alex Byrne

Y8 Residential Trip Conway Centre Anglesey

On Monday 16th May 2016 the whole of Year 8 piled onto the coaches, looking forward to reaching our final location the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

There was a sense of excitement and expectation in the air as the coach rolled out of school. Once on our way, we travelled for about two hours before stopping off to eat our pack lunches at Cwm Idwal, a lake that has spectacular views of the surrounding rolling valleys and hills, as well as a long river, which snakes down the local mountain side. It was absolutely incredible. After we had eaten we set off again for the last bit of the journey.

Eventually, we arrived at the Centre and were quickly sorted into our dorms and activity groups. These were the groups that we would be with for the whole week. We quickly went to our dorms to unpack before coming down to eat. Once we were full, we went off to our evening activities. There was a great selection of activities, from crafts to football, something for everyone and no one was left without some-

thing to do. Finally, we went to sleep excited about the days ahead and the activities that were in store.

The next day we woke up for what was to be the first day of activities. We quickly ate before heading out with our groups. The groups were selected randomly and this gave us the opportunity to talk and socialise with people in different forms that we wouldn't usually talk to.

There was an impressive range of activities to take part in, from climbing to sailing and everything in between. The activities were probably the highlight of the trip allowing us to try things that we had never tried before. While there we had an activity in the morning then another one after lunch and then, finally, evening activities too.

On the second day we went for on a trip. The teachers split us into two groups and away we went on different coaches. One group went to Caernarfon Castle and the other went to Aber Falls.

At the Castle we were taken on a tour by guides, who were incredibly informative and enthusiastic, and everyone left knowing something new. The tour took us all around the Castle from the bedrooms and bathrooms to the very top of the towers, and we even got a chance to visit the gift shop at the end.

After lunch the groups swapped destination and we went to Aber Falls, which included a walk up a hill! As we walked we could see the Falls appearing and eventually we got there. We were then split up again into groups and half of us went off to search for creatures and insects in the water, while the other group went off to do some geography work, which included map reading and creating water flow charts. Of course anything involving water is bound to involve falling in it and this was a recurring theme with people seemingly being in the water more than they were out. One hardened warrior even twisted his ankle all in the name of science. Sufficiently wet we trudged back down to the coach so we could get back to the Centre.

The next few days consisted of activities and by the end there wasn't anybody who hadn't tried something new. Unfortunately, before we knew it, we were on our way back home.

It was sad to leave and say goodbye, as this was an experience I don't think anyone will forget any time soon. From trying new activities to visiting medieval castles there is truly something for everyone on this trip and I would highly recommend this to anyone who has the opportunity to go.

■ **Ross Evans**





Trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

On Tuesday 12th July 2016 a group of Year 10 RS GCSE students embarked on a journey to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, London; the most visited Mandir in Europe.

The journey was around two and a half hours each way, but it was well worth it considering the sheer awe felt when we arrived. The beauty of the building is second to none and as soon as we set foot inside, many people began to feel calm and peaceful, without the worries that they had brought with them.

Constructed with 5000 tonnes of marble from Italy, along with limestone imported from Bulgaria and with Burmese teak and English oak wood, all of this exquisitely hand carved in India by 169 craftsmen, before being transported to London and assembled by 3000 volunteers who worked day and night between 1993 and 1995 in order to complete it, the temple is a staple of the power of positivity and religion.

Whilst there we were able to immerse ourselves as students into the history of Hinduism as both a religion and a way of life. This was really brought

home when we went to the exhibition within the temple.

After a short break, we then went upstairs to the main prayer room, where we experienced the Aarti prayer, with many of our Hindu students taking part in singing, clapping and receiving blessings. Following this we watched a short documentary about the history of the

Temple, explaining its significance and then we attended a short question session.

Overall the day was a great success, with everyone, including the teachers learning something new and enjoying every bit of the experience available, all hoping they could revisit the Mandir in the future.

■ **Arjun Kaushal**



Birmingham University Archives Visit

At the end of the summer term, two sets of History Students from Year 12 ventured to Birmingham University to visit the Cadbury Collection, the Special Collections Archive in the Muirhead Tower at Birmingham University.

This repository of knowledge is one of the key international collections which we are privileged to have so close to school. The aim of the visit was to explore the collection relating to the mid-century international relations and, in particular, Anglo-American attitude to the rise of fascist and communist tyranny.

The collection contained the archives of Prime Ministers Neville Chamberlain and Anthony Eden. As historians, it was fascinating to read the jottings written by Chamberlain, as he flew to meet Hitler in Germany in September 1938; as well as the diary entries of Anthony Eden, when he was present at the Yalta Conference, and when he was reflecting on the effects of the Atomic Bomb in 1945.

Beguiling too were the magazines and periodicals of the day and how they viewed international developments. Most fascinating

were the assembled press clippings of Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s and the support he was given by the national press, including the infamous 'Hurrah for the Black-shirts' written by the owner of the Daily Mail in January 1934.

As well as exploring the more modern collection, we were given a tour of the vaults where the precious manuscripts are stored under specific regulations for heat, humidity and security. We were able to look at the work of the restorers and specialist archivists in the studio, where they were preparing a new exhibition to go on display at the new University of Birmingham Library. Here the boys could marvel at the Egyptian papyrus, printed Bibles from the Reformation, early



folios of Shakespeare, a 1520 copy of Vesalius' Anatomy and an atlas from 1510 which has one of the very first recognised references to a new continent – America!

As windows on the richness of our collective past go, there are few better starting points than a cold, airless vault at the bottom of a brutalist 1970s tower block.

■ G.N.H.

Nottingham University Y11 Modern Foreign Languages Trip

The University of Nottingham regularly hosts visits in which secondary school students from all around the country are able to look around the University, and even have taster lessons and lectures in all of the various departments! This year, a group of 13 languages students from Year 11 were lucky enough to spend the day at the University. This trip was organised by Mrs Wells (Head of MFL) and the Languages Department at the University.

The day arrived and we got off to a slow and groggy start, with each student turning up between 07:30 and 08:00 in the morning, however once we all clambered into the minibus and made our way through the (quite empty) streets, we began to wake up and prepare for the exciting day ahead.

We arrived at about 09:00 at the University, and were greeted by the gracious Head of Department and two friendly and knowledgeable students – one doing a degree in German, and the other a joint honours in German and Mandarin Chinese, two incredibly different (but very important!) languages.

We began with a tour around the picturesque campus, in order to see what an 'on-site' University is like. The students showed us around the 'Campus Centre', which included a wide assortment of shops and facilities, such as a Costa Coffee, Boots Pharmacy, and even

a Santander Bank! This gave us a great idea of how living on a University Campus allows one to stay on Campus, yet still have all needs met by the vast assortment of facilities available!



We then had a short tour of the Library, which was incredibly popular (perhaps the on-site Costa had something to do with it...) and equipped with the services and technology that any student, studying any subject, could need! In addition, the Library had a tech team who could help any students requiring technical advice, and even translation/interpretation services and software to assist languages students, regardless of language.

Finally after taking a walk around the more scenic and grassy areas (in which the Halls of Residence were situated), we were taken to a small room in order to have a lesson from one of the University's Professors.

We were greeted with a friendly 'Shalom' by the Professor Ilanit, a Hebrew teacher at

the University! She began with teaching us how to introduce ourselves, making us practise with each other (even the teachers joined in, although they were as flummoxed as ourselves at the beginning!).

There were 'Na'im me'ods' everywhere, along with the odd 'Ani Safee...' or 'Ani Sami...' As we progressed, Ilanit showed us how to write some basic phrases, such as 'Shalom,' and 'shalosh,' (the number 3 in Hebrew, or 'Ivrit.' We then learnt the numbers 1 to 10, as one would in any language starter session. We parted Ilanit with a quick 'Yalla bye,' or a more polite 'Le'hitra'ot.'

We were all keen to have lunch, and enjoyed an hour or so relaxing and eating; towards the end of this time we had the chance to talk to some other students who were studying languages. We discussed a range of topics including what was involved with taking a year abroad, as well as what University life is like.

Once we had finished, we were taken back to the Lecture Room where a careers adviser at the University gave us an incredibly informative talk on languages, explaining how, and where foreign languages can be useful and the benefits of a second (or third in some cases!) language, along with other course choices. They also explained Erasmus grants, and how taking a year abroad works. After the incred-

ibly enlightening talk, we had the chance to talk to two fourth year students, who had both recently returned from their year abroad! (One in France, one in Basque, Spain). They were highly informative and we certainly began to understand the benefits living in another country for a year. They explained the different

options that would be available to us, for example helping to teach in a school, or working in translation, and even interpreting.

We all greatly enjoyed hearing from the adviser and the two students, and left the University having enjoyed the superb visit (albeit a little tired), and headed back to Birmingham

with full minds and full hearts.

Special thanks to Mrs Wells, Mr Warrilow (our gracious driver,) and the brilliant Languages Department at the University of Nottingham for organising the brilliant visit.

■ **Rohan Kaya**

Wimbledon Visit

On Thursday 7th July 2016, two staff accompanied ten boys on the eagerly awaited trip to Wimbledon. With plenty of drama and tension in trying to secure a ticket alone, there was an excited atmosphere in the minibus, as everyone looked forward to the day ahead!

As it was the day of the Ladies' Semi-Finals, the opportunity to see Serena or Venus Williams in action on Centre Court seemed to wipe out all memories of the fact we had had to wake up at 6 o'clock that morning. In fact, even the Year 11s on study leave seemed to accept the early start was worth it, for what was to be an enthralling day of tennis at the All England Club!

Thanks to some spectacular parking from Mr Jones, we arrived in plenty of time before the start of play. This gave us the much needed opportunity to split off and explore the beautiful grounds and breath-taking scenery Wimbledon has to offer.

Soon play began and we flitted between fast-paced matches dotted all over the grounds, which we were able to watch close-up as they were on outside courts. In particular, the Boys' Singles attracted many of the Camp Hill party, as future stars of the sport battled for supremacy on the grass courts. In particular, the exuberant French player was very entertaining to watch. Other than our disappointment when he lost, the day had got off to an excellent start!

After enjoying lunch in the baking heat (it was nearly the hottest day of the year), we found our seats in Court One, where play had begun! We watched several thrilling matches during the afternoon, with many of the top doubles players in action. Meanwhile, over on Centre Court, the main attraction of the day – the Ladies' Semis – were underway. Rotating on and off Centre Court, we all got to watch some of the action both courts. Whilst Serena brushed



aside her opponent in just 48 minutes (winning 6-2, 6-0), Venus Williams' match against Kerber was a very close match; perhaps the best of the day so far.

However, the highlight of the trip was seeing the Williams sisters play in the final match of the day, over on Court Two. The high quality of tennis continued into an exciting final set, with Venus and Serena eventually winning

triumphantly.

This memorable event would not have been possible without the work of Mr Jones, who organised and led the trip! Thanks also go to Mr Duncan for accompanying us to Wimbledon! We now look forward to school tennis, as we hope to emulate the success of our stars this summer!

■ **Liam Garside**



Foreign Trips

Battlefields Visit 2016

A Student's View

On Thursday 26th May 2016, the Year 10 History students set out on the long journey from Camp Hill to Ypres, setting off at the ghastly hour of 23:55, for around a 12-hour journey. With Mr Bulloch and Mr Southworth on deck, the boys travelled down to Dover, before crossing to Calais and setting off for the Belgian town, which was a key area during the First World War; a salient the British held onto, and the site of many a battle.

We first saw the Menin Gate, a huge memorial gate at the heart of Ypres, which contains the names of all the soldiers who lost their lives fighting there. From there, we headed to the Hooge Crater Museum, a cemetery built upon the crater formed by a mine in 1915. Having taken in the sheer scale of the area, we headed to our hotel near Lille, having had an exhausting couple of days.

With our batteries recharged, we headed to the Somme, one of the bloodiest sites of the entire war. Our first stop was Thiepval Wood, where a British trench system had been restored. We couldn't have had a more knowledgeable guide, and learnt a great deal about life in the trenches for the Scottish divisions. Afterwards, we saw many key sites which

played a role on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the darkest day in British military history. This included Beaumont Hamel, the site of the Hawthorn Ridge Mine, the explosion of which is one of the most iconic videos of the war. We saw Newfoundland Park, providing insight into the Newfoundland Regiment, highlighting the importance of all the other allied countries who lent their service. Our day finished at the stunning Thiepval Memorial, truly one of the most picturesque sites in Northern France.

The third day saw us at Vimy Ridge, which is filled with preserved tunnel and trench systems that we had the chance to explore ourselves. After the early start, we continued our time at the Somme, seeing one of the few successes on the 1st July 1916, the capturing of Montauban by the Liverpool and Manchester Pals. Yet sites of disaster are all too common, such as around Mansell Copse. We saw many a battlefield, each of which had a story to tell, tragic as they were. We finished the day with High Wood and Delville Wood, where the Birmingham Pals and South Africans saw their first battles.

Day four was a busy day back at Ypres, where we saw the restored German trenches at Bayernwald, and the pristine 'Pool of Peace' in the Spanbroekmolen Crater. It was at this point the weather had fully kicked in, and we found ourselves soaked from head to toe. This only added to the atmosphere of the immense Langemark German Cemetery, one of the few German cemeteries in the area. The rain was simply too heavy for many of us to go out to see memorials at Canada Corner and Tyne Cot, except the ever committed Mr Hill.



Our last day took us to Fromelles, and the newest of the War Graves Commission's Cemeteries, where many of the Australian soldiers are buried. With the long journey back behind us, we all agreed that the trip was truly fantastic. Between the immense battlefields and cemeteries we saw in the days, and of course the free time in the evenings, including one of Mr Hill's signature quizzes, our time in France was an unforgettable one, recommended for all budding historians.

■ Sam Stansfield



Battlefields Visit 2016

A Teacher's View

When our party of thirty-six Year 10 students left Kings Heath at near midnight on a chilly May evening, they could not have imagined that they, above perhaps any other Camp Hill party visiting the battlefields of the First World War, would come to such a very sharp understanding of what trench warfare meant. The weather was quite an experience!

After a long night, we eventually arrived in Ypres, where we visited the Menin Gate, after which we had arranged to meet our coach driver at the short stay coach park, before travelling to the Hooge Crater Museum. What we did not know was that our driver had forgotten to adjust his watch to continental times! So we had an unexpected fifty minutes' rest.



After a pleasant and relaxed lunch at the Museum, combined with a tour of the Museum and a wander round some nearby original 1915 trenches, we set off for our very comfortable and pleasant accommodation at the Parc Hotel, Carvin.

Our first full day was spent looking at infamous 1st July 1916 memorials. We visited sites at Thiepval Woods, where there was a very informative guided tour, Beaumont Hamel, Newfoundland Park and, still in lovely sunshine,



the great mine crater at La Boisselle. In the evening, there was good food and football.

The next morning, we looked up to see a sky full of many shades of colour, all of them, unfortunately, grey! Before returning to the Somme, we visited Vimy Ridge. This was rather curtailed. The guided tour of the trenches was abandoned for

health and safety reasons – a vivid lightning storm – while we could not get close to the impressive Canadian Memorial because, by that time, the rain had become a monsoon proportions.

On our way back to the Somme, we stopped at Bapaume to pick up supplies for yet another sumptuous picnic. While the coach parked in a raging torrent, which had once been the main road to Peronne, Mr Caves and Mr Southworth risked drowning as they ran across to the local Intermarche. And then, three miles beyond Bapaume, all sign of wet weather disappeared and the rest of the day was bright and sunny – until we got back to Bapaume.

Ypres is not noted for sunshine and so it proved on our last full day. We withstood heavy drizzle at the splendidly restored German trench system at Bayernwald, near Ypres, steady rain at the mine crater, now known as the "Pool of Peace", and squelched round a very sodden Hill 60. Relief came with burgers and chips in Ypres. Then, after a chocolate buying



expedition in the town, it was off once more to the nearby sites.

While it was very wet at the Essex Farm Cemetery, the rain was torrential by the time we reached the German Cemetery at Langemark. Despite being given the option of staying on the coach, virtually everybody risked a thorough soaking to visit this atmospheric place. However, our final visit of the day to the Tyn Cot Cemetery had to be abandoned, as the whole area disappeared in a downpour of biblical proportions.

Our final visit, the next day on the way to Calais, was to the Fromelles battlefield, which was largely underwater, though we were able to understand why this battle was yet another British disaster. Weather aside, this was an enjoyable and thought provoking journey back to the War which, tragically, did not end all wars. We were very grateful to the staff, Ms McCulloch, Messrs Bulloch, Caves, Hill and Southworth for providing the experience.

■ **M.R.S.**

Editor's Note: Staff were unanimous in their praise for the students who, despite the atrocious weather, ignored getting very wet and, often pretty cold, and managed to maintain a strong interest throughout. Their behaviour in the hotel was immaculate.

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Battlefields Visit 2016



First World War Centenary Tour

In 2013, the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced that the centenary of the start of the First World War should be commemorated in all schools in England and Wales. To this end, the *First World War Centenary Battlefields Tour Programme* was set up, incorporating the Institute of Education at UCL, and organised by Equity School Travel.

Each school would be able to send two, later three, students and one teacher to undertake a study trip to Belgium and France and it was our chance in March of this year. The opportunity to take part was offered to Year 9 students, who then had to apply individually to justify being taken. Those fortunate boys were Matthew Dixon, Vignesh Venkataramaiah and Neal Pankhania, all in 9M.

We met up at Digbeth Coach Station in Birmingham, feeling more and more excited as pupils and teachers collected there, waiting for various coaches to take us down to our location for the Friday evening, which was the Kingswood Centre in Ashford, Kent. Unfortunately, due to an accident on the M6, we had to wait (along with two other schools!) for the coach to reach us. Undeterred by this delay, we amused ourselves and once on board began to think about what this weekend would entail.

As we arrived late, the boys had to forgo the familiarisation and orienteering sessions that had been arranged to allow the students from schools to meet and we went straight into various workshops. There was some 'overbooking' at the Centre but eventually rooms were sorted out and we had supper and then began. Here, we researched a particular local soldier about whom we find out more once we got to Belgium. We also looked at some artefacts from the battlefields and tried to imagine how we might have felt having to deal with these attacks. We were supported by current serving soldiers who vividly described what battles are like, really not much different between the hundred years separating the First World War and conflicts today.

An early night for an early start on the Saturday, saw us heading towards the Channel Tunnel and embarkation to Calais and then



onwards to our first stop, which was the memorial to the men lost in the battles for Ypres: the Menin Gate. Here, the names of those men of Britain and the Commonwealth who lost their lives, but who have no known grave are commemorated on the epitaph.

We were also able to spend some time at the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum at the Cloth Hall in the centre of Ypres. This, along with most of medieval Ypres, had to be rebuilt following the First World War, as fighting had razed the town to the ground.

The following day had a packed itinerary. First stop Brandhoek Cemetery to look at the graves of casualties from a dressing station. This was particularly poignant, as we saw the grave of Nelly Spindler, a nurse who herself was caught up in an artillery bombardment and lost her life in 1916.

Later on, we went down to the Somme, calling in at the Newfoundland Memorial, this is on the site of a battleground used during the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and poignantly, where bodies still lie buried. And, in addition, it was rather cold!

In the evening, we returned to Ypres and the Menin Gate to witness the Last Post ceremony. This happens at 8 pm each evening; it was initiated in 1921 and has continued every evening since, apart from when the Nazi occupied this area during the Second World War. This ceremony essentially involves members of

the local fire service playing the Last Post, but is often augmented with laying of wreaths, choirs and Service Personnel commemorating losses in their own regiments. We all agreed, it was a very moving event.

All that said, this didn't, however, stop us from having some street food and doing important chocolate shopping!

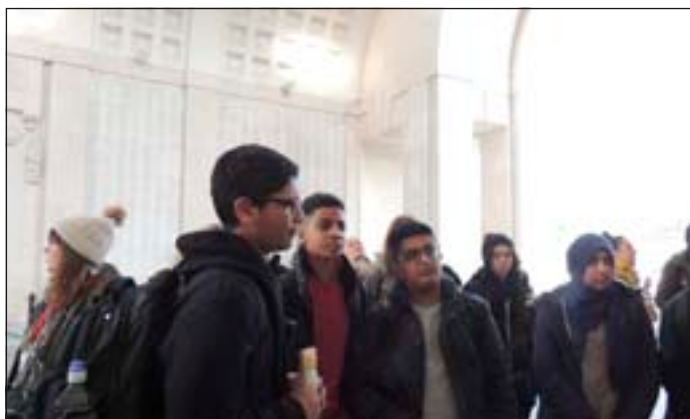
In the evening, all of the students involved were able to reflect on how war affects people, regardless of when it occurs. Neal even had the chance of trying on a current combat uniform – heavy and uncomfortable, but absolutely necessary on patrol!

The final day saw us reflecting in a different way. We were lucky enough to be part of a group that took part in a sculpture project. Each student created a crouched figure to represent all men lost during the conflict. These will be displayed in a Belgian field around Ypres in 2018 when the current series of tours ends.

Finally, on the way back to Calais we stopped at the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery at Tyne Cot. Here we found the soldier's name we had researched – Albert Harding Bradley from Redditch, serving with the Worcestershire Regiment, who was reported missing on 16th August 1917.

This was a fantastic trip, thought provoking, meaningful and sobering. Onwards, our historians of the future!

■ I.McC.



German Homestay

This year, many of the Year 8s wanted to go on the German exchange with the school Frankfurt am Ried; however, due to the lack of numbers on the German side, only twenty were able to go. In fact, some of the German students had already been to England a few months earlier when they had taken part in an Internship Programme.

The German students finally arrived on the Wednesday, after a hectic journey on the number 35 bus. We quickly organised who we were with and took them home. Most people would probably say that the first night was quite awkward, especially seeing how tired the exchange partners were.

The next day, they came into period 1 with us, which meant for the 8K exchange girls:

Chemistry with Dr Varma. It was clear from the first few minutes that a class of overly excited year 8s studying the rock cycle was a lot for them to take in and their role became to identify the rocks put in front of them. Finally, they helped us make board games and songs, but mainly laughed at the lyrics some of us came up with. They then went off to Birmingham and the Bullring, and had a great day, even though some of them got lost.

On Friday, they were off to Coventry, a cultural place and not the obvious place to take them. Most of them liked a day with their friends, now that they were rested; maybe not so much the Transport Museum though.

The weekend was when we, as host families, got to do things with them. Some people went shopping, some to the park, some to the cinema and some met up with other exchange

students. But everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

On Monday, they went to Warwick Castle, which went down better than Coventry with them, and they seemed to really enjoy exploring the grounds and learning about English history. That night, about five of us had Sport Relief, so they joined in, mainly giggling at Krish Agarwal trying to decorate his cake with extra help from Josh Mali and Amar Jandu. While we played football with the boys, the girls marvelled at Fintan Hogan's dogs. Back at home, they all packed and got ready for the trip the next day back to Frankfurt. It was a really great experience, and we cannot wait to go and see them in Frankfurt.

■ **Sam Gray**

■ **Noah Lloyd**

My French Trip

Hello, my name is William Taylor and in this article I would like to tell you a little bit about my time in Paris. I woke up on 26 May 2016 at 04:15 in the morning due to the fact that we had to arrive at school at five o'clock! The half-an-hour journey to school was tense as every minute was spent checking and double-checking my bags.

Once on the coach, I immediately took out my puzzle book and set to work on a particularly tricky crossword with two of my friends. Seven hours and sixteen crosswords later, we had arrived at the Eurotunnel. Most people spent the next hour running from carriage to carriage after having sat still for such a long time. The final five hours of the journey seemed to take forever, but that was nothing compared to the awkwardness of our first meeting with the host family.

Adam (my partner) and I got off the coach to see two women waiting for us. Adam got scared because he thought we were going to be separated and as did I, until I saw that the other woman was already with a pair of students. Once we met our family our conversation got as far as: 'What is your name?' before we were reaching into our bags desperately for the booklet of phrases.

After meeting with the whole family and unpacking our bags, we were called to the dinner table for our first meal. It was pasta and bacon in a white sauce and it was lovely. For two hours after that we played badminton in the garden with Urane (the host family's eleven year-old son).

On day one, we woke up, packed our bag and left for a day in Paris. For our first activity we visited tower Montparnasse and went to the very top. The view was amazing! From there we got a glimpse at all of the iconic buildings in Paris. Next on the agenda was

a lengthy boat trip across the river Seine. Accompanying the cruise was an audio tour telling us about the various history of the buildings that we passed. I listened to it for a bit, but then as we passed the Eiffel tower, I was too busy trying to get good photos to pay much attention. It was during that ride that we ate our lunch. I had been packed a baguette, two French chocolates, a drink and some baby food. I can now tell you first hand, that French baby food tastes like mustard and apples.

By that point I was quite tired and ready to go home, but I was told that we were going to visit the Geode. For those of you who don't know: the Geode is a 3-D cinema and it is really cool. We watched a film about the Ice Age, in French of course, and the mammoths looked like they were about to step on you.

By the time we got home that evening, I was ready to go to bed; but despite me saying this countless times to Adam, it didn't stop him from trying to persuade me to participate in a nerf gun fight. Our host family lived in a cul-de-sac, so this meant that we had a lot of space to run around. The nerf war ended at 22:00.

On day two, we had a break. We got to spend the whole day with our host family. We had planned to spend the whole day outside, but sadly there was a thunderstorm. This meant we had to play inside and luckily Urane possessed a large variety of video games. The only one I knew how to play was Minecraft. This resulted in a few hours of sign language, as we were trying to communicate where to build our house. He kept laughing at my lack of gaming skills and at the end, pointed out that while he had died twice I had died eighteen times. In the afternoon Adam and I were taken to go and see *Civil War* (the new Marvel superheroes movie). Unfortunately the whole thing was in French. And this made it quite

hard to understand, but as it was a very action packed movie, it didn't ruin it much! Before we knew it the day had ended and we were eagerly anticipating tomorrow's trip to Asterix theme park.

Having again been woken up at 06:15, Adam and I boarded the coach for the journey to the park. Once we had arrived, every student had to listen to set of safety rules. The most important rule was that you could go around the theme park as much as you liked, but you had to report back to a meeting point every two hours.

This was great, as it meant we had complete freedom to do almost whatever we wanted. I ventured, with two of my friends, across the park until we came across a Viking boat ride. We wanted to start small and then build our way up to the big rollercoasters, so we proceeded to do just that. After being on a few of the more childish rides we reported back, had our names ticked off and examined the map. We went straight into the third biggest ride the whole park. It was so scary because it was made from wood. As we zoomed around it constantly felt like the whole thing was going to collapse! Most of the remaining time was spent going on the log flume over and over again. We went on it seven times. My friends and I agreed that as the final ride we would do was Iris, the biggest one. This is also the one that the host family had recommended to us. Afterwards, I was glad I did it, but felt extremely sick.

The rest of my time in France went by really fast, but I enjoyed every second of it. I do hope that if your children ever have the chance to go on this trip they take it. At first I was a bit nervous, but I have not and will never regret it!

■ **William Taylor**

Czech Republic Trip

Kořen Youth Camp 2016

After the final summer term 2016 assembly had taken place, a group of twenty-nine Year 10 boys, accompanied by Mr Duncan, Mr McDermott, Mr Nash, Mr Burgess and Mr May travelled to the Czech Republic. After hitting the motorways rather speedily, the coach was met by a heavy traffic jam at Dover. Luckily we were blessed with a fantastic driver who manoeuvred through the back streets to restrict our journey to the camp to 29 long hours. Finally we arrived and happily, some free time was available and we were able to explore the camp facilities, settle into our chalets and meet the students who were there from other countries.

The first proper day of the holiday began with some relaxed camp-based activities until lunch, after which the rain really came down. This meant we were split up into different teams and mixed with the other countries for a quiz. Eventually the rain slowed up and we left for a wet and muddy walk to Kosi Potok. In the evening the camp headed off to Mariánské Lázně to see the "singing fountain".

Monday began with an all day visit to the spa town of Karlovy Vary, however we were all talking about the dreaded singing competition scheduled to take place that evening. The town was nice and many people decided to try and explore the area and take in some of the local culture. The singing competition came around and was a good mix of humour and quality with the act from the teachers led by Mr Burgess the most memorable event by far. Ryan Humphries won the competition with his amazing solo version of – well... a song.

Tuesday had another relaxed start with the United Kingdom verses the Czech and



German students, we were definitely the best. After lunch we headed off to Tachov and we were split back into groups and participated in activities such as rifle shooting, football, golf and ten-pin bowling. This was followed by a dip in the superb outdoor pool facility. The evening activity was the first disco where the various countries were able to mix.

An earlier start was needed for our day trip to Prague, as it was a three-hour journey to get there. We set off on our own to explore, with most people on the hunt to find the nearest fast food for lunch. Upon our arrival back the evening barbeque had begun and we dove into the food immediately. We were then given a bit of free time before lights out.

On Thursday we set off to Plzen zoo, which was a fantastic experience with a vast range of animals on show – too many to be seen in the time that we were there. We then went to the main town of Plzen and set off to explore on our own. In the evening we set off to Tachov

again to do some ice-skating or for the more experienced skaters – ice hockey. Mr Burgess was kitted out in full goal keeper kit and did really rather well! The inexperienced boys were helped by the Czechs and the Germans, with boys dropping to the ground by the second. We then said our final farewells to our German friends.

Our last day saw us going to the town of Domažlice where we were free to go off on our own and explore the old town. We then said goodbye to our new Czech friends at the final disco before getting off to bed for the early 04:00 start that followed.

All the boys who went on the trip would like to thank all the staff at the Camp and the teachers who sacrificed the first week of the summer in order to allow us to go. It was an unforgettable and enjoyable week for all the boys who took part.

■ **Dhyan Naik**



German Exchange Trip Schule am Ried, Enkheim, Frankfurt

On Wednesday 7th October 2015, we took off from Birmingham Airport on a Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt. Deutsche Lufthansa AG, commonly known as Lufthansa, is a German airline and also the largest airline in Europe, both in terms of overall passengers carried and fleet size.

It was only about an hour, however, the excitement was rushing through our bloodstreams. When we landed it was straight to the U-Bahn (underground train) station to get the train to Frankfurt, at which point we switched trains to the U7. Eventually reaching Enkheim (the village where the Schule am Ried was situated). We arrived after a short walk to the school where our exchange partners picked us up and we went home through various means of transport. It was a strange feeling going home at midday and it was one of the things we missed when we got back to school.

On Thursday, we had the first two lessons at the German school. Some were fortunate enough to have double English, while the unfortunate rest had double German!

At 09:15 CEST (Central European Summer Time) we ventured into the financial capital of Germany, otherwise known as Frankfurt. From there we travelled to the top of the Heleba Tower in a 18 mph elevator. Once at the top we marvelled at the vast sprawl of high-rise buildings and shopping districts that is Frankfurt.

Afterwards, we travelled a few blocks to one of the shopping districts. This particular one boasted the longest escalator in Europe, so naturally we all went on it. It's located in the Zeil Forum, in the complex FHV. It goes directly from the first floor to the fourth floor, covering the distance of 46.5m. Going down is less direct though and involved taking several small escalators in order to get back down to ground level.

Whilst in the district we also had a chance to look at the City Hall also known as The



Römer. This was followed up with a visit to the City Zoo, a gargantuan enclosure, where we saw everything from lions to antelope. This action-packed day was one to remember and we were all ready to sleep by the time we got back.

On Friday, we again had the first two lessons. This time it was music for all of us as some of the exchange students had exams. During the lesson we sang and translated an old Beatles song.

Following this, at 09:15 CEST we went to the swimming pool however, it was closed, which was a shame. So instead we went to an interactive science museum, much like the Thinktank in Birmingham. It was called Experimenta and was very interesting for all of us. Finally we went back to the shopping district for a while, before heading home again. We couldn't wait to tell our host families about what we had learned.

Over the weekend, we all did separate things with our host families. On Saturday, most of us met up for a couple of games of Laser Tag in the morning. The arena we played in was twice the size of places like Star City and much better equipped, with automatic phasers and turrets on the walls. It was overall really enjoyable and we all felt super alive afterwards. In the evening, most of us met up for a small house party with extraordinary food and entertainment. After that we really were all exhausted. On Sunday everyone did separate things, some went to the shopping district, others stayed at home, and one went out of town to a massive theme park that was one town from the French border, and 100 km from the Swiss border, and which had the tallest ride in Europe standing at a whopping 78 meters. It was yet another fun packed day for all of us to say the least.

On the Monday, we all met at the beginning of Schofol (07:45), then taking the train to

Frankfurt and then changing to another line. Finally, we took a long bus ride, (the bus only came every two hours) to an ancient Roman fort, which was discovered in the 19th century and which Kaiser Wilhelm had funded the rebuilding of. Now it is an interesting museum. This morning was bitterly cold, but the sun was shining when we began our tour of the place. One of the most memorable things was the fact the Germans at the time were amazed by how far Roman technology had gone – for example it had two floors and windows. Whilst we were there we did some archery, which was entertaining as some hit bullseye, while others struggled to hit the target! Afterwards we moved on to javelin throwing with some ancient techniques that were all new to us. Because the next bus wasn't for another hour we went to a hotel and enjoyed a warm hot chocolate to compensate for the cold morning. After catching the bus back we met some more German students; it was a lot of fun talking to them and comparing our cultures. At the end of the day we caught the train back to Enkheim to meet our host families for our last evening.

On the last day, we met at the train station at 08:30 and said our goodbyes to our host families and making sure we took plenty of photos. We took the train to Frankfurt airport and then checked into our flight. Once we were through security we had plenty of free time to buy some final souvenirs for our own families. Then we took the short one-hour plane flight back to Birmingham Airport where we were picked up by our parents.

It was a fantastic trip and on behalf of everyone on the trip we would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wells for all of the hard work and planning she put in to make it possible for us to go and have a great time.

■ **Oliver Maclean**

■ **Arjun Kaushal**



Iceland 2015

In October half-term last year 35 boys and staff from Camp Hill boarded an Iceland Air flight to Reykjavik on a mission to explore the land of fire and ice.

As we were welcomed by our Icelandic guide and perfect blue skies we were instantly in awe of the scale and rawness of the landscape. Our tour took us to some of the most spectacular landmarks in the country and sites that can be seen nowhere else in the world. The amazing Strokkur geyser, which shoots water 40 ft into the air every few minutes and the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall, which cascades over a massive canyon, were two of the highlights of the second day.

On day three we headed along the south coast, across vast ancient lava flows, which had once wreaked havoc on the island, before visiting the museum of Eyjafjallajökull (that's "eya-fyatla-yokult" in case you weren't sure). Students learnt first-hand about the impact of the 2010 eruption, which caused so much chaos for flights across Europe. We stopped to enjoy the impressive waterfalls as Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss, especially impressive thanks to recent heavy rains, before having a talk on Icelandic history at the Folk Museum of Iceland.

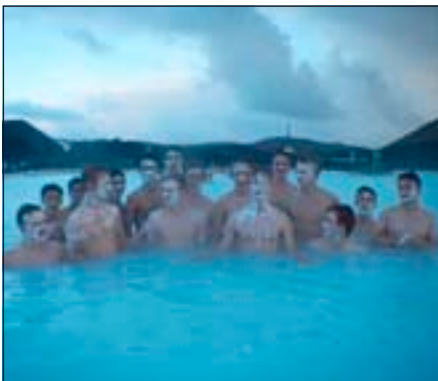
Our continued journey east was hampered somewhat by poor weather, which forced the cancellation of the glacier walking activity and the boat trip on the ice lagoon at Jökulsárlón. However, the boys still enjoyed exploring the washed-up icebergs on the beach, some of which had melted enough to pick up. Our journey back



to Reykjavik took us to a local seafood restaurant and then to the Blue Lagoon, these are quintessential experiences of any trip to Iceland.

It was a very special and unique experience for everyone involved and everyone came away impressed by the power of nature to destroy and rebuild the landscape in such breathtaking fashion. Thanks to Mr Caves, Mr Jackson and Mrs Atwell who accompanied the trip and made it all possible.

■ D.E.



VDI Schülerforum 2016

On a bright Thursday morning (at the very un-teenager-ish time of 07:00), a group of nine Year 10 students met Mrs Thomson and Mr Jackson at Birmingham International Airport, fully prepared for the adventure that lay ahead of them. The journey got off to an excellent start, with George Hynes managing to lose his boarding pass within 15 minutes of receiving it. Having managed to seemingly barter one off of the staff manning the gate, we made the short flight to Germany's busiest airport, Flughafen Frankfurt am Main.

Despite being in the country which was the world haven for engineering innovation, several of us were amazed by the mechanism by which the luggage was transported onto the carousel. Once we had managed to pick up Ibrahim Ezzeldin's suitcase, weighing in at 23 kg, which could probably have contained a baby elephant, we navigated the perfectly-on-time German U-Bahn and S-Bahn networks to the quiet suburb of Bergen-Enkheim. At the nearby Schule am Ried, we met our German partners, many of whom were delighted to meet us, or maybe just to get the afternoon off. The evening was spent with our host families, where we got a taste (no pun intended) of a range of German delicacies, such as the 'Spaghetti-Eis', ('spaghetti ice cream'). It also transpired that Ibrahim's hosts seemed to think that his name was Timmy; clearly his German wasn't as good as he had thought.

On Friday morning we gathered at the Bergen-Enkheim U-Bahn station, quadruple-checking that we all had the necessary scripts and memory sticks with our presentation (George of course having lost his script as well). We were the only school, outside of Germany, to have the opportunity to participate in this forum and we had needed to write a report earlier, on a scientific subject of our choice. We were glad to find out that none of the German groups had stolen our ideas.

On receiving the programme for the day, it turned out that Ibrahim's group, presenting on 3D printing, would have to perform four



times – this presentation was as yet unseen by Mrs Thomson or Mr Jackson. Alex Byrne's group, presenting on drone technology, had to present theirs in the dreaded AudiMax Theatre, this had a capacity of what was estimated to be "like 5000". However, it was Shrey Bohra's group who would deliver their presentation on carbon capture technology first in one of the smaller rooms, and it quickly became obvious that their videos would be unaccompanied by sound. Despite this, they carried on in true Camp Hill fashion, and kept their cool under the various German questions about efficiency (what else?).

During a break, we all made reasonable attempts at an engineering quiz (all in German of course), and while we were doing this, a very philosophical and very loud German man, lectured us in almost perfect English about the joys of uniform (as we were the only ones there wearing any, we still weren't convinced).

After all of the presentations were finished, and almost everyone had managed a response to the questions in extremely fractured German, we got a free lunch. Unfortunately seemingly every drink available at the canteen was spilled in Rohan Jobanputra's lap. We then attended a 'multi-media event', which frankly was about the only thing that we understood about it (and even that, we only knew because we were told by Mrs Thomson). The prize-giv-

ing was almost just as unintelligible, so much of the time was passed by flicking Ibrahim's ears (who had fallen asleep). Although our flights had been paid for, so we were ineligible for any of the main prizes, we all went home with a goody bag, including a copy of Marcus Chown's *What a Wonderful World* (thankfully in English). Having reunited with our host families, many of us spent the evening watching the first game of Euro 2016, although Saqlain Siddiqui fell asleep just before France scored the winning goal.

The next day was spent with our host families, and we were split almost in two; four of us went to Frankfurt's famous Rebstockbad water park, and five of us went for a wander around the city. The Rebstockbad is one of Frankfurt's primary tourist attractions, and the most visited swimming pool in Germany. So astonishing were the slides in particular, that it led Shrey to later remark "twas sick". The other group went to the observation deck of the Frankfurt Cathedral, taking many stunning photographs of the renowned skyline of the city.

Eventually the two groups met in the MyZeil Shopping Centre, instantly recognisable due to its possession of both a large tunnel cut out of the glasswork, and also as it has the longest escalator in Europe, taking around 90 seconds to reach the top. Because Ibrahim had forgotten to bring his phone with him, we made a makeshift beacon by tying a helium balloon to his wrist in case he got lost (the German spirit of innovation was clearly affecting us). However, George felt it necessary to breathe in this helium, much to the amusement of the German girls.

In the afternoon, the groups split up again, with the first group visiting the Hessen Centre, where even though there were almost as many shops as the Bullring, Shrey decided to buy 600 Tic-Tacs (all for only €6!). The rest of us spent the time buying souvenirs, with Alex almost buying a checked hat to match his checked shirt, in the worst display of fashion since, well, ever. That evening, England played their first



game of the tournament, and again many of us were watching. Perhaps it was the fact that Saqlain fell asleep again, or perhaps Ibrahim's insistence on supporting Russia, that led to England having to settle for a draw in the last minute.

On Sunday, we all said our (emotional, in George's case) goodbyes, and we thanked our families for letting us stay in their homes. On leaving their families Ajay John and Pranav Thatipamula discovered that that they had managed to live in the same block for the entire weekend without realising.

Finally we made the journey back to the airport, seeming to irritate a very large number of commuters along the way. As we arrived, and managed to check in using nothing but machines, we had an hour or two to kill in duty free, which Rohan devoted to trying to take as many of the free sweets offered in the toilets, without looking suspicious. Once our plane's gate had finally been decided by Lufthansa, during which time Jake Holloway incessantly fended off the requests from small children to go on the see-saw outside the gates, we boarded our flight and landed at around 17:30

to be picked up by our parents.

We all had an unforgettable experience in Germany, and will surely return at some point in our lives. We would like to thank of course the VDI for inviting our school to this event again, as well as Mrs Thomson and Mr Jackson for accompanying us throughout the journey and offering us endless wisdom from their previous trips, and also Dr Taylor for ensuring that we hadn't made any obvious scientific errors in our reports.

■ **Alexander Byrne**

Paris Trip 2016

Day by Day

On Friday morning, 1st July 2016, a group of Year 9 gallant Camphillians sallied forth for their first day of activities abroad. They had no idea of the experiences about to befall them, and they were not disappointed.

After a short coach journey courtesy of Mike the coach driver, we arrived for the first activity of the day, which was a tour of the baking department of "Auchan" supermarket and a bake off. However, due to recent tragic events in and around Paris security understandably refused to let us into the supermarket until they had checked our bags. This consequently led to nearly an hour of waiting around, which put pressure on the whole day's schedule. The boys enjoyed the tour and there was no end to the "wowing" and "OMG it's as big as my heading" at the rather gargantuan pastries on offer. However, we were sadly unable to compete in the bake off as the security checks had used up so much time.

We were all bundled back into the coach and, with many a cry of "I am the one", set off to

the Palace of Versailles. The tour of the Palace was slightly rushed, but nevertheless the scale and richness of the rooms and paintings was an immense experience. After the tour, we walked to a local park and, after eating lunch, we proceeded to play catch with a tennis ball. This was made even more enjoyable, when a local dog decided to join the game. Unfortunately once it had got the ball it seemed only Joshua Birch had the power to subdue the beast and retrieve the ball from its slobbery jaws. We also discovered that dogs possess lethal speed, and are capable of outrunning Camp Hill's finest, with ease.

Then the teachers assembled us and we took a walk through the park, pausing to take pictures of us "dabbing" in front of various statues. Unfortunately due to all the delays we were unable to go to Velizy Shopping Mall, returning instead to an Auchan Hypermarket. Unfortunately, the aforementioned JB and his accomplice Jo Clark had a little checkout trouble and arrived at the coach 15 minutes late.

During the return coach journey, Mr Renault demonstrated that he could "dab" like a pro and play Mario Kart like a gamer. After a day full of excitement and adventure, we



returned to our host families for the night.

Saturday morning, 2nd July: the boys once again raring to go, as we set off to visit the Catacombs of Paris. The coach journey there was full of screaming, mixed emotions, excitement and some interesting conversations among



the "Back of the Bus Boys".

After walking down some very long stairs and reading a sign stating that we were about 21 metres underground, the adventure began. The Catacombs of Paris, filled with the remains of over 6 million French people, was



quite something. The spooky atmosphere only added towards the excitement. After the long walk underground, we returned to the surface, to be greeted by some more lovely weather. Outside the exit was a souvenir shop which we all, I'm sure, found very interesting.

After another lovely stroll through the streets of Paris, we then drove to the Montparnasse Tower where the view was just gorgeous. We were on top of the only skyscraper in Paris, from which you can see pretty much the whole of Paris. We then went on the Bateau Mouche, from where we saw some of the main attractions in Paris and we encouraged people on the bridges above us to "dab". After this placid cruise through the river and finally getting someone to "dab" for us, we returned to our host families after another exhausting, but brilliant day in Paris.

On Sunday, 3rd July, the young Edwardians rolled out to their last adventure in the European Union, Disneyland. The day started

early, as we met the coach at 08:00, finally arriving at Disneyland at 10:00. Even at such an early hour, the students were shocked to find that there were many queues. With the arrival of many, many other people, and the bitter news that *Big Thunder Mountain* was closed for maintenance, the early hours of the day had started to look bleak, but not all hope was



lost! *Space Mountain* had been opened again, which meant one thing – squad photos! Some squad photos taken on *Space Mountain* were



weak, some were squad goals and some were just downright hilarious, for all the wrong reasons.

Of course, there were other amazing parts about Disneyland, such as the other great rides like *Indiana Jones* and the *Temple of Peril*, *Buzz Lightyear's Laser Blast*, *Phantom Manor* (although, personally, I found the England v Iceland match much scarier), and of course, who can forget, *Mad Hatter's Tea Cups*, a ride which seemed to really resonate with the teachers. Furthermore, we also had the chance to meet

with some of our favourite Disney characters; personally I met with Stitch, Goofy and Donald Duck, and we even got lucky and some of us met celebrities such as Ashley Young! After all this, we had time to shop for nice souvenirs for ourselves and our families, though the souvenirs were rather expensive.

After a final day of excitement and coach journeys, filled with games of Mario Kart DS between students and teachers using other students' DS's, courtesy of Mike, the students finally returned to their host families for their final night in Paris.

All the party would like to say a big "thank you" to Mrs Balkham, who organised the trip and to Mr Renault, Mr Pitt, Mrs Morris, Ms Garvey and Mr Burgess for making our visit to Paris such a memorable experience.

- **Ayyub Ali**
- **Proshanto Chanda**
- **Jason Tahiri**

Work Experience in Germany

The trip to Germany this year was very memorable to say the least. Firstly the weather there was extremely good. It was weird to see the contrast between the rain in England before we left and then seeing the sun as soon as we stepped out of the plane into Frankfurt. And the weather was like this every-

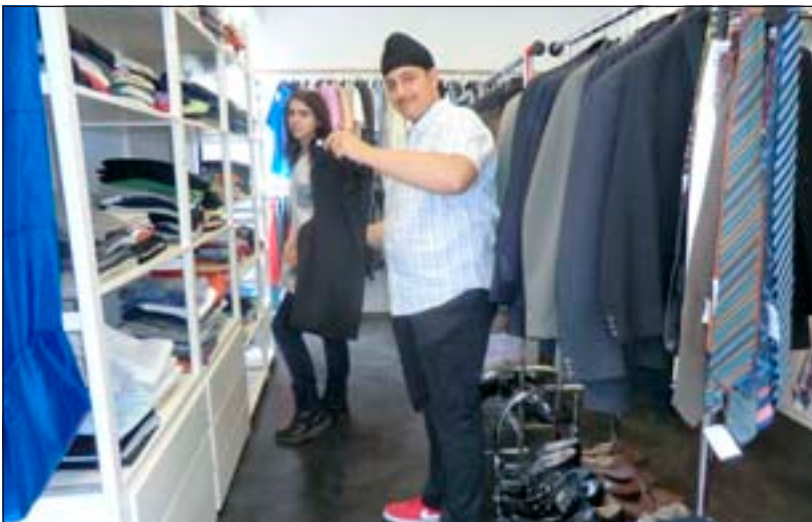
day, so it didn't let us down at all.

On the very first day, we visited an ice cream parlour to try such high quality ice cream that was recommended by the locals, and they were definitely right, the ice cream was so good. Later on this day, we were taken around the city and were shown our placements, which gave us a chance to see which route we should take to get there and also gave us a chance to meet the employer we were working for.

The choice of placements included: a char-

ity shop, a hospital, a deli, a hotel, the University of Applied Sciences, and many more. I worked at the Red Cross (Rotes Kreuz) charity shop.

Everyone worked from Monday to Friday, however my working hours were only from 10:00 to 14:00. In the shop I completed simple tasks such as neatly folding up clothes, cleaning windows, hoovering and also helping out customers. The placement was good as it allowed me to practice conversations in German, which also built up my confidence to approach other





German people and speak to them. Overall this placement was very enjoyable.

Initially, when I started, I was nervous since I thought my German wasn't good enough to interact with strangers; however as the days progressed I built my confidence after talking to more and more customers and realized that my German had improved by a lot. This placement was much easier for me due to the fact that the people working there were extremely friendly and were willing to help at all times in any circumstance.

The places we visited on the trip aside from the work experience included Schule am Ried, Main Tower, Römer (old town hall) and the main City Centre itself.

My experience of the family I stayed with was very enjoyable. In fact, a highlight of the trip for me was when I went to the public viewing in Frankfurt. This is where all of the German fans gathered together in the Commerzbank Football Arena to watch Germany vs. Slovakia. The atmosphere came to life when I entered the stadium to hear and see 50,000 German fans chanting. The match was played on a massive screen and the result was good: 3-0 to Germany.

All of the placements met our high expectations and were enjoyed a lot by the students working there. I strongly recommend this trip to future students, because firstly, it is an unforgettable experience, from the sights to the people, secondly, this trip is something that is very interesting to put onto your CV and thirdly, people are impressed if you are able to commu-

nicate in a different language, which is something everyone is able to do after going on this trip. This trip overall can be summed up in four words: affordable, enjoyable, memorable and unforgettable.

■ **Ajit Bhamra**



Drama

Senior Drama

Oh! What a Lovely War

It seemed appropriate that, as we mark the middle year of the Great War, this year's Senior Drama production should turn to Joan Littlewood's 'musical entertainment', *Oh! What a Lovely War*, which tells the story of that monumental conflict in a series of some twenty-nine sketches, accompanied by the haunting songs created at the time by the ordinary soldiers.

It is a unique piece, reflecting changing attitudes to the War; in its early days, it was all an exciting adventure, likely to be over by Christmas 1914, or, at the very latest, the end of 1915. And then came the horrific reality of the Somme and Passchendaele. With their minimal gains, for a price few would now be prepared to pay, the battles brought grim and bloody attrition, as the opposing armies flogged their way to some sort of victory. By stages, light hearted and funny, tragic and thought provoking, *'Oh! What a Lovely War'* meant that striking the right note was always going to be a challenge for the largely young cast that assembled with





little time – Easter was very early – just before half-term; for them, the result was something of a triumph.

What they achieved was hugely to their credit; the actors worked with commitment and energy and the finished result was, according to many in the audience, impressive and moving. They were supported by yet another superb Palmer band, which made the audience very reluctant to leave during the play out music, and by a complex and increasingly fluent technical plot, which required lights and newspanels and contemporary photographs to be smoothly co-ordinated.

Let us begin with the girls; our five young ladies were superb. They sang beautifully and arranged their own dance sequences effectively. Memorable was Ruth Owen's portrayal of a Music Hall star in *'I'll Make a Man of Any One of You'*, and Kate Ramsden's beautiful *'Keep the Home Fires Burning'*; but, also, Emily Prins, Abigail Underwood and the ebullient Abbie Hill all impressed.

Of the veterans, Kingsley Bates's Douglas Haig captured so well the insouciance of a man convinced that he had God on his side as he dispatched so many young men to their graves, while Carl Lawrence, as the MC, got the show off to a sparkling start. The latter's performance as a Sergeant-Major drilling incompetent recruits was an absolute gem. Tom Meehan did a wondrous job leading an inexperienced chorus and Max Laverty's handling of a variety of roles was assured.

From the Lower Sixth, Arya Damavandy

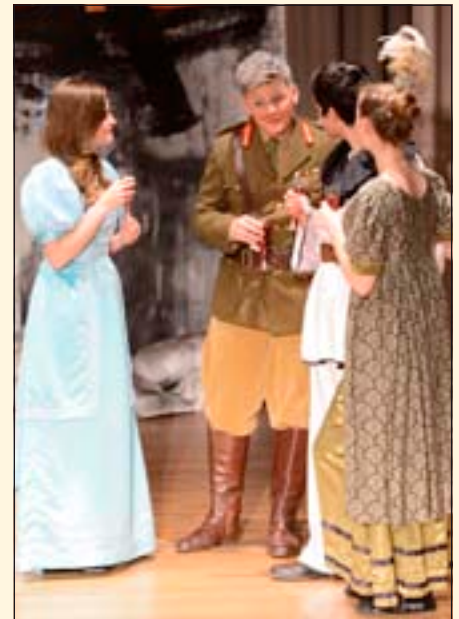
played his roles with real elan, and Lior Saad, before our eyes, grew into a most accomplished performer.

Year Eleven students were outstanding. Matty Blaney's portrayal of frightfully posh British arrogance was splendidly judged, Sunil Patel excelled as a Church of England Padre and Ihsaam Hamid seemed so terribly British – both the upper class and lower class versions. Accents were most convincing – I have congratulated Mrs Wells and the Modern Foreign Languages Department! Johannes Beckett spoke German in a variety of roles as if it was in his blood, which, actually it is! A star was born in Isaara Mahalekham, whose acting matched his brilliant French accent, as he moved effortlessly from being a French General, a French Captain, to an ordinary poilu.

It was pleasing to see Year 10 students making their mark. Daniel Cole's voice contributed much to the singing, Rohan Jobanputra showed significant promise, and Alfie Green made a very confident debut as, among others, a Swiss banker and the head of the Belgian army. Equally effective was Navaneeth Natarajan's role as a gormless and reluctant recruit.

This was a review; there were no leading actors because all had their important roles to play – and the frequent changes of scene meant it was exhausting to perform. As those who came to see the show could appreciate, it was very clear that the whole cast thrived on the pressure and delivered four memorable performances.

■ M.R.S.



Junior Drama

Lord of the Flies

The 2015–16 Junior Drama was *'Lord of the Flies'*, a play based upon William Golding's famous novel and written by playwright Nigel Williams. It received its first professional performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in the summer of 1995, and was recently revived this year, in spectacular fashion, at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

As Mr Downing refused to construct a full scale model of a crashed BA passenger jet (!), our production had to be rather lower key however.

The Regent's Park version, of course, used professional actors who were in their very late teens or early twenties. This is a demanding production and so it proved to be for our younger performers. After a huge amount of hard work and some very rocky moments, they performed with a passion and range of emotions which belied their relatively tender years.

Bilal Stitan, played Ralph, a character struggling to maintain order and reasonable behaviour as most of the rest of the boys sink into barbarism. Bilal proved to be impressive, particularly at the end, when the full horror and tragedy of what has happened began to sink in.

His nemesis, Jack, who led his group into

murder and savagery, drew a stunning performance from Jason Tahiri; his naked ambition, anger, mindless self-confidence and brutal dismissal of any who would not follow him, were all scarily convincing.

Jonathan Anderson produced a lovely, measured portrayal of 'Piggy'. The not so quiet voice of common sense, Jonathan brought a great sensitivity to his role; his dogged loyalty to Ralph and its awful consequences produced a pathos rarely achieved in junior drama.

Oliver Ebenezer impressed as the cold, sinister, the only member of Jack's gang of savages who had a mind – and an agenda – of his own. Mention too must be made of Reuben Jones-Rigby; his cameo as the strange, sensitive and increasingly unhinged Simon was one of the highlights of the evening.

This play, however, depends heavily on the supporting cast; their role, in creating the right atmosphere and in keeping the ensemble playing bowling along at pace, was vital. Proshanto Chanda and Adil Ihsan performed their double act as the 'twins', Eric and Sam, with aplomb, while Sam Gray was perfection as the prissy little prep school boy, Perceval Wemys Madyson. Ayub Ali and Sanjay Rajput impressed as the jokers of the form, too gormless to grasp where Jack was leading them, and Noah Lloyd and Sicheng Li added admirable support.



The cast were, as always, very grateful to those members of staff who helped to stage the production; Mr Downing, despite his failure with the aeroplane, built the set and produced many props, including 'Dave', the parachutist, who although dead, made such an impact! Mr Parkinson created the programmes and tickets, but above all transformed the backdrop for the *'Jungle Book'* into a very effective crash site. We were delighted to see Mrs James back, not only to supervise the costumes, but also to make a pig (also dead!) and to spend each interval painting boys until they looked like savages – or perhaps, even more than usual, like savages!

Above all, the credit for the success of the production inevitably goes to our three Upper Sixth Directors, Tom Meehan, Carl Lawrence and Kingsley Bates, the latter in particular showing he was very much a man for a crisis. It is hugely to their credit that the challenges posed by the play were so triumphantly met. They had to work under great time pressures, must sometimes have despaired as progress was slow, but they stuck to their task and thoroughly deserved the many plaudits that came their way.

■ **M.R.S.**



Music

Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert took place just after half-term, and featured our junior musicians in String Orchestra and Training Wind Band. It was good to note how they played neatly and with great assurance.

There were also a number of enjoyable performances by smaller ensembles, such as Guitar Ensemble and Tabla Ensemble. In addition, the audience enjoyed some excellent solos: Harry Atkinson performed the beautiful melody by Faure *Après un reve*, and Jonty Hart played an oboe sonata movement by Sammartini. Of special note was a performance of a 'Rock and Roll' piece by Year 9 boys, which was prepared in their class lessons.

■ S.F.P.





Teatime Concert

In March we hold our Teatime Concert. This is an event enjoyed by pupils and parents alike. The pupils love it as they are provided with a delicious tea after school, and the parents appreciate it because it is short – just an hour!

This year the String Orchestra and the Training Wind Band were the two larger groups playing, and they both played with enthusiasm. There were then a number of solos and smaller ensembles from other schools.

I was delighted with the inaugural performance given by our new Junior String Quartet, which is coached by our new violin teacher, Miss Elizabeth Goble. This was made up of two Year 8s – Jamie Wen and William Yang (violins) and two Year 7s – Adam Rarko (viola) and



Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailhov (Cello). They played Mozart with precision and musicality, not an easy thing to do! There was a fine solo by Jamie Wen too, plus neat ensembles by a Guitar Trio

(coached by Miss D Palmer) and the Year 10 Jazz Ensemble. Altogether, a most enjoyable concert.

■ S.F.P.

Christmas Concert and Pat James' Retirement

The Christmas Concert is a wonderful celebration of our senior and intermediate music making. Our most senior orchestras and bands, plus many impressive ensembles directed by our instrumental teachers performed, all achieving a high standard. Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Sadly, at this event we said 'goodbye' to a member of our Instrumental Team, who has taught at Camp Hill for over twenty-five years.



Throughout her school career Pat James taught violin and viola with such dedication and commitment, and was a valued member of our staff. After the event the Instrumental Team all had a meal together at which we wished her an enjoyable and peaceful retirement.

■ S.F.P.





Concert Orchestra at Birmingham Cathedral

On Sunday 31st January 2016, our Senior Orchestra, which we call the Concert Orchestra, accompanied a large Choral Festival in Birmingham Cathedral. We have supported this event for the past two years, and this one went as well as those in the past.

In such splendid surroundings, the orchestra, accompanying a choir of about 140, made a wonderful and inspiring sound. The music included canticles by Stanford in A, and movements from Handel's *Messiah*, orchestrated by Mozart.

The Dean of the Cathedral said how happy was with the service, and how pleased she was to have so many in the Cathedral. We are delighted



that the Dean has invited us back again to perform again in January 2017.

■ S.F.P.

Symphony Hall Visit

The CBSO (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra) organise a series of concerts for Year 7 pupils each year to introduce pupils to the instruments of the orchestra and orchestral music. These concerts are free to all Birmingham Year 7 pupils.

We took all of our Year 7 pupils to Symphony Hall on Tuesday 19th January 2016. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the performances (based on the BBC *'Ten Pieces'*), and came back with lots of comments and opinions about the music. It was a really valuable and enjoyable trip.

■ S.F.P.



Prize Giving

Prize Giving is an opportunity for some of our most able musicians to demonstrate their skills. This year we had some very talented boys performing.

Fazal Shah has a diploma on the recorder, and demonstrated great dexterity and musicianship in when performing a concerto movement, which was accompanied by the small string orchestra.

In addition, as well as playing the National Anthem and the School Song, the Senior Brass Ensemble then gave a most assured performance of a *Canzona* by the Venetian composer Giovanni Gabrieli.

■ S.F.P.

House Music

The House Music Competition is an opportunity for some of the most talented musicians in each House to get together and organise an interesting programme of music, and at the same time gain points for their House. It was adjudicated by Mr David Griffiths, who was for many years Head of Music at King Edward's Five Ways.

I was very pleased with the care that had been taken this year, and there were many performances of a very high standard. Particularly notable was the winning junior ensemble of Jamie Wen (violin) and Qiyuan Chen (piano). This combined with the fact the all four of the senior soloists were awarded 15/15 for their

performances because the adjudicator was so impressed with their contributions (saying that some really deserved 16/15!) shows the quality of music at Camp Hill. The soloists were Harry Atkinson (double bass), Fazal Shah (recorder), Jonty Hart (oboe) and Ludo De Ventura (trumpet).

After all the marks had been added up, the winning house was Beaufort, and the House Music Cup was presented in assembly the following day. The picture *[above]* shows the winning musicians from Beaufort House: Fazal Shah (recorder), Azeem Hanjra



(piano), Jamie Wen (violin) and Qiyuan Chen (flute/piano).

■ S.F.P.

School Choir

The School Choir have worked very hard this year. In the Christmas Concert they sang three items: *A Spoonful of Sugar*, *You Raise Me Up* and *Ding Dong!* All of these performances were very well received.

In the last week of the autumn term they sang at The Hub (Hazelwell) Old Folks Carol Service and at the School Carol Service at All Saint's Parish Church, King's Heath. Here the excellent soloist for *Once in Royal David's City* was Matthew Anderson.

■ S.F.P.



Oh! What a Lovely War

The musical climax of the term was the Senior Drama production of *Oh! What a Lovely War*. A most poignant musical revue, this sets the reality of the horror of war in close juxtaposition with the jovial jingoism of some people back home. Music and drama conveyed this powerfully, and both the cast and musicians did a wonderful job preparing for it.

The singing from the cast was at times dramatic, but also at times lyrical and moving. The

musical support was provided by a fine band made up of pupils: Fazal Shah (flute), Laura Prime (clarinet), George Passmore and Ludo De Ventura (trumpet), Harry Atkinson (double bass) and Tom Keast (drum kit).

This production took many weeks to prepare, but was great fun, and thoroughly enjoyed by audiences.

■ S.F.P.



Foundation Service

Each year the Foundation Service is held in St Martin's in the Bull Ring. This year it was the turn of the Camp Hill Schools to provide the music.

The Girls' School took their Chamber Choir and we contributed our new ten-piece Brass Ensemble with percussion. As everyone agreed, this created a splendid sound in the imposing surroundings of St Martin's, and contributed a great deal to the success of the whole event.

■ S.F.P.



Senior Concert

Just four weeks into the summer term we held our Senior Concert, the main concert of the year for senior musicians, and the last joint school concert for our Year 13 pupils; thus it is always an event of celebration mixed with some sadness.

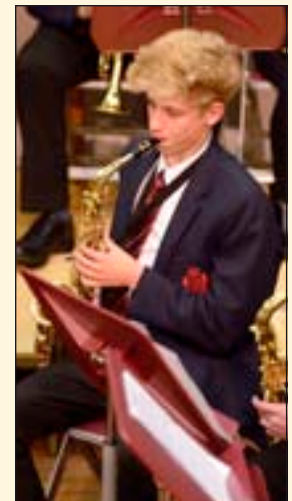
There were many excellent performances by the medium sized ensembles, which were directed by our instrumental teachers. These included the Guitar Ensemble, the Double Reed Ensemble, the Flute Ensemble, the Cello Ensemble and the Percussion Ensemble.

In addition, the School Choir gave neat and musical performances of *He came singing*

love and Can you feel the love tonight? Moreover, the Swing Band, directed by Sixth Form pupils, was an excellent penultimate item. The concert concluded with a rousing version of the *Can-Can* played by Concert Orchestra.

At this event the Year 13 pupils put on a short performance of their own for all to enjoy, as well as arranging something comical for the Heads of Music to sing. This year Miss Hawthorne and I sang the duet, *A Whole New World* – note the words had been changed. It isn't not a competition – but I think I won! I liked the creative change of words as the music moved up – it modulated – “a whole new key”!

■ S.F.P.





National Success for School Musicians

Last year we were delighted to hear of the success of two of our Year 12 pupils. Both had gained places in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra. They are Harry Atkinson (Double Bass) and Lucas Houldcroft (Trumpet). Harry gained a place for the third year in a row, and became co-principal of the double bass section. For Lucas it was his first year, and he secured a place in the trumpet section.

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain is the most prestigious Youth Orchestra in the country, and is made up of 165 young people between the ages of 13 and 19. Musicians must already have grade 8 with distinction on their instrument before they may audition, and they then have to audition again every year, competing against best instrumentalists in the country.

As well as taking a full part in school music, Harry and Lucas are also very active outside school. Harry has performed with the CBSO Youth Orchestra, and now plays Drum Kit for Birmingham Schools Jazz Ensemble. Lucas plays in Birmingham Schools' Brass Band (principle trumpet), Brass Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

But this is only one of their achievements. Over the summer Harry and Lucas both took a diploma in their instrument. We were very pleased that both passed. In addition, Harry passed with a 'Distinction' gaining 94 out of 100 marks, an astonishing mark.

Pictured below: Lucas Houldcroft (trumpet) and Harry Atkinson (double bass)

■ S.F.P.



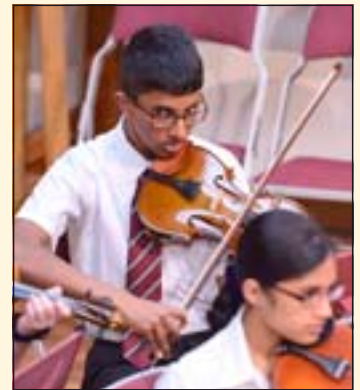
Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée is an opportunity for our younger pupils to perform, whilst the older pupils are taking their important examinations. This year there was a packed programme, but as it was well organised, with many groups all ready to play, the first half lasted just a respectable 45 minutes.

The highlights were the smaller ensembles at this event. These included the String Quartet, which performed the first movement of the Mozart String Quartet in G with style and finesse. There were also two good Guitar

Ensembles and a very good inaugural performance by our new Junior Brass Ensemble, directed by Mrs Butler. The orchestras and bands performed very well, as always, with the Wind Band bringing the evening to a close with a rousing performance of *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

■ S.F.P.



GCSE and A-Level Compositions

We have had some excellent GCSE and A-Level pupils this year, and I have been very happy with the high standards that they have attained in both in performance and compositions. Furthermore, it was good to have some of those compositions performed 'live' at school events, for example at the GCSE Options Evening, a small Jazz Group performed Faran Cheema's excellent jazz piece called *Happy Accidents*.

Two of our A-Level pupils, Jonty Hart and Ludo De Ventura entered a Composition Competition outside school run by the Music Service and won it! Their composition called *Goodbye* was performed in the Gala Concerts in Symphony Hall.

The Year 13 A-Level group have contributed a huge amount to school music over their time at Camp Hill. They are pictured [right] on their last day, a fancy dress day!

■ S.F.P.



First page of music by Faran Cheema shown below

Happy Accidents
Faran Cheema

♩ = 110
Swing

Alto Saxophone
Trumpet in Bb
Piano
Bass Guitar
Drum Set

Alto Sax.
Tpt.
Pno.
Bass
Dr.

First page of music by Fazal Shah shown below

Midsummer Carnival
for Recorder Quartet
Fazal Shah

♩ = 120

Sopranino Recorder
Soprano Recorder
Alto Recorder
Tenor Recorder

Sop. Rec.
S. Rec.
A. Rec.
T. Rec.

Sop. Rec.
S. Rec.
A. Rec.
T. Rec.

Fanfare Composition Competition

The demolition of the Adrian Boult Hall was a mournful, yet exciting time. The former because of the happy memories that many budding musicians created inside it, the latter because of the new opportunities that will arise from having a more modern concert hall built in its place.

To mark this milestone, the Music Service announced a Fanfare Composition Competition. The piece was to be no longer than a minute and a half, and had to be based off the notes A, B and H (Bb). The winning fanfare was to be played at the last night of the Adrian Boult Hall and the composer was to receive £200.

The thrill of having a composition played live (as well as the cash prize) was enough to entice myself and Ludovico, so we agreed to write a joint composition. He brought along his brass expertise, whereas I had more experi-



ence in composition. Fortunately, our composition won the competition. Following the last night of the Adrian Boult Hall, the piece was then played a further four times at Symphony Hall, much more than we could have possibly asked for. Ludovico even played in the ensemble during every concert. We look forward to writing new compositions, spurred on by this unforgettable moment.

■ Jonty Hart

■ Ludovico De Ventura



Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

All in all, 2015–2016 was a successful year for the school 1st XV. The season kicked off at a canter with a high scoring fixture against a notoriously strong Old Swinford side. In a tightly contested game, the boys were unlucky to come out on the wrong side of the 29-25 scoreline, but the quality of rugby set the tone for games to come. Over the next five games the team recorded comfortable wins against Queen Mary's Walsall, King Edward's Nuneaton and Solihull Sixth Form, with Andreas Kavilerios registering an impressive nine tries. However, depleted squads contributed to two very close losses against King Henry VIII and Bablake.

A tough match against local rivals KES ended in a bitterly disappointing defeat, so there was clear determination amongst the squad heading into a long anticipated match against KE Aston. Facing the team that had beaten us comfortably twice during the previous year, this would be a game to define our season and the boys certainly stepped up to the occasion. In torrid conditions and, despite conceding an early score, the team fought hard to secure an 8-5 lead going into half time; this was thanks to an Ed Connolly try and a penalty from Ed Saunders. A second score from Alex Lane at the start of the second period put some daylight between us and the visitors, and in one of the best defensive periods of the season, the team held on to secure a memorable 15-10 victory. The rest of the term yielded further impressive victories over Wolverhampton Grammar and Solihull Sixth Form (again). Another strong second half performance saw the team come back from a 12-0 deficit to beat Lawrence Sherriff, thanks to tries from Cameron Steel and Alex Bonnor.

Post-Christmas, the weather, once again, began to impact negatively on our rugby. Not only were fixtures cancelled, but those we did manage were in conditions that did not play to our strengths. Defeats against a strong King Edward VI Stratford side, Adam's Grammar and, perhaps most disappointingly, against Five Ways, left us with a feeling that we had got something still to prove.

We did have a rare victory against Bishop Vesey School to celebrate in 2016, but given that

this was a second-string Vesey team, I won't make too much of it here. That said, we did play some excellent rugby, as we have done all year. Over the season, our lineout began to function better and, with ball in hand, we began to demand more of opposition defences. Our defensive work is generally quite strong and I have been pleased with this feature of our rugby all season; the commitment of the players on the pitch certainly cannot be questioned.

And it is this commitment that saw us to success on tour. A tough fixture against Richard Huish College, Taunton, saw us run out as fairly comfortable winners 17-12 against a bigger and physically stronger opposition. But it was the other tour fixture against Launceston, *'The Cornish All Blacks'*, that proved to be the highlight of the weekend. Although we ended up losing 36-34, all who witnessed it agreed that this was the best game of schoolboy rugby they had ever seen.

We say goodbye to a number of Camp Hill School rugby devotees this year – Wesley Blackhurst, as Captain, has been inspirational on the field; one of the strongest running players that we have seen in some time. But he has been ably supported by those around him; most notably perhaps by Vice-Captain, Edward Saunders, who has become a most accomplished full-back (we shall miss his kicking ability next year). Other senior boys playing a significant 1st XV role in their final year at Camp Hill included front row stalwarts Carl Lawrence and Kingsley Bates, half-back pairing Alex Lane and Will Houlden, and powerful second-row forward, Cameron Jones. We wish them all the best in their time in Higher Education and hope that they continue to enjoy rugby as part of that.

It remains for me to thank all those who have supported rugby at Camp Hill this year, especially in the senior section. To staff, parents, and other miscellaneous supporters, thank you – we value your time, encouragement and backing. To my fellow coaches, thank you – Messrs Warrillow and Barr have given time and effort to ensure that Camp Hill rugby remains enjoyable and competitive. And finally, thank you to the players – your sportsmanship, commitment, sense of humour and good company, epitomise the ethos of rugby and of Camp Hill. I'm looking forward to next season already!

■ A.J.C.



2nd XV Rugby

Initially this team was mostly made up from the Sixth Form, but over the course of the season they were joined by other talented players from Year 11, who earned themselves places in the squad.

Despite losing the first two games of the season, the team gave a strong performance against Old Swinford. When playing Henry VIII, the team performed superbly, winning 61-0 to Camp Hill. Siddharth Sharma, Arundeeep Bharj and some of the other forwards particularly caught the eye in this dominating performance.

The game that followed was to be the 2nd XV's highlight of the season, a very entertaining 19-12 victory over KES; this was due to tries from myself, Alex Bonnor and Tom Woods. Despite a strong opposition, we showed that we had strength and determination.

Next, the team played in a tight and controversial 12-12 draw with Aston, with tries coming from Alex Bonnor and the man mountain known as Tom Keast.

Later fixtures, including a win at home to John Cleveland and a loss to Lawrence Sheriff, didn't always bring out the best performances



from the team, although we fought hard under the leadership of Vice-Captain Arun Sohan-Pall and Captain Arvinjot Uppal.

Our last game before tour was a convincing win away to Bishop Vesey, with Camp Hill running out as 17-12 winners.

This first senior tour was an extremely enjoyable occasion. Despite only winning one of our three games in Cornwall, the team played with good spirit and determination, as it had done throughout the season. From what I have heard, everyone who went on the tour found it to be a great one and on behalf of

the 2nd XV I would like to thank the members of staff responsible for the organisation of the tour.

I would also like to thank Mr Barr, who has been a helpful and entertaining figure, both in training and on the side-lines for the majority of the season. His leadership and that of the Year 13 has been vital to our success. I believe that all the players for the 2nd XV improved throughout the season and I wish those in my year and the year above luck for the forthcoming season, which I am sure will be very positive.

■ Bahawal Ali

U15 Rugby

The 2015-16 season was an exciting one for the under 15s but also an uncertain one; we fought hard all season, but often showed just a glimpse of our full potential.

Early in September we played our first fixture against a well drilled Prince Henry's side. Having had very few training sessions beforehand we lacked the cohesion and willingness to tackle, and therefore did not dominate any area of the game. We eventually lost 38-5, with Kamil Khan getting his first of thirty-two tries throughout the season. Our next match was against Old Swinford Hospital, a match we know always proves challenging. We did our best to contest early on, but their strength was too much for us. Despite some stronger spells, with excellent support play from man of the match Jake Tucker, we faced a resounding defeat of 58-5. We performed much better in our next game, with Kamil Khan, helping us to

our first victory against Bablake by scoring four tries and being awarded man of the match.

Our Nat West Cup run was short lived, as we suffered a first round defeat to Kings Norton – a game we knew we could have won, if we had been more organised and committed in defence. Following this we hit the low point of our season against KES. The absence of key players such as Danny Blyth and Jake Tucker, in conjunction with the fact our tackling was poor, meant we suffered a demoralising 55-14 defeat.

From this point onwards we began to improve a great deal because of intense training sessions with Mrs Bourne, which were intended to improve our tackling, and the return of Dylan Rogers from injury. We went on to achieve some well fought victories against Aston and Lichfield and managed to come third in the Greater Birmingham Tournament, losing only to Five Ways. We concluded the autumn term with two narrow defeats against

Bishop Vesey and Five Ways, both games slipping from our grasp in the closing moments.

We returned after Christmas with high hopes of a winning season. Our determination and improved cohesion led to a nail-biting victory over Adams Grammar School. Having conceded a try late on in the game to make the score 19-17 in their favour, we were desperate for some points to achieve a thoroughly deserved win. When a penalty came in the final play, Dylan Rogers calmly kicked it through, despite the tough angle, to win us the game 20-19. While playing KE Stratford soon after, we found ourselves up against an extremely well drilled opposition, who would have ripped us apart had we played them in September. However, our commitment was unquestionable in both attack and defence, but unfortunately, in the end, Stratford emerged victorious 36-19.

At this stage in the season we knew that we had to win all five of our remaining fixtures to get a winning season, so the pressure was on. We played well against Kings Norton in our second game against them, showing them what we were capable of, with man of the match Josh Hall showing his ability to manage the game well. This winning form continued into our final home fixture of the season against Fairfax, in which, despite feeling unwell, Kamil Khan still managed to score three tries.

In early March we went on a successful tour, with great man of the match performances from Dom Poole, Rhys Rogers and Salah Ayub. In the first game we won 14-5 against Cockermonth and thankfully faced less challenging opposition in the second game. A host



of great team tries in this match led to a satisfying 59-5 victory.

On Sunday we played a really tough match against Carlisle RFC, this was to be the last junior rugby we played. Some aggressive defence from the opposition made it hard for us to break the deadlock but after some time hooker Adam Li showed his attacking flare and evasive skills to score a try, putting us ahead. We

built on the lead with two tries from Ossama Chihani and a penalty kick from Dylan Rogers. We eventually won 23-5, elated that we'd managed to win all of our games on tour and achieve a winning season overall winning ten and losing nine.

It has been a pleasure working with this team for four years and it's tremendous to see how far we've come from the start of the sea-

son. I'd like to congratulate Josh Hall whose kicking in open play has added a whole new dimension to our game and his improvement over the season has been incredible. I'd like to thank Mr Burgess and Mrs Bourne for coaching us this season as our improvement is mostly down to their effort and wisdom in training sessions.

■ **Will Lyons**

U14 Rugby

It was a new year, a new season and a chance to improve upon our enormous success from the previous year. The 2015 season, from the start, was set to be a brilliant one. We had a new coach, Mr Duncan, who taught us, gave us constructive criticism and organised all of our games. Thanks to him, we felt confident and had our eyes on the *Team of the Year Award* for the second year in a row.

The first match against Prince Henry's definitely set this season apart from the others, with a 50-0 win. Although we got a large number of tries, everyone worked incredibly hard, it was a game of strong tackles and we proved that we were not complacent. For everybody this was a crucial match, as it eased us back into the game and shaped our season. We all loved winning, and were keen to do a lot more of it throughout the year. Happily we were very successful, as this followed with notable wins coming against Aston and Five Ways, Mr Duncan's favourite.

However, for every match we played, there was still one team we dreaded: Fairfax. In previous years we had comfortably beaten them, however that all changed last year when they 'smashed' us by a considerable amount. We were the underdogs and spirits had reached an all-time low. However, we decided from the kick-off we weren't going to be a pushover. Our defence was better than in any prior matches, and we began by making impressive tackles that made the spectators yelp. Tied in the second-half we did not lose hope, and instead persevered until Judah Daniels flew over the line after an incredible run through the opposition defence. In the end our defence didn't fail and



after what seemed like an age, the final whistle blew and we'd won 17-10.

We had finished the regular season on a high note, and all looked forward to our tour in March. In Cumbria we had a narrow loss to Cockermouth, an easy win over Kirbie Kendal and a bruising defeat to Carlisle. A great experience and loads of fun for all involved, parents included.

Unfortunately, though Captain, I was injured half-way through the season and was unable to play for three of our games. However, the Vice-Captain Josh Birch and flanker Joe Clark, stood up to the mark and led the team by example. Both of these players excelled and got multiple man of the match awards.

Another player I'd like to highlight is Pierre Lee for his developing skills. He had joined the A-Team the previous year, and had very little experience. However, in Year 9 he proved he could do it, making first-class tackles and outstanding runs that surprised everyone. His siblings even became a form of mascot for the

team, running on to the pitch at the end of a match to celebrate our victory (but managing to just avoid the water!).

Finally, I couldn't talk about some of our vital players without mentioning Judah Daniels. With his extreme pace he flew past the opposition, and with his feet moving so quickly it was almost impossible for anyone to get hold of him. It's no wonder he became notorious in all the other age groups, achieving a total of 25 tries.

Overall we've had an unforgettable season. We've persevered even at the toughest of times. Every one of us has met the targets set last year, and this is evident as we have won the Team of the Year Award for the second year running. Well done to Jason Tahiri, he was the one member of the squad to play in every game, although five others only missed a single match. We've set our targets for the upcoming year, and all look forward to having Mr Burgess as our coach next season.

■ **Henry Moreau-Smith**

U13 Rugby

The 2015-16 rugby season arrived for the under 13s, and so had the opportunity to have another crack at the teams we had lost to last season by such small margins. This year we had new coaches (Mr Jones and Mr Eckley), a new Captain (myself) and a long list of excuses, provided by Rishi, as to why he couldn't attend training (it was usually football).

Our first match of the season was a Cup game against local rivals KES, where emotions and passions were high from the kick-off. We were desperate to beat them, but our efforts

were not enough, as we were soundly beaten 40-24 by a better prepared KES team and some slightly controversial decisions made by the referee.

We fared better in our next match against Old Swinford, with a 29-12 win. Rajkaran Tiwana providing one of his man of the match performances! Our momentum was halted, though, in a close game with Bablake, in which we were the losers by a single score (19-24). We then won three matches in succession, against King Henry's (19-15), Southam (54-5) with four tries from inside-centre turned water boy Ross Evans and KE Aston (22-7), before once again,

our morale was halted by a frustrating 20-7 loss to Lawrence Sheriff.

Our best run of victories, by far, was on the run up to the Christmas holidays, when the rain fell harder, pitches got wetter, and the forward pack really came into their own. We began with a convincing 51-17 win over KE Lichfield, in bitterly cold conditions, where hands and feet were numb within seconds of running out onto the pitch.

Next up, we had Five Ways, a team that last season put 50 points past us, but this year, surely things would be different? Indeed they were, with Camp Hill winning 20-7. Our defence

was near enough faultless, putting them under huge amounts of pressure, restricting their attacking options, resulting in Five Ways making handling mistakes left, right and centre and Camp Hill having the ball for the majority of the match.

After a 36-5 victory over Wolverhampton Grammar School, we faced Bishop Vesey, another team that had beaten us by a considerable margin in Year 7. We arrived early and had a long warm up, but a few of us had begun to notice that full-back Patrick hadn't arrived. Kick off crept closer and closer, but still no Patrick. We had begun discussing substitutions, and just when we had just about re-shuffled the backs, we saw Patrick dashing towards the pitch, mumbling something about not washing his kit. After one of the speediest changes the Bishop Vesey changing room had ever seen, we were ready to go.

Overall, it was a tough game, Vesey had huge talent and a dominant forward pack, but we matched and exceeded their talent. We followed a simple structure making drives from the forwards and then running the ball down the back line. To cut a long story short, this tactic worked, with three tries being scored, two from Ross and one from myself, to seal a great win against an impressive opposition.

Finally, a victory against Adams Grammar and a disappointing 53-0 loss to KE Stratford set us up for our last two games of the season, which were a 45-0 win over Kings Norton and a 34-22 win over Coundon Court.

Unfortunately, the cancellation of the Greater Birmingham Tournament did not provide us with the opportunity to finish the season on a high, but we had an amazing season



nonetheless, capped off by sharing the Maurice Robinson Shield for team of the year with the U14s.

The whole squad have shown outstanding commitment in training and have worked hard during matches. The team owes thanks to Will Lyons, Ed Dempsey and Dylan Rogers for their work at Tuesday night training. Special praise should go to Ross Evans, as his hard running and blistering speed has helped him to 24 tries and he has set up Richard at outside centre and either Rishi or Fintan on the wing many times. Rajkaran has made numerous strong carries from either hooker or second row and has dominated set plays, while Yusuf Elsherbiny is developing into a strong and reliable player at second row.

The back three of Max Amarilli, Usmaan Nadeem and Louis Peters have tackled anything that moved and have generally being great all-round players and great assets to

have. Dylan Rees has been great all season, making lots of blindside breaks and distributing the ball very well indeed. Luke Hemmings has become more tactically aware and has turned into a brilliant fly-half and I will always remember his kick from half-way against Five Ways that hit the corner flag and stunned everyone watching.

Richard has run defences ragged with his legendary dummy and bags of pace all season, with Rishi Pingili and Fintan Hogan offering threats on both wings and looking dangerous every time they had ball in hand. Patrick Achusiougu, full-back, has saved our skins more times than I care to mention.

The team is hugely grateful to Mr Jones and Mr Eckley, who have helped us improve so much over the past season. We truly couldn't have done it without them. I wish the team all the best for Under 14 rugby.

■ **Jonathan Anderson**

U12 Rugby

This year's squad quickly melded as a team and it became apparent early on that they would form an excellent group of players. The backs and forwards quickly learnt their roles and, even very early on, their discipline and organisation on the pitch was evident against teams, who were often quite a bit more experienced than them.

Overall, their season tally of 11 wins and 5 losses tells you all you need to know. Even losing against Old Swinford in the first half-term was turned on its head, when they beat them later in the spring term. Those kinds of results demonstrate how much improvement there has been over the course of the year.

There isn't room to mention every team member here, but 'in the backs', there were regular notable performances from Kareem 'twinkle-toes' Mehanna and Emery 'lightning bolt' Uzoma. In addition, there were some commanding performances from scrum-half Will Taylor and fly-half Joe Day. The boot of Sam Morris regularly got the boys out of trouble and scored some impressive conversion



points as well. In the forwards, the front row powerhouses of Matt Anderson, George Latham, Simeon Humphries and Mustafa Shoukat were pivotal in providing winning balls for the back half. This was most notably obvious in the local derby against Five Ways, where they ran in three tries on a very cold and wet winter morning and defended admirably to maintain their lead right up to the end. That is surely a benchmark for the squad in years to come.

The only unexpected and disappointed

loss was to Lichfield, who they lost to by one try after a below par performance compared to their normal standards. Even at Bishop Vesey's (one of our toughest opponents) their coach commented that, 'Our boys were the best team they had played this year.' It has been a fantastic start to the rugby careers of so many boys here at Camp Hill, who I can't all mention and I wish you all the best for next season.

■ **D.J.E.**

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

The 1st XI cricket team played six matches this season, but won only one. However, it is fair to say that the team was competitive in four of those games.

Alex Lane and Ed Saunders were the stand out players. Ed made an impressive century v KE Aston, showing his ability to use a wide range of strokes. These he executed with power, placement and timing. Alex's innings of 80 against Solihull was no less impressive. His innings single-handedly, almost brought about an unlikely victory on a wicket, where most found batting difficult. Given the context of the situation it was an excellent display.

Will Houlden batted aggressively, but without making the high score he is capable of. However, his commitment was total, volunteering to umpire a junior fixture and playing for the team, despite having tickets to an international match. Dominic Paver was also a committed member of the team, but without quite finding his form with the bat. The aforementioned Year 13 boys all leave Camp Hill having made an excellent contribution



to school sport, not just cricket. They will be sorely missed and we wish them well.

Henry Houlden, Aditiya Thakral, Ekamroop Thaker, Dan Western, Josh Mukherjee, Utkarsh Malhotra and Zidan Salim were all awarded Half-Colours for their contribution to senior cricket. Ekamroop produced a fine spell of bowling to take five wickets v KE Five Ways and Utkarsh consistently bowled well. Henry contributed well as an all-rounder, including captaining the side on one occasion and he always shone in the field while Daniel showed clear potential as a medium pace bowler, dis-

playing a smooth action. Aditya, Josh and Zidan all made important all round contributions.

Sam Cullen, Adam Ahmed, Aditya Dhirran and Owais Akram all bowled skilfully and one hopes they will come through and be influential players over the next couple of years. Sam took five wickets for the second team v Bablake – an outstanding achievement in 4 overs and Owais underlined his potential by representing Warwickshire U15.

My thanks to all players and staff who made a contribution to the season.

■ **D.J.B.**

2nd XI Cricket

This season was almost a re-run of last year's. We only had two games. Our opponents were Aston and Bablake. We lost to Aston.

There were differences, though. This year we were soundly beaten by Aston whereas last year we made a good game of it; on the other hand, this year we soundly beat Bablake, whereas last year we lost that game too. It is difficult to find much positive to say about the Aston game. Salekh Mahmood and Dan Western bowled well and probably deserved better figures than 1 for 14 off 4 and 0 for 16 off 4. Garen Boora was also reasonably economical with 1 for 8 off his 2. Our batting was poor. Only Aston scored our innings and when they

showed us their record it was clear that they had assigned runs randomly to our batsmen; that was probably because they were struggling to keep up with the speed with which our wickets fell. Dan Western probably just about made double figures; no-one else (apart from extras) did and we were all out for 69 chasing a total of 118 (for 6).

We acquitted ourselves very much more satisfactorily against Bablake. The opposition batted first and Sam Cullen was quickly in amongst them, picking up 5 for 10 off his 4 overs, including a burst of 3 wickets in 4 balls. Our other bowlers were not so economical, but the wickets were falling: Salekh Mahmood and Garen Boora each took 1 for 22 off 4, while Ekamroop Thakar took 2 for 24 off his 4. This time our batsmen produced the runs of which they are capable: Zidan Salim opened the batting and carried his bat for 40; Ekamroop Thakar supported him with 34 valuable runs. We chased the Bablake total of 104 all out down with 8 balls to spare, losing only 2 wickets on the way.

■ **M.J.G.**



U15 Cricket

This year, the U15 Cricket team have progressed in all aspects of the game, gaining our most successful season yet, with 5 wins and 5 losses. In addition, we also reached the final of the Birmingham Schools Cup, although we unfortunately lost out on the silverware. Furthermore, this was an achievement, as there was some disruption because of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, which meant that sometimes our more regular team were unavailable and we had to field a weaker side.

Our first game of the season was against Wrekin College; we had never played them before. They batted first and reached a score of 113. Best bowling figures in this game were for Owais Akram, who got 2 wickets for 17 runs. Unfortunately for us, we got off to a slow start, losing wickets early and not really being able to score well. We finished the game with a score of 88. Top scorer this game was Pranav Thatipamula with a score of 14.

Our next game was against one of our biggest rivals, Five Ways. They reached a score of 69, as they bowled and fielded well. However, credit should go to Dhyana Naik with 2 for 3 off 2 overs and Muhammed Kurji with 2 for 1 off 2 overs. We were next up to bat and got off to a reasonable start, but, after Owais was caught, our team collapsed. Thankfully, Faiq Syed was on form to revive our innings and he scored a solid 26, this was vital in us reaching our target and winning the game. Next up was the first

Cup match against Baverstock. This proved to be very easy and we bowled them all out for 19. Our most notable player was Harry Yate with 5 for 6.

We next played Lawrence Sherriff, who proved to be a good opponent. They batted first and put up a total of 117. However, what really impressed was our batting performance. Although one of our opening players was got out fairly early, and our next two batsmen were out for ducks, the next partnership was one that saw us through the game: Owais Akram and Abbas Mirza achieved scores of 50* and 36* respectively, seeing the game through.

Still on a high, our next game was against another of our rivals, Aston, and this seemed to be easier than expected. We batted first and put up a good score of 108, with Harry Yate getting a solid score of 33*. We then put up a brilliant performance bowling them all out for 34. Our notable player was again Harry with 5 for 4. We later played Aston in the semi-finals of the Cup, where we batted first. The openers got off to a good start, scoring quickly, however a quick fall of wickets and the early departure of our number 3, put our fourth and fifth batsmen in earlier than expected. Luckily, they stepped up to the plate and saw out the rest of the 20 overs with brilliant innings. Kamil Khan and Faiq Syed scored 50* and 32* respectively, helping us put



up a total of 145 on the board. With another great fielding performance, we bowled out Aston for 59. Best bowling figures were Owais with 4 for 17 and Khan with 2 for 0 off 2 overs.

In the final against Washwood Heath we weren't so fortunate, and we lost by 29 runs. It was a disappointing end to the season in which we had all played so well.

Most notable bowler of the season was Harry Yate, with 5 for 4. He played well throughout the season. Best batting scores were jointly held by Kamil Khan and Owais Akram with 50*. Kamil often stepped in at vital points during the batting and also bowled well, while Owais

batted well consistently throughout the season, and also bowled very well.

Finally, a special mention goes to Mrs Bourne and Mr Watkins, who made a tremendous effort and gave up their free time throughout the season, often giving up evenings and weekends for our benefit. Also, thanks to everyone who participated this season. By showing commitment and dedication, you allowed the team to grow. A final thanks goes to everyone who allowed this season to be so successful, and allowing me to captain this side in our final season as a year-group.

■ **Abbas Mirza**

U14 Cricket

On the back of a very good season in Year 8, we felt confident and had big aspirations for this new year; therefore we went into our first game against Wrekin College feeling quietly confident. That confidence shone through with a solid batting performance, with us scoring 111 runs and Vignesh Venkataramaiah being our top scorer with 44 not out. We then defended our total with a dominant bowling performance, spearheaded by Sachin Subramonian with 4 overs and 4 wickets for 6 runs. In the end, Wrekin were bowled out for just 23.

Our next game was our nemesis Five Ways, who have proven a tough fixture in previous years. We batted first, scoring a respectable total of 115; with Vignesh again being the top scorer with 52 and supported by a good 22 from Sachin. However, this score was too little for Five Ways two openers, who faced a weakened bowling attack and consequently they won by ten wickets. The pick of the bowlers was Vignesh with 4 overs, 0-18.

Next, we played KE Stratford, though we were missing three key players to injury. We bowled first with Sachin our top bowler with 4 overs, 2-8. We then batted and were bowled out for 51. The top scorer Mohammed Farooq scored 13.

Off the back of two defeats, we were keen to bounce back against Princethorpe, where we batted first, getting 92. Madhav Manoj was



our top scorer, with a solid 26. This total was under par, but our superior bowling proved the difference, as we bowled them out for 61, to put us back onto winning form. Sachin (again) the top bowler with 4 overs, 2-7.

We then played Broadway in a cup fixture, where we wanted to build on the win in the previous game. We were finally back to full strength, which showed in a good batting performance. Vignesh and Madhav scoring 29 and 26 respectively taking us up to 126. Broadway couldn't defend against our strong bowling attack and were bowled out for 64, with Sam Hope recording figures of 2 overs, 3-7. When facing Aston, we posted our highest ever total as a team of 177, with Vignesh scoring 77 not out and Madhav scoring 56, in a first wicket

partnership of 150. We then restricted Aston to 95, with Vignesh the pick of the bowlers 4 overs, 4-14.

Next on to Handsworth in another cup fixture. With a poor overall batting performance, on a difficult track, we crawled to 70. Our top scorer Ryan Malhi getting 16. They then knocked us off with one over to spare. It was a good bowling performance, but our batting let us down. Vignesh again the best bowler; 4 overs, 4-19.

Our last game of the season was against Queen Mary's Walsall where we started off terribly. Our top four batsmen were out for just 20 and then Sam Hope steadied the ship, alongside Madhav, but he was then run out. Sachin put in a good performance at number 6 get-

ting scoring 22, which took us to 108. We then managed to restrict them to 102 and won by 6 runs. Madhav being the top performer with 4 overs, 2-16.

Overall, our season was below expecta-

tions, however we were very unlucky with injuries and other commitments, which weakened our team severely over the course of the season.

Finally, on behalf of the cricket squad I

would like to thank Mr Warrillow for all the hard work and for being a great coach for the team. We have all greatly benefitted from his experience and knowledge of cricket.

■ **Sam Hope**

U13 Cricket

This has been a mixed season for the Year 8 squad. Ten games were played, which is quite an achievement given how wet a term we had. The side has been somewhat inconsistent in its performance and also in availability. However, when able to select from a full squad, the side was capable of beating anyone on their day.

The first match saw us defeat Lawrence Sheriff by 6 wickets, Ibraheem Mohammed scoring 26 to help us home. There was then a run of three consecutive defeats, but these still had some highlights including: Abhinash Nirantharakumar recording bowling figures of 3/8 in two games, Sanjay Suresh in terms of runs with a knock of 28; while Tom Heppel scored 24, Ammar Malik scored 26 and Abhinash scored 33.

The team got back to winning ways in the Amiss Cup with a 9 wicket defeat of Handsworth. This was a thoroughly professional performance, in which all elements of the game were capably put to good use. Sanjay took 5/14. Next, Princethorpe were also put to the sword in a 35 run success, Adil Sandhu trouncing Sanjay with figures of 5/9. Unfortunately, Aston then beat us by 33 runs, despite the season's best knock of 40 from Tom, who has undoubtedly developed into one of the most able batsmen in the side.

Subsequently, Queen Mary's were beaten by just 5 runs in an exciting game, with Ibraheem taking 3/15. In the Cup Semi-Final, Hodge Hill were also defeated by just 5 runs and we were indebted to Tom's 28* and Haseeb Arif's 26. Haseeb is another player who has developed promisingly this term.

Five wins from the first nine games then and a Cup Final against Fiveways to look forward to in the autumn of 2016, as they had broken up for the summer holiday a week earlier than us! The day dawned, and was a glorious sunny day in mid-September, as we travelled the short distance down to the Britannic Ground, home of Moseley Ashfield. Five Ways batted first and although they had a strong opening partnership, we impressed with our tight bowling and excellent fielding. Time and again our players sprawled and dived to save boundaries, thereby limiting Five Ways to 108-5. Prithvi Karthik took 2/10, the

other wickets were fine run outs. Unfortunately, our reply stuttered and stumbled and we never really build up enough momentum to achieve a win. There were some highlights though, Ibraheem did bat sensibly, albeit a bit slowly, but achieved his half-century in the final over. It was a shame that he lacked support and, in the end, we closed on 98-5.

Overall, the squad enjoyed their cricket and were committed to training. They should look forward to 2017 with confidence and will hopefully boost their winning percentage.

■ **M.W.D.**



U12 Cricket

The Under 12 Team started their season with a home game against Lawrence Sheriff. We started impressively and achieved a respectable score of 93, with Humair Hussain, finishing on 26* not out. Humair was helped by Subhan Ahmed Captain's score of 10 runs. And, in addition, Joe Day also led with 1-5 in his four overs. In the end, we happily won with a few overs to spare, due to our strong and confident batsmen.

Our next fixture (a Cup match) saw the A-team take on a not-so-confident Hodge Hill side. As this was the first Cup match, there was pressure on both sides. Camp Hill won the toss and Hodge Hill were put into bat. Their team lost a key wicket and continued to lose wickets at regular intervals because of the accurate bowling by Subhan Ahmed and Adnan Chowdhury, this gave them a total of 53. In reply, Hodge Hill were unable to bowl with as much accuracy as Camp Hill, allowing us to triumph with 5 overs to spare.

Keeping things local, Five Ways were our next opposition and, again, we batted well,



allowing Camp Hill to reach 97-8 of their 20 overs. Unfortunately, we showed little resistance in this game and Five Ways won by 6 wickets. There were, however, some standout performances by Zak Malik and Adnan.

The Under 12's were quickly back in action, however, against King Edward's Stratford and this led to a surprising finish. We bowled first and on a very good wicket, Adnan achieved smashing figures of 3-19 and Joe Day's bowl-

ing was impressive too. Eventually the opposition reached 80-7. When put in to bat Camp Hill were shocked by their fast, accurate bowling and, consequently, limped to 34 all out, resulting in our third loss.

Wounded by this defeat, Camp Hill fought for a possible victory in a match against Princethorpe. It was a very cold Saturday morning and Humair was chosen to open by Subhan. He played a brilliant game of cricket and

achieved a great score of 23* not out. Camp Hill concluded the batting with a very competitive score of 96-4. With our heads held high, we continued with a fine bowling performance, with Humair getting dazzling figures of 4-24. However, due to some sloppy fielding, Camp Hill lost the game in the last over, as Princethorpe scored just 4 runs more than the away side.

In their seventh match, which was also a Cup match, Camp Hill continued to hope for a victory, winning the toss and putting Five Ways in to bat. The opening bowler, Joe, ran in and bowled with some shocking pace, striking their opening batsmen right on his box. Unfortunately, this caused great confusion and led to the first Camp Hill wicket. Wickets fell from here onwards and great bowling figures were achieved by Humair with 3-9 off his four overs. Camp Hill limited the highest scoring batsmen of Five Ways to only 8 runs, which meant that the chasing target was fairly low. Again, credit goes to Humair with his match winning score of 19 runs eventually leading to a Camp Hill triumph by 3 wickets.

The third from last game was played against KE Aston. Aston won the toss and chose to bat. Subhan came in with his 4 over

and broke up the opening batsmen, ending his bowling with staggering figures of 3-7. Camp Hill were sadly unable to chase the score of 50 due to surprisingly solid fielding from KE Aston and were restricted to only 26, thus losing the game by 24 runs.

In the penultimate fixture of the season, the home side faced Queen Mary's Grammar School from Walsall. After choosing to bat first, Humair led the batting attack with a score of 35 not out, thus helping the team to score a superb 104. On the bowling side Adnan put on the best bowling performance of the year with match winning figures of 5-4. Therefore, restricting Queen Mary's to only 49 runs, meaning another win for the home side.

Pleasantly surprised after a good season, Camp Hill made it to the Cup Final against Washwood Heath, but lost the toss meaning that we had to bat first. Camp Hill started badly, losing a clutch of wickets at the start. However, Subhan and Humair played sensibly blocking their good bowlers and making the best of a bad start. Unfortunately, this all stopped when they both got run out. All our hope lay in our tail-enders. Jack Johnson made a great effort and showed skill by scoring a needy 12 runs off the last couple of overs. With 32 extras,

Camp Hill achieved a score of 72 runs. The team, however, felt under pressure when they learnt that the opposition had a district opener in their team. This was clearly evident as they couldn't get a wicket, until Subhan, made the decision to bowl himself. From there he took 2 quick wickets and broke up a vital partnership. All the other bowlers in the team took wickets, including Mathew Anderson, Seth Turner, Adnan and Humair. In the last over the ball was given to Humair who took his time and serenely bowled, restricting Washwood Heath and making Camp Hill the winners of the Stacey Jackson Bowl.

Over the course of the year, there were some very good performances from many of the team members. It was clear that we had a very good bowling unit, but struggled with the bat at times. Although every player improved during the season, Adnan Chowdhury, Humair Hussain, Subhan Ahmed, Joe Day and Hugo Mulligan, for his brilliant keeping throughout the season, stood out for their overall contributions.

■ **Subhan Ahmed**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

With a worryingly large number of prominent senior players leaving us at the end of the previous year, we realised that the upcoming season would be challenging to say the least. However, with a strong core of club and county players, along with the guidance and expertise of Captain Dominic Paver, we felt we were going into the season with a positive mind-set. Alas, that did not prove to be true and the season did not get off to the best of starts, with five consecutive losses, especially with the 3-2 losses to Newcastle and KE Aston, where our complacency led to the glory of victory being snatched from our fingertips.

Our first win was against Five Ways and, this lifted our confidence and, consequently, we were in high spirits for a game against a strong Queen Mary's team. With the pace of Daniel Higgins and Syed Hussain up front, our strong attacks proved deadly against even the strongest of defenders, and our strikers scored five goals. However, our defensive line had to work miracles to keep the Queen Mary's attackers at bay, with the game ending in a 5-4 victory.

This set the ball rolling for the remainder of the term, with wins coming in against strong opponents such as Wolverhampton Grammar School and Warwick with score lines of 4-0 and 4-2 respectively. The tag team consisting of



Sanchudaan and Kabeendan 'Murugesswho' provided a strong core in the midfield, and were aided by the cool, calm and collected head of Dom Paver behind them, driving the wins home.

The first game of the spring term saw us facing Lawrence Sherriff, a team that we had lost to previously. Intent on settling the grudge, the commitment and dedication of Beant Thandi in particular, was shown, as he put his body on the line on more than one occasion, whilst providing an effective leadership of the defensive line. We achieved a 2-2 draw, seeing a fine display of exciting hockey, with the likes of Sam Western how much he had progressed over the year, and setting the tone for his strong performances throughout the season.

A 2-3 loss against Old Swinford Hospital was followed by a comfortable 2-0 win against Solihull, and the term ended with a closely fought game against KES, which unfortunately didn't see us claim victory, and the game ended on a 2-3 loss.

Overall, it was an excitable season, with ups and downs, which saw the development of both individual players, and the unity of the squad as a whole. Special mentions go to Dominic Paver for his cohesive captaincy and leadership of the team both on and off the pitch, and to Mr Watkins for his coaching expertise.

■ **Sanch Murugesu**

2nd XI Hockey

The 2nd XI hockey team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in Camp Hill history, winning six games and obtaining two draws out of their total sixteen games. The team led by Captain Shaurya Maheshwari, a player who gave his all in every match, worked hard and persevered throughout the season with midfielders Zeyad Khalil, Parvesh Khonda and Victor Kimani constantly involved in both attack and defence.

The team scored a total of thirteen goals from strikers Isara Mahalekam and Ruairi Lynch alone (with Ruairi managing an astonishing four goals in one game). Neal Naik's amazing agility in goal helped the team to concede far less goals this season, and was ably supported with good defensive work from Craig Stewart, Vamsi Pratapa, Shreshth Malik and Will Perrin.



Despite some players being promoted to the first team during the latter half of the season, the team still put together very commendable performances and the boys can be

very proud of their efforts. I wish them every success to further their accomplishments next season.

■ **Shaurya Maheshwari**

U15 Hockey

Despite losing the slight majority of their matches, the U15 team had a very valuable season, vastly improving on their performances from the year before. The first match was away against Lawrence Sheriff, and despite brilliant performances from the defence (particularly from Dhyana Naik in goal), the score was 4-0 to Sheriff at half-time. After a shuffle of the team during the break, the opponents would only score one more goal in that match, and a team goal finished by Alex Byrne during the last five minutes, denied the opposition a clean sheet.

The second match against Old Swinford was one that the team will likely remember for years to come. Although Camp Hill had taken the lead, OSH equalised before the break, leaving the score 1-1. In the second half, a piece of excellent team play ended with Gurvinder Bhojie sweeping expertly home into a heavily defended goal to make the score 2-1. This was the first time (including last season) that the team had been in a winning position, and despite Alex breaking his finger defending a

short corner and Albert Chang limping off the pitch. The final score was indeed 2-1 (and the team's first ever victory), achieved after some heroic defending from every man on the pitch.

Unfortunately, the team were unable to carry this momentum forward into the next games, losing to Five Ways and King Henry's 6-1 and 8-0 respectively, despite all-round spirited performances. However, a well-fought game against Aston, ending with a perhaps unfair scoreline of 2-0 to the opposition, gave the team hope going into the Junior Tour.

Excited and prepared, the U15s set off for Carlisle in the hope of gaining more victories under their belt. The team was eager to make a grand opening to the tour with their first match against Cockermouth. The match opened with a dominant Camp Hill display of passing and attacking, leading to the ball staying largely in the opponent's half. The team worked hard and pressured the opposing side into conceding a penalty flick just before half-time, which Abaan Butt calmly converted to make the score 1-0. After a little rest the Camp Hill team presented a strong defence to stop the relentless counter attacks Cockermouth executed. The work paid off, and the final score was 1-0.



The next match against Kirbie Kendal, while on tour was less successful. This was perhaps to be expected given that the opposition goalkeeper was 6'8" and could scarcely fit into the goal. Despite several promising counter attacks from Camp

Hill, the opposition were much more experienced, and ended up dominating the game and winning 5-0 as a result.

The final match of the tour (and the season) was against Austin Friars, and the team were keen to gain back some dignity from their last match. Alex Lee soon scored, but the opposition returned fire within a matter of seconds to level the score before the break. The second half was an equally tight contest, and an improvised finish from Yusuf Ali regained the lead for Camp Hill. After a very tense few minutes, the whistle blew on the final match, signalling the end of a relatively successful season of 3 wins out of 8. Credit should go to all three of the Captains, Alex Byrne, Albert Chang, and Abaan Butt, who each displayed great leadership at various points in the season.

■ **Alex Byrne**

■ **Albert Chang**

U14 Hockey

The U14 first ever hockey season got off to a difficult start against a strong Aston side, who had played hockey for two years longer than us and that showed in the 8-0 defeat we suffered. However this result does not quite reflect our efforts in the match. Man of the match was Abu for linking up the play and a hard working performance getting up and down the pitch.

Our second match was against Old Swinford Hospital. This was a much more evenly sided contest, although we lost the game 2-1, with Luqman scoring our only goal. However, it was a great performance from the whole team and we deserved to get a draw on balance.

Next, we moved on to our third match against a Five Ways team, who were too good for us and we were crushed 10-0 and had it not been for Abnash the goalkeeper, it could have been a cricket score. The team were well and

truly outclassed, but we kept up the fight from start to finish.

Our next game was against King Henry VIII, which would be the first of two fixtures played against them. Initially, Camp Hill made a good start to the game, though missed early chances. King Henry's, however, scored the first goal of the game. However, we quickly hit back with a well worked goal scored by Luqman. Unfortunately, King Henry's quickly regained their lead and then scored a flurry of goals in the second half, as our team got tired. The final score ended up 6-1 to King Henry VIII, but this flattered the opposition as the quality of our performance wasn't shown in the result.

Two weeks later, eager to get revenge on our opposition, we played very solidly in a cagey first half affair. In the second half it opened up and we were the dominant team. In the dying moments Sam Hope went on a weaving run, where he lost his shoe, but car-

ried on and threaded a good ball through to Luqman, but he just couldn't apply the finishing touch. All in all, it would have been a fairy tale ending to a difficult first season for the U14s, but the match ended 0-0. However, the team can take lots of positives from this game, as it bodes well for next season.

Thank you to all the players for their dedication and perseverance throughout the season and a special thank you to Mr Azam and



Mr Smith for teaching us the basics of the game and their patience with us, especially with short corners!

■ **Sam Hope**

Athletics and Cross-Country

Athletics

We have had many a poor summer weather wise, but this year, undoubtedly, has been the worst. The Senior Foundation match did take place and there were some outstanding performances.

In the Sixth Form team, as in previous years, Wesley Blackhurst won his track event, which this year was the 800m. Another stalwart of athletics, Ed Connolly, won not just the 1500m but another track event ... have a guess ... hurdles! This double of extreme events has not happened in the history of the school, now that is what we call a first! Second places went to Ibrahim Muhumed in both 1500m and 800m; Cameron Steel in 200m; Will Tetlow in high jump; Anant Kapoor in 400m and also the relay team. The results sheet placed Camp Hill Boys second overall by one point behind Aston, but when scrutinised, for some strange reason

Anant's result was left off the score sheet. With his points added to the total, the Seniors were placed in a comfortable first place.

The Year 11 team, however, were not at their strongest. On a positive note though, Shreyas Annadate demolished the field (not literally) winning the discus by nearly five metres and second places went to Chris Marshall in the Long Jump; Dan Hill in the 800m; Victor Kimani in the 1500m and Dan Charlesworth in the 400m. Dan pushed himself beyond his limits here, crashing over the line and then being ill for the rest of the afternoon. The team finished third behind Aston and KES.

The next match was a new fixture and took place at the prestigious Alexander Stadium against formidable opposition. It involved a Year 8 team and a mixed Year 9 and 10 team. The younger team was superb, with wins from Richard Amoshe (100m); Yusuf Elsherbiny (discus) and Fintan Hogan (javelin) along with second places from Ross Evans (100m and triple jump); Adil Sandhu (long jump) and the relay team. A fine second place overall, just missing the win by three points to Fairfax. Although the

older team did not win any events outright, second places went to Albert Chang (300m); Dylan Rogers (800m); Alex Byrne (1500m and High Jump) with another near miss from the relay squad. Here, the team placed third, one point behind in second place.

The same teams competed the following day at the Norman Green Stadium against Solihull, RGS Worcester and KES. Back-to-back events are not ideal, but we can't refuse competitions. Ross (300m); Yusuf (shot) and Fintan (javelin) kept their winning ways and Richard came second (hurdles). The U16 team had wins from Alex again (high jump) and Kamil Khan (triple jump) with seconds from Alex (1500m); Kamil (long jump) and Albert (800m). Perhaps suffering from the previous day, the teams placed third and fourth.

The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is a most enjoyable contest. Here each athlete competes in two events and scores points for both performances. These points are added together for the whole team. Sadly this year, the schedule clashed with the Year 8 Residential Trip to Conwy so we decided to give Year 7 budding



athletes their first experience of competition.

Best intermediate individual scores came from Michael James-Thomas 33 points, Leon Zhang 31, Alex Byrne 31, Kamil Khan 30 and Josh Birch 29. The highest in Year 7 were Seth Turner 28, Omaree Johnson 23 and Joe Day 21. The Inters Team qualified for the Regional Round, but this event occurred on a teacher day and so we were unable to put forward a team.

On the Tuesday before half-term, we held the annual Camp Hill Athletics Match. This is always an exceptional event where all of the different events are officiated, very efficiently, by Camp Hill staff. Although the match may seem to be slightly in favour of Camp Hill, we have always struggled with the fierce competition against seven other schools. After the tough match against Year 8 teams in the Track and Field Cup, the Year 7 boys were apprehensive. Best performances came from Peter Kippax (1500m) and Adam Rarko (triple jump) who both placed second; however, the relay team won which helped secure an overall win. Well done to future stars such as Emery Uzoma, Kareem Mehanna, Joe Day, Zak Malik, Omaree Johnson and Seth Turner. Year 8 came fourth with Ross winning the 400m and Fintan, Yusuf, and Dylan all coming second. Year 9 just missed the overall win with excellent team support; Judah Daniels came first place in 100m and second in the long jump. Year 10 team were well

below their best since it was exam week for their year group, but it was pleasing to see Ryan Humphreys win the high hump with 1.61m.

There is normally a Junior Foundation Competition which is split into two matches: Years 9 and 10 followed by Years 7 and 8. Both events were cancelled due to the rain!

The final match was another Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 at the Norman Green Stadium against Solihull, Bablake and Aston. Again the usual athletes shone. Ross and Fintan placed first; Richard Amoshe, Dylan Rees and Tom Heppel came in second, and the team was second overall. Similarly, in the older age group Dylan won the discus and second places went to Kamil, Albert and Louis Cooke. They too placed an impressive second overall.

A small number of athletes were selected for the South Birmingham Team in the County Championships. Notable performances at intermediate age group came from Ryan Humphreys 1.65m in high jump and Kamil Khan 11.29m in triple jump; at junior age group Louis Cooke, a remarkable time of 11.7s in 100m; Judah Daniels 12.5s in 100m and 5.32m in long jump and at under-14 age group Yusuf Elsherbiny 8.25m in shot and Ross Evans 41.3 in 300m.

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

would not be the competitive spirit, fun and overall success. Yet again, I would like to encourage any potential athletes to look towards joining local clubs, where they can receive expert coaching together with quality competition.

■ **Edward Connolly**

English Schools Cross-Country District Round

We all know that Cross Country is the most demanding school activity and only those with real strength of character and determination attempt this sport. The English Schools Cross Country race is always an extremely challenging competition.

On Tuesday 6th October 2015, the combined Year 7/8 team ran well, but were disappointed that the hurricane had lapsed slightly just before the start! Best position went to Joe Thompson, followed by James McNassor, Peter Kippax and Sam Morris.

The year 9/10 team also did very well. First CHB position was Alex Byrne, then Albert Chang, Hareesh Ram and Henry Hoare. Both teams placed third in their age groups and were not quite strong enough to proceed to the regional finals. However, well done to all!

■ **Liam Garside**

Badminton

Also refer to a Badminton report under **Sports Partnership** on page 75

In January 2016, Camp Hill played a KS3 badminton fixture away at KES. This was always going to be a closely contested match as KES had knocked out a depleted Camp Hill side very narrowly in the Nationals. We were now returning at full strength. Would we gain revenge?

We were fielding a team of nine, so the result would also be shaped by players who just missed out on the National Team. These were our players: Sachin Subramonian, Ardash Palanikumar, Jamie Wen, Zak Malik, William Yang, Noah Lloyd, Abhyith Ajayaghosh, Aaryan Deshpande and Suayam Gupta.

In the first round of nine singles matches, all four of our top seeds won their matches and from seeds 5 to 9 we picked two more wins. So at this stage we led by 6 to 3. In the next round, the top eight seeds played four doubles matches in like pairs. We won 3 of the 4, extending our lead to 9-4.

We finished with doubles matches between unlike pairs which allowed us to use our number 9 seed. In this round, KES gained the upper hand winning 6 matches to our 4. However we still emerged winners overall by 13



matches to 10. The games were played without umpires in a friendly, sporting spirit which was a credit to both schools. The result suggests a bright future for Camp Hill badminton.

The Camp Hill senior badminton players took on KES at home. Camp Hill was represented by: Amit Choudhari, Parvesh Konda, Jay Chandarana, Shreshth Malik, Sulamaan Rahim, Adi Ravindranath, Nishant Choudhari, McKenzie Wells, Madhav Ramesh, Rishi Sanger, Marcello Lanni, Mohammed Shuaib and Sakib Choudhry.

The first round consisted of 13 singles matches. Highlights included Amit's win against the KES first seed, a match which produced possibly the best badminton seen on the courts since the Sports Hall was built.

Nishant at number 7 fought a tense match, keeping his nerve to win 21-20. Mohammad Shuaib at number 12 made his debut with a 21-19 win and Camp Hill emerged with a slender 7-6 lead.

Round two consisted of six doubles matches between like pairs. Here KES' more experienced pairings prevailed and they won 5 of the 6 matches. Jay and Shreshth were Camp Hill's winners. So KES went into the last round of doubles leading 11-8. Could we make up the shortfall? Sadly, no. Once again the KES pairs played well, winning 4 matches to Camp Hill's 2. This left the final match score at Camp Hill 10 KES 15. While we had the talent to edge the singles, KES' dominance in the doubles had won the day.

■ **M.R.**

Basketball

U14 Basketball

The Under 14 Basketball Team had a good feeling about the coming basketball season, as last year we managed to win the cup and to reach the finals of the Greater Birmingham Cup.

Hoping to recreate last year's success, we started our first of thirteen matches against Queensbridge with a comfortable win 28-13. The following match against Wheelers Lane followed suit with a comprehensive victory. Then we played Queensbridge again and, due to our complacency, just managed to win the low scoring game which ended 8-5, just three points ahead. However, lessons were learnt as our next matches went smoothly.

We came up against Shenley Academy in our sixth match of the season, where our superior fitness levels enabled us to run circles around the tiring Shenley team. Ending in an impressive 40-23 win. But the next day we came upon Turves Green – the team who beat us after winning the Area Cup. Due to an opposition player, who was tall enough to touch the rim, they manage to beat us 12-20. That was the only loss we had in the League campaign, which pushed us through to the

League Final in which we won 19-12. Winning the South Birmingham School League Competition is an amazing achievement.

Camp Hill were also entered into the Birmingham Schools Winter Games; this consisted of shorter matches. The first match was against Aston Grammar School and was a nerve racking 8-6 win. The next match was against Shenley Academy; here shorter match time helped the opposition and it was a very close match but they managed to edge it in the last minute in a 0-2 win. Next we played Arthur Terry, a school we have not played before. The match soon proved that their team played more of a 'pass to that guy' tactic and the end of normal time ended in a 6-6 draw. But there could be no draws in this competition and a golden basket rule was applied. The extra time was very tense and agonisingly for Camp Hill the opposition scored in the dying seconds resulting in an 8-6 defeat. A disheartened Camp Hill team watched the final and headed home.

Out of all the matches played, three players took part in all sixteen: Tommy Ransbotyn,



Sachin Subramonium and Michael James Thomas, with Leon Zhang only missing one match. The top scorer was Sachin Subramonium with 88 points. We won 13 out of the 16 games played, won the league, scored 346 points and conceded 219.

This year has been an extremely fun basketball season and I would like to thank Mr Duncan for arranging transport for all of our matches and especially Mr Burgess for training us in his spare time and coaching us this past year. I would also like to thank the 15 players who played for the U14 Basketball Team.

■ **Tommy Ransbotyn**

U13 Basketball

The U13 Basketball Team had a tough first season of basketball. With our Captain, Amar Jandu and our Coach, Mr Duncan, we felt confident that we would turn the first game of the season in our favour. The game against Baverstock began fairly evenly. However, as we entered the second quarter and basket upon basket were scored in an attempt for domination, it soon became clear that they were the stronger team. In an attempt to gain a precedence over them Sanjay Suresh, Karthik Bharadwaj and Jay Keenan went on the offensive with Sanjay scoring 2 points, Jay scoring 4 and Karthik scoring a phenomenal 6 points, along with a sneaky 3-pointer from Amar. However, all of our attempts at defending were met with undeserved failure, resulting in a 15-20 win to Baverstock.

The next game against Kings Norton was also very close, but we had become far more coordinated as a team and were ready and motivated to get a win under our belts. The match tipped off and we scored an early basket earning us two easy points. By the end of the second quarter it became obvious that this was going to be a close game. The third quarter finished with spirits high: it looked like we were destined to win. Mr Duncan was on the sideline, enthusiastically instructing us on the plays to make and the opportunities to take; it was all going to plan, until... BOOM, we were smacked

with a wave of exhaustion. All the players on our team were ready to pass out from over exertion, and boy did Kings Norton know it. They swiftly took advantage of our tiredness and were able to make some high quality plays resulting in a close 18-20 win for Kings Norton. Baskets came from Zak Ahmed, Aditya Bajpai, Karthik Bharadwaj, Yusof Elsherbiny, Tarun Sangha and Sanjay Suresh.

Frustrated at our close loss we entered the third game but, unfortunately, all of our attempts to redeem ourselves were denied by the St Thomas Aquinas School side. They dissolved our attacks with some excellent defending and ripped apart our defences with precision. Unable to counter a far stronger side we were forced to accept a 20-31 defeat. Baskets scored by Zak Ahmed, Yusof Elsherbiny, Tarun Sangha and Sanjay Suresh.

At this point we thought the season was all over, but we were wrong. We played Bishop Challoner for our fourth match. We began with a winning tip, could this be the game we were hoping for? YES, our prayers were answered, our superior strategy became immediately apparent, resulting in the 26-6 annihilation of Bishop Challoner. Baskets came from all members of the team, and we left with our heads held high.



Our final match began, our team were all ready for another easy game, but it became immediately apparent that this match would be anything but easy. By the end of the first quarter it was already obvious that this game was already over. With pace and precision Perry Beeches managed to break through all of our defensive attempts, seeking a well-deserved 15-36 win. Baskets came from Jay Keenan, Saleem Miah, Tarun Sangha and Sanjay Suresh.

Now that the season had finished it was time to reflect on the season. Even though we had had only one win, but four losses we managed to score an impressive 94 baskets overall.

■ **Jay Keenan**

Chess started strongly in the autumn of 2015 with many boys entering the annual individual tournament that took place over the first seven weeks of term.

Forty-nine boys gained places in the second round. Ashley Hung and Primo Agnello were leading in the final stages, although the deciding match was never played. This competition qualified twenty-three boys for the Megafinal stage of the Delancy UK Schools Chess Challenge and eight travelled to Worcester in May for an enjoyable set of matches. Overall, the school performed well with three boys winning in their age categories: Viswamedha Nalabotu scored a perfect 6 in the Under 12 boys, and Qiyuan Chen (U13) and Kieran Bhamra (U17) scored 4/6. All three gained places at the Northern Gigafinal.

Their colleagues, Karthik Chinnaswamy (U12), Punith Premachandra and Kevin Xu (both U13), Saksham Shah (U14) and Ajay John (U15), competed strongly, but it was not their day. Both Viswamedha and Qiyuan then travelled north to Wright Robinson College in Manchester in July and played excellently scoring 2.5/6 and 3.5/6 respectively. Qiyuan was rewarded with a place at the Northern Silver Plate Competition 2015–16, which is normally held during the following autumn. Furthermore, Chris Marshall and Ajay John travelled to Saddleworth School, Oldham, for the 2014–15 Northern Silver Plate. A day of hard competition awaited them and both rose to the occasion. Chris emerged a joint winner (U17), scoring 3.5/6. Against stiff opposition, Ajay scored a very commendable 2/6.

Back in Birmingham, the usual league matches started after the autumn half-term and continued through to the end of the year, occupying most Friday evenings. Many thanks are due to the boys who played, the par-

ents who waited for them, and Mr Rogers for transporting them reliably to, and from, away fixtures!

The first team played KES and Five Ways in Division 1, and won both matches 4-2. A new system was introduced this year for all other divisions, which meant that players had to play two games and the matches are scored out of 12. This explains the large total scores that follow. The second team lost 5-7 to KES, beat Solihull 8-4 and lost by the same scoreline to Queen Mary's. That was the end of their season. The Under 13 team fared better, beating Solihull 7.5-4.5, Queen Mary's 9.5-2.5 and Five Ways 8.5-3.5. However they then lost 5-7 to Bishop Vesey's who had the Under 11 Welsh Champion as their Board 1.

On a November Saturday, we travelled to KES for the Under 18 Tournament. Despite efforts to attract a larger entry, by restricting team size to six players, once again there were seven teams, which made pairing teams difficult! Fortunately, Alex Holowczak, the event controller, designed a system to cope. This meant that every team played every other team. Unfortunately, this meant that we had to play Haberdashers' Aske's, Hampton School (who between them had three players with ECF grades of over 200) and Nottingham A, and in the end we came last, but one.

We also took part in the first round of, what used to be *The Times* sponsored National Schools Chess Competition, at its successor at KES. There were two teams, KES B and ourselves. Although we won (4.5-1.5), thus qualifying us for a further match at Nottingham High School (B), unforeseen events meant this match did not happen.

As always, House Chess was a closely watched event, as the result had profound implications for the House Championships. The three rounds consisted of hard-fought matches and very tight scores. The final result was unclear until the very last round, when Howard emerged victorious. Beaufort is to be

congratulated on fielding full-strength teams in all rounds and was rewarded with second place. Seymour and Tudor shared third.

Throughout the year, Mr Walker continued to provide his very valuable lunchtime tuition sessions to Year 7 chess learners and Alex Holowczak provided some advanced sessions after school on a Monday in the autumn and spring terms. Thank you to both of them for helping the boys to improve their skills. This work should prepare Camp Hill for another challenging and satisfying year of chess in 2016–17.

Finally, on behalf of all chess players at Camp Hill, past and present, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mr Rogers, who retires from leading the Chess Club this year. His contribution to school chess at Camp Hill has been enormous. He ensured that anyone interested in playing chess had a chance to do so several times a week at lunchtime in a friendly, relaxed, way meaning that we could improve our skills. In addition, he also organised group chess lessons at beginner and advanced levels.

Through the annual School Tournament, he inspired our natural competitive instincts and then he inspired us to go further and to compete at league and national events. He simplified matters for us by organising home matches and transporting us to and from away matches, sometimes at distant venues. Those who had the opportunity to go to the Millfield Tournament know that this took a whole week-end of his time. For the boys who competed at Megafinals, he thought nothing of taking the time to turn up, often with Mrs Rogers, and support us on a Sunday afternoon. As a result of his diligence, organisation and inspiration, some of us have competed at national level tournaments and have developed a long-term interest in chess. All of us who have enjoyed chess, whether competitive or social, owe him a debt of gratitude.

■ **Chris Marshall**



Football

1st XI Football and Tour

Having heard a year of assembly reports describing heavy loss after heavy loss for the 2014–15 1st XI, the 2015–16 crop of players were determined to make it a different story to last season. Looking back we can say with assurance that we were successful in that respect while also managing to be disappointed that we didn't do slightly better in a few matches. The final record was played 11, won 5, drew 3 and lost 3.

With a strong mix of both Year 13 and Year 12 boys, the squad played some breathtaking attacking football at times, highlighted in the scores 6-0, 7-3, and 10-2 against Kings Norton, Colmers and Handsworth respectively, with many boys managing to get their names on the score sheet throughout the season.

The top scorer was Year 12 striker Zidan Salim, with a very impressive 10 goals in as many games. Zidan flourished with a creative mid-field behind him and his excellent skill was great to watch. Oscar McNaughton with 8 and Cameron Walker with 7, ensured the goalscoring burden never fell on just one man, while also piling on the chances for others. Joint Captains Satnam Ajimal and Max O'Brien must take credit for their efforts and performances, while Aqueel Zulfqar, Mohammed Abed and Alessandro Tassa also deserve mention for some great performances.

On the flip side, disappointing performances against Prince Henry, Lymm and Old Swinford ensured we didn't end the season undefeated, and there was a particularly frustrating second-half collapse at Bablake, when the team failed to take clear chances and



ended up throwing a 2-0 half-time lead; this needs to be rectified next season.

Football Tour

Back to a more positive note, the team enjoyed a fantastic tour to Manchester back in March, which stretched over a whole weekend and was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved. The team left on Friday morning in high spirits and arrived at Lymm High School raring to play their tour match; unfortunately they suffered a 6-2 defeat that did not properly reflect the squad's performance on the day.

Nonetheless the boys were still excited, as the next item on the agenda was a tour of Old Trafford. It was fantastic, with the staff being extremely receptive to all the boys, regardless of what rival team's shirts they might have been wearing and a huge thank you must go to Manchester United for that experience.

The tour continued on Saturday, with another amazing experience, a coaching ses-

sion with a Stoke City Football Club coach followed by tickets to watch the Premier League clash between Stoke City and Southampton. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the match and then headed back to the hotel for a team dinner, before rounding off an outstanding day attempting to spot ourselves on *Match of the Day*, which we didn't manage to do unfortunately.

The final day of the tour featured a tired kick about in a local park and the journey back to Kings Heath. The team want to thank Mr May for joining us on tour but especially Mr Garrod and Mr Speak who worked extremely hard to find fixtures and organise the event. Overall the team should be pleased with their efforts this season and the strong Year 12 contingent will be hoping to kick on and further improve next year.

■ **Cameron Walker**

2nd XI Football

The 2nd XI played three matches this year, suffering defeats in them all.

While two of the three were heavy defeats to Kings Norton and Old Swinford, the 3-2 thriller defeat against Moseley showed glimpses of what the team were capable of. Year 12 Salekh Mahmood bagged one of our goals and also captained the team on occasion; he was a standout performer and will be looking to progress into the 1st XI next season.

Strong performances from Mohsin Najafi and Alex Hughes were rewarded with goals and they will be looking to do the same as Salekh. Overall the second team should not be too upset with the results this year, as a much changing side was never going to help them find any consistency.

■ **Cameron Walker**



Swimming

In the first half-term (2015–16 year) the team travelled to St Martin's School in Solihull. The match involved the entire range of age groups and the team were eager to extend their winning streak from the previous term. It was an enjoyable Gala, with Camp Hill finishing in first place in every age group, except the U12s, where we finished second.

In the second half-term we co-hosted our annual Home Gala against Bromsgrove School alongside the girls' school. Bromsgrove regularly produce a very strong swimming team and our competing U15 and U18 teams would have known that it would be a tough fight to win. While Bromsgrove did win overall, there were some very good swims from the Camp Hill team. Highlights included Henry Belai winning the U15 backstroke event, Leon Zhang coming joint first in the U15 breaststroke and Anant Kapoor coming a close second in the U18 freestyle.

The other major swimming event of the spring term is, of course, the House Gala. The event offers the Year 8 spectators an exhilarating afternoon of swimming races, the plunge and being told off by Mr Cookson for talking too loudly.

This year saw an evolution in the way that the races were started. This innovation didn't come in the form of computerised pressure pads or digital timing displays, but rather as a hand-held wooden box with an AA battery, a buzzer and a switch which Mr Cookson could use instead of a whistle.

The Gala always provides us with a good competitive show and this year was no exception. It was good to see that in addition to the



regular school swimmers, there were a number of other boys taking part, including Rufus Hall of Year 7, who after his second place finish in the breaststroke had Mr O'Malley trying to persuade him to come along to training on Fridays and get involved with the school team.

In Year 8 despite some very good swims from the likes of Ross Evans, Aditya Bajpai and Anil Sivakumar, Mr Caves' 1991 school records for backstroke, freestyle and butterfly remain intact. Maybe next year!

The intermediate age group has become even more interesting this year with the current cohort of strong Year 9 team swimmers sharing their age category with Henry Belai and Adam Li of Year 10. Henry claimed first place for Beaufort in the backstroke and freestyle events, while Leon Zhang claimed his victories for Tudor in breaststroke and butterfly.

The senior races also provided some good entertainment. Alex Lane and Daniel Higgins came down to a split-second finish in the 50m breaststroke, with Daniel just taking first place.

Daniel's winning streak extended to all of his events and he claimed a Victor Ludorum Cup for the fifth time in five years. Will he make it to seven out of seven?

Despite a disqualification in the Senior relay, it was Beaufort who claimed overall victory followed by Tudor, Howard and then Seymour. It is also worth noting that the Intermediate Victor Ludorum prize was shared three ways between Henry Belai, Leon Zhang and Joe Clark. This is a good indication of the high standard of swimmers who are currently working their way through the lower years and, along with the fresh crop of Year 7 talent, the future looks bright for school swimming.

Our annual splash against the Girls' School took place in the summer term. Swimmers from Years 7 to 10 took part and we had a number of good swims. The girls put up a good fight, but this year it was the Boys' School who clinched the victory.

■ S.O.M.

Tennis

Seniors

The Senior tennis team, made up of Tom Wood, Liam Garside, Saakib Chawdhry, Alex Hughes, Ashrit Chohan, Chris Marshall, Ludo De Ventura, Vamsi Pratapa, Rohan Sharma and Danny Blyth, played four matches during the summer term.

The term began well with four pairs travelling to Stratford Tennis Club for a new fixture with KE Stratford. In a competitive afternoon of doubles, a round robin of matches resulted in a draw 8-8. The team followed this with another new fixture against KE Five Ways, which we won 3-2.

Having drawn Rugby School in last year's Glanvill Cup, we hoped for less intimidating opponents this time round. Unfortunately, the first round set up yet another tough encoun-



ter with Warwick School at the very impressive Warwick Boathouse Tennis Club. The team tried its best, but it soon became clear that Warwick were far too strong for us and we lost the match 0-6.

Our final game of the term was our annual fixture against local rivals KES. Exam commitments and a late withdrawal meant that we travelled to KES with only three players and Danny Blyth of Year 10 stepped in to make his

Senior debut. KES very generously agreed to make our team numbers up with one of their players. The Camp Hill team then showed their appreciation of such a generous offer by dominating the match for a resounding 5-1 win. I am not sure that KES will be loaning us a player next year!

A special mention must go to Tom Wood who has been a stalwart of Camp Hill tennis teams since Year 7. Tom has made a significant contribution to school tennis and we wish him well in his future playing and coaching career.

U15 Teams

In a repeat of last year, the U15-A tennis team, made up of Danny Blyth, Ajay John, Alex Byrne, Madav Manoj and on one occasion Aadam Zafar and Will Lyons, had an excellent season, winning three of their matches to set up a league decider in September against rivals KES. In what proved to be a close contest, KES had the edge and won the match and the league

with a 2-4 victory. Particular credit must go to Danny and Ajay, who barely dropped a set, indeed the team as a whole, won an impressive 25 out of 30 sets played.

The U15-B Team, made up of Aadam Zafar, Joe Shalabi, Michael James-Thomas, Sai Potluri and on one occasion Will Lyons and Josh Hall, won one of their three matches. They lost narrowly to Bishop Challoner 2-4 in the early part of the term and then 1-5 to Priory A-team. They saved their best performance for the match against Bishop Vesey, where they took control after the singles matches, but then allowed their opponents back into the match in the doubles' matches. The result was determined by a championship tie-break, in which Aadam and Michael held their nerve to win 10-7.

U13 Teams

The U13-A team, who were Luke Hemmings, Kathik Bharadawaj, Aaryan Deshpande, Max Shally and Omar Ishmael of Year 7, emulated

the U15-As by winning all their matches to also set up a September league decider against... you guessed it, KES! The team achieved two emphatic victories against Bishop Challoner and KE Sheldon Heath 6-0 and then a hard fought 4-2 win against Bishop Vesey. In repeat of the U15 match, the U13s battled hard, but eventually lost 2-4 to a strong KES team.

The U13-B team, consisting of Max Shally, Abinash Nirantharakumar, Salim Miah and Prithu Krishnan of Year 7, won all three of their three matches against Bishop Challoner, Archbishop Ilsey and Baverstock without dropping a set. They will play Bishop Vesey for a place in the Regional Competition in October.

With the Senior team expanding their fixture list and the younger teams all fulfilling their league programmes, it has been a busy year of tennis.

■ **C.M.J.**

Sports Partnership

Badminton

In December we hosted the Partnership Round of the Badminton National Competitions. At U14, Sachin Subramonian, Adarsh Palanikumar, Zak Malik, William Yang and Noah Lloyd played for Camp Hill. We faced three teams.

The first two opponents, Wheelers Lane and The University School, were composed of complete beginners. Exercising self-restraint and tact, our team gently disposed of them, 5-0 and 5-0.

The real opposition came, as usual, in the form of KES who managed to field a team about six inches taller than their U16 team! The opening match was a tense thriller as Sachin edged out a victory against their number one seed by 16 to 14. The next match went to KES who fielded a well organised pair at 3 and 4. Adarsh restored our lead with a crushing 15-4 win. To their credit, the KES team worked out

their doubles tactics to respond. Planting their tall players near the net, they denied our top seeds the shuttle and drew our players into drop shot exchanges which they could dominate. These tactics worked and KES won the remaining two doubles to secure a 3-2 victory.

At U16 we were represented by Isara Mahalekam, Abbas Mirza, Sam Howarth, Shammas Tabraiz and Sami Hamsho.

In the first round we faced Bishop Challoner whose team featured a strong number one seed. Isara fought well to take a 20-16 lead but his opponent rallied and was steady enough on the tense final points to hold out for a 22-20 win. Abbas was far too strong for their number two. Similarly Sam and Sami ran out comfortable winners, 21-7. The last round of doubles was equally one-sided and we emerged victorious, 4 matches to 1.

The second match against KES was an

entirely different proposition. With an England player at number one, they also had strength in depth. It is to our team's credit that three of the matches were closely fought – we scored 18, 16 and 17 respectively, but in the end we were up against an exceptionally strong side that are likely to reach the finals this year. We lost the match but pushed the opposition hard. Sami did score a consolation win in a tight singles match 22-20.

All our players, whether winning or losing, played with exemplary sportsmanship. Thanks are also due to the Sports Leaders who umpired, kept score and helped in the organisation of the matches. Due to their efforts, this was one of the best run competitions in years!

■ **M.R.**

See also page 70 for the main Badminton report and picture.

Indoor Rowing

Camp Hill took a Year 11 team to the Indoor Rowing Competition at the Birmingham School Games Winter Festival, which took place at various venues around the city. The rowing competition was at the Futsal Arena north of the Jewellery Quarter.

Our 4 rowers were Faraan Cheema, Yusuf Khan, Zeeb Khan and Ruari Lynch. All performed well in the individual event, a six-minute race. Zeeb was particularly impressive; two rowers set off at a terrific pace but Zeeb, who knew he was a strong contender, remained unflustered and stuck to his original

plan to row steadily at a pace he knew he could sustain. Steadily he hauled back the large lead the two fast rowers had built up; one of them was clearly burnt out after half the race, but the boy from King Edward's Aston was still rowing well. Zeeb pressed doggedly on, gradually grinding down the lead before overtaking the Aston rower with the best part of a minute to spare, finally winning by more than 10 metres. Yusuf performed similarly, not overdoing the start, and finished fourth. The next rowers came in a bunch, with Faraan fifth and Ruari tenth.

The other event we entered was the Y11

relay over 2016 metres. We knew that with such good placings in the individual event, we must be strong contenders for the relay. The key would be tactics and fast changeovers – we knew we had the rowers. The team followed a model plan, giving Zeeb and Yusuf a little more than their share of the rowing but without overdoing it; the change-overs were superb. They therefore led from a few metres after the start to the finish, steadily increasing the gap over Bishop Vesey who finished second and King Edward's Aston who finished third.

■ **M.J.G.**

Sports Day









Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 st XV	19	9	0	10	391	301
	2 nd XV	13	4	1	8	176	327
	U16	5	1	0	4	46	159
	U15	19	10	0	9	459	472
	U15 B	4	0	0	4	47	143
	U14	19	13	0	6	521	285
	U14 B	6	5	0	1	178	117
	U13	15	11	0	4	392	240
	U13 B	3	3	0	0	121	34
	U13 C	4	1	2	1	83	52
	U12	16	11	0	5	376	258
	U12 B	8	2	1	5	174	197
	U12 C	7	3	0	4	124	232
	U12 D	5	0	1	4	20	215
	HOCKEY	1 st XI	17	5	1	11	35
2 nd XI		14	5	1	8	17	42
U16		1	1	0	0	5	0
U15		8	3	0	5	7	28
U14		5	0	1	4	2	26
BADMINTON	U18	1	0	0	1	10	15
	U16	2	1	0	1	4	6
	U14	4	3	0	1	25	13
BASKETBALL	U14	12	11	0	1	243	158
	U13	5	1	0	4	94	113
FOOTBALL	1 st XI	11	5	2	4	43	38
	2 nd XI	5	0	1	4	8	26

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	7	6	2	4	6

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	7	6	9	7	3

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	7	2	0	5	E. Saunders 105*	E. Takhar 5/12
2 nd XI	2	1	0	1	Z. Salim 40*	S. Cullen 5/10
U15 A	10	5	0	5	O. Akram 50* K. Khan 50*	H. Yate 5/4
U15 B	1	1	0	0		
U14 A	8	5	0	3	V. Venkatamaraiah 78*	V. Venkatamaraiah 4/14
U14 B	2	2	0	0		
U13 A	10	5	0	5	I. Mahammed 50*	A. Sandhu 5/9
U13 B	1	1	0	0		
U12 A	9	4	0	5	H. Hussain 35*	A. Chowdhury 4/5
U12 B	3	3	0	0		

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

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 – 2016				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	10	7	3	5
BADMINTON	2	4	1	3
BASKETBALL	5	7	2	2
CHESS	3	4	1.5	1.5
CRICKET	10	5	5	5
CROSS COUNTRY	10	5	7	3
FOOTBALL	3	7	5	1
HOCKEY	3	1	7	5
MUSIC	4	1	2	3
QUIZ	2	4	3	1
RUGBY	10	7	3	5
SWIMMING	10	5	3	7
TABLE TENNIS	1	2	3	4
TENNIS	1	4	2.5	2.5
OVERALL TOTAL	74	63	48	48





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