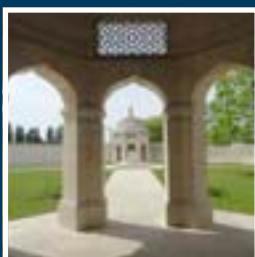


# The Chronicle 2017

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# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

## Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Is it really a year since the last *Chronicle*? On the one hand it seems like I've hardly had time to blink. On the other, so much seems to have happened in that short time.

What random thoughts spring to mind as I reflect on the year? It's hard to get away from those chemists, for a start. In the summer of 2016 we were so proud of our Head Boy, Mohammed Khan, being picked for the four-person team to represent the UK in the International Chemistry Olympiad. (He came back bronzed.) And then the school did it again, this time providing the UK with Anthony Lim to do the honours, travelling to Thailand to react for the nation. (He came back silvered.) In related news, we also learnt just before the summer that John Hayton had been picked to represent the UK in the four-person team for the International Astrophysics Olympiad. You'll have to read next year's *Chronicle* to find out how he got on. (Our boys are so talented! We've got an international speed-skater; someone who represents the UK in martial arts; someone who represented the UK at the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers. They're just the ones I know about because they needed time off school!)

The tradition of strength in the arts has

continued as well. This year we have celebrated having two boys in the National Youth Orchestra. Harry Atkinson is in his third year with the orchestra, bowing his double bass – he's now leading a section; and Lucas Houldcroft is in his second year of blowing his own trumpet. While their endeavours may represent the tip, there's an iceberg below them; we have, as usual, enjoyed a superb series of concerts, soirees and performances from the many talented musicians in our school. (Do come along to the two markers of Christmas the Camp Hill Schools provide: the Christmas concert is a little earlier this year, on Monday 11 December, while the Camp Hill Boys Carol Service is on Wednesday 20 December. I feel sorry for those whose Christmas doesn't start with the Camp Hill Boys Carol Service; they must feel there's something missing from their lives.)

Still in the arts area: we knew we hadn't said goodbye to Mike Southworth a year ago, because he said at the time that he would love to continue to produce the school's drama productions. And he delivered the goods as usual. First we enjoyed the junior drama production of *Our Day Out*; congratulations to the senior boys who directed that. And then we were treated to a wonderful production of *The History Boys*, including some truly memorable performances. I am already aware of work towards this year's junior production and next year's senior production is under discussion.

This year has also seen an event created out of nothing which generated the most extraordinary excitement. An old boy of the school asked if the school would support him in his intention to go trekking in the Himalayas, raising sponsorship for charity. From this humble start, the great Camp Hill Indoor Rowathon was born. Galvanised by Messrs Burgess and Taylor, the boys (and staff) went row-crazy. For two weeks boys were rowing as the sun rose, rowing through lunch and rowing as the sun set. The target, to row the length of the Himalayas, was met with days to spare, but still they kept on rowing. By accident, I suspect, a considerable donation to support the old boy was also made.

One of this year's dominant activities has been fund-raising and planning for the new Sixth Form building. A few weeks ago (as I write), we signed a Letter of Intent to a contractor to begin work. The building will be handed over to us late in the summer, well in time for the September intake. Very exciting. The project is joint with Camp Hill Girls because we share Sixth Form facilities and I have enjoyed that element of cooperation and rivalry as we have worked towards our total. I am so grateful to the many people who have worked tremendously hard on the fund-raising; their gift to the school through this is enormous. I am also extremely grateful to the many families – nearly 80 – who have pledged £300,000 to the school for the project. One final push now will get us over the line.

Each year brings with it the sadness of saying goodbye to staff who have served the school faithfully for many years. This time it was Graham Hardy to whom we said farewell after 30 years in harness. You can read all about the debt this school owes this extraordinary teacher in this publication.

From a legal point of view, 1 September 2017 is a significant date for the school. On that date it became part of the new-born King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham. (So new that I just had to check our letterhead to make sure I'd got the name right.) Reaching this point is an enormous relief to the Foundation staff who have worked exhaustingly for eighteen months to bring us to it. (And a sad moment for the lawyers, presumably.) (Sorry, lawyers – you must be so sick of cracks about you.) And we welcome King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys to the fold.

That's just a few memories from another year of memories. Read on to discover, once again, how rich and varied life at Camp Hill School for Boys is. Brilliant boys, brilliant staff, brilliant parents – of course it's a brilliant place to be.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster



# Editorial

This year, I am sitting happily exhausted, having read again about the wonderful range of events that have taken place at Camp Hill this year. Editing the *Chronicle* this year has been a real privilege; it never ceases to astonish me how many marvellous opportunities our students have here.

Again trips abroad feature heavily, with students having visited Germany, France and the Czech Republic. The sadder and more reflective trip to the World War I Battlefields of Northern France, where our students learnt about the realities of *the war to end all wars*, particularly stands out, as we commemorate a hundred years since The Great War, and Alistair Bulloch, a past Deputy Head of the school, has sent in a special article about the tragic life of Sydney Clifford Lamplugh, a past alumni of the school, who was killed in 1917.

Domestic visits also feature heavily in the 2017 edition of the *Chronicle*. Students went on a range of visits, including subject specific lectures, theatre trips and even visited the Warner Brother Studios and entered the world of Harry Potter.

Music, drama and sport have played a huge part in school life in 2017 and, amongst many other articles, we have reports about both the Junior Drama production of *'Our Day Out'* and the moving Senior Drama production of Alan Bennett's *'The History Boys'*, both directed by Mr Southworth.

In next year's *Chronicle* we will be able to read about The House Festival and a trip to see *'Twelfth Night'* in Stratford amongst other things... but for now... put the kettle on, sit back and enjoy this year's edition.

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

# The Chronicle 2017

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# Leavers

## Graham Hardy

**H**onour, privilege, fright; just some of the emotions that I felt when Graham asked me if I would write about him for *The Chronicle*. He is, after all, yet another Camp Hill Legend.

I have thought long and hard about how to begin this article and have settled on the need to clarify that what I'm about to say contains no sarcasm, irony or innuendo... unlike most of the conversations I've ever had with him!

Some staff have said that it has taken them years to realise that an overtly grumpy exterior masked a sharp minded, principled professional, who repeatedly proved that he is brilliantly capable and, who has provided a fine example for us all; I just hope that my wanderings through his formative years and time at Camp Hill do this justice!

As a staff it is justifiable to say that many have been under the impression that Graham is a scouser. However, as I listened to a brief biography of his life, which Martin gave about him at the Presentation Evening in July, I thought I'd try to establish whether Bootle, where Graham was born, is in Merseyside? I quickly found that if you start typing this into Google it tries to predict the question you want to ask. Before you get to "Is Bootle in Merseyside?" it's predicted you want to ask "Is Bootle rough". So that explains his gruff manner! Anyway, born in Bootle (rough or not), he attended his local primary school before moving on to Bootle Grammar School.

A model student (obviously Graham's words!) he embraced all that school had to offer, football, badminton and cricket being his main sports (those of us who've seen him play will know he's an accomplished wicket keeper).

Although Athletics didn't feature among his main sports, apparently he did run the occasional 1500 because nobody else wanted to do it! Arguably though this is not his strong suit, as he seems to find blades of grass a trip hazard, for example he fell over three times when he and I went for our annual run together in St David's this year!

He has, however, assured me, that he got on well with his teachers and played in many of the staff teams; well he has always been known for having a quiet unassuming nature that makes him easy to get on with, hasn't he?

The University of Birmingham was his next stop, where he studied Maths, continuing his love of sport by including PE as a subsidiary subject. Football was his major sport whilst there, and he was vice-captain of the University Club in his final year. By the time he'd

finished his degree he realised he was better at sport than Maths, hence his decision to have PE as his major PGCE subject, with maths as his subsidiary. He did the PGCE at Loughborough, which is where he "improved" his athletics, which suggests it must have been pretty rosy before that!

From there my memory gets a bit sketchy (I'm now piecing together many bits of conversations we've had) but, suffice to say, after a year's temporary contract teaching maths in Guiseley, West Yorkshire, which involved a pub, Kevin Keegan and a telegram (all the best mysteries involve a telegram), he moved on to teach maths and PE at a small Methodist school in the Bahamas. He worked very happily there until 1986. To be honest, however, his memories from that time period (funnily enough) seem to be more focused on sailing, beach barbeques, rugby and meeting his wonderful future wife Jayne.

Jayne was working in the Bahamas too and they met when she visited a friend of hers on Gran Bahama. Jayne then did her best to escape by taking a job in Spain (I think this was about 1984) before she moved back to Wales in '86. By this time (1986) Graham's reputation in the Bahamas meant that he had to beat a hasty retreat to the UK and he took a maths cover job in Rowley Regis FE College (partly because his brother was working in the Black Country, but I could well be making that bit up).

He and Jayne married in 1988, with their three wonderful children following in 1988 (Katherine), 1990 (Stuart) and 1991 (Michael). They settled as a family in Halesowen in 1989 and have stayed there ever since; well, with the Clent hills on your doorstep there are worse places to live!

And so we find ourselves in 1987 and this was where Graham started his time at Camp Hill. He immediately impressed with his passion for all aspects of a child's education, seeing extra-curricular activities as integral, rather than an optional extra. It is important to note, however, that Graham ALWAYS saw himself as a maths teacher first and foremost and his commitment in this regard has always provided an amazing example. His pastoral care and commitment as a form tutor, before he moved into Head of Year roles, also modelled an approach that we can all aspire to. Quoting Alistair's summary of his pastoral work says it all really; his words? "... as a pastoral head Graham was utterly superb." It is no surprise that his work as Head of the Sixth Form has inspired countless students to fulfil their ambitions, be they at university or through some other route. In fact, his knowledge of the intricacies of post



18 education is phenomenal; this he acquired through visits, courses, open days and research (sorry, *research, research and research*, as he pointedly says in his presentation to students about university applications). You may think he soaked this knowledge up like a sponge but, in reality, his trusty notebook was his bible; the small number of times he mislaid this was a cause of great distress, but he could publish a pastoral best-seller if he extracted all the nuggets that those books must contain!

This encyclopaedic knowledge has allowed him to tailor his advice to the students, advice that is always given with their best interests at heart. Graham has often commented on the fact that how could he not enjoy work when he has the best job in the world; well if that is true then it's only true because of his drive and commitment to make it that way.

A typical day illustrates this perfectly: he thinks nothing of teaching all morning and then sitting in on one of the many societies he's encouraged boys to set up at lunch time, squeezing in a quick sandwich and cup of tea, before returning again to the classroom. Then, after school, there's cross-country or hockey or basketball to coach!

Graham likes sport; that may come as a bit of a revelation to some of you. He shares the belief of many of us that having opportunities to participate in team and individual activities is a fundamental part of an all-around education, and he passionately supports that belief through his actions. It is no exaggeration to say that without Graham's magnificent efforts, hockey at the school might not have survived. When called upon to take over the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Graham knew nothing of the game but, as in everything he did at Camp Hill, he put his heart and soul into meeting the challenge, turning himself into a very competent umpire and an effective coach. It might have appeared a



thankless task; we are often faced by teams from Independent schools who have the services of professional coaches and, above all, at least one, sometimes more, *astroturf* pitches. Whatever the results, he has kept going, kept optimistic and only occasionally did he express frustration and grumble – well not more than once after each match anyway.

Athletics, cross-country and basketball could also be included in the list of sports that he has, often single-handedly, maintained in school. His enthusiasm is inspiring; my two sons' ongoing enjoyment of athletics was nurtured through the time and support he devoted to practices and athletics matches. I wonder how many others would attribute their ongoing love of a particular sport or activity to his example and encouragement? Before Graham left I witnessed Peter Kippax in Year 8 seeking him out once he realised that he was retiring and wouldn't be there in September for cross-country; the words were, to say the least, touching, and remind us that it's so often the extras that provide the longest lasting memories for the boys. Just remember though, here was a full-time teacher of mathematics giving time, in and after school, to run practice sessions, while still helping his academic students make outstanding progress; awe inspiring!

With regard to his maths teaching I can assure you that we in the maths department would all groan when we found out that we had a parallel GCSE set with Graham; you can guarantee his exam results will always make you look inadequate! His dedication to helping the students through the difficult hurdles they face was exemplary. It is evident that he knew the boys very well and was therefore able to adopt the technique that best suited the student; some would have the kick up the backside, others the arm around the shoulder and the quiet encouragement, while some would spend their lessons sitting at their own desk next to him. One thing you can guarantee they'd all say though was: "this man has taught me brilliantly, and we've had a laugh and a joke along the way too".

I think I'm in danger of making Graham sound like some sort of hero figure so perhaps it's time to change the tone slightly! Trips. I think we've done over fifty residential trips together and it's fair to say we've had some memorable times over those years. I've roomed with Graham for virtually all of those too. Some might think I'd drawn the short straw in this but, in actual fact, you could not find a better roomie: he's clean and tidy (nothing like his corner of the staffroom might suggest), he doesn't snore (unlike other staff I could name), he brings loads of snacks and, by some way the most significant feature, he has made me a large mug of tea every morning. I supply the kettle, he does the tea; perfect.

However, there have been times when I've wondered whether Heads at Camp Hill might

have intervened and stopped Graham from taking part in trips. Why? Surely not because of his classes' performance? No, because of a concern about the cost to the NHS of course. This might appear surprising, given the fact that we all know he is a finely tuned athlete. Actually, so finely tuned that he had to resort to goalkeeping for the staff football team to protect his hamstrings. Even that failed this year though, as he tried to save a shot and ended up hurting his hand! Anyway, back to the trips.

His first brush with trouble came when he skied into the equivalent of a brick wall; Andy Nash. The details are difficult to establish and depend on who you talk to but, suffice to say, Graham came off much worse than Andy from that encounter; collarbone number one done for.

The next 'accident' came about five years later. He'd spent the intervening years skiing behind Andy on all occasions but came a cropper when he and I were skiing with the top group at the end of one of the days. He found that skis don't work that well on mud when we were weaving down a particularly worn section; collarbone number two rearranged! Strangely, the greatest challenge fell to Keith. On the penultimate day of this trip we took the boys to Lech, the upmarket resort in the next valley to St Anton. Graham borrowed Keith's camera to do some shots of the boys during the day. Unfortunately, with a broken collarbone, it's pretty difficult to keep up with boys on skis, so instead he used the camera to take photos that ensured Keith had some difficult questions to answer when his wife looked through the trip photos!

Reminiscences about skiing would not be complete without mention of Graham's attempts to foster positive Anglo-continental relations. It would be wrong of me to suggest that certain hoteliers, snow-boarders, coach drivers or ski reps are probably NOT on his Christmas card list; you'd need to check with him.

He first accompanied the Junior Rugby Tour in 2005. At that time it was just that; a rugby tour. By the next year, however, it was a Junior Rugby AND Hockey Tour; he had seen the fantastic opportunity it offered and wanted to make sure that as many teams as possible experienced the positive benefit of a tour, even though he wasn't even responsible for junior hockey! Once again this was about the boys; he was quite happy for the team manager to go on tour but, when that wasn't possible, he wasn't going to let the squad tour without a hockey coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

He joined us on the St David's trip before that; about 2003 I think. To say he brought a certain flair to the catering would be something of an understatement. Ask any of the boys about the quality of the menu and you'll be left in no doubt about Graham's significant role on this trip. Two of the main meals involved

a barbeque, several varieties of meat (for the carnivores), some vegetables (honestly), lots of ice cream with fruit and, of course, good humour. When you factor in that he always 'volunteers' to do the worst route belay of the week (perched on top of a very uncomfortable outcrop), it's a wonder we ever managed without him!

Graham's immersion in the life of the school is further illustrated by his years of service on the Common Room Committee. Rumours that he only took on this role so that he could 'hog' the barbeque at the summer function are a gross-exaggeration. His willingness to do the barbeque, year in year out, just shows that he's never happier than when he can be 'busy'. The way he has organised the staffroom dishwasher every morning and evening further illustrates his blatant inability to sit down and do bugger all!

His involvement in the staff CHAOS productions demonstrated another selfless side to his personality. Here I quote directly from our all-knowing director, Mike Southworth: "Hardy the actor: Graham has so often been compared to the famous Hollywood star of yore, Alan Ladd – neither is very tall! I have long regarded Graham as the epitome of a Chaos star – a man bereft of talent, partially tone deaf and ever willing to wantonly expose his little hairy legs and knobbly knees to public view. Cast as a vicious soccer player, whose only aim was to inflict life-changing injuries on anyone who came near him on the field, his lines were delivered in a convincing impression of a whinging, whining, self-pitying Scouse – surprisingly, after several Chaos performances, he never lost the accent!"

The final memory came to me anonymously by email, but I'm sure you'll think is worthy of inclusion. The email subject was, "Hardy the Driver". Again I quote directly as any editing would merely mask the sincerity in the words. It read: "On a Staff walking weekend, I remember being puzzled when Mr Bruten left the minibus, which was being driven by Graham, and rode his bike the final fifteen or so miles to the hotel. I regarded this as blatant showing off, but what happened next convinced me that he was motivated by simple self-preservation. I had before noticed on trips in the minibus with Graham, that his driving technique consisted of never changing gear until the engine was screaming at maximum possible revs, and that he could be a touch aggressive at the wheel. Nothing, however, could have prepared me for the final fifteen miles of that trip to the Lakes. As we flew over the spectacular Wrynose and Hard Knott Passes, hurtling round hairpin bends at speeds which might daunt Lewis Hamilton, we experienced what it must be like to float on the high seas, inside a tin can, during a storm force gale. But we did reach the hotel. As we scrambled out of the bus into the overpowering stench

of burning rubber, we laughed, despite being traumatised, even hugged each other, for we knew that for fifteen long, long miles, we had been face to face with death and had lived to tell the tale."

By this point Graham is probably muttering that this is far too long an article, so I'll draw things to a close. There are things I've missed

out, like his dedicated leadership of Tudor House or the fact he enjoys running with a group of friends three or four times a week; I apologise for those. Graham, is UNDOUBTEDLY an inspiring and outstanding professional, as well as a good friend to many; he will be missed.

We wish him and his family many happy

years touring the country and continent in their caravan, picking up cheap flights to wherever they fancy or just doing those things they've never had time for: Graham, you've earned that privilege.

■ P.A.B.

## David Barr

David Barr joined us in September 2015. He came to take charge of Economics when Anne James retired. He took over a thriving department from a superb teacher – that's a tough ball to pick up. But he picked it up brilliantly, sustaining both the popularity and academic success of the department. And then he made an outstanding contribution through his work as a coach in both cricket and rugby. The boys found him an easy man to relate to and respect – in the classroom and on the games field.

Unfortunately David had to commute for up to two hours each way to work at Camp Hill. Clearly that couldn't continue. He and his family had to decide whether to uproot from Nottingham or find a job nearer to home. The sad news for us is that in the end the family decided they had too many roots where they



were, so David left us to become the Head of Social Sciences at a school closer to home. We wish him luck in his new role.

■ M.J.G

## Syeda Shah

Syeda joined us in September 2015 and her input over her two years with us was very much appreciated.

Following her MSc in Theoretical Physics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Birmingham, she explored various part-time roles that allowed her to apply her love of children's activities and science programmes. She went on to train through the KEC, enjoying a successful main placement at Windsor High School.

In her time with us she passed on her creative side, encouraging students to explore Physics through projects and mini presentations. We wish her every success in her new role at Bromsgrove School.

■ P.A.B.

## Jason Pitt

Jason joined Camp Hill in September 2010 as the Head of Computing following the departure of George Rouse.

Walsall born and bred, Jason attended Queen Mary's and then went on to study Computer Science at Birmingham University, before completing his PGCE in Wolverhampton. He went on to prove himself an excellent teacher, working at Camp Hill Girls and then Moseley before joining Camp Hill Boys. Jason proved to be extremely flexible, not only teaching Computing, but also Physics and Maths to a high standard during his time with us.

While at Camp Hill he worked for OCR and is now a Chief Examiner; he has written several books on computing. In addition, he did an amazing job as the Computer Science subject leader for the King Edward (teacher training) Consortium.

Jason was never shy about getting involved in wider school life; he immediately made his

mark by getting involved in a range of activities, some of which were actually to do with computing. For example he started a computer club and introduced and ran the Robocode Challenge, which was enormously popular at lunchtimes. As well as this he ran Lower School Debating in conjunction with Mrs Lockyer.

Unfortunately Jason left Camp Hill in January 2017 and is sorely missed. He is now living in, and is Head of Computer Science at Fettes College, an independent boarding school, with his family – his son is in Year 8. This job carries lots of perks including accommodation and a short walk to school, rather than an onerous bus ride. The school immediately recognised Jason's sporting strengths and put him in charge of videoing others playing sport. He has loved being a tourist in Edinburgh this summer and walking his dogs on the beach in his spare time.

Jason of course is bilingual – his mother



tongue is English, but he speaks fluent Nadine...

We wish him all the best. He is missed.

■ J.L.P.

■ M.J.G.

# School Activities

## ENGINEERING

### Engineering in Education Scheme Eaton Aerospace

Starting in autumn 2016 and continuing until summer 2017, a team of four boys: Jack Wood, Sam Cullen, Sid Sharma and Will Butler, were given the fantastic opportunity to work alongside Eaton engineers at the Lakeside plant on a real engineering project. This was part of the Engineering Education Scheme.

During the project we worked closely with two of Eaton's engineers: Markus Holmes and Craig Polly. We were tasked with designing new welding equipment for the plant to use on welding brackets for engines in Airbus A380's, as in recent times they had wasted a lot of money on scrap parts as they were working with old equipment. This was going to be a challenge for the team as none of us were particularly familiar with welding, and it soon became apparent that we needed to be.

In order to familiarise ourselves with the project, we started off with a tour of the Eaton Lakeside plant, looking around the workshop and seeing their pre-existing welding equipment. Here we were introduced to Matt, who was one of the technicians in the workshop. He proved useful by telling us how to begin the design. He explained to us that the main problem with the welding equipment was that there wasn't enough gas surrounding the joint during the weld. The lack of gas, which is supposed to be 99.9% argon, meant that oxygen particles were present, leading to microscopic cracks throughout the titanium brackets and discolouration, which is known as alpha casing. We now knew that the main focus of our designs needed to be optimising the gas coverage around the weld area, so that we could reduce the casing, and therefore reduce the

scraps and money wasted.

While visiting the plant, we were provided with information about the different materials used in the welding process, as well as a detailed specification for the brackets we would be working with. This specification was vital for our designs, as it meant that we could fine tune the dimensions of our new equipment to increase the amount of gas getting to the joint. We also learnt about the different types of weld equipment the technicians were using. Their current setup consisted of a shroud to cover the weld torch, which would blow argon gas directly onto the joint, as well as a purge box, which the bracket would rest on, which would blow gas up and around the outside of the bracket. These two components would become the main focus of our designs, and we worked as a team to create new and innovative ways to improve them.

Now we knew what we needed to work on, the team spent many hours out of school timetable hard at work designing the new equipment. In order to maximise our efficiency we decided early on to split the team, so that we could more effectively focus different components; with Jack and Sid working on the purge box and Will and Sam on the shroud design.

Mark and Craig, the Eaton engineers, were very helpful throughout the project and we had weekly meetings with them to check our designs, to see if we were heading in the right direction. With their help, we managed to pull together new designs for both the shroud and purge box before the University of Birmingham trip. This was a very useful part of the scheme as it allowed us to put our designs to the test, and use the University's workshop to bring them to life. With the help of Carl we manufactured a new shroud and purge box, which could now be tested at the Eaton plant. We also did some basic tests on the products, by blowing smoke through the shroud and purge box,



and recording the spread of gas which came out.

Along with the actual project, the team had to produce a succinct report on our approach to the problem. Despite the technicality of the project, we managed to create a concise report on how we tackled the problem, detailing our designing process through to our manufacturing and testing. Although it wasn't the most thrilling part, it was arguably one of the most important, as it is necessary to write similar reports no matter what career you decide to go into.

The Engineering Education Scheme was one of the most rewarding and useful things any of us on the team had taken part in. Not only did it test our ability to work efficiently and effectively as a group, it also gave us all valuable experience working on an actual engineering project, which is not something any other scheme can give you, providing us with a real taste of the engineering world.

The team would like to thank Mr Nash for organising the scheme, as well as the Eaton engineers for helping us throughout with their guidance.

■ Jack Wood

### Engineering in Education Scheme Rolls-Royce

The Rolls Royce Team began as a group of boys who had managed to survive the thorough grilling of two engineers, both current employees of Rolls Royce Aerospace. These engineers had come

to Camp Hill in search of the most skilled EES team possible.

As a team we had all been through the stressful experience of sitting in the interview chair in Mrs Morris' office trying to convince the engineers that, despite our ultimately rather limited knowledge of engineering, we somehow had the skills to design anything, whether that be the second Burj Khalifa or the next Eurofighter Typhoon. All this alongside

completing our AS levels (luckily the project was not that difficult but doing either would have sounded pretty cool on our UCAS personal statements). So when we all found out that we had been selected for the Rolls Royce engineering team I think we all sighed with relief, but the euphoria quickly disappeared as we realised the hard work and commitment the project that was asked of us would require.

The EES project started with a bang on the



EES “launch day”, which is held at RAF Cosford, and there we met the Rolls Royce engineers who explained the task we had to complete.

The problem we had to solve was quite a technical one: it involved finding a more efficient method of adjusting a specific high precision component within a Rolls Royce jet engine during the quality control stage of manufacture. This meant that that the component needed to be tweaked to meet the required specifications, but this had to be done without dismantling the whole unit. At first this appeared to be quite a daunting task, but as



the weeks went by we came up with a variety different ideas and we eventually managed to devise what we thought was a plausible solution, with the help of the engineers, who acted as mentors.

Our design involved inserting two screws either side of the unit, which when turned



could force some wedges up against the components inside, allowing the adjustment of their exact position within the unit without taking it apart. This effectively replaced the job of a “shim” which is basically a flat disc used to do this job, and is currently widely used in the aerospace industry. We created a prototype of our solution during our two residential days at Birmingham University where we machined the prototype using the tools and materials the University had.

Finally we created a very detailed report describing the problem and how we solved it, which we brought to the EES assessment day. We were put in front of a panel of judges and questioned about the project and how easily our solution could be implemented by Rolls Royce. Overall the judges seemed satisfied by

our answers to these questions and afterwards the engineers said they were impressed by our work. We received a Gold CREST award in recognition of our effort and the time we had devoted to the project.

While our team unfortunately did not manage to progress to the final, where the top two teams are invited to present their project to some very well respected engineers in London, the Camp Hill Girls School team did manage this feat. Word cannot describe how the team felt when the judges said “Camp Hill...” only for our glory to be robbed by the Girl’s School. However we wish next year’s EES Rolls Royce Camp Hill Boys’ team the best of luck to achieve this accolade.

■ **James Bromley**

## Student Robotics 2017

This year saw the School take on the Student Robotics challenge once again. The previous year’s team advice had been to start preparing as early as possible; time was always to be the biggest challenge. However, we were fearful of breaking tradition, so we immediately got on to spending hours planning the robot instead of making it. After many fruitful sessions of drawing strange shapes on the DT room whiteboard, we finally came up with a foolproof plan for our robot.

The challenge this year was based around boxes. Each box was worth a number of points. Within three minutes, we had to get our robot to collect the highest scoring boxes and return them to our corner of the arena. The challenge sounded simple, but it’s all about the robot. The end product of all was Dwayne ‘The Bot’ Johnson, a 3-wheeled robot that would pincer its way to all of the boxes. With our confidence high, we started to build our beautiful machine



and realised that our confidence should have been much lower... this was going to be tough.

A significant problem that we had to face was the size restriction of our robot, which had to fit within a 50cm cube. This seemed to be ample space, until we realised that the boxes themselves were about 25cm wide. With our design adapted to fit, Oliver started to work on the code. As a team we had to constantly refer back to the documentation, which was vague and unclear. We then needed to experiment, but you can only experiment on a robot once you have built it.



We decided to build our box out of balsa wood to make it light, as well as clear plastic for a classy feel. Clearly, our priorities were on point. After many measurements, markings, and mistakes, Dwayne ‘The Bot’ Johnson was alive, and we were ready to take on the teams at the Newbury Racecourse.

The day of the competition had the whole area filled with enthusiastic students, who looked as confused as we did about what on earth we were trying to do. We saw some huge teams who had made some very creative designs (both with their robots and costumes).



One of the designs that impressed us early on had surrounded the boxes with cling film and lassoed the whole collection into its corner. It was at this point that we had the idea of building a mortar type robot that would have netted the whole arena clear of any boxes. But it was too late, and we were in trouble.

From the offset, our robot had difficulties moving around. The size of the wheels meant that the robot couldn't move over the carpet in the arena. We had tested movement at school, but the pressure was getting to the machine as much as it was getting to us. Every round was followed by a flurry of debugging and trying to fix whatever had gone wrong. The first day ended with an exhausted team. We retired to the nearby Lodge Hotel to unwind with some old films.

The next day began with further attempts to fix our precious machine. It was moving and turning, but then suspicious trails of smoke wafted over. The poor little motors had been getting stuck at full throttle, trying to move the

robot. The heat had melted the very glue keeping them attached to the robot. However, we were not to give up! Vamsi and Raiyyan bagged a bargain of duct tape rolls for one pence each (there was a labelling error that we took full advantage of) and off we went to fix the motor firmly in place.

Unfortunately, the stamina of 'The Bot' could not match our hopes, and we saw how each round took its toll on the little bot as it shuffled on the spot. No box was seen in our corner, but we left the event having had a fantastic time and an experience in building something we had no other opportunity to do.

Thanks is owed to Mr Nash for his help and advice, as well as the parents of Oliver, Vamsi and Aaron, who helped us ferry ourselves and our creation over to the event.

■ **Monim Wains**



## SCIENCE

### Gardening Club

In September 2016, a new Gardening Club was launched, made up of five Y7 and six Y12 students. They were an absolutely wonderful team and the whole venture was a blooming success!

Not only were some of the Y12 boys able to use the time as community volunteering hours for their Lions Award, but the boys worked hard to complete all five of the national School Gardening Awards offered by the Royal Horticultural Society. To gain these, they regularly had to submit details of their gardening projects online, answering specific questions and including photographs of their progress. To obtain all five national School Gardening Awards in one year, and with little initial gardening experience, required continual effort and the boys did not disappoint! Their successful completion of these awards has also provided the school with garden centre vouchers, seeds, plants and equipment for future gardening ventures.

In the autumn term, the lads got to know each other and started planting bulbs to take to senior citizens in the surrounding area. After dedicated watering of their growing plants, forcing of hyacinths and decorating pots with ribbons and greeting cards, they delivered their gifts to residents in various local old people's homes.

The Y7 students also walked to one care home, in freezing conditions and even though it meant missing their rugby lesson. They were welcomed into the care homes and so were able to witness their tulips, hyacinths and



daffodils being gratefully received by residents and staff.

In the spring term, the gardeners moved on to sowing herbs and vegetables. They all continued to come to Gardening Club at least once, but sometimes up to three times a week. Their enthusiasm was not dampened by the slow germination of some plants and they learned how to thin their crop and repot their seedlings as necessary.

The summer term was very busy. As their plants grew, space rapidly diminished in the greenhouse and the balcony and biology room became additional growing spaces. Some individuals took the potato competition rather seriously and there was passionate arguing as to whether the winner should be determined by number of potatoes or

total mass of harvest! Tomato seedlings were transplanted into grow bags and carrot and radish seeds were sown in large pots. Watering became more frequent and increasingly important as the summer progressed. Within weeks they were selling various plants to staff and taking some home for their own families. They also had a special sandwich session where they used the salad plants they had cultivated as a starting point to make their lunch. There were a few setbacks: the unwelcome arrival of aphids, the high winds that resulted



in potatoes having to be transferred into the greenhouse for a few days, and the failure of the cacti seeds to germinate. There was also the occasional water fight! However, mostly things ran pretty smoothly!

The plants grown over the year included hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, parsley, coriander, thyme, purple broad-leaved basil, spring onions, radishes, lettuce, mixed leaves, spicy leaves, tomatoes, carrots, chilli peppers, and potatoes.

The younger and older lads really clicked as a group and I was incredibly impressed with them, for not only sticking it out for the entire year, but also for working so well together and being such a cheery and enthusiastic group. This project would not have worked without their teamwork, commitment and unwavering dedication; they were amazing! It is a shame that the year has ended, but the greenhouse will be used by other students for a different activity next year. I will miss Greenhouse Club. Our first year of gardeners have certainly done themselves and the school proud. Well done!

■ **C.B.**

### Additional thanks

We are grateful to the following people and organisations who supported our work:

**Webbs of Wychbold** — for their generous seed, plant and equipment donations in the setting up of Gardening Club.

**Wednesbury Ikea** — for kindly supplying us with equipment, seeds and plenty of ceramic pots for bulbs.

**AFS** — for their financial support in getting the initiative off the ground.

**Others** — School Staff who bought their produce, allowing the lads to complete the enterprise task needed for School Gardening Award 4. Mr Hardy and Mr Bruton, for driving the boys to local care homes, and driving them back! Firnaaz in Y12 for also delivering bulbs to the care home where he volunteers.



### What I liked about Gardening Club

**Hayyaan Ali, 7K** — I have extremely enjoyed Gardening Club as it has given me more experience with gardening and I can use the skills to help my family, who are also good at gardening. I liked how on the first few weeks we

had done a lot of planting. We had helped local old peoples home by brightening where they lived with daffodils. We were allowed to take plants home, which made my family proud of me. I liked when we had our own potato plants as we got to have our own competition to see who would get the most potatoes. I had gotten the most potatoes but they never had a big mass. Gardening Club has been very enjoyable over this year.

**Ahsan Arbab, 7S** — The one thing I enjoyed most about gardening club was probably the planting of the plants and seeing the results, you got in the summer. It was incredibly satisfying to see that your hard work had come to life. Probably the best turnout we got was the potatoes and there were a lot of them and we got to take them home. Another good thing about this was that when you did take them home you got to say to your parents that this was what I made at school with my own hands. It was also useful to take plants home such as lettuce, the above mentioned potatoes and much, much more.



**Adam Bauker, 7S** — My favourite part about gardening club was watching and helping grow all of the plants. The main reason I liked doing this is because it made me feel proud of seeing them grow. Another part that I enjoyed is eating what I produced. This was very pleasing because it made me feel happy eating my own food.

**Callum Byrane, L2** — My favourite specific memory of Gardening Club is when the whole group got together to take dig up the potatoes since it was a unique, fun group activity which really helped build a sense of comradery. Furthermore, the competitive nature of all the year 7's was funny and reassuring to see they were enjoying Gardening Club so much.

**Ruairi Lynch, L5** — Overall, taking part in the Gardening Club was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. It gave me key skills in growing plants and vegetables, as well as leadership qualities. However, my favourite memory was when my fellow helpers and I took time out of our day to bring many plants, such as hyacinths to a local retirement home. I enjoyed this for a number of reasons. It enabled me to see all the benefits that my hard work brought, as the plants I grew brought enjoyment and happiness into a number of local community members lives.



**Jaward Manzoor, 7S** — My favourite thing about Gardening Club has been learning how to look after the plants and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, all whilst using our own produce. It has been good to see the plants progress over the year and it has encouraged me to do more stuff like this at home.

**George Phenix, L3** — It's been enjoyable watching the year 7's grow in both confidence and skill throughout the year, so that we can all take pride in our achievements. Our plants grew slowly in the early months, but by the spring, we had a lot of produce, and could do a lot with it. The success of our efforts has really made the whole process worthwhile!

**Jas Rudzki, L3** — Gardening Club was an opportunity for me to take my mind off the rest of school and relax while still doing something useful and enjoyable. I have always enjoyed working with both plants and younger children hence being able to work alongside the year 7 group was a great experience for me. Also having my friend George joining in with Gardening Club made it a great social activity as I got to spend a fun and productive 20 to 30 minutes with my friend every morning. I hope that there will be similar opportunities next year – I think we all want to continue with gardening!

**Zakariya Salim, 7S** — My favourite thing about Gardening Club was getting to experience growing and caring for the plants. Everything we had done was our own efforts.

**Bhupinder Singh, L2** — I've enjoyed taking part in Gardening Club as it has helped the wider community, including the elderly in local care homes and teachers at Camp Hill. We older students have also been able to form a relationship as mentors for younger students. As well as all this, we have been able to utilise the new greenhouse.

**Tom Woods, L3** — Gardening Club has not only been enjoyable but also has been a significant part of my year. It was hard work at times but it has been extremely rewarding and a great experience. It gave me the opportunity to meet year 7's and go out and do things such as give plants to old people's homes. It has been good for both the year 12's and the year 7's to take responsibility of the Club, and it has definitely enhanced this year.

■



## British Biology Olympiad 2017

Last January, 7500 A level students from across the country took part in the first round of the 2017 British Biology Olympiad. Six of our boys, William Blay, Philip Eburne, Anthony Lim, Daniel Kamel, Ishmael Silvestro and Josh Mukherjee were ranked in the top 144 and progressed to the second round and we were delighted that Anthony Lim then went on to make the UK finals as one of the top 16.

This stage was held over three days last Easter at the University of Warwick. On arrival, finalists were given the opportunity to practise various skills in biochemistry, haematology and botany using new equipment and techniques such as micro-pipetting, using a haemocytometer, preparing a blood smear, and identifying the anatomy of various plants,

flowers and ferns. The following day there were three practical exams and a theory paper in the evening.

The botany exam involved plants identification, investigating the concentration of an unknown sugar solution and making thin cross-sections of stems using a razor blade. For the cell biology exam, students were required to estimate a red blood cell count, use a blood smear to identify white blood cells, and identify egg cells on ovarian tissue in their various stages of development. Biochemistry skills were tested by measuring the rate of an enzyme reaction as it progressed, and on the last day there was a final practical exam where Anthony [pictured right] had to classify organisms found in river water and suggest the location of where along the river the sample came from.

Finally the competitors had an opportunity to visit the taxidermy collection at Coventry Museum before the four finalists were announced over lunch. Anthony did excep-



tionally well to reach the finals in Warwick and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Amazing work Anthony, well done!

■ E.H. L.

## Chemistry Club Y7 Trip to Big Bang Fair

On the 16 March 2017, around 30 Year 7 Chemistry Club members went to the Big Bang Fair in the NEC. The group was split in two and put on two mini buses for the 45 minute journey.

Upon arrival, the two groups of Camp-hillians, led by Mr O'Malley and Mr Rossiter, walked into the mammoth building that is the NEC. We were then allowed to roam about this busy beehive of an exhibition centre from 10:00 until 11:15 to seek what we could find!

There were hundreds of little workshops to go and visit including 3D printing, scratch controlled robots and the latest drone technology. They all offered freebies and some of us came home with a big bag full, my favourite was a pen with a pull-out periodic table.

We all reassembled at 11:15 to go into the main show. There was about a half-hour wait to get into the big auditorium, but it was definitely worth it. The show was called 'Do Try This At Home!' and it was run by three experienced scientists who all had their own experiments



to demonstrate. One of the experiments was a fire tornado which showed how spinning a fire around affects its height, another display was about how shattering a glass with your voice is actually possible (although it wasn't actually proven at the fair...) and the final experiment taught us about how all pictures on a computer screen are actually only made up of red, blue and green pixels.

After the show had finished, we all had another hour and a half to look around the rest of the exciting stalls. There were a few compe-

titions that you could enter including a prize draw to win a pair of free headphones or to go indoor skydiving. I managed to complete the requirements for two of these competitions so I was hoping I could get lucky!

At 2:45, all of the groups were asked to come to the meeting points to head back to school. It was definitely agreed by us all that it was a very successful, educational and entertaining day and we hope that the trip will be repeated again next year!

■ Wolfe Spyrou-Kirby

## Chemistry Quiz West Midland Chemistry Teachers' Centre

For the second year running, Camp Hill hosted the final round of the West Midland Chemistry Quiz.

Ten teams of students from schools including KES, King Edward's School Stratford and Bromsgrove School took part.

This year it was up to Ibrahim Ezzeldin, Alex Lee, Tommy Ransbotyn and Kevin Mathew

to defend our title as West Midlands Chemistry Quiz champions.

The ensuing rounds of questions were difficult and would have made most Sixth Form Chemists cry. There were questions on chemical anagrams, old names for chemicals (aqua fortis, anybody?) and some devious balancing equation problems.

It was unclear, until the very end, how the teams had done; but it was with great pleasure that the boys learned that they had successfully batted off all opposition and retained the title of "West Midland Chemistry Quiz

Champions" for the fourth consecutive year. KE Stratford came second and KES were left battling for bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin by the way.

Very well done to the quiz team and thank you to the tech team and Sixth Form helpers who gave up their time on the evening.

■ S.O.M.



## Chemistry Quiz Finals

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, four Camp Hill boys battled their way on their trip to... wait for it... the hall. We went inside the school to confront their worst nightmare – the West Midlands Chemistry Quiz Teachers' Finals!

These four boys were Alex Lee (11Z), Ibrahim Ezzeldin (11W), Kevin Mathew (10X) and Tommy Ransbotyn (10W). This team had passed through the previous round to make it to the finals, this was achieved with incredible support from Mr. O'Malley who kept the team's spirit running high. As it turned out, other schools, including KES, had made their way to the finals as well but we were keen to maintain Camp Hill Boy's polished reputation till the bitter end.

However, these finals were not going to be easy, as the questions had been written by Dr Taylor himself, the omniscient Chemistry Guru, who we were sure would outwit us on every turn. Our anxiety regarding the upcoming



test was only temporarily relieved by the thought of some free pizza, which the teachers generously donated – yum.

Expecting the worst questions imaginable on molar calculations and structural isomers, the group sadly came face to face with their new enemy: Year 10 equilibria. Despite the topic being relatively simple compared to

the other topics the group had been preparing for, it was the last thing on our minds and we ended up faring much better on the other complex topics compared to the simpler equilibria questions.

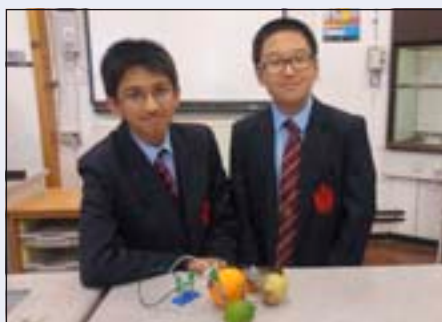
However, the worst surprise of the evening came when Alex Byrne (Year 11), who was helping out with the event, accidentally tripped off the stage – thankfully, no bones were broken.

Despite the team's failings in the easier parts of the chemistry quiz, the tough revision and practice of the harder elements of the quiz paid off overall; leading to the team ultimately winning the finals.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mr O'Malley for supporting us in the run up and during the event, as well as Dr Taylor, who came up with all of the crazy questions, as well as all the Year 11 students, who took out time to help with the event. We wish the best of luck to next year's team and hope that they will have learnt from our mistakes.

■ Ibrahim Ezzeldin

## Chemistry Club Picture Gallery



## 'Chemistry in Action' at Warwick University

After a relatively short coach journey to Warwick University (rather confusingly located in Coventry) spent doing an autopsy on Hillary Clinton's campaign, we arrived at the Warwick Arts Centre excited for the day ahead.

The first lecture, 'A for Arsenic', covered a variety of poisons and their histories, including strychnine and arsenic itself. We couldn't help but notice that Firnaaz was making suspiciously detailed notes on the quantities and substances needed to kill someone – and so we all made a mental note to never get on the wrong side of him ever again.

We learnt that arsenic was present in almost every Victorian household, especially in the form of 'Scheele's Green', an arsenite pigment that was used in paint and wallpaper. These paints were valued for the anti-fungal properties, but unfortunately, some types of fungi could process the arsenic and produce toxic trimethyl arsenide, which may have played a role in the death of Napoleon Bonaparte on St. Helena.

Thankfully, the lecture ended before Firnaaz could get any more notes on poisons, and we moved on to the slightly more benign world of fragrances. The lecture was chock full of free perfume samples, to the great delight of Ryan Yeo, who spent the entirety of the day, as well as the return coach journey, sniffing strips of Chanel No. 5 – don't do drugs, kids! As well as delving into the ins and outs of the chemistry – and the art – behind the fragrances we know and love, we also explored the weird and wonderful world of perfume marketing. Perhaps no other industry has mastered the art of producing adverts that are seemingly unrelated to the product as much as the fragrance industry has.

After the end of the second lecture, the organisers had put on an 'exam tips' session before lunch. Keeping to the Camp Hill stereotype, we all paid close attention to the useful pointers given by the speaker, which addressed some of the common mistakes in various topics in the exam.

For those who were not sensible enough and/or are too lazy to pack their own lunches,

lunch consisted of 10 minutes of queuing, only to then find upon reaching the checkout that a salmon and cheese sandwich cost over £5. If you ask me, it has to be up there as one of the great scandals of this century.

After a short lunch break of only 30 minutes, we quickly returned to the theatre for the second half of the lectures. Maybe Murtaza and Mamoor really were dazed by the Chanel fragrances on offer, as they strolled into the lecture theatre rather casually... a mere 10 minutes later than the rest of the audience.

The third lecture was titled 'Uranium: the Bogyman of the Periodic Table' – it was poised to be one of the main highlights of the day and it certainly did not disappoint. The lecturer began to address some of the misconceptions surrounding uranium, after which he went on to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding it and its use in nuclear power stations. We felt that the lecture cleverly combined elements of Chemistry and Physics, which made it *even better*, because – as we all know – Physics is *clearly* the more interesting of the two sciences.

It is at this point that I am compelled to move on to the next lecture, since any further comment about the brilliance of the Physics in the previous lecture would possibly risk my A-level in Chemistry. Is it too late to offer my apologies, Dr Taylor?

The following lecture moved on to an aspect of Chemistry that most of us were familiar with – carbon and its various allotropes. Initially, we were quite surprised to discover that our lecturer was in fact part of the research team that won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1996) for the discovery of fullerenes. The lecture focused on the unique chemistry of carbon-60 and its potential applications in the near future, which range from new structural materials to various systems in medicine. The very mention of 'medicine' was enough for Firnaaz and Sami to rate the lecture very highly, although we are sure that the other potential medics (of which there were... enough) were secretly pleased by the lecture as well.

Although we had bonded with the topic of the previous lecture, time constraints meant that we had to charge forward onto our final lecture of the day – 'rates of reaction'. This particular lecture looked at how various factors can influence the rate of chemical reactions, with certain demonstrations producing very

loud explosions when we least expected it. There was a general consensus amongst the audience that this practical-heavy lecture was a fitting end to the day.

Much like the day began, the return journey was spent recounting the day's events and wondering whether a Trump presidency would be as politically charged as we thought. We would like to thank the Chemistry Department for organising this trip, since the unique lectures provided us with a deeper, more exciting insight into the everyday Chemistry that surrounds us.

■ **Firnaaz Mohideen**

■ **Hassan Hassan**

## Schools' Analyst Competition Final 2017

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, having completed their Core 3 maths paper the day before, Faraan Cheema, Will Blay, and George Phenix set off to Brighton with Mr O'Malley for two days of Core 4 revision. While we were there, we also took part in the National Final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools Analyst Competition. We had outdone all other teams in the regional round (including two Camp Hill teams), so were representing the West Midlands against about twenty-five other teams.

The first day was spent settling into accommodation in the University of Sussex, before an afternoon of 'socialising' with the other teams. This involved being abandoned by Mr O'Malley, a meal at Pizza Hut, and losing at bowling to an Irish team.

We woke up on the second day somewhat sleep-deprived, but with a good amount of maths revision done. It was the day of the competition, and to our relief, the practicals that were set weren't completely impossible. From titrations to comparing densities of plastics, all of the practical work was completed well on time. Despite George and Will's confidence, Faraan prophesied that we would run out of time on the write ups. As it happened, he had read the omens correctly, and within an hour, we all knew that time-pressure would be our downfall. Our work was completed just on time, poorly-presented and unchecked.

The afternoon was spent listening to an exhilarating lecture on 'Chemistry in Space', before the results were announced. In line with our expectations, we were nowhere in the top three teams. Unfortunately, we were to return home in defeat, and to inform John Hayton that Brixton is a district of South London, and not a green party constituency on the south coast. Hopefully we all did better in Core 4!

■ **George Phenix**





## Salters Festival of Chemistry

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April, two teams of four Year 8 boys, along with Mr O'Malley, ventured down to the University for what promised to be a brilliant day of Chemistry. The group arrived with half an hour to spare and then found out the logistics of the day to come: the day was to be split up into three sections, with a lunch break after the first.



For the first two hours or so, we all undertook a forensic investigation, involving some chromatography, and "white-powder-testing", as well as a few simple cipher tasks. Our groups were quick to get on with the tasks at first, but found, towards the end, time caught up with us, ultimately meaning that not all the results

were compared as thoroughly as possible. With very little time to spare, we rushed our papers into the judges, and it was fair to say everyone was looking forward to a lunch break.

Lunch passed very quickly, with time spent on fiery discussions about various mathematical problems, and everyone was soon headed back to the lab for the University Challenge. This challenge was more trial and error than the previous one had been: we had to find the perfect ratio between the two reactants: Soda Bicarbonate and Citric Acid. These components had to cool water as close as possible to 10.5°C



within a minute.

Unlike many other groups that were undertaking the challenge, our teams, after a few trials, had pretty much found the exact proportions, and were able to demonstrate the experiment to the judges very soon into the task, as well as proving we were super organ-



ised, which was a vital part of the task. Despite an early finish, the end to the challenge came quite quickly and abruptly, and the contestants soon found themselves in the lecture theatre, ready for some "Chemical Magic".

The talk began by addressing the stereotypes of the typical chemist, and soon delved into analysing the process of experimentation, with some fun chemical tricks along the way. It is fair to say everyone came away with an evening's worth of thought – along with the moly-mods that our groups had won! One of the teams gained third place in the Forensic Task, and the other first place in University Task, results that we were all very pleased with.

We would all like to thank Mr O'Malley for organising the trip, and also those at the University for making it a very enjoyable experience.

■ **Rufus Hall**

## Physics Lecture at Birmingham University

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June we travelled to the Birmingham University to see an exciting lecture. Entitled "Hot and Cold", this talk showed us some of the coldest things on Earth – whether that be classical liquid nitrogen or the newer technology of superconductors – with enjoyable demonstrations such as the effects of liquid nitrogen on leaves and rubber.

As well as this, we talked about the hottest and coldest places in the universe, such as the Large Hadron Collider, which can reach temperatures of around 3.3 trillion °C, 550 million times hotter than our own Sun's temperature.

We also learnt about a research lab in Italy in which scientists cooled water to -273.144 °C, only 0.006 °C away from absolute zero, the coldest anything can get (not even the vacuum



of space gets this low). Moreover, we got to observe how superconductors (metals cooled to super low temperatures that can conduct electricity with no resistance) can be used in another fun demonstration, where a piece of metal was levitated over a piece of Yttrium-Barium oxide (yes, that is a real superconductor).

Overall, it was a fun afternoon and one that will be remembered by all of us for how intriguing and captivating it was.

■ **Kishan Sambi**

## RSC Young Analyst's Competition

On the Friday before half term, nine Year 12 chemists set out to Wolverhampton University to participate in a regional heat of the RSC Young Analyst's Competition.

In order to maximise the chances of winning, Dr Taylor smartly chose to enter three teams of three, and formed a "super team"

of John Hayton, Firnaaz Mohideen and Jas Rudzki, while another team consisted of Faraan Cheema, Will Blay, and George Phenix, and the other Dan Kamel, Mohammad Yasin and Talhah Chaudri.

During the competition the teams had to perform three experiments based on the theme of fizzy drinks. Firstly, there was a titration to calculate the concentration of citric acid in lemonade, colorimetry to determine whether the amount of food colouring in



Irn Bru exceeded EU limits, and chromatography to determine if certain compounds such as caffeine were present in the drinks. Along with their results, participants had to answer questions related to the practical.

All three teams worked well together and the "super team" had confidently finished, tidied and left the lab with over half an hour to spare, while the other teams hurried to complete everything.

After a short lunch break, the schools reconvened for the results – only the top three teams were announced. Could Camp Hill make a clean sweep?

In third place were Dan, Yasin and Talhah, winning £10 Amazon vouchers for themselves and £50 for the school; despite Talhah's excel-

lent chromatography, he still managed to leave his prize in the University.

Second went to Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, who left halfway through the winners' ceremony to catch their train.

"In first place," the lady announced, "also from Camp Hill Boys". The boys all turned to Firnaaz, John and Jas... but those were not the names she announced. Faraan, Will and George were the winners, securing a much needed £100 Amazon voucher for the school, along with £30 vouchers for themselves. The

"super team" had made the fundamental error of forgetting to place a title on their graph.

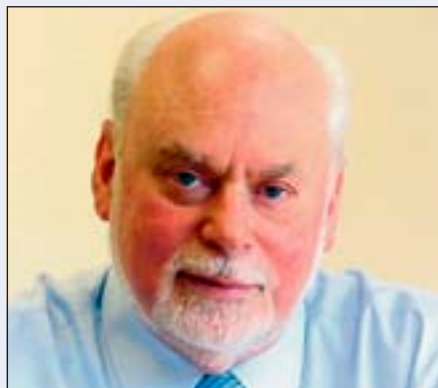
All participants received a Periodic Table correct to three decimal places – how exciting (!) – and Faraan, Will and George can now look forward to participating in the national finals in Brighton in June, running with the slogan "if there's a Will, there's a Blay." Congratulations to all those involved.

■ **Faraan Cheema**

## Trip to see a lecture by Sir Fraser Stoddart Nobel Prize Winner

**O**n Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, John Hayton and Jan Rudzki were fortunate to have the opportunity to go to a special chemistry lecture at Birmingham University. It was given by Sir Fraser Stoddart, who lectured at Birmingham University from 1990 to 1997, and is also the winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

This lecture described the development and uses of mechanical chemical bonds, for example they can be used in switches, lids,



pumps, motors and batteries and amazingly are can be only a short twenty atoms long, or consist of hundreds of atoms.

The lecture was especially thought pro-

voing, as a lot of the work towards this development was completed at Birmingham University. In addition, there were a number of special guests – these were people who had worked with Sir Fraser Stoddart on this project. All in all, it was an enlightening lecture, where I learnt about a branch of chemistry I hadn't even known existed before.

Thanks must be given to Dr Taylor and Mr O'Malley, who managed not only to get us two of the thirty student tickets that were available, but managed to get us VIP seating in a packed lecture hall.

■ **John Hayton**

## MATHS

### Maths Challenges

**T**here were two major mathematical events in the autumn term, the Senior Team Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge. The Senior Mathematical Challenge took place in early November and involved all mathematicians in Year 12, further mathematicians in Year 13 and the top set in Year 11.

Altogether there were 61 bronze, 47 silver and 27 gold certificates from our 174 entries. Anthony Lim and Paul Gardner of Year 13, John Hayton of Year 12 and, impressively, Robert Hillier and Sam Stansfield of Year 11 qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while eighteen boys qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo.

In the Olympiad, John Hayton (Year 12) and Robert Hillier (year 11) did well, and Paul Gardner, Anthony Lim (both Year 13) and Sam Stansfield (Year 11) did even better, obtaining certificates of distinction.

In the Senior Kangaroo, Richard Deutsch, Faraan Cheema, George Phenix and Alex Byrne did well to achieve certificates of merit.

■ **A.M.R.**

### Senior Team Challenges

**L**ater in November, we hosted the Senior Team Challenge which attracted twenty-five team entries, all of whom turned up. This is a competition for teams of four, and we entered an A-team and a secret B-team. KES went somewhere else and the girls' school had a teacher day, so we hoped for the best.

The A-team, consisting of the aforementioned Anthony Lim, Paul Gardner, John Hayton and Robert Hillier, started impressively, scoring 60/60 in a difficult group round, while the B-team, consisting of Ian Roberts, Vamsi Pratapa, Alex Byrne and Sam Stansfield, made only one mistake. Our reserve, Akaash Thao, graciously agreed to join the Aston team after they turned up with only three.

Lunch was described as "exiguous" by the visiting official from the UKMT. This was followed by the infamous "shuttle" round, which would have gone better if the official (who shall remain nameless) had timed it properly.

Anyway, our A-team got 48/60, which was enough to win the whole competition by miles. The B-team finished second. The A-team went forward to the national finals in London, and their adventure is described next by Anthony Lim.

■ **A.M.R.**

### National Finals of the Senior Maths Challenge

**O**n Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Camp Hill's First IV Mathematics Team, consisting of Anthony Lim and Paul Gardner of Year 13, John Hayton of Year 12, and Robert Hillier of Year 11 travelled to London with Mr Thompson for the National Final of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge. The first round was a poster competition, and the team had brought with them pre-prepared materials for this year's specialist topic, Cellular Automata. The team also had to work on some questions on the day, concerning lightbulbs being switched on and off, and managed to create a respectable poster.

There then followed the usual rounds of a group round, a cross-number and a shuttle round, as well as the new addition for the Senior Challenge of a relay round (which went surprisingly smoothly considering it consisted of a load of 16–18 year olds running around in a room full of tables and trip hazards). The team started the main competition optimistically, getting 90% of the marks in the first two rounds. The shuttle and relay rounds were slightly less successful, but the team persevered, and spirits remained high for the duration of what was a very enjoyable event.

Overall, the team performed resiliently throughout, and even managed to get a few marks along the way, finishing in the top half of

88 teams. This is a result which, considering the standard of the other teams, the team should be proud of. Thanks must go to Mr Thompson for running lunchtime preparation sessions, taking and supervising the team on the trip to London, and most importantly, buying the cookies for the way back!

■ **Anthony Lim**

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

The individual challenge of the spring term was the Intermediate Challenge. This is also the largest, with about 300 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 84 gold certificates, 110 silvers and 63 bronzes. Thirteen boys did extremely well, all qualifying for the three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition an astonishing 81 boys, including about one-third of Year 9, qualified for one of two colours of kangaroo, 25 of whom got Merits: in the Grey Kangaroo aimed at Year 9, Hateem Javaid, Joe Thompson, Miles Balderson, Dilan Philibert, Karthik Bharadwaj, Qiyuan Chen, Samyak Jain, Asher Brostoff, Noah Lloyd, Louis Peters, Krishan Solanki, Rayyan Ahsan and Harish Tamvada were successful, while on the Pink Kangaroo aimed at the older years, Judah Daniels, Proshanto Chanda, Kevin Mathew, Daniel Cole, Alex Lee, Thomas Ransbotyn, Chaitan Mohr, Nikhil Gupta, Bhuvan Mahadevaiah, Jithu Burri, Abhijit Pandit and Amartya Maheshwari did especially well.

In the Olympiads, Harry Balfe, Alexander Byrne, Matthew Cooke, Ross Evans, Benjamin Hobson-Taher, Rajiv Nailadi, Saksham Shah, Kevin Xu and Leon Zhang achieved Merits; Xue Bang Chen was awarded a Distinction and a Medal, which puts him in the top 100 in the country, and Robert Hillier was awarded a Distinction, a Medal, and a Prize, which put him in the top 50. Well done all!

■ **A.M.R.**

## Year 10 Maths Feast

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February two teams of four Year Ten boys, comprised of Xue Bang Chen, Kevin Mathew, Saksham Shah, Proshanto Chanda, Judah Daniels, Bhuvan Mahadevaiah, Tommy Ransbotyn and Leon Zhang travelled to Hillcrest School to take part in the Maths Feast.

Sadly this had nothing to do with food, but was a team maths challenge comprised of four rounds: a group round, where the teams worked together in their fours to solve maths questions; a shuttle round, where the teams were split into pairs that had to answer different questions that linked to each other; a true/

false round, where the teams had to read various statements about a problem and work out whether they were true or false; an information round, where the teams were given three minutes to read a sheet filled with information about a topic, then they were given seventeen minutes to answer questions on the topic.

There were also bonus countdown rounds (which neither team performed very well on), where the teams had to work out how to create a large number using basic operands and smaller numbers, like the popular gameshow Countdown.

The competition was hotly contested throughout, but the boys kept going on and soon the competition was over. There was a nervous wait for the final results, as the boys knew that it would be very close between the top three. The results were as follows:

Third place – Camp Hill Boys B-Team

Second place – Bishop Walsh Catholic School

First place – Camp Hill Boys A-Team.

■ **Proshanto Chanda**

## UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, two teams from Camp Hill along with teams from twenty-four other schools took part in the UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge, hosted here at Camp Hill.

The first team was composed of Kevin Xu, Ben Hobson-Taher, Hemal Aggarwal and Peter Kippax and the second team was Qiyuan Chen, Punith Premachandra, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov and Elliot Robbie. For the past ten lunchtimes or so, we had done our best to prepare, and felt we could beat the competition.

On the day, one team withdrew, allowing our second team to fill the space. There would be 4 rounds with questions testing our skills in all areas of maths.

Round one was the group round, where ten questions had to be answered in 45 minutes. We chose to divide and conquer, and it worked, to an extent. We managed to score 54 out of 60, a respectable score.

The second round was the cross number. Exactly as the name suggests, it was a crossword, using numbers instead of letters. We were divided into pairs – one pair had the down clues while the other had the across ones, and no communication was allowed except to ask the other pair to work on a question. Furthermore, many of the clues required other answers in order to be fully completed. Although it sounds confusing, we battled through this round well, scoring 52 out of a maximum 56 points.

After a short lunch break, we had the shuttle round. It comprised of 4 mini 'shuttles' – a set of 4 questions where each question needed the previous answer to complete it. This round also offered bonus points for speed, which we

had been exceptional at in previous rounds. We made no errors until the last shuttle, where we lost twelve marks, but still managed to score a decent 48 points out of 60.

Finally, there was the relay – 30 questions to answer, 45 minutes to answer them in and utter chaos. We knew we needed to do our best if we were to win, and we got 48 out of 60 points, the highest of all the teams. This made our final score 202.

At the end, the top three teams were announced. Third: Camp Hill Girls. Second: Bishop Vesey's. All was left was to find out who was first. Would it be us? We waited eagerly to hear the name of the winning team. It was... King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys!

However, we later found out that in reality it was the Camp Hill B-team who had come first, and had beaten the A-team, but since they unfortunately were not officially entered into the competition, they could not be declared the winners. To conclude, we all thoroughly enjoyed the day and were very pleased with the outcome.

■ **Kevin Xu**

■ **Punith Premachandra**

## Junior Maths Challenge National Final

After finishing first in the regional round, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June four Camp Hill boys travelled to the Royal Horticultural Halls in London to take part in the national final of the Team Maths Challenge. The day would consist of similar rounds to the regional competition – a group circus, cross-number, shuttle and relay – but a poster competition would also take place.

Once we arrived we started assembling the final pieces for the poster before a brief introduction took place. The first activity was the poster competition. After 55 minutes, the poster was completed and taken away to be judged while the teachers came back to prepare for the group circus. Each of the 8 stations took 5 minutes but after a fairly disappointing final result, the chances of us finishing a high place out of the 88 finalists looked bleak.

The second round of a cross number then took place and hope was restored – only two marks were lost out of the total 60. A good performance in the shuttle round kept our chances high, but all came down to the final relay round. After 45 minutes of frantic running around in what was already a hot room, our good performance meant that we had only lost a few marks due to the pressure of time.

Whilst the results were being collected and totalled up from all the rounds, everyone waited anxiously in their seats. The poster results were given first but unfortunately we did not receive any prizes. Eventually the overall results were given. Although we did not receive a prize, the team achieved an amazing



10<sup>th</sup> out of the 88 finalists – a huge achievement when looking at how many schools registered to take part in this challenge. Later we received confirmation that we had finished top of all the West Midlands schools in the competition.

Thanks to Mr Thompson and Miss Hatchcroft who spent many lunchtimes preparing the team, and to Mr Thompson for taking them down to London and back for the competition.

■ **Ben Hobson-Taher**

## Junior Maths Challenge – Part Two

The Junior Maths Challenge was the challenge of the summer term, and once again, we were very pleased with the results. The boys were awarded 68 gold certificates, 79 silvers, and 57 bronzes; 10 qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, and 31 for the Junior Kangaroo.

In case you were wondering what a Kangaroo is, it is a competition taken by students all over Europe: the top 5,000 students (from well over a thousand schools) were invited to take part in the Junior version, and the top 25% get Merits.

Eight of our boys achieved Merits: Emery Uzoma, James Hart and Hani Moussa from Year 8, and Sai Ponnuru, Raunaq Shahforidi, Milan Dawson, Elliot Robbie and Hassan Malik from Year 7. In the Olympiad, all our candidates got at least a Merit: these were Hemal Aggarwal, Farhan Awais, Sam Cole, Joe Day, Pranav Juloori, Kareem Mehanna, Adam Rarko, William Smith and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov. And then there was Peter Kippax, who achieved a Distinction and a Silver Medal, placing him in the top 90 in the country.

■ **A.M.R.**

## South Area Network Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July a group of six Year 9 mathematicians took a short ride on the minibus to Bishop Chaloners to take part in the South Area Network Team Maths Challenge, competing against seven other schools in South Birmingham.

The competition included a variety of rounds such as a logic round and a simple group round working together in our team. There was also a relay round, where the team was split into two groups, and one group had to a complete question in order for the other group to start the next. We did not find these rounds too difficult, managing to earn full marks on all these rounds, and completing them in good time.

An origami round, making Columbus cubes, was also simple for our team, as we had happened to have already practised making these cubes with Mr Thompson. Although we

did not gain bonus points from making extra cubes, we did manage to score maximum marks for our origami skills.

We also encountered a 'Buy an angle' round, in which we had a diagram of various intersecting lines where we had to work out the angles by buying other angles to help. This proved difficult for us: we bought the wrong angles and were not able to calculate many others.

After completing all the rounds we ended up in joint first position with Camp Hill Girls. This led to a sudden death Countdown maths question and unfortunately the girls' team were able to get to the answer mere seconds quicker than us. This meant that although we gained full marks in all but one round, the Camp Hill Boys team finished second.

Thank you Mr Thompson and Miss Hatchcroft for lunchtime practice, and Mr Thompson for accompanying the team to the competition.

■ **Andrew Lim**

## Team Pictures

Key to photographs below and overleaf

- ① **Maths Feast A-team:** Saksham Shah, Kevin Mathew, Xue Bang Chen and Proshanto Chanda
- ② **Maths Feast B-team:** Judah Daniels, Leon Zhang, Tommy Ransbotyn and Bhuvan Mahadevaiah
- ③ **SAN TMC:** Kevin Xu, Aryan Gohil, Ross Evans, Miles Balderson, Ben Hobson-Taher and Andrew Lim
- ④ **SAN TMC:** Miles Balderson, Kevin Xu, Aryan Gohil, Ross Evans, Andrew Lim and Ben Hobson-Taher
- ⑤ **STMC National:** Anthony Lim, John Hayton, Robert Hillier and Paul Gardner
- ⑥ **STMC National:** Anthony Lim



## – and finally...

### Mr Hardy

Finally, I'm sure Mr Hardy's contribution to the school as a whole will be celebrated elsewhere in this magazine but I want to thank him most warmly for his immense contribution to the Maths Department over thirty years, for twenty of which he was second in mathematics. I'm sure all readers will wish him, as we do, a long and restful retirement.

### Film Crew from the MEI

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, we were visited by a film crew from the MEI, who recorded our efforts to use technology in our teaching of various Year 12 classes. I don't think the results will be broadcast in peak time (at the time of writing, the editing was not complete) but it was a fun experience.

■ **A.M.R.**

- ⑦ **STMC National:** John Hayton
- ⑧ **STMC National:** Paul Gardner and Robert Hillier
- ⑩ **STMC Regional A-team:** Paul Gardner, Anthony Lim, Robert Hillier and John Hayton
- ⑪ **STMC Regional B-team:** Sam Stansfield, Vamsi Pratapa, Ian Roberts, Alex Byrne and Akaash Thao
- ⑪ **TMC National:** Ben Hobson-Taher, Hemel Aggarwal, Peter Kippax and Kevin Xu
- ⑫ **TMC Regional A-team:** Kevin Xu, Hemel Aggarwal, Peter Kippax, Ben Hobson-Taher with Mrs Crockford
- ⑬ **TMC Regional B-team:** Elliot Robbie, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Punith Premachandra and Qiyuan Chen





## LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

### The Library

It has been a wonderful year of author visits, trips to bookshops, book clubs and bake offs in the library. In the winter term we were treated to a visit from Jonathan Stroud, who managed to capture all our imaginations with his horror tinged prose and freestyle illustrations [pictured lower left].

Derek Landy also dropped by to talk about his *Skulduggery Pleasant* books. He kept us all entertained with stories from his childhood and his dry sense of humour. He almost managed to convince us all that writing multimillion selling books is easy. See George Hill's full report.

A new batch of Year 8 recruits started working in the library, having been whittled down from a shortlist of 40 applicants. A happy coincidence then that many of the boys selected are massive fans of *The Great British Bake Off* and excellent bakers themselves [pictured centre right]. We

hosted our second annual Bake Off party, which perfectly celebrates our love of cake and books. Sometimes leading to cake in the books.

We had three different book clubs ongoing throughout the year. Our Year 7 book club met once a fortnight to read and discuss a range of different books from the same genre, changing genre each term. After reading a selection of horror themed fiction, we took a trip to the MAC for a screening of *Goosebumps* with a Q&A afterwards with a member of the British Film Council.

Our older students also met regularly to read and discuss the fiction, non-fiction and poetry on the shortlist for the Costa Book Award. In the spring term, we read and dis-

cussed [pictured lower right] the shortlist for the children's literature Carnegie Book Award. It has become a running joke that none of us ever predict the eventual winner (*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys).

The Stan Lee Excelsior Award book club was once again our most popular and over-subscribed activity. The shortlist was excellent and extremely diverse. The club met once a month to focus on one of the eight comics shortlisted and to recommend other comics of a similar theme. We rounded off the year by going to a special screening of *Guardians of the Galaxy 2* and visiting Waterstones to do a stock pick for the library.

■ A.G.





## Author Visit: Derek Landy

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Camp Hill was very lucky to welcome author Derek Landy, writer of the Skulduggery Pleasant books, who came to our school for the afternoon.

Year 7 and some of Year 8 duly reported to the Hall at half past one, also invited were a range of other students from the area.

The Hall was full of anticipation at seeing the world famous author. Finally, Derek Landy came to the stage. During his talk he explained about his early life and how he became a writer, mentioning how the well known character of Skulduggery Pleasant came to his mind in a hotel room that didn't even have its own bathroom! Ever since that moment, Derek Landy has been writing books that have placed



him in the bestsellers list. Finally, he revealed that there will be a new Skulduggery Pleasant book coming out in June 2017, which is news, as he had very cruelly made readers think that there weren't going to be any more books, and he told us that he had enjoyed 'watching us suffer'. He has an interesting sense of humour.

While listening to him I found out a lot of interesting facts about the author; one of which

is that he made films for a while before he was a world famous author. He spoke very fondly of his films, despite them being about cannibalism and zombies. We also found that he got expelled from Art College, because he didn't do anything, ever. The talk was very funny, particularly as he described how he is easily distracted by things, and then pretended to be distracted by a wall...

After Derek Landy had finished talking, many people wanted to buy a book from him and get it signed, causing a gigantic queue. Many people from my class missed the last forty-five minutes of period five, just because they were trying to buy a book!

After a thrilling afternoon of facts, humour, and waiting in queues, the visit of Derek Landy is surely one to remember.

■ **George Hill**

## Trip to Warner Brother Studios

On a lovely day, at the end of July, the 20<sup>th</sup> to be precise, Ms Gavey, Ms Buckley and Mrs Parmar all had the arduous task of dragging thirty unwilling students to the Warner Brother Studio *Harry Potter* Tour – which is based in Watford, Hertfordshire.

Funnily enough they didn't seem too unwilling, some may argue – though this cannot be true (!) – that they were thoroughly excited about the whole thing... others may unfairly wonder about the educational value of wandering through rooms dedicated to the whole Harry Potter phenomena, some may suggest it was just an excuse. However, how-

ever you view it, we all had a thoroughly good time.

After an interesting coach journey, which included Mrs Parmar guiding our coach driver using Google Maps, we arrived at around 1:30 and were immediately greeted by American levels of security. After being escorted off the coach (literally) and passing through airport-like security – we finally queued up behind all the other schools that were there.



The Studios are amazing – it is a museum of everything Potter-esque. Here you can see the original sets and costumes used on the films. In addition, you can walk through Privet Drive, drink butter beer (yuck) and see the fantastic special effects that were created during the filming of these amazing books.

You can then follow the example of Ms Buckley and Ms Gavey and spend forty minutes in the gift shop. I don't think Warner Brothers need worry about their profit margins this year! Overall, this was an exciting trip and I hope that we can run it again in the future.

■ **J.L.P.**





## Trips to the Crescent and Birmingham MAC

Well you win some... and you lose some... and that was kind of the case with both these trips. In both cases the students were, as always, impeccably behaved, it was just a shame about the productions.

'O' is a modern American retelling of Shakespeare's *Othello*, which was made back in 2001 and starred Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles and Josh Harnett. We were lucky enough to

get free tickets through the Into Film Festival; to be honest the fact it was free was probably a good thing and possibly saved an awful lot of moaning...

The boys were, as always, excellently behaved and the production and the Question and Answer Session did provoke some interesting discussion. They do say that you can learn a lot from productions that you do not necessarily agree with...

This was again true of the production of 'Frankenstein' that 80 Year 10 and 11s went to see in the Spring Term of 2017. Written by Catriona Craig, this production attempted to

tell the story from the monster's point of view. The opening was certainly effective and got across the idea that this creature was an innocent victim of his master's scientific ambitions, however...

As stated before the students we took were excellently behaved, sometimes against all the odds! And again it provoked much discussion with our Year 11 students and probably downright confused some Year 10s, however seeing performances of texts is an important element of English and you win some... and you...

■ J.L.P.

## Henry V at the Crescent Theatre

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, the English Department took a group of Year 9 students to see a production of *Henry V* at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham. It proved to be very popular, despite the fact it was not going to finish until 10pm!

The production itself covered the tensions

between England and France in the time leading up to 1415. The second half was about the Battle of Agincourt which ended the 100 Years War, and the events that followed.

My favourite part of it was when King Henry V (of England) met up with the leaders of Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and they all spoke with stereotypical accents, for example the Irish leader spoke in a very fast, Irish accent, and they all just sounded very funny.

Other great features of the play were when a Welsh soldier forced an English to eat a leek, and when a French princess was trying to learn English, but failing miserably!

Overall this was an excellent production and we would like to thank the English Department for organising it.

■ Joe Thompson

## Poetry and Music Concert

See more pictures and another report on this event in the Music section on page 53.

Hello! Today, I am going to be telling about you about the Year 7 and 8 Poetry and Music Concert. This is held annually between February and March. This year, it took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The event consisted of an evening of two halves hosted by Mr Palmer, Head of Music and Mrs Parmar, Second in English. Camp Hill also invite a primary school to participate and year it was Colmore Junior School led by their teacher Mrs Ayub, for what would be a truly spectacular evening.

In the January before the event, Colmore had attended Music and Poetry workshops led by Ms Buckley and Mr Palmer to help them prepare for the event and this led them to perform in an evening full of humour, horror, sadness and comedy.

The first half of the show began with Camp Hill and ended with Colmore. During the show we saw a variety of music and poetry performances from Colmore, Year 7 and Year 8. The show opened with two musical performances from Camp Hill – Jobe Simpson on the cornet playing *Where is love?* (from the album *Oliver!* by Lionel Bart) then afterwards George Hill (7S) on the piano playing *Vivace*, *Sonatina in C*, by Friedrich Kuhlau. Did you know that *Vivace* in Italian means lively?

The show alternated between music and poetry and the first half ended with powerfully performed poems from Colmore School, which had a war theme.

The second half was the same as the first, with the only difference being that Colmore performed three musical pieces, which followed the theme of

heroes and villains, particularly memorable was Wolfgang Spyrou-Kirby on the drum kit. This was followed by musicians from Year 8 from Camp Hill who played very popular pieces, for example Adam Rarko played *Montagues and Capulets* from *Romeo and Juliet*, or more commonly known as *The Apprentice Theme*, on the Viola. The rest of Year 7 performed their poems and all of the Year 8 followed after.

Many thanks to Mr Palmer and Mrs Parmar for organising a fantastic and successful event and I am certain that Colmore enjoyed it.

■ Keshav Najran





## Foreign Language Masterclasses at Birmingham University

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December, a group of eager linguists set out to Birmingham University, in order to attend a language masterclass, which was being hosted by university students, as well as professors.

The aim was to provide a flavour and insight into university lifestyle as well giving students an insight into what studying modern foreign languages would be like. However, it goes without saying the masterclasses were mostly aimed at improving our linguistic capabilities.

On arrival, pupils were seated in a lecture theatre and the event was introduced by the Dean of the Modern Foreign Languages Department at Birmingham University. Following this short, yet informative introduction, pupils were introduced to the students at the University who had been studying languages as part of their degree.

One factor which made studying a modern foreign language particularly attractive was the unbelievably vast number of languages on offer: from the familiar German and French, to the most exotic Russian, Spanish, Italian, and this is just to name a select few.

After the introduction we were split into groups, depending on which language we were studying, and then we were sent to rooms with professors and students, and thus began the masterclass.

Speaking from my personal experience, the masterclass was great, offering subject knowledge previously unknown to students, for example, cultural aspects on Berlin. In addition to this, we studied literary texts and developed our understanding of German writing, which added to our understanding of how a modern foreign language is studied, either in

the Sixth Form or University.

There was also a languages masterclass on offer, which, once again for German. This comprised of revision and consolidation of grammar, something which my fellow pupils and I all found to be very useful, especially since it would aid our knowledge and we would be able to apply this knowledge in our own writing. This was a tremendous help as the grammatical detail exceeded our previous knowledge and this contributed majorly to the overall usefulness of the masterclass.

On the whole, these specialised classes proved to be very useful, in the sense that

they improved our language skills overall and offered us an opportunity to revise the topics we had already studied in the Sixth Form. I would strongly recommend to seize the opportunity to attend one if you have the chance, as it will benefit your language skills.

Finally, on behalf of the students in the Sixth Form, we would like to thank Mrs Wells for her determined effort in organising these two events, and not to mention Mr Bruton who kindly transported us on both occasions. It was an experience which won't be forgotten any time soon.

■ **Safee Saleem**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, fourteen boys and the Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Mrs Wells, went to the University of Birmingham for an exciting day where we would be learning new and somewhat different languages.

We left school by minibus and we reached the prestigious University soon after. Once we had made our way to the lecture theatre, the School Liaison Officer from Birmingham University gave the pupils a presentation explaining why we should study languages in the future and at university. We all felt that we were given a new understanding as to why languages are a vital aspect of any future career.

Next, we had a language taster in Russian. Here we learnt basic conversational Russian phrases such as: "привет" (privyet) meaning 'hello' and: "Очень приятно" (ochen priyatno) meaning 'pleasure to meet you'. We were then quizzed by the Russian teacher on other, everyday objects such as 'the park', 'a ballerina' and 'sauce'. More surprisingly, we discovered that the Russian alphabet called: "алфавит" (alphavit) was based on letters coined from the Cyrillic and Latin alphabet; again, we were educated on all of the different letters of the Russian alphabet and were further challenged when we had to discover what each Russian

word meant.

Our final 'taster' in a different language was Chinese, or simplified Chinese. Here, we learnt how one typically greets someone. "你好" meaning 'hello' and "你好吗" meaning 'how are you?' Eventually, everyone grasped the idea as to what Chinese phrases mean what. Moreover, the Chinese teacher then educated us as to what the first five Chinese numbers were: "一 (yī - one), 二 (èr - two), 三 (sān - three), 四 (sì - four), 五 (wǔ - five)". Then, we were taught that each symbol in the language has to be made in a certain stroke and that the accent on top of letters have to be pronounced in different ways.

In conclusion, I believe that the language masterclass at the University of Birmingham provided us with a different viewpoint on languages; we learnt how they can be used in the future and how they can affect your lifestyle. In addition to this, it was an enjoyable experience for everyone; learning new languages aids your career and employment, but can also be exciting... 'xièxiè' and 'poka' ... bye!

■ **Neal Pankhania**



## German Spelling Bee Competitions Year 8

The 30<sup>th</sup> March proved to be a competitive day for three Year 8 boys, because it marked the annual Boys vs Girls German Spelling Bee Competition, which was held in the Girls' school. The three of us (Me, Zain and Will in 8K) had practised, or so it seemed, because as soon as the competition had started, we knew we were in for a big surprise.

Zain bravely went first and performed well, however, as soon as the first girl had begun to rattle the words, we knew our hopes were diminishing. However, all hope was not lost as we secured third place with the first and second being awarded to the girls.

Special Mention must go to Mrs Wells for helping us learn the words and Will and Zain for taking part. We hope that the next Year 8s can do better than us to beat our very good rivals.

■ Ali Elsherbiny

## Work Experience

During my work experience in Birmingham, from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, I was in the King David Primary School in the nursery.

Every morning I had to get the bus at 8:00 am, because I had to be in the school at 8:30 am. But the bus came late every day. Almost every morning I just sat next to the students and listened to the educator/teacher. Afterwards the kids had playtime, where I played with them, for example with puzzles or in the toy kitchen pretending it was a birthday party.

Lunchtime was at 11:50 am. There I brought the children food and helped to clean up. From 12:20 to 13:20 pm I had my lunchbreak. I always spent my lunchbreak with Merle. At 3:15 pm I went back to my host family.

It was very interesting to learn more about Judaism and the British school system and culture. I think I've improved my English, learned a lot of vocabulary from the little kids and teachers and also got to know how to deal with children and teachers in another country.



## Year 7

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Yurui Zhang, Rohit Raghavendran and I all travelled to Tudor Grange Academy for the Regional Finals of the German Spelling Bee.

After a long journey, and an incredible wait for the event to even start, it was clear from the outset that the journey ahead was to be tough; nevertheless we all tried our level-best, and we were all proud to represent our school at such an event.

After the first round, everyone gathered in the main hall to find out how we did. Sadly, Yurui and Rohit weren't in the final round, but after a hard-fought battle, I achieved a respectable fourth place!

Finally, I'd like to say it was a thoroughly enjoyable event and I'd like to thank everyone that participated, as well as Tudor Grange Academy for hosting the event and Mrs Wells for allowing us to have such an amazing opportunity.

■ Zoheb Khan

### The trip to London

I was very enthusiastic about the trip to London. While there I was impressed by the many great buildings, like Tower Bridge and Big Ben, which were more impressive than I thought they would be. We also visited Covent Garden – a paradise for shopping.

On the way to the railway station, we passed a film set, which looked fascinating, and what made the whole thing even more interesting was the fact that, according to Mrs Ehemann, Benedict Cumberbatch was playing there. We were completely excited and freaked out, sadly we didn't have much time because we had to reach our train back to Birmingham.

### The trip to Stratford upon Avon

Stratford upon Avon is worth a trip. A pretty little town with very nice old houses. The Shakespeare Theatre is also very worth seeing and we saw pictures showing how the first theatrical performances took place.

In our free time we once went to a cinema to see the film "Manchester by the Sea", which was nominated for Oscars. The movie was very depressing, but also interesting to see how the characters coped with the death of a near person. A week later we went bowling what makes great fun.

I enjoyed the time very much and would like to do an internship again.

■ Leila Eshraghi

## French Play

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of March two people; one girl and one boy; performed a comedic play – entirely in French – for the entertainment of members of multitude of different schools.

Aside from the fact it was performed in French, the choreography was superb. The girl was the main character Coletta, while the boy's roles included a bored delivery man, a thieving teen, a desperate boyfriend and many more.

The amusing mimes and clarity with which the actors spoke, enabled me, as a second year learner of French, to understand the story. All together I think that this was a funny and well-performed play, which I enjoyed immensely.

■ Will Taylor

## Modern Foreign Languages Business Day

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Year 9 came into school for what promised to be an exciting day. We knew little of what was going to happen, but had been assured by Year 10 that we were going to have engaging and enjoyable time.

In the morning, we were registered in our form rooms and went down into the hall, for an introductory talk about what we were going to do. The year was split into four groups: Mrs Well's class (German), Mrs Thompson's (German), Mrs Balkham's (French) and Mr Renault's (French). These were chosen on the basis of our preferred language, and which we were more likely to do at GCSE.

The day was kicked off by Sulamaan, an old boy of Camp Hill, who had taken German and French GCSE, as well as French A-level. For most of period one, Sulamaan gave an inspiring talk on topics such as why to learn a language, the benefits of it both inside and outside school and overall advice for the future. Seeing this being said by an old boy was especially inter-



esting, as we had heard this from the teachers and outside speakers, but not from anyone who we, as Year 9 pupils, could relate to.

Just before break we were taken to the rooms we would spend most of the day taking part in a workshop activity: to design, market, explain and even sing about a cereal that we would introduce to a foreign market, entirely in the target language! During break the whole year were frantically discussing ideas in the playground, such as whether '5 Für Dich' (5 For You), 'Murtabar' or 'Volkornwurst' (Wheat Sausage), were better names!

On returning back to our rooms, everyone hectically set to work on their campaigns, trying to find rhyming words in German and French and hurriedly translating their pitches. About half an hour before the start of lunch,

every group pitched their idea to their class teacher, before a winner was chosen from each room. These groups then competed for overall victory against the other winners. In the end 'Herr Zucker' (Mr Sugar) cereal won, thanks to an excellent presentation in German and a creative jingle, based on the song 'Ich heiße Susie' which many people will remember from Year 7/8 German lessons.

After lunch, we once again met in the hall and were introduced to Olivia, who helps children and young adults make the right choices in their education. She gave an inspiring hour long presentation on how languages can help change your life, and the various opportunities it presented her with, such as a chance to go on a year-long work experience to Mexico City. She also helped us to be positive about our-

selves, by doing things that we enjoy and saying 'I'm still developing my knowledge' rather than 'I don't know'. She was really interesting and helped many of us to understand how languages can really help, not only in school, but for the rest of our lives.

Finally, several of the boys in the Sixth Form gave interesting talks about their home language, teaching spelling, pronunciation and even history, giving us all an eye-opening experience about the different languages spoken by Camp Hill students.

Thank you very much to Sulamaan, Olivia, Jas, Talhah, Firnaaz, Sunil and all of the teachers who helped to plan and run the day so smoothly.

■ **Fintan Hogan**

■ **Hamzah Iqbal**

## Brownmead Academy

### MFL/Sports Leaders Outreach Programme Trip

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, three of the sports leaders studying German (myself – Vignesh Venkataramaiah, Patrick Lawlor and Joe Clark) went to Brownmead Academy in Shard End to help teach the children basic German, including numbers 1–10, and some football related vocabulary.

After an entertaining minibus journey with Mr Azam, we met up with Mrs Wells and

made our way in, which brought back many memories from primary school. We first taught the Year 6 class, who were in fact quite able linguists, and then we had to referee football games where everyone could only speak German! The matches were quite chaotic at first, filled with continuous shouts of "*kein Englisch!*", but slowly they all got the hang of it.

The Year 2 class was even better, with their added enthusiasm helping them grasp the words very quickly. We ended up joining in with the outdoor activities to help out the students and it was very good fun for them and

for us. Unfortunately, we couldn't stay for the whole day as originally planned, so we were back at school by lunchtime.

Overall, it was a very good experience and helped us improve our leadership and teaching skills, and we all learnt some new German too. I would like to thank Mrs Wells for organising the trip and giving us the opportunity to help her teach and Mr Azam for dropping us off in his own time.

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**

## German Homestay

### The school experience

On Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> March, eighteen Year 8 students impatiently waited in the school hall for their German Exchange Students to arrive. It had been a long awaited moment for weeks, and luckily, the bus arrived on time!

The first place we all went to, of course, was home, after a day of travelling, every student was tired and ready to settle down for the night. That wasn't just the Germans!

The next day, after making our way to school and letting our partners meet each other again, they came to our first lesson, which was History. Unfortunately, the Germans didn't know much about the English Civil War, and they clearly didn't understand the causes of the war, written in English, so they struggled. But after this, they were off into the city to discover all of the sights that Birmingham has to offer.

On the Friday, we left our charges at Reception, so they could leave in the morning to go to Coventry and to see some more interesting sights. They seemed to enjoy their time, which was good. After school, I took my exchange student into Birmingham again, so he could do some shopping, before we drove to a party at



George Lanham's house.

Over the weekend, we took him to multiple pre-planned places, including Cadbury World and Stratford-Upon-Avon, so that he could find out about Shakespeare. The weekend also involved us trying to pack in as many meals as we could, which were typically from Birmingham or British, including a curry and fish and chips.

On the last full day, my partner went off to Warwick Castle for the day before a relaxed dinner at our house. Tuesday saw us saying bye to our exchange students, waving them off. I'm

sure all of us look forward to seeing them again in September when we visit them in Germany. However, in between now and then is a lot of German revision.

### My own take on it

When I was informed about my German exchange partner and viewed his profile page, I was itching to meet him. His name was Majid Bonakdar, came from Frankfurt and like me enjoys swimming – which I felt meant we would get on well. I spent the following weeks planning out what we would eat for dinner



every evening (this is very important) and the activities we could do over the weekend.

Finally, we got to greet each other in person. Although he was two years older than me, I was surprised to find out how well we got on. Like me he does enjoy to playing on his phone, watching YouTube and Face-timing his friends! Fortunately, he understood that I had homework to complete and left me in peace, whilst I needed to concentrate. That evening we had a delectable dish of sausage and mash. Thursday we ate pizza and chicken, Friday we had spaghetti Bolognese and on Monday we went to a pub to dine.

Over the weekend we had a lot of fun. On Saturday we went to Stratford for a walk. When we got there it was near to lunch, so we ate some pasties, whilst looking at the scenery. Majid noticed a very big house and was informed that it was the place where the great Shakespeare was born. Then we walked around the lake, looking at the ducks and swans and found a sweet shop; finally, we decided to do a bit of shopping.

On Sunday, we had friends over as we were celebrating my father's birthday. In addition, five of us went to our local sports club to play football for about an hour then came back

home to enjoy a playful fight with nerf guns. I was glad to see that Majid was enjoying himself. Later Majid asked if we had a console and we played games for a little while. Pretty much every evening, me and Majid would watch YouTube or play games on our phones.

I would recommend to try the German exchange as you could potentially make a new friend, as I have and it is very enjoyable. Also we are still in touch via an app called *House Party* (it seems very popular amongst the Germans).

■ **William Smith**

## HISTORY, POLITICS AND RELIGION

### School Election 2017

It came as something of a surprise that an election was called this year and suffice to say there were no means to make the usual plans and designs for a regular election campaign. With the absence of whole school assemblies and with year groups departed on study leave, it proved difficult to mount a *strong and stable campaign*. However, such exercises are for the *many and not the few* and it was impressive to see how the candidates were able to employ social media and well-positioned posters (some of which it may require scaffolding to get down) to get their messages across.

Polling day came and the respective candidates were able to make a final plea to the electorate as they cast their votes in the polling booth in the Library. It was impressive to see the number of Year 11 students who came into vote even though they were on exam leave and well done to the candidates who continued campaigning to the last even though they had an exam on polling day.

As the exit poll was revealed there was the odd tear shed, however, the early confidence of the Communists (Bromage) was to prove unfounded as the Respect

Party Candidate (Taylor) pushed his popularity among the younger voters.

The final result was a convincing win for the incumbent Respect Party – Kieron Taylor played a more cautious, albeit equally successful, political campaign than his predecessor Carl Lawrence.

A strong showing for the Greens (led by Alfie Green) in the Lower School went to show how repetition works well on the ballot paper.

All the candidates should be thanked for a well-informed and good-natured campaign. It was down to the boys to have an election in spite of the challenges presented by the time of year; it proved an educational and entertaining experience for the whole school community.

■ **G.N.H.**

2017 Vote Outcome	Communist	Conservative	Labour	Liberal	Respect	Green	UKIP	Spoiled	Total
Staff	0	0	9	1	1	1	0	0	12
Post-16	47	0	4	0	1	2	2	0	56
GCSE	22	1	0	2	60	5	0	2	92
KS3	46	4	15	4	77	65	4	6	221
Total	115	5	28	7	139	73	6	8	381
% Vote Share	30.18	1.31	7.35	1.84	36.48	19.16	1.57	2.10	100.00

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys – Mock Election 2017		
Party	Candidate	Vote
Conservatives	Primo Agnello	
Liberal Democrats	Matty Blayney	
	Stephen Bromage	
Green Party	Alfie Green	
Labour	Rohan Kaya	
	Alex Prins	
respect party	Kieron Taylor	

### Model United Nations Society

In the early days of Year 12, a small group of wide-eyed Sixth Formers decided they would break away from the mundane realities of the school curriculum and work on saving the world. We began as a group of four, Matt Blayney, Alex Prins, Hassan Hassan and Rohan Kaya, passionately defending the honour and policies of our respective countries

solving the crisis in Syria through peaceful debate and biscuits, every Thursday lunchtime. It wasn't long before we grew to a group of 30, including students from Camp Hill Girls.

Thanks to the organisation of Matt Blayney and Ms Garvey, along with the diplomatic prowess and tact of Stephanie Bromage, we prepared for and attended both the Birmingham University Model United Nations conference (UBIMUN) and the Joseph Chamberlain College Model United Nations (JCCMUN), a conglomeration of 300 young men and women committed to solving problems and saving the world.

#### Joseph Chamberlain College Model United Nations 2017

On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> March, five Camp Hill delegates set off for the Model United Nations Sixth Form Conference at Joseph Chamberlain Col-

lege. Students from all over the country attend this annual weekend conference and are asked to represent a UN member state, prepare solutions to a range of global issues and lobby for support. Members of our own Model UN society would be representing Egypt in five different committees; Hassan Hassan in Disarmament, Stephen Bromage in the Political Committee, Alex Prins in Economic and Social, Rohan Kaya in Human Rights and finally our Ambassador Matty Blayney was in the Security Council.

Hours are spent in each committee debating the topics in depth before voting on them, with many delegates enthusiastically representing their country's political stance. The North Korean delegation looked particularly fetching wearing the face of their Glorious Leader Kim Jong Un on their jackets.

Matt, Stephen and Hassan managed to secure enough votes at committee stage for



their resolutions on Syria, Bosnia and land-mines respectively to get through to the General Assembly on the Sunday. Kaya formed an alliance with Saudi Arabia, Uganda and South Sudan and won enough votes to get his resolution on same sex marriage through to the General Assembly, only to be betrayed later by Uganda, forcing another vote and losing!

In the Security Council, Matt and the other delegates were faced with an unexpected emergency, Russia had just invaded Latvia. They were presented with an eerily realistic BBC News broadcast and had to work together quickly to decide on the appropriate action to take. The poor Russian delegate spent much of his time back-peddling. Vladimir would not approve.

On the third day of the conference, they finally faced the General Assembly. All the suc-

cessful resolutions from the committee stage were up for debate but there wouldn't be time to hear all of them. The Egyptian delegation were reunited and spent the time passing notes to other delegations to garner support for their own resolutions – definitely the most popular aspect of the whole conference. Hassan and Matt were called upon by the Secretary General to present their respective papers. Both did a great job of putting together unassailable resolutions and handled the difficult questioning with ease. When it came to the vote, both resolutions



passed.

In addition to creating excellent resolutions, Kaya, Hassan and Stephen each won awards for their persuasive speeches.

■ **Rohan Kaya**

■ **A.G.**

## Religious Studies Trips to Birmingham University

**Y**ear 12 Religious Studies students have been making the most of the school's proximity to Birmingham University this year, as we've visited it twice receiving some highly academic input, which has supported the AS course students have been studying.

Firstly, in November, we attended the University for a study afternoon which focused on

issues around evil and suffering. As a group we heard lectures that discussed everything from the philosophical problem of evil, to environmental ethics and the plight of the Jewish people in ghettos under Nazi rule. This provided lots of food for thought.

When we returned in March we were lucky enough to be one of two schools visiting for a fascinating workshop with Professor Candida Moss from Notre Dame University, who was in Birmingham to deliver the University's annual Cadbury Lectures. She talked to us about her research into resurrection, and the question of heavenly bodies, posing some challenging

questions about death, afterlife and the end of the world. 'How will I be resurrected if I get my head chopped off?' she asked. 'If I'm to be resurrected aged 33, will I know what I knew at 99?'

After this fascinating talk the boys came away with more questions than answers – but also an insight into academic research in the discipline of Theology, and a useful contact who has friends at the UN, and worked with Hillary Clinton on her presidential campaign. In addition, this certainly opened their eyes to the employment possibilities of theologians and philosophers!

■ **J.S.F.**

## ARTS AND MEDIA

### Year 8 Media Day

**O**nce again this year forty-five of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to participate in the annual Year 8 Media Day. This has become an annual event in the English calendar at Camp Hill and this year students had the opportunity to either take part in Radio, Newspaper or Television workshops.

Again, we owe our thanks to Mr Rogers and Jim Lee, who ran the Radio Workshop. Jim has been a regular visitor to the school for at least the last five years, giving up his time again for free. He is a continuity announcer on both Radio 4 and Radio 4 extra and he was able to impart his years of experience and give our students the opportunity to experience what it is like to present the news on Radio 4.

Mrs Parmar, ably assisted by Nick Hudson, ran a newspaper workshop. Nick is an experienced newspaper editor and has done too many things to list here – though it should be noted that he was an Editor on the *Daily Sport* at one time... Here he was able to explain to



students what the newspaper world is like and use his skills to help them understand how a newspaper story is put together and constructed.

Mr Hill this year ran a television workshop and his group worked extremely hard to put together a television news bulletin, which ran to twenty minutes! We do owe thanks to all



the teachers, including Mr Hill (History) and Mr Watkins (Maths) who were such good sports and were willing to contribute their time to this fun endeavour.

Overall, this was an enjoyable and interesting event and we now look forward to Media Day 2018.

■ **J.L.P.**



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

As this article is written two groups of Year 11 students are putting together their final preparations for their assessed expedition over the Long Mynd area of Shropshire. I am happy to report that



since the previous *Chronicle* article we are now able to organise and deliver the expedition phase of the Award 'in house'. This is a result of staff gaining the necessary outdoor and first aid qualifications and

the tremendous work of the AFS; whose efforts in fundraising have facilitated the purchase of sufficient three- and two-man tents, stoves, maps and safety equipment. This means that rather than having to pay £120 to an activities provider, we can provide training, transport, practice and assessment using our own gear and staff for the much-reduced cost of £50.

After launching the Award Scheme in 2015, I am glad to report that of the original 104 students who signed on, there are only eighteen who are still working towards completing their targets – some parents might be pleased to note that they have until they are twenty-five years old to finish the Award. Some of these same students are now in the throes of putting together their UCAS applications and



it is amazing how this has coincided with an upsurge in motivation!

The second-year cycle saw the launch of the Silver and Gold Awards. Currently there are twenty students working towards their Silver Award and five towards Gold.

I am delighted to record that one of those, Siddanth Jatti has completed all the necessary requirements for his Gold and is looking forwards to an invitation to St James Palace to receive his Award from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, who has taken over the responsibility from the Duke. To gain the Award Sid under-



took a course in open water diving; to do this in local waters he must have far thicker skin than I, or as he put it a very good thermal layer and dry suit. He gave twelve months service to his local Hindu Cultural Centre helping in any



way he could. His interest in music gave rise to the target of learning to play the saxophone to which he has devoted eighteen months.

Unlike the other Awards the school does not yet facilitate the expedition phase, so Sid bought into a course run in the Brecon Beacons. This required devoting five days to training and a practice expedition and a further five days of assessment over challenging terrain including wild camping. Finally, students on the Gold Award are required to participate in a five residential; it is a specific requirement that they should undertake this with complete strangers. Sid has set his sights on a career in the medical profession so he therefore undertook a course designed to consider clinical skills and medical research, based at a centre in Liverpool. I hope that Sid will be the first of many Camp Hill students to achieve this level.

I wish all those participating in the Scheme well and hope that they will strive to complete their Award. They would not be able to do this without the support that they have from you their parents and all those staff who have given their time to train, assess and supervise camping trips.

■ K.D.

## Careers Department

Careers support at Camp Hill begins early with activities encouraging Year 7 and 8 pupils to begin contemplating where their future career might take them.

In 2017 our library treasure hunt helped Year 8 pupils begin to navigate their way through the well-stocked school careers library and identify some of the best resources to make a start on researching their dream job. In March, Year 9 boys were encouraged to think 'outside the box' and had an opportunity to pitch their ideas for a small business as part of an off-timetable Enterprise Activity Day with Think Do.

This enterprise theme was continued on into Year 10 with pupils taking part in the Coca Cola Challenge and a team, accompanied by Doctor White, reaching the regional final, which took place at the Aston Villa Ground. Pupils gained experience of researching, planning, costing and marketing their business plans as well as presenting them like true

professionals.

The Tenner Challenge in the spring term resulted in lots of ideas about how you could take a £10 investment and turn it into a profit within a month. The boys ran various sales, a talent show and generally worked well together to earn back their initial stake.

By Year 11 careers lessons are focused on practical activity such as finding and securing work experience placements with an emphasis on compiling a CV, researching employers and making applications for placements. This begins with an in-depth careers discussion with an independent careers adviser, who comes in to talk to Year 11. This year nearly all of our Year 11 pupils (some accompanied by their parents) discussed their ideas with a Careers Consultant from Inspiring Futures and began to set their career plans in motion. By the end of the summer term pupils had taken part in a total of 164 work experience placements; local, national



and for some pupils: global experiences!

Employers who supported us in 2017 included Arup, Aston Martin BAE Systems, Barclays, Capgemini, HMRC, HSBC, Irwin Mitchell, Jaguar Land Rover, local MPs' constituency offices, numerous NHS hospitals and GP practices, Pinsent Masons and Network Rail to name but a few. Pupils were encouraged to attend the National Skills Show in November and the *What Career Live?* Events in March. In addition, a group of boys from Year 10 to Year 12 also took part in the University Hospitals Birmingham Healthcare Science Careers Day.

Year 12 students attended Higher Edu-

cation conference and a careers afternoon; hearing from admissions tutors, university outreach advisers and professionals from a range of career sectors. Universities who came in to share details of their courses and admissions procedures included: Aston, Birmingham, Durham, Imperial, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford and Warwick.

Career sectors explored ranged from Chemical Engineering, Law and Medicine

to Computing, Teaching and Rehabilitation Services. Some of our Year 13's took part in tailored interview skills training for Medical, Dental and Finance courses, as well as mock interview practice for Oxbridge applications. We've learned lots of lessons through regular feedback from pupils and participants, which we will use to guide us in our planning for the future.

None of our careers activities could take

place without the generosity of the alumni, parents and friends of Camp Hill, the employers and higher education institutions who contribute their time and expertise to share insights into their particular area of expertise. We take this opportunity to say a very big 'thank you' to all those who took part in 2017 and very much hope that we can continue to grow our network of careers support in the future.

■ **K.B.**

## Volunteering in an HIV Orphanage

Over the summer holidays, I (Navaneeth Natarajan) volunteered for two weeks at a HIV orphanage in India. The shelter's home is in Chennai, a city known for its exotic cuisine, rich culture and over-the-top films. The orphanage is on the outskirts, in a rural village called Red Hills, approximately a two-hour drive away from where my family and I stayed, which was in Adayar.

I first visited the orphanage on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. By the time my parents and I arrived, it was late in the evening, but our tiredness vanished as we saw the smiling children waiting to warmly welcome us. We were also greeted by the managers of the home: Mr Solomon Raj and Mrs K. Uma, who gave us a tour of the building and more information about the orphanage and what it stands for.

Simply called "Shelter", its name is an acronym for "Society for Health Education Leadership Training Environment Research and Rehabilitation". Mr Raj, told us that his ethos behind the running of the home is based on three Ls. The first is "love", as that's what he wants every child in his home to feel and for them to be one big happy family. The second is "laughter". He doesn't want them to be as depressed as they were before coming to the shelter. Lastly "life", signifying his duty to keep these children alive and healthy for as long as possible.

The orphanage has forty-seven children – all but one have HIV. Their ages range from two to twenty-two years. All staff employed also have the virus and many left their original villages due to locals ostracising them for a condition they involuntarily got. All get free Anti-Retroviral Treatments from the government, although many have additional complications along with HIV. My family were informed by Mr Raj of a child who also has stomach cancer, brain damage and just contracted tuberculosis one week ago. He told us he was in quarantine right now, but we could go see him, however we didn't have enough time that day.

We were also introduced to Loganathan, who was the person I spent the most time with, during my stay there. By the age of five, he had seen both his grandad and father die right in front of him. His father died in a motorcycle

accident, with Loganathan sitting behind him. Although Loganathan survived, he developed a blood clot in his brain and subsequently suffers from fits. As the people in his village did not understand his condition, they thought he was possessed by a demon and tried to get it out of his body by making him walk on fire and beating him while tied to a ceiling fan. Now aged thirty, Loganathan suffers from bi-polar disorder, has the mental capacity of a seven-year-old and an attention span of one and a half minutes. However, due to being home-schooled and mentored by staff at the orphanage, he has become much better and was always nice to my parents and me. Mr Raj gave me the goal of trying to teach Loganathan the alphabet, as well as some basic maths and English, which I took unaware of how much of a challenge this would be.

Unfortunately, heart-breakingly, the quarantined child died and, in line with custom, his funeral was swift. This was especially upsetting to me considering I could have seen him, but now can never see him again. It also made me realise how much these two weeks mattered for both me and the children there, as I thought I may not be able to see some of them again.

When I came to the shelter later that Monday morning, I saw Loganathan as well his friends: Mary, Charu, Jessica and Yukesh. The rest of the children had already gone to the local government school and so were not there. Over the next week, we drew, we played, we read and I started to learn more about their personalities and backgrounds. I also tried teaching Loganathan the alphabet. He used to get everything right and just when you think he'll get it all, he would miss out T and U. And the more annoying problem was he'd get bored and angry if I made him repeat it. With regards to numbers, there was much better progress, as eventually he became confident in counting to twenty in English – an achievement he couldn't do before.

Mary, on the other hand, was a whole different story. Despite being only four years old, she could count, speak English well and recite poems by-heart without making a sin-



gle mistake. I later learned as she is smart, she has been sponsored by someone and is the only person to go to a private school from the home.

I also got told later in the week that Jessica was the only child who does not have HIV. She is the child of two married members of staff, who both are HIV positive. This realisation educated me that if people with HIV take their medication regularly, it may not be passed on to their children.

On other days, I went in the evening, so I could spend more time with the children who came back from school. Then, I got to meet older children and we played an array of sports such as football, volleyball and tag. I also helped serve food and help the boys and girls with their homework. It was during one of these days, that I randomly asked Loganathan to say the alphabet, and for the first time he said it all perfectly! This made the best day of my stay and I was happy that I could finally teach Loganathan something properly.

On last day my visit, Mr Raj and Mrs Uma organised a drawing competition and all the kids participated and had a lot of fun. Some were fantastic artists whilst others tried their best. As a present, they all gifted their drawings to my family which I thought was very sweet of them.

Prior to my visit, I, with the help of friends and the school, was able to raise £250 for the home. With this money, we bought medication, clothes and general provisions for all the children there. I, as well as the children, are very thankful all those who donated money for this amazing cause the money can affect the children's lives for the better. This was an amazing experience, which I would love to do more often!

■ **Navaneeth Natarajan**



## Quiz Report

After getting through to the National Final of the Schools Challenge last year, it was always going to be tough to maintain such levels of performance again. We went into the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Quiz with high hopes having been a winner on two previous occasions.

In spite of a fantastic performance from both Camp Hill Epsilon and Camp Hill Zeta (Years 13 and 12) we could not overturn a powerhouse performance from Bishop Vesey who showed remarkable consistency and composure throughout. Still second and fourth place were not to be sniffed at in a competition with over 40 teams from across the region. Well done to Harry Wilson, Kushal Varma, Billy Chapman, Anthony Lim, Ashar Aslam and Mackenzie Wells for their efforts in Camp Hill



Epsilon.

The Schools Challenge campaign started well with both our A and B-teams coming through their group rounds successfully; the A-team having seen off KEHS 1 and Edgbaston High 2 and accumulating over 1000 points into the bargain, the B-team overcame KEHS 2 and KES 3 on the way to the semi-finals.

However, insurmountable obstacles got in the way of a repeat of last year. Hopes of an all CHB final were scuppered by an outstanding team from Shrewsbury who beat the A-team 630 to 390 and the B-team lost out 740 to 410 from the KES 1 team. Well done to Shrews-



bury in winning the overall tournament and moving through to the inter-regional play-off. Well done to our teams of Harry Wilson, Kushal Varma, Kevin Mathew and Bhuvan Mahadevaiah and Muhammad Ali, Alfie Green, Thomas Heppel and Peter Kippax.

In the spring term, we saw the youngsters in Years 7 and 8 competing in the regional heats of Junior Schools Challenge, however our progress was thwarted by the superior buzzing of our KES rivals. The House Championship again proved to be a highly competitive affair with Howard and Seymour taking it to the wire in the very last fixture. This bodes well for future competitive quizzing over the coming years.

■ G.N.H.

## My time in Mozambique and South Africa

Dr White informed me after a Biology lesson that she had been contacted, as Head of Careers, by an organisation called *Love the Oceans* based in Mozambique, their aim is to set up a Marine Protected Area and they were looking for volunteers.

After some research I realised what an amazing opportunity this was and applied. In March I was accepted onto the programme and with some generous help from the AFS was able to raise the funds necessary.

In mid-August I embarked on my first journey to Africa, alone and travelling 9000km to somewhere I had heard very little about, but it wasn't until I looked out the plane window and saw the sun setting over the Sahara desert that it felt real, but sure enough, it was.



I arrived to glorious sunshine after four flights and was met by the team, I was driven back to the accommodation in the back of a pickup truck as the sun set. Before settling in we first

had to attend a dangerous animals lecture, which consisted of half an hour more or less just listing all the dangerous snakes, insects and sea creatures in the area, though I was informed that most hadn't even been seen in the four years that they had been out there. What they neglected to include was camel spiders, of which I caught three in the accommodation during my stay, but they're pretty friendly so don't be perturbed.

After the lecture came a welcome party on the beach and my first sighting of the southern hemisphere night sky including the white sash of the Milky Way across the night sky, with the moon glowing orange as it rose from the sea.

During my three weeks in Mozambique I got my PADI Open Water followed rapidly by my PADI Advanced Scuba Diving certificate, and on completing my first dive, came up to the surface in time for a mother and calf humpback whale to swim up to the boat. We all quickly put our fins and masks on and slid in, just in time for the giants to glide elegantly past.

A week later, while on an ocean safari, we came across a mother and calf asleep vertical in the water, the mother's tail rising out of the water. We got very close and watched for a few minutes before they woke up and swam off.

Diving was one of the most incredible experiences, I was able to see fantastical shoals of fish and eels and all manner of reef dwelling creatures. I took part in scientific data collection dives as well as beach cleans, logging all that was collected. I helped paint a new



classroom at one of the local schools that had been funded by the organisation, and I had to create and present a presentation on the topic of 'The Importance of Megafauna on Marine Ecosystems' to the other volunteers, the staff and some of the local community.

But all too soon my time in Mozambique came to a close, after having had some truly unforgettable experiences and meeting some of the most incredible and friendly people.

My adventures were not over though and I journeyed with another volunteer to Ku Sun-gula Safari Lodge in the Balule Game Reserve in South Africa, where we saw the Drakensberg Mountains and went on daily Safaris, learning about animal behaviour and conservation efforts. But that too came too quickly to a close, and I was back on the plane home.

But to all of you reading this, I cannot overstate how much I recommend doing this sort of thing, it is rare that you will get the chance to do so after University, so while you can make the most of the opportunities a gap year project can present.

[More pictures on the next page]

■ Thomas Hasson



## HOUSE REPORTS

### Beaufort

September 2016 saw the House Championship begin with a glorious opening salvo from reigning champions Beaufort House.

The term began with Intermediate House Rugby. Jason Tahiri was selected to lead the Beaufort boys and he really didn't disappoint. Our strong team crushed Howard (24-7) and Seymour (24-5) with relative ease. To many it was Tudor who were the stronger team on paper, but the Beaufort men stood firm and under Jason's excellent leadership by example and aggressive play they managed to hold them at bay and finished (12-7). Excellent!

The Senior Rugby was also a fine spectacle, with Beaufort wins over Seymour and Tudor. Unfortunately for the Seniors though Howard came out on top overall. A special mention is due to Numaan Amar, who made not only his Beaufort debut, but was also playing rugby for the first time ever! Well done to all of the lads who took part.

The annual 5-a-side tournament was held

at the Futsal Arena in Handsworth. Beaufort's glorious success in the 11-a-side tournament was emulated and we stormed home with two wins out of nine games across the three age groups. This secured Beaufort the highest numerical placement possible – the big number fourth.

Ed Connolly and Joe Day both came first in their respective age groups in the Cross Country competition, along with pleasing results for Peter Kippax, Sam Ankrah, Dylan Rogers, Dylan Rees, Ben Brown and Tom Heppel. It was Ed's second year of claiming the top spot in the Senior race, even though he decided to lengthen the run by crossing the road a few extra times!

Badminton proved tough this year. The seniors had the most success of the three age groups but overall we finished fourth. Well done to Madhav Ramesh for taking charge of the Senior Team.

After the Christmas break it kicked off again with the Intermediate Quiz. Jake Holloway volunteered to captain, joined by Bhuvan, Neal and Vignesh. Let's just say that they came

up against some very fast fingers. Despite a very good effort we were unable to beat the Senior Quiz team's third place position from last term. Later in the term it was the Junior boys' turn. Sam Gray led Tom Heppel, Adeen Irfan, Paul Kelly and Ishan Tewari into the competition. Every match came down to just a few points between the houses and the Junior Quiz title was shared three ways between Beaufort, Howard and Tudor. With all the results counted Beaufort placed third in the overall House Quiz Championship.

The House Chess was a very successful venture. John Hayton volunteered to captain the team, joined by fellow senior boys Ashrit Chohan, Nathan Moyle and Vamsi Pratapa, plus a host of talented junior boys, we stormed to victory winning almost all of our games against the other House players. It was a decisive victory for Beaufort, securing six crucial championship points.

It is almost a tradition for Beaufort to win the House Swimming Championship, but nothing should be taken for granted. Mr O'Malley was very pleased with the effort that the Year



7 – ten boys put in to their swimming standards. Every point counts and Beaufort entered the gala with a very solid lead. On top of the excellent head start from the standards, some of the school's top swimmers happen to be in Beaufort and were able to bag more points for the House, making our lead over the others unassailable. *Victor Ludora* were awarded to Joe Day, Michael James-Thomas and Henry Belai. Special mentions are also due to Lorcan Halstead, Simon Halstead and Anant Kapoor who all only narrowly missed out on *Victor Ludorum* awards themselves.

The Rugby Championship was concluded in the second half of the Spring term. Howard's Seniors presented our lads which some tough opposition and in the Autumn term we had to settle for second in the Senior 15s. Our Senior 7s team was adversely affected by a combination of absence, a football match and House Hockey and we had to settle for third place there. The Inters won their age group in the Autumn term and the Year 7s shared second place with Howard, second to Seymour. The Year 8 team replicated their excellent performance from last year and stormed away winning their three matches decisively. All in, Beaufort and Howard are sharing the Rugby Championship Cup this year. A good effort by everybody! Beaufort were placed third overall in the Hockey; the Inters share second place with Seymour and the Senior boys placed third. Thank you to Beant and Luqmaan for organising the teams.

The Summer term brought an end to the House Championship in nail-biting fashion. Up first were Tennis and Table Tennis. The Beaufort Junior and Senior sections didn't fare well in either event, but some success was enjoyed by the Inters. In the Table Tennis Krish Agarwal boldly identified himself as the number one Beaufort seed and then went on to

lose all three of his matches. Joe Shalabi, Luqmaan Rashid and Punith Premachandra pulled together, however, and won six out of their nine individual matches. Unfortunately though when combined with the other age groups Beaufort was left having to settle for silver in the Table Tennis Championship.

House Tennis is a smaller event where only two boys in each age group can take part. Aadam Zaffar and Madhav Manoj did a sterling job for the Intermediates, winning all of their individual games and two of the three doubles matches. Well done boys!

The Summer term also provided us with some good weather for Cricket. The Senior matches had to be taken care of before study leave took our Year 11 and 13 students away and it didn't go well at all for Beaufort. We'll blame the disappointing performance on the 'study flu' which was sweeping through the older years in school at that time.

The Year 7, Year 8 and Intermediate cricket teams, captained by Will Mackie, Humair Hussain and Vignesh Venkatramaiah respectively, put on a much stronger show than the Seniors, claiming first place in each of their age groups. This very strong performance was enough to retain the Cricket Cup on the Beaufort shelf in the Hall for another year and earned us a few much-needed points.

By the time the Athletics Competition came around the scores between Beaufort,

Howard and Seymour were so close that it was impossible to call. Tudor's score was an order of magnitude smaller than the others (that's a Maths reference) and Mr Nash had to resort to accusing the other Houses with the sort of libellous slander that usually finds its way into the periodical school toilet time funny 'The Bugler' (that's a Stephen Bromage reference).

The departure of Lewis Evans and Ashrit Chohan from Year 13 gave the Year 12s an opportunity to take on more responsibility in school and put themselves forward to serve as the Beaufort House Captain and Vice. Four excellent candidates came forward in the forms of Craig Stewart, Murtaza Nomani, Victor Kimani and Rohan Ram; the Year 12s voted and Victor and Rohan were named the Captain and Vice-Captain for the 2017–18 season.

Unfortunately though when it came to Sports Day Beaufort, despite a few key wins, were unable to realise their full potential and claim the Athletics title. As the day progressed it looked like Howard were sure fire winners, but high drama ensued when in the Year 10 relay Howard and Beaufort were both disqualified, clearing the path for Seymour to claim the Athletics title. Highlights from Sports Day included first place finishes from Tobi Ajayi in the 200m, Sam Ankrah in the 800m, Peter Kippax in the 800m and 1500m, and Asadullah Khan in the Discus. That's on top of *Victor Ludorum* awards for Joe Day and Richard Amoshe. Well done everybody!

This is now the second consecutive year where Joe Day has made the exceptional achievement of winning all three *Victor Ludorum* awards: Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics.

With all the scores counted and after a very closely matched competition, Beaufort have had to relinquish their status as House Champions, passing it over to Howard.

[Picture left: Beaufort Leavers 2017]

■ S.O.M.



## Howard

As Mr Hill kicked off the year with yet another sterling rendition of Dr Seuss, Howardians attempted to shake off the frustrations of last year's close finish and focus on the year ahead. With our heads full of brains, and our shoes full of feet, we came out with all cylinders firing and convincingly won the football, a victory orchestrated by Zidan Salim. Furthermore, Harry Wilson's inhuman reaction time on the buzzers meant that we got off to a fine start in the quiz, despite a shock loss to Seymour. This laid the foundation for the younger years to ensure that we retained the title that we have held since times immemorial.

As well as the smaller events, we were determined to perform well in the more

weighty events than we have in recent years. We need not have feared as Tom Haddon led us to hat-trick of wins in Senior Rugby, other teams' defences no match for the sheer pace offered by Adam Khan and Bahawal Ali. Strong performances from the other year groups, over the course of the year, resulted in us sharing the Rugby title, a huge achievement, which inspired genuine confidence in our ability to win in this sport.

Despite losing some of our strongest performers to injury, we showed our strengths by doing well in the badminton and coming a commendable third in the cross-country. The willingness and desire of everyone to take part was epitomised by the actions of Sid Sharma, who ran the five kilometre course in rugby studs, having been informed that he was required mere minutes before the race. The

term ended on a high as we came second in the basketball with every age group putting in a solid performance. This gave us a commanding overall lead going into the Christmas break.

The arrival of the spring term has usually brought with it an unwelcome slump in results. Despite unfortunate results in the chess and swimming, we were somewhat cheered by an especially good performance in the intermediate hockey, which meant we achieved second place overall. We did not let our heads drop, and managed to somehow retain a slender lead going into Easter, after which the fun really began.

Having survived the choppy waters of spring, the Blue Wave became a tsunami as we brushed aside any who dared stand in our way during the tennis, winning by almost ten victories. The table tennis was also well fought, but

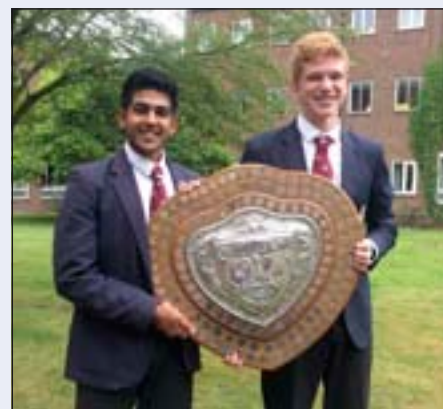
did not bring quite the same amount of success. Henry Houlden showed us why he was named First Team Captain, as he inspired the senior cricketers to three wins out of three. The intermediates also gained two wins, and what we lacked in experience in the lower years, we made up for in spirit – as displayed by the Year 8 team winning on the last ball.

Their performance was regarded as one of the highlights of the year, and ensured we went into Sports' Day suitably fired up and ready to claim what was rightfully ours. Our strength again shone through, as our standards gave us a strong base from which to launch our final assault on the House Championship. Some incredible individual performances on the day led to Dan Hill and Milan Dawson being named *Victors Ludorum* in their respective age groups, with Chris Marshall, Adam Khan and Hamza Qureshi among the many other outstanding athletes. Unfortunately, a nail-biting finish resulted in us being pipped at the post by Sey-

mour due to the unlucky disqualification of the Year 10 relay team. Despite this, the day was enjoyed immensely by both the participants and the spectators, who were in fine voice when urging their peers onwards. The second place finish also cemented our victory as overall House Championship Winners, bringing the shield back to Howard for the first time since 2013.

This victory was a fitting tribute to the many faithful servants of the House who left us after years of devoted service. House Captain Adi Thakral led by example, and congratulations must be given to Zidan Salim for winning the Vivian Bird Trophy as well as Harry Wilson who was nominated for the Simon Fenn Award. They, as well as many others, will leave a lasting impression on those younger students who will seek to emulate their success and commitment in future years.

A final word of thanks must be given for Mr Hill, who motivated us through his frequent



attendance at events as well as fascinating us with House assemblies about hummus, among other weird and wonderful things. We hope that we can replicate the success of last year, and the upcoming House Festival will make sure that every member of the House will have a role to play in the year ahead.

■ **Muhammad Ali**

## Seymour

Seymour began the year hoping to reverse a series of losses sustained over the past few years, we have not won the House Championship since 2012, something Mr Watkins and House Captain Jonty Hart hoped would change.

We began well with two second place results in the football and cross-country events, which left us joint first heading into the October half-term. However following this, our fortunes changed, with some poor results leaving us in a precarious position in the standings. We knew that to stand a chance of taking Beaufort's crown, we would have to make con-

siderable progress in the coming months.

Results began to turn our way post-Christmas, with our teams recording strong performances in Swimming and House Quiz before winning Hockey and Music, helped by strong individual performances including Swimming *Victor Ludorum*s for Daniel Higgins in the Seniors and George Hill in Year 7. A strong push after Easter left us as outsiders for the Championship, but crucially still with a chance of winning. After the summer exams, only athletics remained. Seymour had to win athletics to stand a chance of winning, and Howard, our main rivals had to finish third or fourth. The Juniors put us in a good position after Standards.

Sports Day heralded a huge effort from

the House, especially from the Seniors including wins from Daniel Higgins, Tom Mansfield, Isara Mahalekam and Mamoor Waheed. As expected, the day went down to the wire, with the relays deciding who would win the Athletics Competition and with it the overall House Championship. Following a double disqualification in the Intermediate section, Seymour came out as winners of Athletics. Despite Howard coming second, and hence winning the overall Championship, it was still a good performance for the year. At Christmas, it seemed unlikely to consider Seymour as contenders, so to lose out by 1.5 points seems noteworthy itself.

■ **Tom Perry**

## Tudor

As the new academic year arrived, so too did the usual challenges for Tudor House. However, could the fresh start see Tudor take top spot as Champions or would this be a year battling for points? Irrespective of the outcome, what can be said is that the commitment and dedication to compete for the House was never lacking. This was shown as Tudor won more House competitions in the first term than over the whole of the previous year.

Events got underway with the House Football Competition, starting with the Senior 11-a-side. A good start to the year saw the Senior team finish second in their 11-a-side, but this followed by a perhaps not so successful 5-a-side Tournament. While the Juniors won their age group, the mixed results in the Intermediate and Senior age categories meant Tudor finished third overall.

Moving on from football, rugby was the

next House event to begin, this was kicked off by the Intermediates. Tudor had a very pleasing start to the competition, as the Intermediates finished second in their age category, but shortfalls in other age groups again meant that the House did not finish as highly as hoped.

Cross-country brought about more success for the House. Particular mention must go to Joe Thompson who finished first in the Intermediate category, with a record time. Leading from the front, this spurred on the rest of the House to put forward their best efforts in the cross-country competition. This momentum was carried through into the badminton and basketball competitions, where Tudor gained their first competition trophies of the year. An impressive 11 out of 15 wins made Tudor sure winners of House Badminton, and the Intermediates gained 3 out of 3 wins in their age category for basketball which took us on to be Basketball Champions as well.

As the year continued, Tudor put in many more impressive performances, particularly

as the House picked up another trophy in the table tennis. As always, the Tudor competed well in the cricket competition. The dedication throughout the House was highlighted by Sanjay, who scored an impressive 98 not out against Seymour. Continuing with special mentions, the efforts of Alex Baldock on Sports Day cannot be forgotten. From a last-minute call-up to competing for a podium finish in the 100m, it is this sort of effort across the House that must be commended. Despite winning the *Victor Ludorum* in Year 10 and the Relay Trophy, an impressive Sports Day performance was not quite enough for Tudor House, as the athletics standards meant the competition was just too far out of reach.

While the year may have lacked points for Tudor overall, this does not reflect the efforts of the members of the House. This commitment should be carried forward into the next academic year, as the 'Green Machine' aims for more wins and more championship points.

■ **Nicholas Surr**



# Domestic Trips

## Conway 2017

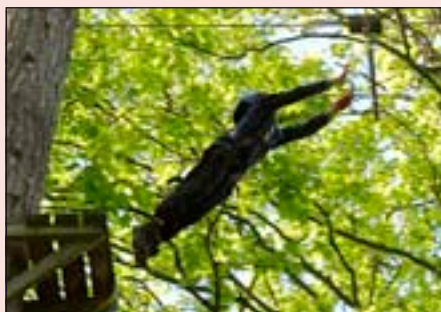
Every year, the Year 8 students of Camp Hill Boys travel to Anglesey, an island off the north-west coast of Wales, to enjoy a week of activities, fun and education. This is the only trip in the whole school where all of the year is encouraged to go.

The first evening kicked off the trip well with a rain shower, however, even though the first activities had to be changed, we were still able to enjoy them. And our first meal at the Conway Centre went smoothly and we noticed how well they catered for everyone, with many different types of food.

During the second day we were away from the Centre. We spent half the day at Aber Falls where we did some biology work in the river and some geography work by the waterfall, and the other half of the day at Caernarfon Castle learning about the origins of North-West Wales. The packed lunches were also great, because after we had eaten all of ours, the teachers would literally throw the leftover food into the crowd of children!

The activities were all fun for everyone. The instructors were amazing and professional, and we were not made to do anything that we didn't want to do, but we were encouraged to try everything. The instructors would help you as much as they could and even teach everyone new things. The activity groups were well chosen and we were put in groups of people of a similar standard.

An activity that really stood out to us was the Stand-Up Paddleboarding, as it was very fun and exciting, especially when we were allowed to tackle each other, launching people into the water. We all tried to get our revenge on Mr Garrod and the other teachers.



Also memorable was during a cycling activity when half of the group got stuck on a hill and nobody could get past. Lots of people had to stop and some ended up actually falling off!

The facilities in the Conway Centre were amazing, and there was so much to do when we had free time; from sports to a film club or orienteering. The dormitory rooms weren't great, but that didn't matter because we were hardly in them!

It felt sad leaving the Conway Centre on the Friday, as we had spent a great week



away from home enjoying the, somehow, dry weather in North-Wales, but by the end of it we were proud that we'd managed to spend a week without mobile phones!

But we mustn't forget to thank all of the teachers who gave up their time to take us on this great trip and we recommend it for all future Year 8s.

■ Ben Brown

■ Joe Matin







## Wimbledon

A little after dawn on a summer's day, six sleepy boys and their parents converged on a white mini-bus on Cartland Road where they were greeted by Mr Duncan and Mr Jones. These teachers had willingly sacrificed a day's teaching to drive for hours in search of a world class display of tennis at the All England Club in Wimbledon.

The rigours of such a trip should not be underestimated; we had a long drive ahead of us. However, this was all in a day's work for such seasoned members of staff, who had practised for this trip in 2015, and again in 2016! After a short stop at services, the group arrived safely and in excellent time at SW19.

The effort of the early start really paid off now. Following a brief pause for the customary "Henman Hill Photo", we split into groups and had plenty of time to soak up the atmosphere and to see some fantastic play on the outer courts. Our trip was on the first Thursday of Wimbledon fortnight so lots of very well-known players, such as Jahn Isner, Jamie Murray and Heather Watson, were in action on these lesser courts.

The things that surprised me most were how huge and beautifully kept the grounds were and how near we could get to the courts and to the players. Television does not do jus-

tice to the power of championship tennis as seen in real life and close up. 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 was an absolutely scorchingly hot day. By the time we arrived, most of us had already consumed whatever water we had brought, so finding refreshments took high priority. Luckily, it was possible to refill water bottles for free but this required waiting in the huge queues for the taps. After some time spent on the outside courts, it was time to move to Court 1.

Our group had seats with magnificent views. The only downside, which would become increasingly obvious as the day went on, was the lack of shade. Despite applying numerous layers of sun screen, most of us had developed a dubiously healthy glow by the end of the day. We didn't really notice because we were treated to world class tennis. First up was second seed, Novak Djokovic, who dispatched the unseeded Adam Pavlasek in just over an hour and a half in straight sets (6-2, 6-2, 6-1). Given how much power both men put into their strokes, Djokovic's ability to control the ball was amazing. We were lucky enough to witness some incredible shots such as Djokovic's 'killer' drop shot, just by the net, in the second set. Next we saw a far more evenly-balanced men's singles match between Dominic Thiem and the much more experienced Giles Simon. Although Thiem initially went a set down to Simon, he was always

the more dangerous player as he has one of the most powerful serves in the game at the moment. He won decisively (5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4), finishing with a sequence of aces, the last one a stunning 135mph effort. Finally, it was the turn of the first seeded lady, Angelique Kerber, to play the unseeded Kirsten Flipkens. This last match was probably the most entertaining as, despite the apparent difference in seeding, Flipkens played very well, driving the match to a 7-5 score in both sets. There was a superb display of serve and volley tennis from both ladies. However, Kerber showed her superior ability with a match-winning lob, having previously enticed her opponent to the net. The audience on Court 1 was on their feet at the end and gave them a round of applause that lasted several minutes.

With play at an end on Court 1, we happily made our way to the mini-bus for the long trip home. Whilst we relaxed in the back, Mr Jones and Mr Duncan skillfully navigated their way through London and up the motorway to Birmingham. Night was falling when we arrived once more on Cartland Road to be greeted by those same parents who now listened patiently to our excited tales. Our thanks to Mr Duncan and Mr Jones for taking us on one of the most enjoyable, inspirational and memorable school trips of my time at Camp Hill.

■ **Chris Marshall**

## St David's Rock Climbing Trip 2017

After our enforced sabbatical in 2016, it was wonderful to return with a group of Year 9 and Year 10 boys, and two Year 12 helpers, for the annual trip to St. David's. The trip gives the boys a chance to discover, or improve, their climbing prowess.



Twenty-three boys made the long drive to South-West Wales, accompanied by the staff team of Bruten, Hardy, Downing, Cookson and, on her first climbing trip, Mrs Bourne.

The weather was perfect for the climbing, and the boys were able to enjoy three days of challenging routes along the cliff faces near St. David's. The strenuous work on the cliffs was broken up with barbecues, beach visits to Whitesands and Caerfai Bays, and trips into



St. David's to shop.

As ever, under the expert organisation of Mr Hardy, the food was plentiful, with most of the party coming back a few pounds heavier! All the boys enjoyed the five day trip, and came back with full stomachs, aching limbs and fond memories.

■ **P.A.B.**

## Warwick Castle

On what was a fortunately fine spring day, all 120 students in Year 7 participated in the annual visit to Warwick Castle. The aim of the visit was to discover more about the development of castles over time and give them a sense of life during the Middle Ages.

All groups started with a chance to view the archery demonstration. As well as scaling the ramparts and exploring the interiors, students were able to witness the trebuchet in action – luckily it did not burn down the newly restored boathouse – and they all watched a birds of prey demonstration.

A highlight this year was an amble around the Horrible Histories Maze, fortunately all the

boys were able to frenetically get their cards stamped and navigate their way out! It was impressive to see that the boys were less prone to purchasing toy weapons this year, however their penchant for sickly ill-flavoured sweets was still unbounded.

■ **G.N.H.**



## Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum

On Thursday 6th July, 57 Year 9 pupils travelled down to London to the Imperial War Museum for the Holocaust Exhibition.



In what was an interesting and moving experience, we were taken around using an audio-guide through rooms full of memorabilia, artefacts and models telling the story of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. This included a scale model of Auschwitz Death Camp, in white, which was very eerie. After this, we were given free time to explore the other galleries on the First and Second World Wars, which gave us an insight into what some of us will study during our GCSE History course.

All in all, it was a fantastic opportunity to explore such a fascinating event in History and we would heartily recommend the trip to future years.

■ **Jonathan Anderson**

■ **Sam Grey**



## RAF Museum Cosford

It is with regret that our GCSE students were able to visit (on 26 January 2017) the flagship Cold War Exhibition at RAF Cosford for the very last time. This is due to the change in the nature of the GCSE History Course and the departure of the Vietnam War from the syllabus.

This visit has always proven an invaluable opportunity for them to gain a wider understanding of the period of superpower tensions between 1945 and 1991, including the development of nuclear weapons, the Cuban Missiles Crisis, the fractured status of Ber-



lin, the Space Race as well as American misfortune in Indochina. Fortunately, in spite of the best efforts of our coach driver who steered us the wrong way down the M6, we were still able to enjoy a full and productive day.

On this visit, the groups were able to enjoy a workshop entitled 'Protect and Survive'; this introduced us to the chilling world of planning and preparation in the eventuality of a nuclear attack – from planning a shelter, to following the advice on the Public Information Films, to identifying fallout zones. The students ended up fully kitted out in NBC suits (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) where they discovered how difficult it would be to perform even basic functions with reduced vision and mobility.

As well as the focus on the Cold War, we enjoyed the 4D cinema experience, which



involved pretending to be part of a WWI dogfight and checked out the other hangars full of aircraft – from the iconic to the obscure. A huge thank you to Mr Southworth for coming along and waiting for hours in the café before we turned up and to Mr Jackson, Ms McCulloch and Mr Rudd for making the day special for all the students attending.

■ **G.N.H.**



# Foreign Trips

## Battlefield Trip 2017

At 10 pm on a sunny Thursday evening, twenty-one budding historians set off for the Hotel Carvin in Lille on Johnsons' finest new coach, to explore some of the Great War's memorials and memories.

After the twelve hours on the coach had flown by, the history had already begun, as we explored Brandhoek New Military Cemetery in Belgium, paying particular attention to Captain, Noel G Chavasse; only the third man in history to win the VC and Bar; that's two VC's. We continued in Ypres – to the heart of three great battles and paid our respects at the Menin Gate, before heading off for lunch at the Hooze Crater Museum and Cemetery.



After a short stint back on the autoroute, we arrived at the hotel outside Lille, where despite having completed a gruelling fourteen hour coach journey, we had a game of football.

On day two we began our first full day of exploration. After refuelling at the hotel's breakfast buffet, we ventured over to the Somme battlefields, meeting at a town called Montauban. This was the area where the British and French lines met, and also an area of relative success in what was an otherwise doomed offensive. After paying our respects at the cemetery at Mansell Copse, we headed over to Beaumont Hamel, a place which experienced total failure on the first day. Here we saw the Hawthorne Ridge, famously blown up ten minutes early, this has been hidden by shrubs and trees over time.

From the top of the ridge we were also able to see the Sunken Lane, saturated by rain.



It was here that we also had a nice picnic with France's finest cheese, bread and cured meats. After lunch, we headed to a few locations, including the Newfoundland Park area where Britain's smallest dominion had fought in the war, before heading to Ulster Tower and Thiepval Wood where some of the worst fighting was seen. Here we saw a restored British Trench and were awe struck at the discovered relics from the past. To mark off the day, we headed to the Lochnagar Crater and witnessed its magnitude, standing at 100ft deep and 300ft wide.

On day three, we headed over to the town of Ypres, which experienced brutal combat throughout the war. Firstly, we visited the Bayernwald Trenches in the Bavarian Wood, where one Adolf Hitler served during the war. Here we saw the striking difference between the German defensive attitude to war with their large trenches, and the smaller British trenches at Thiepval. Following this, we headed to the Messines Ridge, where nineteen British mines caused utter devastation to the German positions, bringing down an entire chain of hills with them.

At around 1pm, we headed to the centre of Ypres and saw the tens of thousands of names on the Menin Gate, and also grabbed lunch in an authentic Ypres' Chip Shop just off the fine medieval square. On the way out from Ypres, we stopped at Langemarck German Cemetery with its enormous 25,000-man mass grave, and Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery for British Forces overseas. Each showed the stern realities of the loss of life experienced on both sides during the Great War.

On day four, our final day, twenty-one weary boys embarked on the journey back, only to be met with more history. Our first stop was the Canadian Memorial on Vimy Ridge where a Canadian student showed us around the tunnels and trenches built before the battle. Here we saw how close the fighting was, with the German and Canadian front lines merely metres apart. We then moved onto the Australian Fromelles Graveyard where 5,000 new Aussie arrivals were baptised by fire, charging into German lines as a diversionary attack for the Somme. Our final stop was at an Indian War Grave at Richebourg, which commemorates the action of soldiers from around Britain's Empire. Coincidentally it was situated near a Portuguese war memorial; this really hit us as it showed it was a WORLD war. With all the history done, we relaxed on our journey



back and arrived at Camp Hill on the Monday at 1am.

I'd like to thank all the teachers who took us on Battlefields and for their water supplies, knowledge and endless enthusiasm in the face of the boiling French and Belgian sun. We are grateful to Mr Bulloch, who provided us with his vast expertise throughout the trip, and to Mr Rudd and Miss Watson as Battlefields Trip rookies. I'd also like to give special thanks to Mr Hill and Mr Southworth for organising the trip, and Mr May for stepping in at such short notice.

■ **Madhav Manoj**









# Sidney Clifford Lamplugh

In March, members of the Lamplugh family made a trip to northern France. They went to see the grave of Sydney Clifford Lamplugh (hereafter Clifford as he was known in the family), intent upon commemorating the centenary of his death in World War 1.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, in grim weather and in bleak surroundings, they were there to remember him and to leave behind some mementoes of their visit. Future visitors should find a recent family photograph and two wreaths: one is from the family (made up of rosemary for remembrance, olive branches and violets) and one from the Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham – Clifford was an Old Boy of both Camp Hill and King Edward's School.

Sydney Clifford Lamplugh was born in Birmingham on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1897, the younger son of Sydney Augustus Lamplugh and Ellen Cecile Gilmer: he had an older brother, Alfred, and a younger sister, Joan. In 1901, the family lived at 1 Caroline Road in Moseley, moving to "Thirlmere", Moor Green Lane, Moseley by 1911 and thereafter, 73 Cotton Lane, again in Moseley. The Lamplugh family can be traced to its auspicious origins in Cumberland (it provided a number of High Sheriffs of the county), coming to Birmingham via Yorkshire and, briefly, London: by the time Clifford was born, it had established a well-known business, principally manufacturing leather goods. The Gilmers were a musical family, originally from London, famous in Birmingham for open air concerts, conducted by Clifford's maternal grandfather and uncle.

Clifford attended Camp Hill from January 1907 until December 1908 before transferring to KES. At Camp Hill, he made progress although he did not reach the classes taught by the famous names of the day, W.B. Ainsworth or W.R. Bradley. Clifford was there when the first Headmaster, Arthur Jamson Smith, retired after 25 years' service in the post, to be replaced by G.H. Ball: a significant occasion for the School, but perhaps not for a young schoolboy! His academic record at KES was modest, but he proved to be very good at drawing. Upon leaving King Edward's School, Clifford was apprenticed to Bellis and Morcom, a company which produced electrical power generation engines, air compressors, fan engines and steam turbines. He also attended the Municipal Technical School in Suffolk Street before matriculating in 1914, intending to be an engineer. However, war intervened and Clifford enlisted in the 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Birmingham Pals) in October 1914 (service number 934). He was only 17, of course, but declared himself to be 19 and therefore eligible for enlistment. Before long, he transferred to the RFC (Royal Flying Corps, forerunner to the RAF) as a mechanic. He disembarked in France

in January 1915, in due course becoming an Air Mechanic, 1<sup>st</sup> class, then, in December 1916, an observer. However, his ambition was to become a pilot and he was waiting to be called home for training. Before that happened, Clifford met his fate. He was on a reconnaissance flight in March 1917 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt VA Berridge when the RE8 in which they were flying took off then did a flat turn before plunging to the earth in a spin. Both died in the crash and they are buried, more or less adjacent, in Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers Bretonneux, not far from Amiens. The inscription on Clifford's stone reads: "A boy in years, a man at heart". He was only 19 when he died.

Following Clifford's death, his commanding officer noted that, but for a bureaucratic glitch, Clifford would have received his commission as an officer. Colleagues wrote to his parents, expressing their sorrow and grief. One wrote: "During three winters in France, we never heard a single grumble or grouse". Another wrote: "They may have killed him but they never beat him". He was a well-liked man, with a promising career.

The family are still in possession of letters (unpublished) written by Clifford. They



offer an insight into his uncomplaining nature and strong character. Despite living and fighting in awful conditions, Clifford glossed over these: he was not the type of man to grumble nor would he want to distress the family back home. He did, however, request that the family and friends send out various items to make life better: chocolate, home-made cakes, cocoa, gloves, khaki shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, a notebook and pencil, candles and a supply of Keating's flea powder, for instance. He was particularly complimentary about a wonderful veal and ham pie sent from home – it proved to be a talking point in the mess! Such was the volume of his requests that he had to ask that Joan (to whom he bequeathed everything in his will) be informed that he had not married a widow with 6 children – although he might think about doing so! Apart from the receipt of numerous hampers and presents, Clifford kept himself amused by touring the area around his base on his motor bike (provided by the RFC): he did not



find the roads at all satisfactory nor did he have much admiration for the Bethune area when stationed there – all coal pits and smoke.

As a footnote, Clifford's parents lived until the 1950's, remaining prominent members of society. In 1945, the local newspapers reported on their lunch with the Lord Mayor on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. His brother, Alfred, also an Old Edwardian, fought in, and survived, the war: he served in Mesopotamia, flying a Bristol Fighter and, though it has never been verified, reputedly flew with T.E. Lawrence. He went on to found the British Aviation Insurance Group. His sister Joan became a surgeon in Birmingham before going off to Northern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to run two medical missions, one solely for the treatment of lepers. She was unable to return to England for the aforementioned Lord Mayor's lunch, having been struck down with black water fever, from which she duly recovered. Joan remained in Southern Africa, serving the local communities even after her security could not be guaranteed – she died in Zimbabwe in 1992.

Clifford is commemorated on the plaques in the KE Camp Hill School Hall and at King Edward's School. His name is also to be found in the Hall of Memory and St Mary's Church, Moseley. His memory also lives on in his letters, kept by his mother, and now in the possession of his great niece, Minnie Lamplugh de Smith, one of those who made the journey in March to see his grave.

I am grateful to Minnie for her permission to refer to Clifford's letters. I am also in the debt of Alison Wheatley, archivist to the KE Foundation, for her constant help, encouragement and access to Foundation archives and to Edwina Rees of the Moseley Society History Group whose research into Clifford's life (and the many other Moseley men commemorated on the St Mary's Church War Memorial) is quite astonishing.

■ **Alastair Bulloch**

# Berlin

Humanities Trip 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Eighteen sleepy sixth-formers met Ms Freeman, Ms McCulloch and Mr Parkinson at 2 am on a cold dark February night to begin our (surprisingly long) journey to Germany's capital.

We had time for some breakfast at Luton Airport before jetting to Berlin, arriving at our hotel in the very centre of the city just after lunch. The hotel – which gave us impressive views into the platforms of Central Station – caused some genuine excitement from the Year 13s when they spotted the pool table. Home from home!

As soon as we'd dropped our bags we headed out into Berlin to see the sights, and our charming tour guide Jens told us all the facts about the Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial, and Potsdamer Platz. We saw remnants of the Berlin Wall alongside the equivalent of Leicester Square, where the red carpets were rolled out for a film premiere that night. Once we'd seen a bit of the city, we walked along the canal to the Bauhaus Archive, a treat for Mr Parkinson, and a chance to see at first hand artefacts of one of the twentieth-century's most influential artistic movements.

Following a brief argument about the appropriateness of getting an Uber back to the hotel (Ms Freeman says no) we walked through the city's central park, Tiergarten, to get some dinner and chill out in the hotel. A normal bedtime was much appreciated by all!

Our Saturday morning began with what could have been a rather depressing visit – to the Stasi Prison, where the secret police of Cold War East Berlin held their prisoners. We were greeted, however, by an absolutely fascinating guide who brought to life the horrors of physical and psychological torture, thoroughly creeping us out and even managing to shoe-horn in some A-level RS content – very clever



woman! It was fascinating to learn about how the Stasi operated. They were so cash strapped by the 1960s that they upgraded the prison's physical conditions so that they could start to sell political prisoners to the West, who would only buy prisoners in 'good' health.

We reluctantly said goodbye to our fascinating tour guide and headed to Ostbahnhof to see the Eastside Gallery, a remnant of the Berlin Wall which is painted by German and international artists with political and personal pieces. After a brief dash up one of Berlin's tallest towers, in Europe's fastest elevator, we parted ways for a couple of hours so the teachers could have a break!

Sunday and Monday saw us further explore Cold War history as we visited the Berlin Wall Memorial and Checkpoint Charlie, as well as the history of Nazi rule through visit to the Jewish Museum and the Topography of Terror. The only downside was that our hopes had rather been raised for tour guides: not all had the panache of our first! A lesson learned for next year. While out we saw some impressive modern art at the Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, and had some disagreements about what counts as art: who would have expected the art students themselves to be the most traditional?

On our final evening we went to a traditional German restaurant, where we ate more varieties of sausage than you'd think possible, and saw certain students' faces light up at the size of a 'pint' of beer in Berlin. Our last morning in Berlin served as a cheerful end, as we visited the German Historical Museum and heard all about life in the Eastern shadow of the Berlin Wall: what East Berliners drove, ate, listened to, and watched TV on. We held their money – which felt like toy money – and admired their cars – made out of plastic.

We headed back to Berlin Schönefeld after lunch, and arrived back to school right on time on Tuesday evening, exhausted but invigorated. For all of the students it was a great introduction to the city, and as for the teachers – we can't wait to go again next year. Thank you boys, for making our inaugural trip such good fun!

■ J.S.F.





# International Chemistry Olympiad

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The day after my last A-level exam and coincidentally my 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. If I ever needed a reason to put my feet up, this would have been it. However, whilst others got on the first plane to Kos, I decided the best way to celebrate the end of A-levels was to catch a train to Cambridge for four days of intense chemistry training, followed by a chemistry competition in Thailand. While it might sound like death by titration, it turned out to be an amazing experience and an enormous honour.

The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO for short) is the ultimate competition for secondary school chemistry students, combining two gruelling five hour exams, one practical and one theoretical, with the more attractive prospect of meeting people from all around the world on an all-expenses trip to somewhere on the globe. It has been running annually since 1968, held in a different country each year, and in 2017 I was lucky enough to get to travel to Nakhon Pathom, a university province on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand. When it first began in Czechoslovakia, only three countries participated, but as the competition inevitably grew, this year there were seventy-six different countries competing, each sending up to four representatives, giving 297 competitors total. The UK selects its members through firstly a theory paper taken in schools

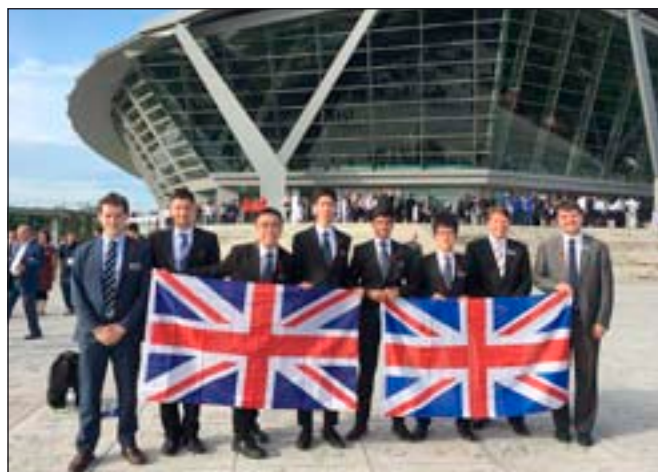
in January, followed by a selection camp for the top twenty-five in April, from which the four team members are selected.

For many of the competitors, this competition was the chance to shine after weeks, months, or potentially even years of training and self-study. In some countries, doing IChO exempts you from doing the A-level equivalent in chemistry. In others, it means lush financial rewards await you if you get a medal. And in one or two, it meant having a university place guaranteed for you, meaning you could forego school altogether and just concentrate on chemistry.

I still had to do A-levels however! These finished unusually late on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, and when combined with the unusually early dates of the competition itself (6<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> July), it meant that we only had four days of training before IChO, less than half of what teams in other years usually had, and a fraction of what teams in other countries had. Nevertheless, we were put through our paces during the few training days we had, with practise practicals morning and afternoon and nights filled with theory and practice questions. On the last training day, we were given a five hour mock theory exam just to “boost” our confidence, followed by a scramble round Cambridge city centre to find a

suit within the RSC’s budget as our team uniform. Ready with our brand new tuxedos from Next, our mascot Paddington bear, and various British-related keychains to hand out as gifts to other contestants, the four team members accompanied by four more mentors set off the next morning by train and tube to Heathrow to catch our twelve hour overnight flight to Thailand.

Upon our arrival in Bangkok we were greeted by our Thai guide and caught first glimpse of some of the other countries, and I started to then realise the sheer scale of this event in terms of logistics and organisation. We went with a few other countries, who arrived at the same time, to our mentors’ hotel to register, and receive our welcome bag-packs, which contained programmes, a bird hatching out of an egg piggy bank, and most importantly



the calculator everyone was to use during the exams, which was actually better than the one I used for A-levels! After eating lunch we left our mentors and followed our Thai guides to the students’ hotel where we’d be staying for the duration of the competition, and spent the evening getting to know the other competitors as they arrived and exchanging gifts, eventually handing in our electronic devices at the end of the day, we were not to see them again until the exams were over...

The opening ceremony was the next morning, so after a not so bright but definitely early 5:30 start the convoy of eleven coaches containing all the competitors made its way to Mahidol University, where we met with our mentors for the rather uptight, formal ceremony. The formality of the occasion was due to one of the Thai princesses being there (in Thailand, the royal family is a very big affair that you’d be sensible not to form opinions on).

After lunch, just as we said goodbye to our phones the previous night, we said goodbye to our mentors, as we weren’t to see them again until after the exams. The mentors of each country have the tasks of inspecting the practical equipment, discussing, translating and editing if necessary the exam papers and mark schemes, and marking our exam papers, allowing them if necessary to argue for more marks. Therefore to prevent any cheating it was important that the students and mentors were completely separated for the duration of the exams, hence the different hotels and hand-in of electronic devices. So whilst our mentors set off to do the arduous task of translating English (the language of the official paper) into “proper English”, we set off on our first excursion to a former royal household.

The next day, after another excursion in the morning to the Royal Grand Palace, we went back to the university, where I was reminded I was actually here to do chemistry by the form of a lab equipment inspection. This enabled us to see and have a play with some of the pieces of equipment that we would be expected to use in the practical exam that maybe we hadn’t come across before. Thankfully I was familiar with most of the apparatus they showed us, and was in an optimistic mood.





So came the day of the practical exam. Five hours in a brand new, albeit non-air conditioned lab, in which I had to do three titrations, make up three solutions and perform colorimetry on them, and an organic synthesis of 2,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-3,5-dimethyloxan-4-one using an aldol reaction (which in reality involved mixing two things together and heating it, plus a purification by recrystallization), as well as doing calculations and answering questions on all three practicals. Whilst time management was very important, to my surprise the practical techniques required were largely covered by my A-level syllabus, and I worked (and sweated) steadily through. Coming out from the end of it I was pleasantly surprised that I'd managed to get through the paper, and even more relieved to enter back into air-conditioning!



We had a break from chemistry for the day between the two exams, and visited one of Bangkok's floating markets, as well as a Memorial Park containing traditional Thai houses. Over the course of the day we were able to dress in Thai costumes, and to try various local delicacies and fruits like sticky rice, pomelo, mangosteen and rambutan. Whilst it was a great cultural experience of Thailand, the looming theory exam was on most people's minds as the day progressed, and that night everyone resorted to some last minute revision, unsure and nervous of what the exam could throw at us.

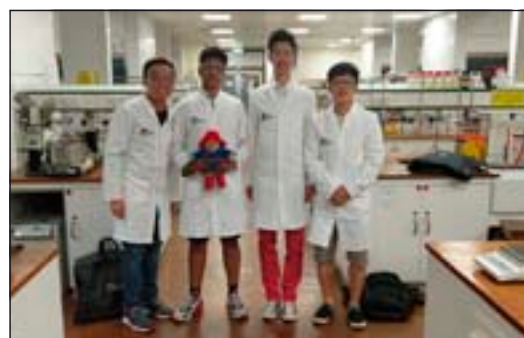
The theory paper on the following morning was taken in a giant, thankfully air-conditioned hall. The five hours were filled with problems ranging from determining the levels of phosphate in soil, to the synthesis of crystal meth. The eleven problems in the paper had question parts that ranged from A-level extension all the way to third-year university courses, so the trick was to find the parts designed to be

more accessible, without being fazed by anything ridiculously hard in between. As with the practical paper the five hours didn't turn out to be as long or bad as it sounded, and while I certainly wasn't one of those people who finished halfway through, it was actually rather enjoyable, as although it was an exam, at the end of the day it didn't affect my future and was on an interesting subject without having to include box-ticking specification content. After the exam and a talk by the main sponsors of the competition we were reunited with our mentors (and perhaps more importantly our phones) for a reunion dinner, thankful that the chemistry of the event was now over.

While our mentors got to work marking and reviewing our papers, over the next two days there was a much more relaxed atmosphere among the students, as we went on various excursions to an elephant sanctuary, the ancient capital of Siam, Ayutthaya, and an organic farm. Throughout the event, chemistry

only took up a small fraction of the proceedings, and in its essence IChO was a free holiday with 300 other students from all around the world. The highlight for me was being able to talk and socialise with so many people from so many different countries.

After each day's events we were given plenty of free time at the hotel, so there were plenty of opportunities to talk to people, whether it was relaxing in the pool after a day out in the searing Thai heat, at the daily buffet dinners, or around a coffee table playing cards. Just finding out little bits about the people from different countries, how they made it to IChO, what their future plans were, was for me was really fascinating, especially if it was the first time I had actually heard of the country! Being able to mix with such a large international group of people with a common interest is something I will cherish, and attending any event where multiple countries participate, be it one of the numerous Olympiads in various





disciplines, or maybe something different like model UN, is something I wholeheartedly recommend.

The closing ceremony and farewell dinner was our chance to see if we had done well enough to get a medal, and say our goodbyes to the people we had made friends with over the past week and a bit. Medals are awarded in a similar fashion to the maths challenges, where the top 10% get a gold, the next 20% get a silver and the next 30% a bronze. To my extreme astonishment I managed to get a silver, placing me 70<sup>th</sup> out of the 297 competitors.

## Paris

The first day of the 2017 Paris trip (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July) took us to the Catacombs, where, due to a lucky wrong turn, we managed to miss a downpour of rain whilst we were queueing. Thanks to Mrs Balkham's "French charm" we skipped part of the queue, and we were then led down a very steep staircase and along numerous narrow passageways. Here it was revealed that we had been granted special access to part of the Catacombs not many other groups get to see. In front of us a majestic model of a Palace stood behind a locked door and we then saw numerous plaques, which detailed the dates and names behind the making of the Palace



and discovery of the Catacombs.

Following this, we were led back to the main part of the tour, the Catacombs themselves! Rows upon rows of skulls with various parts missing were really fascinating and an amazing experience, especially when Ali Kazi decided to try and scare Mrs Balkham and Ms Rawlins by jumping out at them!

Next came the trip to the Montparnasse tower, the second tallest building in France. This granted us a beautiful 360 degree view of Paris. While there we learnt lots about many of the buildings in Paris, and many of us indulged in taking selfies with the Eiffel tower in the background.

Finally came the Bateau Mouche, a river cruise down the Seine, where we passed many iconic buildings. The teachers also seemed to enjoy the break and we entertained ourselves by seeing how many people we could get to wave at us, including two brides (!) and several very important looking businessmen. Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and it was a great start to our Paris trip.

This was a really pleasant surprise for me, and was a great end to what had been a fantastic trip. I never thought I would make it on the team, and it was a privilege to represent the UK and visit such a welcoming country.

IChO was an amazing experience, but there is one person that without whom I wouldn't have progressed anywhere near as far as I did. Dr Taylor spent countless lunchtimes and after schools running sessions to delve into extension chemistry or to try out longer more complicated organic syntheses, and in the run up to the selection camp and the com-

petition itself, organised extra practical practice to hone my skills. I really cannot thank him enough for his continued help and support, and I'm sure there will be more IChO reports in years to come. Thanks must also go to the lab technicians who prepared the whole trollies of practical equipment especially for me to practice, and Mr O'Malley for allowing me to pick his brains in chemistry lessons!

■ **Anthony Lim**

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

On the next day of our incredible quest abroad, the weary Camp Hill lads were once again raring to resume our attempt to conquer France! Some of us were lucky enough to have a lie in too, thanks to our close proximity to the next destination. Despite this blessing, the weather yet again disappointed us with its miserable showers. Nevertheless, the squad trudged on to our next extravagant day – the Palace of Versailles and Vélizy Shopping Centre.

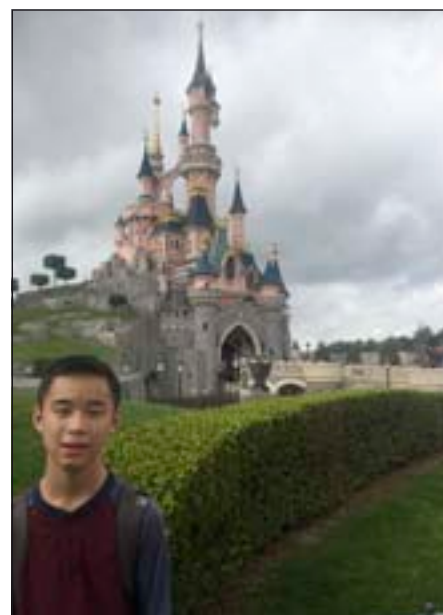
After a short trip to the Palace, we were met with more depressing rain showers. However, this small inconvenience didn't dampen our brave warriors' spirits; but the combination of the weather and the menacing-looking queues, in the end, unfortunately did!

After roughly an hour of queuing and being attacked by a squadron of men selling umbrellas, we were finally in the presence of the aesthetic architecture of the Palace of Versailles. The boys were certainly not disappointed with the large amount of opportunities to take "pics for the gram" and the honour of experiencing the engrossing history and lifestyle of those associated with the Palace. Our audio-guided tour was a thrilling and highly informative part of the visit which, personally, we would all love to experience again!

Now that our incredibly soaked group of Camphillians were back on the coach, we set off on the journey to our long-awaited destination of the Vélizy Shopping Centre. The excitement was spiced up with sing-alongs to (our coach driver) Paul's legendary playlist of "banging tunes". The hype was real as we arrived at the shopping centre as we were finally given the chance to spend some (big) money on a wide range of items found throughout our visit. The boys set off on the great sweep of the shopping centre with an occasional purchase of unique "French merch". After yet another day packed with excitement and adventure, our group of tired Year 9's returned to their host families to settle down in preparation for the night.

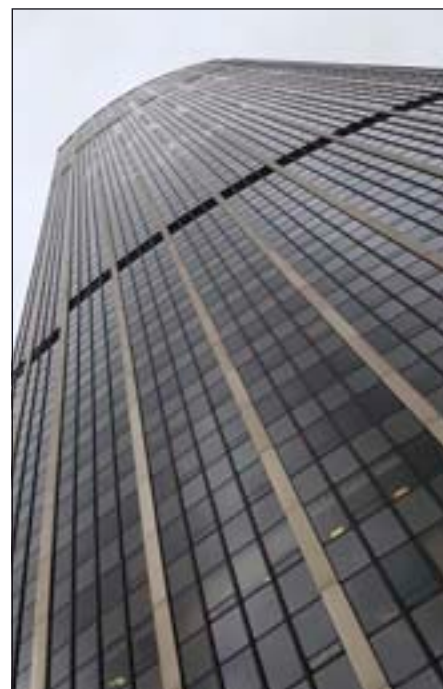
### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July

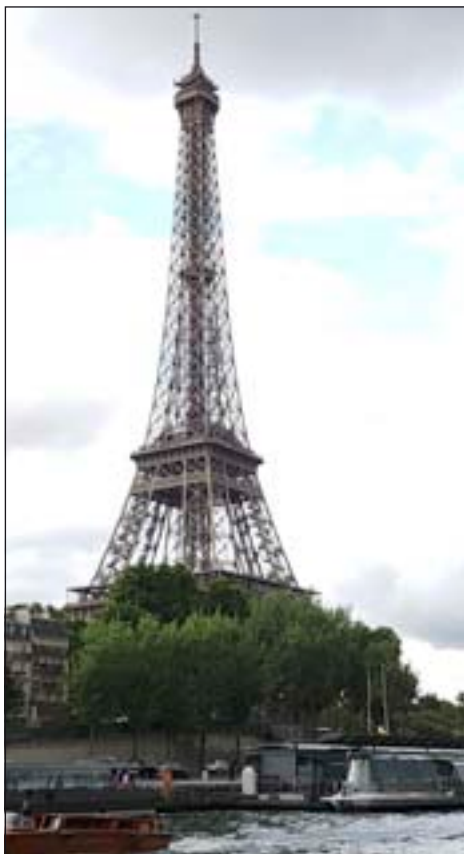
Our brave, intrepid explorers were excited, but also sad, to embark on their last heroic day in France and the infiltration of Disneyland.



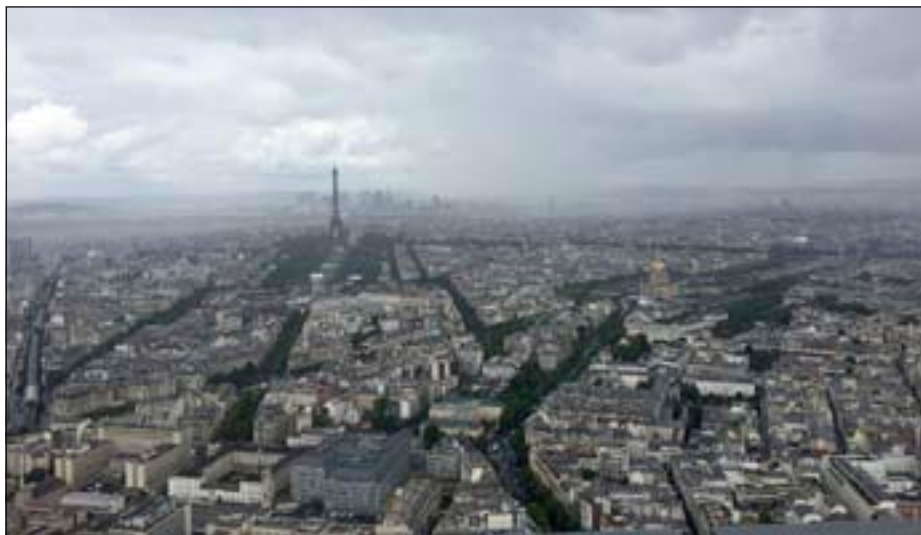
Despite the early start, we soon had a coachload of yawning teenage boys (just about) ready for the day ahead. We arrived in the rain, and saw the heavy onslaught of queues awaiting us, but our spirits were not dampened, even if our stunning hairdos and yeezys were.

After meeting up in our teacher-led groups, small groups of around 3–6 raced off for their time at the Disneyland studios. One





of the most popular rides there was the “Hollywood Hotel – The Tower of Terror”, a terrifying drop from one of the highest points in the park, although it seems that “Lilo and Stitch Live” was a firm favourite for some groups too. After a few hours in the studio section, we met up with our teachers. Those who arrived early were keen to get into the main park, however inevitably, many were late. We then found out



to our horror that some of the ‘less bright’ boys had lost or torn up their ticket, and thus ensued a long wait while Mrs Balkham used even more of her charm (and money) to get them tickets.

Finally, we stepped into the park itself, but did not pause to look around; Hyperspace Mountain, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril, and of course, the infamous “Pocahontas’s Indian Village soft play area” would not wait for us! The groups who planned well got all rides completed, and our group went on the earlier mentioned Hyperspace Mountain three times, which led to some interesting photos.

To round off the day, we met up with the teachers again at 8:30, but, once more, we had some issues, which almost resulted in the arrest of one of the party, or so I’m told! I’m not quite sure why!

After all of the meet-up shenanigans, we

started the long journey home, and eventually went to sleep, as we had an early start the next day for the coach journey home. The journey went off relatively well, or at least this was true for one coach. The other one missed their ferry, and were therefore late home to their loving families.

Now only one more thing needs to be said: a huge thank you to all staff who helped us, our coach drivers and their amazing playlists; but an especial thanks must go to Mrs Balkham for arranging the trip and, of course, all the other staff who gave up their free time at the weekend to accompany us. It was an amazing experience for all who were clever enough to go.

■ **Seth Dockery**

■ **Sam Gray**

■ **Ben Hobson-Taher**

■ **Toby Little**

## Work Experience in Germany

A group of Year 11 students from Birmingham flew out to Frankfurt on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 to do their week’s work experience and, right from the outset, this trip was brilliant. There were plenty of opportunities to envelop ourselves in the German culture and we had heaps of fun from arrival through to departure.

After a quick gathering at the Lufthansa check-in desks, we passed through security without a hitch (unlike the last time we travelled) and bought a wealth of snacks and drinks in preparation for the flight. Once we’d navigated through the labyrinth that was Frankfurt Airport, we traversed the S- and U-Bahn network to Enkheim where we began the final leg of our journey: a relaxing, uphill walk with all of our luggage in the 37°C heat.

On arrival to our exchange school – Schule Am Ried – we met our partners and went home with them. The prospect of staying in a house with someone you don’t know can be unnerving. Despite that, all of us soon overcame this apprehension and developed good friend-



ships with our partners. We then took part in a whole range of activities, too many to list, but ranging from attending concerts to watching theatre productions to visiting festivals.

After the first night, we travelled as a group to go to our individual work experience placements – beginning with a primary school, then a kindergarten, a hospital, a university and then ending with a café. At each workplace, we all spoke to our respective employers to ascertain what time we had to arrive, what time we’d finish and if there was anything else we should



be aware of. After visiting all of the workplaces, we returned to Enkheim.

On Saturday morning, we met at the Enkheim U-Bahn station for a tour around Frankfurt. We visited the city cathedral and



then viewed Frankfurt from the observation deck of the Heleba Tower – with 61 floors and over 1,000 stairs to get the top, it's good that there's a lift to get there. Finally, we explored the zoo for a few hours and the best part was certainly the petting zoo, closely followed by the distinct lack of giraffes!

Sunday was a day we spent with our families, most of us did something in the morning and some of us met up later in the afternoon. I went to a festival at a church and had lots of fun roaming around with a friend whilst our partners were running a smoothie stand. Others enjoyed a gentle bike ride around Bergen-Enkheim whilst a few people spent the day at home.

Our work placements began on Monday and all went well, partly due to the new experience of actually 'working' and partly due to how much we all learnt in such a short time. We met as a group in the Hessen-Center in the evening at an ice cream parlour to have the classic Spaghetti-Eis and talk about our first day's work: everyone had enjoyed their placements.

The rest of the week went by with little else happening – though some of us met up after work to explore Frankfurt and the public transport networks.

It was not until Thursday that we all met in the evening, this time to go to the Schule am Ried so we could browse the 'Projekte' that students had been working on in their final week

of school. Following this was a final visit to the ice cream parlour for a last dose of Spaghetti-Eis.

Most of us were sad at the prospect of leaving and, after our last day of work, we started to pack our things and get ready for the late-night flight back to Birmingham. Our partners took us to Enkheim station where we said our goodbyes and then we navigated our way back to the airport.

I really enjoyed my time in Frankfurt and, whilst it was difficult at times, it was a brilliant and unforgettable experience and I look forward to doing it again next year!

■ **George Hynes**

## VDI 2017

**O**n the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, nine Year 10 pupils embarked on a journey to Frankfurt for the VDI Schülerforum along with Frau Thomson and Mr Jackson. Having arrived promptly at 6:45 am at Birmingham Airport, we were still patiently waiting for the arrival of Mr Jackson so that we could check-in. Twenty minutes later, Mr Jackson darted swiftly through the entrance and we were all finally ready to go.

However, all was not well, as Vignesh exclaimed that he had forgotten where he put his passport, seconds after receiving it from Frau Thomson; it was actually in his backpack, where he had left it.

After passing through security, customs and wandering aimlessly in duty free, we finally boarded the Lufthansa aeroplane, setting off to our destination, Frankfurt. Following a mundane one-and-a-half-hour flight, we touched down on German soil; James was especially relieved.

Next we made our way to the Schule am Ried via the S-Bahn and the U-Bahn, where we would be collected by our partners. The rest of the day and the evening was spent with our exchange families and enjoyed the warm weather and pleasant atmosphere at home, while recovering from the somewhat tiring journey.

On Friday morning, in the glorious Frankfurt sunshine, we all gathered at the Enkheim U-Bahn station at 7:45 am. Most groups were busy making last minute preparations for their presentations, with some more nervous than others. After what seemed like an eternity, we arrived at the Frankfurt University of Applied

Sciences, the Fachhochschule. Before entering we took some photos in front of a rather odd statue and then made our way inside where we were all given name tags and split up into our groups.

Although it seemed a bit overwhelming to begin with, we eventually got used to the busy atmosphere. We put up our posters whilst frantically resolving any problems and making sure everyone knew their roles. Slowly but surely, we made our way to the lecture rooms. With the VDI forum presentations looming, we all felt sorry for David Yin, Oliver Ebenezer and James Thomas, as they were presenting Mycorrhizal Fungi in the biggest hall, the Audimax, on their first attempt. Other groups included Leon Zhang, Tommy Ransbotyn and Florian Högl, who presented the Winogradsky Model, and Neal Pankhania, Kevin Mathew and Vignesh Venkataramaiah, who presented Thermal Imagery.

The first presentation was always going to be the hardest, however we battled on in true Camp Hill fashion, with all of our groups doing extremely well. We received many plaudits from the German pupils and teachers throughout the morning, and they were amazed at our impressive knowledge of key scientific vocabulary (thanks Giuseppe!).

Although the Q&A sessions were tough, we managed to get through them and answered the judging panel's probing questions with confidence. By our last presentations, everyone had improved massively and we really nailed it.

After indulging in our filling free lunches at the university canteen, we had some spare time on our hands, which we spent looking around the university, watching science shows and playing cards and socialising with the German pupils outside. Personally, we all enjoyed the "Fire and Ice" show the best, as it was incredibly entertaining, even though we didn't understand most of the German.



Finally, as heavy rain came pouring down, we had the final prize-giving ceremony at 5 pm. To our dismay, we weren't given proper prizes because the university had already paid our flights – however, we still received certificates and our very own copies of "A Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson.

After the prize-giving had ended, we all went home in the typical rainy British weather that we had brought along with us. Overall, it was a very fun yet challenging experience and we learnt a lot!

After having dinner with our host families, we spent the evening with our partners, with most of us having an early night after the busy day at the VDI Forum.

On Saturday the boys got their reward for their hard work on their projects: a free day with their host partners and families to explore Frankfurt and its attractions. Some went sightseeing within the bustling city centre, whilst others played sport, and many met up with their friends.

The sightseers were not disappointed, with a multitude of attractions to visit during the day, such as the MyZeil shopping centre (featuring, among other things, one of the longest escalators in Europe) located on the busy Zeil high street. The Frankfurt skyline was also very popular with the boys, with some making the arduous (400 step) trek up the Dom Cathedral spire in Römer to get a glimpse of the magnificent view.

A memorable experience for Neal and Kevin was a visit to the renowned 'Best Worscht in Town' restaurant. Despite appearing mun-



dane from the outside, the truth was far from it. The shop sold sausage meals on a 'Schärfegrad' (spiciness scale) ranging from A (fairly mild) to F (which was so hot it had reportedly taken the lives of two who tried it). We decided to play it safe and take a B+ and a C, although even this was still likely the spiciest thing we'd ever eaten. It almost brought Neal's partner (an expert tour guide known only by the name of 'Nico') to tears!

Finally, Sunday came and it was time to head back home. The boys, by now used to

Frankfurt's incredible public transport system, made one final trip on the U and S Bahn after saying goodbye to their hosts at the Enkheim station. At the airport, we used Frankfurt's (unsurprisingly) efficient self-check in system to quickly get through, and Vignesh managed to not lose anything. After spending an hour grabbing some lunch and buying some last-minute souvenirs, we boarded our Lufthansa flight back to Birmingham, and an uneventful 90 minutes later we were back at the airport, ready to be picked up.

All in all, it was a great trip and we had a wonderful experience in Frankfurt. The chance to work on our VDI projects really boosted our knowledge in both science and German. Many thanks go to Dr Lavery, Mr Tucker and Mr Cattermole for helping the boys with their projects, and especially to Frau Thomson and Mr Jackson for organising the trip.

■ **Neal Pankhania**

■ **Kevin Mathew**

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**

## German Exchange: Frankfurt 2016

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016, twenty boys went on a plane to Frankfurt am Main, Germany to visit their German exchange partners. In March of this year, the same boys hosted twenty German students from the school, Frankfurt am Main.

On the day of the October trip we had to be at the airport for 7:10 in the morning, so an early start was necessary. Once we arrived in Frankfurt, we met up with our exchange partners and were told to meet at their school the next morning. That evening, some of us got together and spent time learning German from experts.

On Thursday, we spent time in lessons with our exchange partners in the morning, but a trip had been organised in the afternoon to the main shopping centre in Frankfurt, where after a tour of the city, we were given free time to look around the shops. The next day we again enjoyed a lesson in German and some of the boys took part in French or Italian lessons, so this was even more foreign.

Friday's afternoon trip was to Saalburg, a rebuilt Roman fort that was a great example of Roman History. The guides tried their best English and gave us lots of information about the fort. That night there was an ice-hockey game that involved the Frankfurt Löwen, the local team. Several boys went to this event, where fortunately the local side won; this was a great experience for all of us. Saturday and Sunday were spent with our exchange partners, who



gave us a brief look at their vibrant city.

On Monday the school trip was first of all to the Helaba Tower which provided great views of the huge city. We then went to the Frankfurt Zoo, where we were given some free time to walk around. Tuesday morning came very quickly

and this was the day we left for England. Fortunately, we were able to wake up a bit later than we had on the way over, but it still wasn't the happiest of mornings. As we said goodbye to our exchange partners and boarded the U-bahn we found ourselves on our way back to England.

This was a great trip that I would recommend to all prospective German students. Thank you to all the staff in both schools, who took the time and energy to organise it.

■ **Noah Lloyd**





## Czech Republic 2017

After the bell rang for the end of the last lesson of the summer term, a group of more than fifty Year 10 boys, accompanied by Mr May, Mr Duncan, Mr Nash, Mr Rossiter and Mr Rudd, piled onto a Johnsons coach, ready for a long twenty-six hour journey to the Czech Republic.

Twenty-six hours after embarking on this long trek, we arrived at Koren, where we could finally stretch our legs, settle into our dorms and meet the Czech and German groups that would be accompanying us for the next week. We took advantage of this free time to play a variety of games, including football, volleyball, basketball and even some ultimate frisbee!

The first official day of the trip began with some camp based sports, followed by a two-hour walk along Kosi Potok, a river that flows through much of the woodland near our campsite. It was a gentle walk and offered the groups from different countries a chance to integrate and talk to each other. When we arrived back at the camp, we decided to jump into the pool given the great weather on the first day. That evening, we visited the local city of Mariánské Lázně, where we saw the spectacular 'singing fountain' followed by some free time in the city where most of the boys embarked on a quest to find the nearest pizza parlour. We then returned to the camp where all of the boys laid their heads to rest after a fun, jam-packed day.

On Monday, we visited Karlovy Vary; a local

spa town in the Czech Republic. Here, some of the students indulged in the local culture by visiting the viewing platform, where we saw some stunning views, and also visiting the Grandhotel Pupp – a 228 room hotel where they shot the blockbuster hit, Casino Royale. Although the boys had a great time in Karlovy Vary, all they could think about was the singing competition that was to come later that evening. It was finally time. Would Camp Hill Boys retain the title that they won last year?

The night started off with what was probably the most memorable part. The teachers demonstrated their abstract musical abilities with what could only be described as a "unique" performance... Camp Hill put forward some good performances, but sadly our efforts were not strong enough and the winner of the singing competition went to the Czech group.

On Tuesday, we went on another outing to Plzen Zoo where there was a vast range of animals to be seen. In the evening, we returned to the camp and had a disco, which again allowed the different schools to really get to know each other.

Wednesday was the big day. We all woke up at 7 am to get ready for the trip to Prague. We departed the camp site at 8 o'clock with all of the Camp Hill boys wearing their matching maroon shirts. It was a lengthy three hour trip to Prague, but it was all worth it to see the amazing architecture and explore the city's great culture. We visited the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Prague Astronomical Clock and walked along Charles Bridge, which was where they

filmed part of the first Mission Impossible. We returned in the evening to a brilliant barbecue that the camp had prepared for us, before going to bed after a great day out.

Our penultimate day started off with some friendly sports between the Czechs and Brits. We then took off to Tachov to take part in a variety of activities which everyone enjoyed, including archery, shooting, mini golf, football and bowling. The day was capped off with some ice-skating. The boys were inexperienced at best and so the Germans and Czechs gave the boys a helping hand, quite literally!

With our departure looming, we tried to make the most out of the last day. Some boys woke up early to take part in the final sessions of Mr Duncan's early morning workout and Mr Nash's early swim. Later on in the day, we went to Weiden, Germany to say Auf Wiedersehen to the German school that had stayed with us for the trip. On our return to the camp, we played our last games and had the final disco with the Czech students before trying to get some sleep prior to our 04:00 departure the next morning.

All of us boys would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff that worked on the camp, the teachers from the other countries and especially our teachers, who gave up countless hours as well as their first week of summer to plan and take us on this trip. It was an unforgettable experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you Messrs Duncan, Nash, May, Rossiter, Rudd!

■ **Sanjay Rajput**

## Year 7 Trip to Paris

We all gathered, in May 2017, at 6:30 in the morning, ready to board the coach and leave for the first day of our journey to France. The coach trip was joke-filled and excited madness.

The first stop came and we got to head off to a big food hall, where everyone got snacks or fast food; luckily there was a KFC and Subway there. We boarded again, but this time with our hands stacked full with snacks. The joke-filled journey continued all the way to Euro Tunnel stop, where we waited for our train, exciting as many of us had never boarded a Euro Tunnel train before.

This was a rather dull journey, except for the Mr Renault memes. Finally we arrived in France! To most people, this was the most exciting moment in their lives, as their expression on their faces showed. We came off the Euro Tunnel and headed off to Bretigny, however here it was dull, as most people were tired or asleep.

Once we had arrived in Bretigny, it was time for the most awkward moment in history: meeting the host family! This was done via a Big Brother style elimination, where Mr Renault



seemed very happy as one of the first eliminated were Emile and Jack. Once everyone had gone, it was time for dinner and bed at the host family's house.

### Second Day

We all joined together for an action-packed day at Montparnasse, River Seine, and the Cité des Science Et De L'Industrie. But before

we went onto the coach, we shared some terrible stories from our experiences with our host families. Toma was sleeping on a bed bigger than himself and Milan being scared by the dogs in his host family. But where there is always dark, there is light and in this situation, French food was generally given a heads up. Plus lucky Bohan, Sé and Vernont had a pool and Emile and Jack had a table tennis table and



table football all to themselves! Finally we all boarded the coach with everyone fresh and ready for the day ahead.

First was Montparnasse Tower, the tallest building in France. This building was exciting, with the first shocker we experienced being the lift, and how it shot up in levels in an instant, giving our ears the worst feeling ever. However, the sight was amazing! From the top, the building towers over the Eiffel Tower like it was nothing!

Next, was the River Seine, which was quite a sight, and we found it hilarious as we waved at random people and said hello. One memorable site was a James-Bond type boat which went past us. After the River, we had a tour of Paris, looking at significant statues and buildings like the Arc De Triomphe (with its crazy driving) and the Eiffel Tower, with the crazy amount of people sitting by it. As we had a few



hours to use before heading to the Cite de Science, we went to a park a few minutes away



from the Eiffel Tower and had lunch, before heading back to the coach, for the short trip to the Cité des sciences.

The Cite was supposed to promise action packed adventures through science. First was the Geode, where to our disappointment, the movie didn't have subtitles in English, which meant most/all of us had a difficulty when

it came to understanding what it was. Fortunately enough, I understood that the movie was about Humpback Whales, and how they live. Then was a briefing before we were let off on our own or mostly in groups to explore the centre! But for most, we went to the shop first before heading anywhere. After exploring and looking around the centre, it was time to head back to the meeting point, before going to our host families. Another laughter filled, noisy trip followed on the coach heading back.

### Third Day

This day was Host Family Day, so no trips occurred unless it was with the family.

### My personal experience

Today I woke up late after a 02:00 bedtime. This was due to all the text communications

with other people on the trip and a series of YouTube videos that I felt that I ought to watch before bed. First was breakfast, which was a Chocolate Cereal with hot milk for me and cold milk for Jack. Then, we had a shower and got dressed. Our host families had plans to go out at 14:00, so we had three hours to kill. As we had a table tennis table, football table and our phones, we had a range of activities we could choose. First we played a few games of table tennis, which ended up with me winning four sets, and Jack winning six. This was followed by some texting and lunch, before heading out on a trip.

We first went to a Chinese temple, which unfortunately was closed, but was still beautiful on the outside with the golden walls and a red roof. Then, we headed to a glass-making factory, where they shaped and crafted glass



models. We looked at how they coloured glass and shaped it into items like flowers, animals and balls. We saw finished models in the factory shop and Jack and I bought some glass figures, but many of the prices were insane – €5,000 for a glass sculpture, which was hilarious and crazy at the same time. Finally we headed back home for dinner and some more table tennis, before concluding the day in bed watching more YouTube videos.

### Fourth Day

This was by far the most anticipated part of the whole of the trip. Asterix was already the main subject of the day, and we hadn't even got onto the coach! The rides at Asterix were completely insane, with twists and turns making our feet wobbly! Alongside the crazy rollercoasters, the water slides and pirate ship was also a big hit, with all of us getting wet! Another hit was the food: waffles, crepes and ice cream. Others decided to test their luck and seeing if they could win prizes like donuts. Ali Master and I came back with fluffy balls, which the teachers rested on while we went and enjoyed ourselves.

We all came back to the meeting point in Bretigny, before splitting up to our host families. Jack and I got home, tired and still buzzing with happiness after our enjoyable day, and went to sleep after two games of Asphalt 8.

### Fifth Day

This was clearly a day nobody wished could happen. We had to leave. Despite attempts from some to miss the coach and stay in France, nobody was left behind and we left for the trip to England where we would be reunited with our families.

The coach trip was mostly full of people trying to catch up on the sleep that we were 'supposed' to have the night before. Despite the sleeping, the majority of people who





were awake passed the time using phones or joking and talking to each other. A few hours later, we had a short stop at a service station to have lunch, and few of us played around with a bouncy ball that one of us had brought. After all the litter was sorted and the bouncy ball was lost under a truck, we continued on our journey back home.

Many hours later, and after failed attempts at sleep, we arrived at Calais, which gave us an opportunity to shop or visit McDonalds. Of course Emile was last back to the coach and it seemed that he had done his weekly shopping, with the amount of stuff inside the bag he was carrying. As soon as everyone was ready, the bus was off again, but this time heading off for the Euro Tunnel.

We arrived at the Euro Tunnel and it was another stop at the shops for those who had cash. With a Burger King, Starbucks, W.H. Smith and a World Duty Free, the choice was literally unlimited, in terms of food and drink. The highlight of the stop was when Matteo bought two giant Chupa Chups and a Giant Tic-Tac, but thoughtfully shared it with others. We soon departed, and joined the other coaches which were on the carriage with us. The train was slightly boring, and we kept entertained with our phones and fidget spinners.

We had arrived in England! But this was not as spectacular as expected, as it was late and most of us were sleeping. We headed off for school, to rejoin our 'loving' carers for a good night's sleep at home. The trip back to Kings

Heath was a very tiring one, with most sleeping, until we had to say bye to our loyal and very kind driver, who was with us throughout the trip. This was also at a pit stop, where most stood admiring the fidget spinners that were on sale. We hopped on board and headed for school again. I slept throughout the trip to Kings Heath, but I am very sure that nothing notable happened. We had made it to school! We came home to our loving parents, waiting for us with our luggage and hopefully all our belongings. This was an exciting and adventurous trip, which everyone enjoyed.

■ **Emile N'guessy**

## 2017 Ski Trip to Italy

After a long, but untroubled coach trip, the ski party arrived at the beautiful resort of Sestriere, Italy. We were blessed with a fresh downpour of snow just before our arrival and beautiful blue skies throughout the week, which meant magnificent skiing conditions.

After sorting out equipment for the week it was time to hit the slopes. The boys were sorted into appropriate groups and met their excellent ski instructors for the week. It was pleasing to note that boys of all abilities were challenged and their skiing improved no end.

Although the skiing was superb, the evening entertainment equally matched it. There was a quiz night and also spot of 5-a-side football, basketball and picturesque inside and outdoor swimming pools, where the boys took great satisfaction in lying in the ice and then jumping back into the pool.



Another highlight of the week was discovering the sledging arena towards the bottom of the slopes. Rajan Gill challenged Mr Burgess to a race and the stage was set! Mr Burgess came flying out of the blocks and took an early lead. However, whilst looking back to see how far behind Rajan was his downfall, and he dramatically crashed, leaving a clean run to the finish line for the victorious Rajan.

The final day on the slopes was a lovely end to the week. The ski instructors set up a slalom for the boys to show off their improved technique and it also allowed them to compete against each other. A very early departure and a smooth journey home allowed us return to Birmingham in good time, all safe and sound.

Thank go to the boys for their excellent attitude and behaviour, which allowed for a very enjoyable week for all. Many thanks to the stalwarts of this trip: Mr Bruten, Mr Hardy, Mr Downing and Mr Nash. Mr Burgess also deserves credit for bringing the average age of the staff down considerably. Roll on St Anton in 2018.

■ **T.J.B.**



# Drama

## Junior Drama

### Our Day Out

The 2016 Junior Drama production was *Our Day Out*, a short play written by dramatist Willy Russell and set in the late 70s. The story revolves around a trip to North Wales by the "Progress Class" – or the bottom class – of a rather chaotic inner city school. Conflict arises when their teacher Mrs Kay, who is determined that her deprived kids will have a thoroughly enjoyable day out, clashes with the authoritarianism of the much more traditional Deputy Head, Mr Briggs. What follows sheds some light on the true meaning of school and education from the perspective of a very disadvantaged group of school children.

The play proved to be a very popular production given the subject matter and the large cast, containing twenty-five budding Year 7 to Year 9 thespians from both Camp Hill Schools. With scenes taking place in castles, zoos and a (fully functional!) coach, the directing team faced a considerable challenge.

Hazel Cooper, as Mrs Kay, captured the

empathy of a down to earth teacher who understood her charges, most of whom faced a life at the bottom of the pile; it was an impressively sensitive performance. The Camp Hill girls produced very strong performances all around. Especially noteworthy were Hareena Boora, who depicted another class teacher, and Grace Smyth, as a naive and lonely student, who rails against the hopelessness of her life; the latter's acting was both entertaining, subtle and always engaging.

From the Camp Hill boys, recognition must be given to the outstanding acting of Jonathan Anderson, who portrayed Mr Briggs, the Deputy Head. Often silencing the crowd with his booming and angry voice, Jonathan's performance as the disciplinarian member of staff was truly superb. His range was impressive as he moved, with effortless ease, from irate ranting to being calmly assuring. Sam Gray's performance as Colin, a teacher who was the subject of several school girl crushes, was also particularly notable; here was a mature and assured young actor.

However, the play would have been void of much comedy without the talent of the supporting class members. The duo of Toma Hoffman and Jay Keenan, as class bullies, skilfully injected much humour into the play; their sense of timing was excellent. Swayam Gupta was subjected to much of their bullying as the

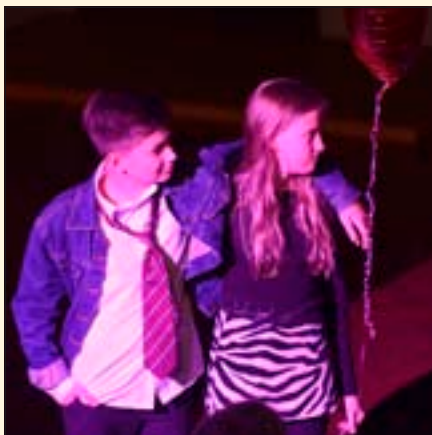
amusingly mischievous Andrews, alongside Fuzail Mukadam. The duo of Ruby Billing and Aliza Batool and their hopeless attempts to woo their teacher, Colin, generated yet more laughs from the audience. Taran Dhaliwal's debut as the daring yet adorable Kevin also showed significant promise. Kishan Sambhi effectively doubled up as two schoolboys with strong support from Giovanni Trevison, Lara Bennet and Chloe Hawryluk. Farhan Hafeez and Ross Evans kicked off the show well as, respectively, the hapless lollipop man and the coach driver respectively, with Kiara Blackhurst, Amaran Ayub, Amar Jandu and Tom Harrison all adding to the gusto of the playing.

Great credit must also be given to the six-strong team of Sixth Form directors. Consisting of Lewis Evans, Harry Wilson, Sunil Patel, Adam Titchen, Abbie Hill and Billy Chapman, they overcame the many directorial challenges, worked very effectively together and taught the younger students acting skills, thus creating an overall excellent show. Thanks must also be given to Mr Southworth for his unfaltering dedication to drama and to the other staff members – Mrs James, Mr Downing, Mr Parkinson – who, together with the stage crew, helped make the Junior Production great fun for all concerned; their audiences enjoyed three truly entertaining evenings.

■ **Sunil Patel**









# Senior Drama

## The History Boys

**A**lan Bennett's award-winning play, *The History Boys*, took to the Camp Hill stage for this year's senior drama production. Set in Sheffield in the early 70s, the play chronicles the story of eight sixth form students attempting to secure place at Oxbridge to read History. The eccentric Hector, for whom exams are the enemy of education, is the central figure in the play. He is at odds with the league-table-mad Headmaster and the controversial Irwin, a young teacher brought in to tutor the students on the "right" way to approach the Oxbridge papers. This proved to be both a funny, yet incredibly thought provoking piece, dealing with all manner of themes from education to love and relationships.

The cast of thirteen produced some very impressive acting all around. The two female roles were very effectively fulfilled by Hannah Ludlow as Mrs Lintott and Anna Passmore as the TV producer. Hannah's role as the strong-willed, down to earth History teacher, who had pushed the lads through their A Level exams, was handled with confidence and skill. Her concern and support for Hector was sensitively portrayed,

while her withering contempt for the Headmaster, whom she regarded as a pompous ass, was much enjoyed by the audience.

As the central figure, Miles Smith's charismatic, subversive Hector was truly superb. He impressed all with his ability to bring out the complexities and contradictions of his character and to win the sympathy of the audience; a masterly performance. The clash between Hector and the young Irwin was compelling to watch. Irwin represented much of what Hector hated about modern education; his belief that truth in History was not important, that knowledge was there to be used and manipulated in order to find the right "angle" with which to impress examiners, horrified Hector. Matt Blayney's Irwin was a triumph; here was an acting talent rarely seen on a school stage. Sunil Patel excelled as the Headmaster, capturing so well the pomposity and self-serving nature of his character.

The History Boys themselves, led by Harry Wilson, Billy Chapman and Hasnain Khan, were uniformly impressive. Harry Wilson's performance as the highly intelligent but darkly dangerous Dakin was remarkably convincing; his cynical seduction of Irwin was a particularly tense piece of theatre. Also outstandingly

strong was Hasnain Khan's depiction of the tormented Posner, who provided some of the comic highlights of the show, but also some of its most poignant, tragic moments. His singing was inspired. Billy Chapman's talent as both actor and musician was also very evident in his portrayal of the sympathetic Scripps in whom even Dakin confided.

Throughout the play the other members of the class maintained an extremely high quality of acting; their ensemble playing gave the production its energy and sparkle. For this Matt Sherwood, Ihsaam Hamid, Isara Mahalekham, Lewis Evans and Lior Saad, all deserve praise for their massive contribution.

Overall, the play proved to be a hit with the audiences for its mature content, witty comedy and sheer quality. Credit must be given to the unfaltering dedication of the technical team. Mr Palmer arranged the music, giving it a real professional edge and the cast were grateful to the vital contributions of Mrs James, Mr Parkinson and Mr Downing behind the scenes. Finally, thanks must also be given Mr Southworth without whom none of the show's success would have been possible.

■ **Sunil Patel**









# Music

## School Choir

The School Choir are kept busy at Christmas. As well as singing in the Christmas Concert they sing in a carol service for the Old Folks at Hazelwell Hub, and then sing carols at the Robin Centre at King's Heath Parish Church.

Our main focus is the School Carol Service, however, which is traditionally held on the

Wednesday of the last week of term at King's Heath Parish Church. This year the choir had a particularly strong tenor and bass section, and so we were able to perform some challenging music.

As well as some fine traditional carols, such as *Gaudete*, *Coventry Carol* and *Ding Dong!* (arranged by David Willcocks) there were a number of new ones such as *Mary had a Baby* by Archer and the very exciting arrangement of *The Holly and The Ivy* by June Nixon. The choir rose to the occasion, as always, and everyone enjoyed an atmospheric service. The event was further enhanced by some fine playing from the School Brass Quintet.

■ S.F.P.



## Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert in November is the first joint concert of the school year. For Year 7 pupils this is their first Camp Hill concert, and it is a chance for the String Orchestra and Training Wind Band to play to an appreciative audience. Both groups were well rehearsed and gave enthusiastic performances.

We then had a selection of accomplished smaller ensembles. This included our excellent String Quartet (Jamie Wen, William Yang, Adam Rarko and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov), coached by Miss Goble. They gave a neat and stylish performance of the *Rondo* from Mozart's *String Quartet in G*. The Junior Brass Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble played lively versions of popular



tunes and chord patterns. Some accomplished solo performances included piano pieces by Alex Byrne and Sam Howarth, both in Year 11.

■ S.F.P.



## Department Success

We are very pleased with the high standards that our boys maintain. In the Autumn Term the Music Department was delighted to receive two National Awards recognising our high standards in public examinations.

We gained an Incorporated Society of Musicians Gold Award. This states that our department was in the top 87 nationally, and that we have "an excellent music department".

We also gained a Gold Award from *The Good Schools Guide*: "Best performance by Boys taking Music in an English Grammar School".

■ S.F.P.





# Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is always a most enjoyable evening packed with good music, and this year was no exception. Some of the highlights were:

## School Choir

*Mary had a Baby* and *The Holly and The Ivy*

## Wind Band

*Happy* and *It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas*

## Brass Ensemble

*Gonna Fly* (the theme from *Rocky*)

## Concert Orchestra

*Gilbert and Sullivan* and *Sleigh Ride*

We were pleased that Father Christmas was able to join us to give out chocolates to the children in the audience during *Sleigh Ride*.

■ S.F.P.





## Concert Orchestra

On 29<sup>th</sup> January our senior orchestra, Concert Orchestra, once again played in Birmingham Cathedral for a Royal School of Church Music Festival Choral Evensong. A large choir of about 130 came along to sing, and it was a fine sound in this historic, beautiful Baroque building.

The music included choir standards such as *Stanford in C*, but also some choral favourites: *Psalm 23 (The Vicar of Dibley)* by Howard Goodall and *All things bright and beautiful* by John Rutter.

I was very pleased with the event, and have had many complimentary comments about it. Furthermore, I was delighted to read a letter from a lady who sang on the day whose father had been a pupil at Camp Hill. She wrote to the Headmaster: *I would like you to pass on my congratulations to your school orchestra for the outstanding standard of music performed on Sunday.*

■ S.F.P.



## Poetry and Music Evening

[See more pictures and another report on this event in the School Activities section on page 18.](#)

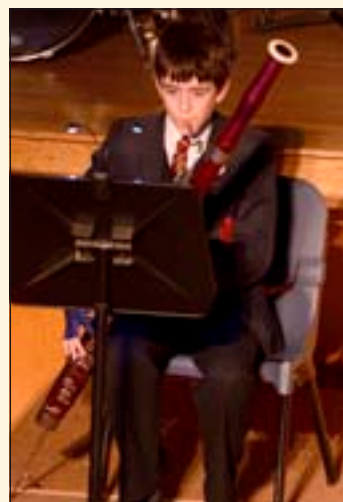
In February we invited pupils from Colmore School to join us for Poetry and Music workshops. I worked with the musicians on pieces which displayed 'character'.

The pupils were ably assisted by some of

my Year 11 musicians: Ryan Humphreys, Robert Hillier and George Hynes. They enjoyed playing themes from *Batman*, *Star Wars (Darth Vader)* and *James Bond*, and we discussed how we could make the music even more effective to portray the character of these super-heroes.

In February we presented this, along with some other excellent musical solos and poetry in two Poetry and Music events. The events were a great success and enjoyed by all.

■ S.F.P.





## House Music Competition 2017

The House Music Competition is an opportunity for some of the ablest musicians in a House to get together and organise an interesting programme of music for an informal concert, at the same time gaining points for their House. This year it was again adjudicated by Mr David Griffiths, who was for many years Head of Music at King Edward's Five Ways.



In the Junior section the highest solo mark was given to Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (Seymour) with a very stylish performance of a Bach solo cello piece. In the ensemble section Jamie Wen

and Qiyan Chen for Beaufort won the section with a very neat violin and piano duet.

There were many high marks in the senior section. Outstanding in the solos were Ludo De Ventura (Howard) and Jonty Hart (Seymour) who both gained 14 out of a possible 15 marks. The ensembles were great fun, with a range of styles represented. The final marks were very close, with only one mark between the houses, but the winners were Seymour.

■ S.F.P.

## Teatime Concert

One of the main events of the Spring Term is the 'Teatime Concert'. This event features our younger musicians, and the String Orchestra and Training Wind Band play. The pupils enjoy the event as they stay at school and are provided with a tea.

This year the Training Wind Band began. It was really good to see how well they had progressed as a band over the year. Their performances of *Captain America March* and *Circle of Life* were assured and exciting.

At the end of the concert was the String Orchestra. They also were a tight-knit unit,

and played with confidence. In between these, though, were some very fine small ensemble performances and solos. Two of the boys' guitar ensembles played, both with style and attention to detail. It was good to hear an original composition by Kishan Sambhi (Year 8).

The Junior Brass Ensemble and the Junior Jazz Group both performed with enthusiasm. The String Quartet (Jamie Wen, William Yang, Adam Rarko and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov) played particularly convincingly, and all were very impressed with their standard.

[Pictures below and top of next page]

■ S.F.P.



## Year 7 at Symphony Hall

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra offers a free concert to all Year 7 pupils in Birmingham each January. We were pleased to take up this offer, and so took the whole of our Year 7 to an excellent concert of 'Music around the World'.

The presentation was lively and stimulating, and the pupils really enjoyed it. Amongst the pieces played was the 'Theme' and some of the 'Variations' by Edward Elgar. Being such a local composer to us – Elgar worked in Worcester and Malvern, and was the first Professor of Music at Birmingham University – we have studied some of his music in class following the concert.

■ S.F.P.







## Senior Concert

**T**he Senior Concert is held early in the Summer Term before pupils in Years 11–13 go on their study leave for examinations, and is always a little sad as it is the last school event for our Year 13 musicians.

In a packed programme, there were many outstanding performances. The School Choir sang an attractive version of *Bye, Bye, Blackbird* (a song featured in *The History Boys*) and then a lively arrangement of *The Teddy Bear's Picnic*.

There were some fine small ensemble performances: String Quartet gave a very neat and

effective account of *The Cuckoo* by Daquin, and our new Wind Quintet played two short compositions by Pam Wedgwood. This group, consisting of Qiyuan Chen (flute), Kevin Mathew (oboe), Matthew Anderson (clarinet), Daniel Cole (French horn) and Connor Huss (bassoon) was formed only last term by Mr James Lay, our PGCE student, and they have made excellent progress.

There was some very effective playing by the Concert Band, with particularly stylish trumpet by Lucas Houldcroft and Ludo De Ventura. Many commented on how well Concert Orchestra sounded in their exciting per-

formance of *Night on a Bare Mountain* which finished the first half.

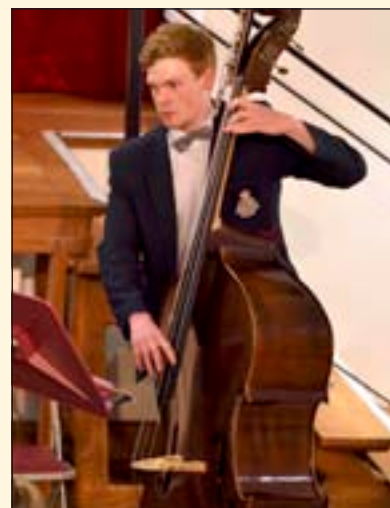
### Mike Russell

At the Senior Concert I thanked Mr Mike Russell (previously Deputy Headmaster at CHB) for his support of concerts over many years. Mike has attended nearly all school concerts and has taken high quality photographs for us at each. We passed on our best wishes – and a decent bottle of French wine – as he and his wife move north, nearer their family. Most of the excellent photographs in this music section of *The Chronicle* were taken by Mike.

■ S.F.P.







## Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée is an enjoyable event featuring our Intermediate and Junior musicians. String Orchestra and Training Band had both worked hard on their pieces, and demonstrated good ensemble.

ble. Intermediate Orchestra had improved a lot over the year, and there was a good range of dynamics in their playing.

Wind Band got the audiences' toes tapping with an infectious sense of rhythm in *Tequila* and *Mission Impossible*. The two CHB guitar ensembles played very neatly, and the solo

playing of Connor Huss (bassoon) and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (cello) was most impressive. Towards the end of the evening there was a lively version of *Shuffle Time* by the Jazz Ensemble with some ambitious improvisation! A most enjoyable evening.

■ S.F.P.









## Music Leavers

We have had some fantastic musicians in the school over the past year, and we are very sorry to see them go [pictured upper and lower right]. We wish them all the very best in their future studies.

It is wonderful that four of our Year 13 A-level group have decided to go on to study music.

**Harry Atkinson (Double Bass)**

Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music

**Ludo De Ventura (Trumpet)**

Royal Northern College of Music

**Thomas Keast (Pecussion)**

Royal Holloway College, London University

**Lucas Houldcroft (Trumpet)**

(Year off) Applying for Music College

Two of the group feature in a photograph [pictured far right] that we have used for department publicity. They are Ludo De Ventura (trumpet) and Thomas Keast (percussion).

■ S.F.P.



## GCSE and A-level

The boys produce some excellent compositions for GCSE and A-level, and whenever possible we perform this at events or record it.

*Andante for Wind Quintet* by Faraan Cheema was an excellent GCSE composition, and has been performed by our Wind Quintet. It gained full marks in the GCSE assessments.

Jonathan Hart's *Adagio* is scored for full orchestra, and is a really effective atmospheric piece. This gained very high marks at A-level.

■ S.F.P.



## National Youth Orchestra

Following extensive auditions, Harry Atkinson and Lucas Houldcroft [pictured right] once again gained places in the

excellent National Youth Orchestra, the best Youth Orchestra in the country. Harry was principal double bass, and Lucas a first section trumpeter.

Many congratulations to them on this fine achievement. We were proud that Harry was then also used on the NYO publicity [pictured left].

■ S.F.P.



## Music Outside School

Many of our pupils take part in music at a high level outside school as well. This year record numbers have participated in the City of Birmingham Music Service orchestras, bands and choirs as well as the Music Services of Solihull, Sandwell and Walsall. Congratulations to them all:

### Birmingham Schools' Brass Band

Johannes Beckett (Trumpet)

Yuhan Guo (Tuba)

George Hynes (Trumpet)

### Birmingham Schools' Chamber Orchestra

Rohan Jobanputra (Violin)

Kevin Xu (Violin)

William Yang (Violin)

### Birmingham Schools' Concert Band

Matthew Anderson (Clarinet)

Eashan Varma (Clarinet)

### Birmingham Schools' Concert Brass Band

Abhinash Nirantharakumar (Euphonium)

Yuvanash Nirantharakumar (Baritone)

Alex Simpson (Tenor Horn)

Jobe Simpson (Cornet)

Sé Mouthaan Ward (Drum Kit)

### Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra

James Devine (Violin)

Yuhan Guo (Tuba)

Rufus Hall (Violin)

Bradley Williams (Double Bass)

### Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble

Joseph Thompson (Guitar)

### Birmingham Schools' Guitar Sinfonia

Harvey Collett (Guitar)

Anish Najran (Guitar)

### Birmingham Schools' Singers

Rufus Hall (Voice)

### Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Florian Hogler (Bassoon)

### Birmingham Schools' Training Brass Band

Dan Elia (Trumpet)

### Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar Ensemble

Keshav Najran (Guitar)

Kishan Sambhi (Guitar)

Billy Villabroza (Guitar)

### Birmingham Schools' Training Percussion Ensemble

Swayam Gupta (Percussion)

### Birmingham Schools' Training Wind Orchestra

Sé Mouthaan Ward (Drum Kit)

### Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra

Johannes Beckett (Trumpet)

### Work in the community

We are always pleased to work with our neighbours in the community of King's Heath. Each year the School Choir sings carols for the All Saint's Parish Church 'Robin Centre', and we also sing a carol service for Hazelwell Church 'Hub' Old Folks Christmas Party.

2016 was a special year for Hazelwell Church, as it was their centenary. They held a celebration meal and dance, and our String Quartet went along to accompany. They are Jamie Wen and William Yang violins, Adam Rarko viola and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov cello. I was very pleased that all went well, and we received a letter afterwards from the organiser, and a past member of staff at Camp Hill, Mr Shannon Moore. He wrote: *I am writing to let you know how well the boys, in the String Quartet, played, getting our Centenary Charity Ball off to a great start. It was much appreciated by all our guests at Hazelwell Church. We have raised at least £400 for our charities.*

Early in the Summer Term our String Quartet was asked to present a short programme of music at an Old Boys event in London. Thus it was that Jamie Wen and William Yang (violins), Adam Rarko (viola) and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (cello) – all Year 8 and 9 – departed for London by coach early in the afternoon to return much later that evening. It is reported that they played a wide repertoire to a high standard, and everyone agreed that their contribution was most worthwhile

### Rising Stars

In the Spring Term the Solihull Symphony Orchestra feature 'rising stars' in a concert of concertos. This year we were very pleased to hear that of the four soloists, two were from Camp Hill. Ludovico De Ventura played trumpet, and Jamie Wen played violin. We hear it was an excellent event and they performed very well.



### Cathedral Choir

We are very pleased to have links with Birmingham Cathedral Choir. This year we are delighted to have two choristers in the choir, Matthew Anderson, who is Head Chorister, and Simeon Humphries. In July an instrumental concert was given by the choristers as a tribute to the Cathedral Director of Music, Marcus Huxley, who was retiring.

■ S.F.P.



[Upper left] Instrumental Concert by choristers of the Cathedral Choir

[Upper right] Cathedral Choir

[Lower left] String Quartet at the Hub

[Lower right] String Quartet in a school concert



# Sport

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## Rugby

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

At the beginning of the 2016–17 season there was a slight sense of apprehension about what lay ahead, as we had lost a strong crop of players from the year before.

As is customary, our first game of the year was against Old Swinford Hospital, where any prior apprehension was soon cleared after we found ourselves in control early on. It was highly encouraging to see all three Year 11 debutants (Will Lyons, Kamil Khan and Dylan Rogers) step up to the mark so early on. This youthful trio in fact contributed all of our points; Kamil Khan crossing in the corner and Dylan Rogers scoring a penalty. Despite this, Camp Hill fell victim to a last minute try which left the final score at 10-8. This was a tough loss to take, however there was no shame in losing to a quality side like Old Swinford and in the next few fixtures our quality began to show and a steady confidence began to develop.

Our first win of the season came against Bablake, which also saw the start of a tradition that would last the season with the Man of the Match baking fresh cookies to bring to our next training. In this case we were treated to a batch from Vice-Captain Tom Haddon. While his Man of the Match Award was well deserved for a classic back row performance, his cookies didn't quite hit the spot.

Luckily more cookies would swiftly follow with a convincing win against Arden in a cup performance the week after. Unfortunately, our pleasing run of form was to come to an end against King Henry VIII Coventry the next week. We performed admirably against the strongest and best drilled team we'd play all year but it wasn't quite enough.

This disappointing result was quickly put behind us with one of the landmark games of the season fast approaching; old rivals KES. A 76-0 defeat of Solihull Sixth Form in the cup acted as a good warm up fixture for the big game. There was a buzz of confidence and nervous energy around the team on the morning of the fixture. What followed was a thrilling match that went from end to end for the

majority of the first half. Shortly before the break however KES had a player sin binned and we kicked a penalty to send us into half-time with a slender lead. Immediately from kick off Camp Hill put pressure on the KES line and we soon found ourselves with a scrum 15 metres out. The slick move that followed resulted in Tom Haddon going in under the sticks, leaving us delighted to turn pressure into points and lead 10-0. Following this we were under pressure for long periods of the game but we held out to win 10-5 and experience one of our best victories in a Camp Hill shirt. Credit goes to heavyweights Bonnor, Bhups and Bharj for contributing power and passion all game.

Sadly there was to be no honeymoon period after this triumph, being thrown back into a tough repeat fixture against King Henry VIII Coventry; again we couldn't record a win. Morale was high in the team though and this showed with a 19-17 home win at home against Lawrence Sheriff, which was epitomised by the hard working dynamic duo of Lewis Evans and Richard Deutsch.

Next up came an assertive victory over Lichfield a week later on a bitterly cold morning, with an untouchable man of the match performance from Ian Roberts. This again sent us into a huge foundation grudge match in a purple patch and feeling good, this time against Five Ways. Despite this we ended up losing 10-17. It's always difficult to take a loss against Five Ways, however we were left with even more regret that we knew it was a match we could have won and that perhaps we let the occasion get the better of us. This was the start of our worst run of games in the season, losing four games on the bounce through poor composure. All of the losses were by less than one score. In the face of this adversity, senior players still showed their class, none more so than Paolo Olson. Seemingly everywhere in attack and defence this little lad proved that good things can come in small packages.

A 39-21 win against Queen Mary's Walsall was to be the turning point however. From this point onwards the 1<sup>st</sup> XV would play six, win six. We had matured as a team at this point, finding a reliable game plan that we could consistently execute to overpower and penetrate defences. A prime example of this game plan in action was a 29-17 win at Aston which featured



a try from a monster driving maul from outside the 22 and two neat finishes by speedster Cameron Steel, all in torrid conditions.

Next up was our massively enjoyable tour to Cornwall, where Camp Hill's performances on the pitch can only be described as 'champagne rugby'. Across three matches we amassed a tally of 161 points. A fair chunk of

this came from Andreas Kavalieros and Will Tetlow who each put in a four try performance. Ahmed Ayad's swap from prop to scrum half against Helston RFC showed he's more than just a pretty face, and gave him the chance to demonstrate some hypnotizing footwork.

Special mention goes to Vice-Vice-Captain Henry Houlden, who can't claim to be the

flashiest player but his steady performances won him many spectators' plaudits. From my perspective, the 2016-17 season was an absolute blast and I'd do it all over again if I could. Being your captain was a pleasure. You lucky lads who still have time in the Camp Hill 1<sup>st</sup> XV left, make it count.

■ **Ed Connolly**

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

**T**he new season presented a fresh-faced squad, combining new talent from the U16s with last season's regulars, maintaining the core of the VI Form of the 2015-16 side.

The usual season opener against Old Swinford Hospital brought a traditional start to matches, conceding in the first couple of phases of the game and quickly falling behind. Highlights from the match included Mr Barr storming on to the pitch, quite cross, despite being asked to leave by the referee, after some illegal play, that the referee failed to notice, left us a player down. Despite the 17-30 score-line to OSH, it was clear that once we had regained match fitness and began to gel as a team, we could be a competitive force throughout the season.

Sadly for us, said gelling took time. In the meantime, we lost heavily to Bablake and KES before being edged out by Prince Henry's in a 22-32 score. Matches against KE Aston and KE Five Ways did little to boost our win/loss ratio. With the most challenging games completed before Christmas, the Seconds were hoping for a change in fortune. Wins for a developmental side against Solihull VI Form just before the break and a strong win for the team at Prince Henry's gave us reason to be optimistic.

Post-Christmas we didn't have many games before tour. We played Princethorpe in a game full of individual efforts including some good runs by our wingers. Darting, zig-zagging runs by Rohan Sharma at 9 to leave the opposition far behind him, falling head over heels, put us in charge. However late missed tackles cost us the game from the final play. However the team clenched an opportunity to gain some momentum for tour with a 32-17 win against Wolverhampton.

The Tour as ever brought the season to a memorable end. The now customary 'Merch



Wednesday' was well anticipated even before the piles of kit arrived and Mr Taylor announcing his plans for grub on the way down to Cornwall. The first game on tour was quite a shock for the Seconds, still full of McNuggets and Halalibos we played Saltash RFC. As a team we hadn't faced the previous year, we didn't know what to expect, but a lightning start, for once in favour of Camp Hill, started the match with a flurry of tries. Fantastic solo work from Captain Tom Woods and Zulfikar Khan to name but two, were rife, and glorious team work, only ever seen showcased in the Bledisloe Cup, demonstrated by an outrageous pass from Tom Perry to Jake Tucker on the wing gave us a healthy lead. A lead so healthy, Will Butler was benched for scoring too many (3). The game ended with smiles all round, eventually storming to a 55-7 win, with most of the team touching down.

The tour party then headed to Devonport Old Boys RFC, locally known as the Sharks. With re-enforcements in the form of the Year 13s Jonty Hart, Vinny Moran and Harry Wilson giving the team a boost, keen not to rest upon our laurels after the previous day's drubbing. The match was an enjoyable affair, ending 22-7 to CHB. The game also presented us with one of the most enjoyable spectacles for those on the side-lines. Halfway through the second half,

Man of the Match Muhammad Ali, in a spell only matched in intensity by Bahawal Ali's now famous (or infamous?) runs down the wing, decided to completely take out a member of the opposition, earning him a yellow card!

Still brimming with confidence the team arrived at Helston RFC in our final match, hoping to complete a tour whitewash. Camp Hill dispatched Helston (and our reserves) with aplomb, winning 51-0. Whilst the final tour game was not strictly a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV game, it must be mentioned for the sheer number of second XV players helping field a team against the Year 13s for their final match, memorable moments including a textbook tackle by Jack Wood on Sid Sharma, followed by a superb 'bosh' by the latter on Bahawal Ali.

Neither this season nor tour, would have been possible nor as enjoyable without the coaches, Mr Caves, Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor. Mr Barr deserves a considerable mention. His tireless efforts over the past two seasons have been fundamental. He helped many of us break into the firsts or seconds, and helped us progress as a team, as shown by our results over the past year. He kept team spirits high and created an occasionally successful and close-knit XV, for which we are greatly appreciative.

■ **Tom Perry**

## U15 Rugby

**T**he U15 rugby team started the year with a match against Bablake who we hadn't played for two years, therefore we didn't know what we were to face. It was a well-balanced and competitive match that we won 31-24; a well-deserved victory. Two days later we were well beaten 34-5 in a game against Old Swinford. This score line did not reflect the team's effort and resilience.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October we played our first match in the NatWest Cup, unfortunately we were drawn against Solihull School and we lost 50-5 to a well-trained and very slick team. But weren't out of the cup yet, just a tier lower.

The next weekend, we played a friendly against Cockermouth, they had come down from Carlisle and we had played them on Junior Tour the previous season. We lost 31-12 to a very physical and strong northern side.

Next on the calendar was a cup game against Bloxham School. This was a brilliant game for players and spectators alike with many marvelling at Oliver Ebenezer's over the top kick, which was chased down by a team of centres and Leon Zhang, who converted the chance into a try. Other tries came from Josh Birch, Rory Price, Jason Tahiri and Belal Stitan. We won the match 36-35, an incredibly close game where the score line reflected the



efforts of both teams.

Highlights of the year were; our match against KE Aston, which we won 32-15, a game in which Belal Stitan was awarded Man of the Match; our game against KE Five Ways where the score was 17-17, but the score line did not reflect our efforts, as we felt we deserved to win, but Five Ways gave us a tough, but enjoyable match.

Another highlight was the Greater Birmingham Tournament which we also won, [see photo lower right] winning four matches and drawing two, overall we won through the tournament thanks to try difference, which was helped by comprehensively beating Sheldon Heath seven tries to nil.

We finished our year together on Junior Tour. Our first match was against Cockermouth who we had played earlier in the season. We lost 7-12. The next day we played Hawick on a 4G pitch. We lost 12-29. On Sunday, the final day we played Carlisle RFC. It was a brilliant game with two well matched sides, but we pulled through forcing them to make mistakes and we won 26-17. Man of the match was Joseph Benjamin Clark Santer, who is also Vice



Captain (he also won laser quest).

It was an emotional tour as that it was our last season together as a team before some of us moved up to senior rugby.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor who have coached us this year. Mr Burgess is supremely knowledgeable and has helped the boys develop as players. Mr Taylor is very funny and good at encouraging the team (he also knows his stuff!)

■ Josh Birch



## U14 Rugby

The 2016-17 season was a promising one for the under 14s and an opportunity for us to build upon the success of last year with new coaches Mr Duncan and Mrs Bourne, a new captain (myself) and vice-captain Luke Hemmings. This year we were confident that with the help of our coaches we could win the Team of the Year Award back to back.

We had started our season with 4 wins but then came our game against rivals KES who had beaten us last season 40-24, a result we were not happy with. We came into the game determined to win and got off to a good start. But tries from Yusof Elsherbiny, Ross Evans and Fintan Hogan were not enough as they had a strong forward and a number 8 who we could not contain and ended the game losing 15-24. A disappointing result, but the game showed us that we needed to work on our defence, as lapses of concentration led to the majority of KES' tries.

We came back from our first loss strongly with a 69-0 win over Aston, a debut try from Hateem Javaid who earned his place in the team for the rest of the season, and first tries from Patrick Achiosugu and Ishaq Khan.

This win over Aston was a great way for us to go into the Greater Birmingham Tournament and we went in looking for the trophy that has eluded us the past two years. Our three matches were against Fairfax, Sheldon Heath and Five Ways. The Five Ways game was by far our toughest and we started off with no concentration and once we got our heads in the game it was too late and we lost the game. We then won against Fairfax and Sheldon



Heath comfortably placing us third in the tournament.

Our next game was against Lawrence Sheriff who had beaten us last season 20-7. We went into the game looking for the win and came out with the strong result 39-7, Yusof Elsherbiny with three tries and Ross Evans with two. We took this form with us to the next game against Queen Mary's winning 31-5 with a standout game by Richard Amoshe scoring 3 pitch length tries.

We then ended our season with wins against Princethorpe, Adams and narrow defeats by Bishop Vesey, a game that could have easily gone both ways, and Arden, a tightly contested game won by the more physical team.

Then came our first rugby tour. The opening match was against Cockermouth and it was a great start to our tour winning 46-0 our second match all season without conceding any points. The next day we played Hawick RFC on a brand new 3G pitch that none of us were used

to. This gave the opponents the upper hand and they put two tries past us early on. We then got used to the conditions and played some brilliant rugby to win the game 50-10 with Seth Dockery scoring his first try of the season. Our final match was against Carlisle RFC and what a match to end off our season. We dominated the whole game and played some of the best rugby we have ever played ending the game 70-0, our biggest win all season. This was the last game of our very successful tour with a total score line of 166-10 across all 3 games. This tour along with our great season meant that we won the Maurice Robinson Shield for Team of the Year for the second year in a row ending the season with a 12-4 win record.

This year our squad has had one advantage over many which is the amount of numbers we have and players that are willing to work hard in training to earn a place in the squad with many new additions coming into the squad such as Afnan Gillani, Hateem Javaid and Zak Ahmed all being vital members to the team.

A special mention goes to Ross Evans leading the try count for the third year in a row with 23 followed closely by Yusof Elsherbiny and Richard Amoshe with 20 and 18 respectively. Jonathan Anderson with his experience being captain has helped me immensely throughout the year and not to mention his countless numbers of carries he has made throughout the season. Tarun Sangha and Max Amarilli helped the team with their strong forward play

making many tackles and strong carries. Half-backs Dylan Rees and Luke Hemmings were both great with their excellent vision leading to many blind side breaks by Dylan and kicks from Luke that widened our play and led to many tries. Also Theo Kenny and Fintan Hogan who both played as half-backs when needed and did a great job of it.

Finally the whole squad would like to thank Mr Duncan and Mrs Bourne who have given up

their own time to help us improve as a team and without them our game would not be at the same level as it is. Also a mention to Richard Amoshe for being the only player to play every game for the past three years and to Jonathan Anderson who has played all games but one. We hope that next year we can build upon our success of this year and we all look forward to working with our new coach Mr Burgess.

■ **Usmaan Nadeem**

## U13 Rugby

A *game of two halves* is a phrase used when a sports team has a sudden shift in performance after the half time mark, whether for better or for worse. This phrase followed the U13 Rugby Team throughout nearly the whole season, whether being uttered by our coach Mr Jones, another teacher, or sometimes, even ourselves. Whether we would start the match brilliantly only to let the win just slip from our grasp in the last few minutes, or start the match half asleep and begin to show how good we were, it was always too late and we'd always hear the same saying. It can perhaps be expanded out to *a season of two halves*, and if the first axiom didn't perfectly represent the team already, the latter certainly would.

But alongside our ever unpredictable performance, we also had a lot of positives to talk about this season. With upwards of 70 tries being scored by our team, we can't say that we had played anywhere close to a bad season. After the first eight matches we had six well deserved wins, with only 2 losses to our name at the time; that's more than a respectable score for so early on in the season. Some matches that really stood out after looking at the fixture list were our 35-10 win against Old Swinford, our 40-27 win against King Henry's Coventry and our 32-24 win against Bablake. Another great point in our roster of wins was beating old rivals KES not once, not twice, but three times in one season; 50-15 in our first match followed by a 45-10 win and ending with a 10-5 win in the Greater Birmingham Cup! Hopefully we can continue this private vendetta into later years too!

However, it's not all good news. As stated previously, the season was split near evenly down the middle, with the series of great results and wins suddenly taking a turn for the



worse. We had lost to a few of the teams that we had won against in Year 7, and had received some humiliating losses against other teams, such as the 15-45 loss to Bishop Vesey and the gaping 0-50 loss to Arden. But while the scoreboards may show such a "dip in quality" for the team, I'd like to write about how well we played, even when we lost. Although there were obvious and unmistakable losses under our belt now, there were also some much, much closer games that we played, where the end score didn't reflect our performance or the way we played. We were just a stone's throw away from winning games such as the one against Adam's Grammar, where the opposing side just managed to squeeze in one extra try to win the match, and the skill and commitment that was seen in our match against Five Ways was extraordinary.

Finally, the match that began our losing streak was yet another one that we could have changed. This was by far one of the best matches our team has played, and the fact we lost doesn't reflect that in the slightest. A match that comes down to 42-43 in the end must include so much hard work and skill from both sides. Although some may blame a hilari-

ous mistake on the referee's part (who shall remain anonymous and who certainly wasn't Mr Jones) for our loss, I think we can be just as happy with our performance, as if we'd won, which could go just as easily for the rest of our season.

Special mentions to players go to Will Taylor, Emery Uzoma, Kareem Mehanna and Simeon Humphries among others, with special praise needed for our kicker Sam Morris who scored us a large portion of our total points with his near always accurate conversions, and for Joe Day who had managed to personally amass over 100 points (whether that came from pure skill or a certain ball hogging attitude, we'll never know).

More special thanks should go to Mr Taylor, Mr Eckley and Mr Burgess for taking us for training when our main coach couldn't, and for helping us before and during matches. Large thanks go to our coach Mr Jones, who had helped us throughout the whole season, and for teaching us new moves and strategies we will still use in the year above. And no, we won't hold our refereeing against you!

■ **George Lanham**

## U12 Rugby

Last year's U12s had an enjoyable, but not entirely successful year of rugby. Despite having a lot of promising players it did take a while to meld them into a cohesive team and identify how best to develop their game. The new age grade rules presented a lot of challenges in placing boys in the right position and with no back row in the scrum

(flankers and no.8) there were boys who would have been ideal in the position who had to be placed elsewhere on the field. Nonetheless the boys showed a lot of grit, particularly when facing opposition much more experienced than them early on in the season such as King Henry VIII and Lawrence Sheriff.

An early draw against Lichfield showed some potential, but also their propensity to

give away tries in the first half, only to hit full pace in the second half. It was disappointing to lose to Foundation School rivals like Aston and Five Ways before Christmas, but arguably their best game of the year came just before the end of term when they played Bishop Vesey, putting five tries past them, only to lose by one try.

The new year saw five games cancelled by waterlogged or frozen pitches and deprived



the boys of valuable chances to develop their game. The continued trend of losses was frustrating for the boys, despite only going down by one try to Arden and Old Swinford. Their attack was strong and continued to develop, but often defense was weak and missed tackles and turnover ball became an ongoing problem.

With one last chance to prove their potential at the Greater Birmingham Tournament in March they really pulled out all the stops to win decisive victories against Kings Norton, Sheldon and KES, only losing by one try to Five Ways, Aston and Bishop Vesey, enabling them to finish in fourth place. A small victory and one which would have been better had they defended more solidly earlier on in the tournament.

Overall the year showed a lot more poten-



tial than the scoreline often gave away. There are a lot of talented players in the squad who will no doubt go on to much greater things in

the next few years. I wish them all the best in Year 8.

■ **D.J.E.**

## Cricket

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

**T**he squad came into the fresh season full of hope, preseason training had gone well and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had a team which was full of potential. Specialist captain, Henry Houlden, believed we had the ability to win the majority of our fixtures. Going into the first game, the team was confident we could give a good account of ourselves and challenge King Edward Stratford for the win. However, these hopes quickly disappeared when we lost by 39 runs. It was a closely fought match with key batsman and man of the match, Salah Khan, making 60 not out but his batting performance was not backed up by the rest of the team with only one other batsman making it into double figures. The wickets were shared out amongst 4 bowlers, in what was a fairly good bowling display, but it was not backed up in the field with numerous dropped catches.

The next game was against Bablake and it was the team's first experience with the pink cricket ball. Batting first, the team stumbled to a score of 62-8 from 20 overs, wicket keeper Matt Allely top scored with 12. Poor shots and a huge boundary ensured that the team did not hit a boundary in the entire innings. In reply, Bablake lost an early wicket, but then strolled home to reach the target within 11 overs.

The team were determined not to let this slow start to the season haunt them and bounced back with a convincing victory against Lawrence Sheriff by 81 runs. Salah Khan was again top scorer with 47, hitting 7 fours and 2 sixes in a match where it looked like he was going to score a century inside 10 overs. A quick blitz from Josh Mukerjee helped Camp Hill reach a total of 137-6 inside 20 overs. Although not the highest total, Camp Hill showed their ability in the bowling depart-



ment with 3 wickets for Josh Mukerjee and two-a-piece for Adam Ahmed and Sam Cullen. Cullen's form continued into the next cup game against Joseph Chamberlain College, where he was top scorer with 21 in another poor batting performance from the side. Having restricted us to 84, JCC lost only 3 wickets and strolled to victory. Adam Ahmed took 2-22 and Aditya Dhiran took the other wicket.

In the final competitive match of the season, Camp Hill needed the aid of the returning Ed Saunders to help them get anywhere near the level they needed to be to challenge the M.C.C. Bowling first, Camp Hill got off to a good start by keeping the run rate very low. However, a dropped catch in the tenth over cost the team dear, with the opposition's opener going on to make 109. The pick of the bowlers was Sam Cullen who bowled well and deserved more than his 1 wicket. The M.C.C. eventually declared on 232-4. In reply, Camp Hill made a great start with Ed Saunders and Salah Khan looking like they could get us somewhere near the total. However, when Salah was removed on 24, this started an enormous collapse. From 101-2, Camp Hill ended up 111 all out. Without

Ed's contribution of 60, the score-line could have looked much worse.

At the end of the season, the team faced an eager staff team who felt they could beat a somewhat depleted side. Camp Hill pupils made 185-8 when they declared, with Salah scoring 69 and Josh making 29. In reply, the Camp Hill staff got off to a terrible start with Adam Ahmed removing the top three batsmen. However, a dropped catch cost us again and Mr Taylor, Mr Azam and Mr Burgess punished us with Azam scoring 63. The blatant time-wasting tactics from Houlden and co. failed and the staff got a famous victory against a sorry 1<sup>st</sup> team.

Nonetheless it has been a good season, despite the results, which has seen many debuts, promise and improvement. The team needs to work on our weaknesses and hopefully next season we can see our improvement translate into wins. Finally, on behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mr Burgess for coaching us throughout the season. I look forward to walking out with the team next season.

■ **Adam Ahmed**



## U15 Cricket

On the back of a disappointing season involving a shock quarter final exit last year – and this season being the last time we were all going to play as a year group – we were determined to fulfill our expectations this time around... Unfortunately, our captain Vignesh was unavailable due to injury for the first two fixtures. Nevertheless, we battled on in true Camp Hill fashion!

Our first match was at home to Five Ways. We batted first, scoring a solid 125 for 6 wickets, with Aadam Zafar scoring a solid 35\*. However, we soon found out we were a few runs short, as the Five Ways batsmen chased down our total with 2 overs to spare. Ryan Malhi took a very good catch and Sam Hope was the pick of the bowlers taking 3-24 from 4 overs.

Our next match was at home to Lawrence Sherif, which ended up being a very close affair. We bowled first, restricting them to 112-3, with a wicket each for Mohammad Farooq, Madhav Manoj and Ryan Malhi. Our run chase started shakily with a few early wickets, but Sam Hope and Kiren Marimuthu steadied the ship, scoring 31\* and 22 respectively. We ended up needing one off the last ball to win, and thanks to an error from the keeper we managed to run a bye and win the game.

After the previous win, coupled with the return of Vignesh, we were quietly confident going into the game away at Aston. We batted first and got a respectable 118-3, with Vignesh scoring a brisk 18, ably supported by Kiren Marimuthu and Mohammad Farooq who scored 20\* and 21\* respectively. After getting their key player out, wickets tumbled quickly and our bowling attack was too good for the Aston batsmen, with Vignesh taking 4-14 off 4 overs and Sam Hope taking 2-16.

Our next match was Bablake at home. We were put in to bat first on a very tricky pitch, with Vignesh scoring a fluent 57\* and the team amassing 118-3. Unfortunately, the Bablake openers took the game away from us, reaching 119-1 with an over to spare. Sufiyan Ahmed took the only wicket in a very ordinary bowling performance.

Hoping to improve on the last game, we were determined to get a good result against Princethorpe at home. Once again, we batted first, with Vignesh top-scoring with a composed 47. We then put on a dominant bowling display, restricting Princethorpe to a meagre 75-7. Sam Hope was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 overs, 3-6.

We then played our quarter final in the cup in a rain affected game against Broadway. We batted first on a very wet pitch, doing very well to reach 89-9, with Sam Hope and Vignesh scoring 12 and 13 respectively. We then bowled out Broadway for just 69, with Vignesh taking 3-6 from 4 overs, Sam with 4 overs, 2-6 and Ryan Malhi taking 2 wickets from 1.3 overs.



This was arguably our best bowling performance, with the spinners winning the game for us in tough conditions.

Up next was a mixed A/B team game against Queen Mary's. Sam and Vignesh sat out to give others who hadn't featured an opportunity. Queen Mary's batted first, making a more than competitive 108-3, with Sufiyan Ahmed, Mohammad Farooq and Neal Pankhania taking a wicket each. However, a fluent 36 from Madhav Manoj and 28 from Mohammad Farooq ensured that we won with a ball to spare.

With only cup games left to play, the pressure was on for us to try and win some silverware. Our semi-final was away at Queensbridge, who we had never played before. Not knowing what to expect, we won the toss and batted first, scoring a mammoth 195-2 off our 20 overs, with Vignesh and Madhav retiring after getting 53 and 55 respectively to give others in our lineup a chance to bat. Queensbridge batted aggressively in response, reaching a more than respectable 145-8 off their 20 overs, with Mohammad Farooq bagging 3-11 off 4 overs and Vignesh and Sufiyan getting two wickets apiece. We did make it harder for ourselves by dropping 6 catches, and we knew this had to improve going into the Docker Shield final against Five Ways.

We played the Cup Final away at Halesowen CC, without the ever-present Mr Warrillow, as he had to have a hip replacement. We decided to bowl first, as we had batted first and lost previously in the season to the same oppo-

sition. Five Ways reached a colossal 214-1 off their 20 overs, with Madhav getting the only wicket, and the opposition opener getting a superb hundred. Knowing we had a lot to do, we came out all guns blazing in the second innings, starting very strongly. However, after a few quick wickets, it was in the hands of Vignesh Venkat and Kiren Marimuthu to keep us in the game. After Vignesh holed out to a full toss on the boundary for a bold 19 and Kiren got out for a brisk 29, the chances of a Camp Hill victory were looking slim. Aadam Zafar picked up the tail and scored a solid 35 to save us from embarrassment, with Camp Hill ending on a more than respectable 156 all out and batting until the final over. Of course it hurt that we were once again the runners up, however, we acknowledged that the opposition had a bit too much quality for us on the day.

Overall, this season was much better than last year's season, with huge improvements in fielding and general commitment from all the members of the team. A special mention must go to Mr Warrillow, who made a tremendous effort throughout the entirety of the season to help us progress as a team, whether it was in matches or in training sessions after school and in games. We couldn't have done it without him. All in all, it was a great final season as a year group and it was thoroughly enjoyable, with many wonderful moments that we won't forget!

■ **Vignesh Venkataramaiah**

[Docker Shield runners up: see lower picture above]



## U14 Cricket

Camp Hill's first match was against Lawrence Sheriff and we were looking to start off with a win. We collapsed to a score of 96 and required a strong bowling performance if we were going to win. Economical bowling from Ibraheem Mohammed (0-19) and a crucial breakthrough from Haseeb Arif (1-15) meant we were back in the game. Sheriff needed six off the last over and just managed it, which meant we lost narrowly.

The next match was against Stratford and Haseeb was top scorer with 31 and also took 2 wickets, but this wasn't enough and they managed to beat us with 5 wickets to spare. We lost our next game to Five Ways and failed to work as a team, losing heavily.

The next game was an important one as it was the cup quarter-final against Wheeler's Lane. Hakiem Ahmed took 5/5 and also was part of 2 run outs and we restricted them to 70 for 9 wickets. Abhinash Nirantharakumar was top scorer with 29 not out, as Camp Hill won easily in 12 overs with 10 wickets in hand.

Bablahe was our next game; Sanjay Suresh

and Haseeb put up a good partnership, but our batting line up collapsed later on, meaning that we could only manage 94. Aaryan Deshpande took 1/21 and Haseeb took 2/27, but Bablahe still won with 5 wickets remaining.

Finally, we had a cup semi-final against Five Ways in which we put up a poor show in the field, but Ibraheem Mohammed took 2/25 and they finished on 138 for 5 wickets. The batting collapsed and we gave Five Ways another easy win.

Other key performances in the team throughout the season came from Amar Jandu, Ali Kazi, Thomas Heppel and Dhruv Trehan. Next season, we look to improve our fielding further which will help in winning more games.



Highest score:

36 Sanjay Suresh.

Best figures:

5/5 Hakiem Ahmed.

■ **Sanjay Suresh**

## U13 Cricket

The first game of a new season saw us against our rivals King Edwards Five Ways. After Five Ways won the toss Camp Hill found themselves batting first. After a few quick wickets Camp Hill regained concentration and Subhan Ahmed and Joe Day led the team to a respectable score of 116. Subhan had an excellent innings making 41 not out. With Camp Hill on top, they started off to a flyer, getting wickets early and at regular intervals. Five Ways were all out for 34. Camp Hill won by 82 runs. Credits go to Muhammad Ali Zahid taking excellent figures of 4-0 followed by Adnan Chowdhury and Subhan both taking 2-3.

Our second match was on a cold Saturday morning away to King Edwards Stratford. Camp Hill won the toss and decided to bowl. After a few quick wickets Stratford were under pressure, but followed up with a decent score of 90. Joe got figures of 2-9 followed by Humair Hussain's 2 wickets. After the two openers were out, Adnan and Joe were in. They made a huge contribution with 60 runs, which led Camp Hill to win. An amazing performance by Joe making 62 runs not out.

Camp Hill next played their first cup match against George Dixon. The toss was won by George Dixon who elected to bowl. Subhan and Humair made a well-earned 50 runs partnership, followed by Adnan and Subhan making 61 runs after Subhan getting retired out for 44 and Adnan making 17 runs. Camp Hill made 111. Facing a weak George Dixon side Camp Hill were confident when they went out to field. After excellent bowling from Camp Hill



we bowled George Dixon out for 59. Humair got figures of 3-2 and Adnan getting 2-9.

Our next cup match was against last year's finalists, Washwood Heath. After excellent bowling from Camp Hill, Washwood Heath were all out for 57. Amazing figures of 3-12 from Joe and 2-7 from Prithu Krishnan. Camp Hill felt the pressure, but Humair was still in, but couldn't deliver, which led the team to get all out for 47, meaning we were knocked out of the cup.

After a disappointing result against Washwood Heath, Camp Hill were determined to win their next game against Queen Mary's. After Queen Mary's winning the toss and electing to field Camp Hill were in bat. Even though we heard there was a county bowler in their team, we still remained confident. After two quick wickets Joe and our district batsman, Adnan, made a well-earned partnership. Then Jack Johnson was in and made a quick score

of 15. Adnan made the highest for our team which was 19. Camp Hill made 112. Camp Hill were extremely confident when they went in to field. After many wickets Camp Hill saw themselves closer to winning the match. Camp Hill got Queen Mary's out for 61 which meant we won by 51 runs. Subhan got amazing figure of 4-12 and Humair getting 1-4.

All in all 2017 was a successful year for the U13s. Many thanks to all the players that participated in the matches however special mention to Adnan, Joe, Subhan and Humair who led the team and showed their talent in critical moments in matches. Muhammad Ali Zahid got the best bowling figures of 4-0 in the season and Joe Day got the best batting score of 62 not out for the season.

■ **Humair Hussain**



## U12 Cricket

The season got off to a very good start with an emphatic win over Five Ways, after batting first, we posted an amazing 154-5. With Ajay Shingadia scoring 53 and 26 for Jobe Simpson. When Five Ways batted, we got off to a good start again restricting them to 46 all out off sixteen overs, with two wickets each for, Talha Saif, Sai Ponnuru and Ajay Shingadia.

Our next match against KE Stratford was again a win after scoring 116-9 with a late collapse, top scorers were, Ajay Shingadia scoring 30 and 16 for Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, again we bowled our opponents out cheaply, this time for 62 with Sai Ponnuru taking 2-2 from two overs.

After a month's break from matches, with a washed out match vs Aston in-between, we played Lawrence Sheriff. Camp Hill batted first again, scoring 114-4 with Yuvanash Nirantharakumar scoring 44 and Ajay Shingadia scoring 20. Again we bowled the opposition out, this time for 72 with Arnav Sudhir and Ajay Shingadia taking two wickets each.

In our only loss of the season against Bablake, we batted first, and we started with a constant loss of wickets causing us to stumble to 34 all out with only Tanav Kotha being able to make a score making 13, we bowled well taking four wickets with two for Asadullah Khan taking two before Bablake reached their target of 35.

Our cup journey started against Fairfax, we bowled first for a change with their opening batsmen smacking our bowlers around for a couple of overs before being dismissed by Tanav Kotha for 19. From there they stumbled their way to 56-8 off a reduced sixteen overs. We batted well, winning by nine wickets with Ajay Shingadia scoring 18 and Yuvanash Nirantharakumar making 12.

A close match against Princethorpe followed with the opposition making 108-5, due mainly to their quick running between the wickets, putting pressure on us, which led to us dropping a couple of chances, but good bowling from Arnav Sudhir led to him getting two wickets in an over, breaking a partnership of 65 with good work from keeper Jobe Simpson stumping their batsmen. We got off to a good start with Ajay Shingadia making an outstanding 60 before retiring, because the game looked in our hands, the game came very close with Camp Hill requiring five off the final over with Harvey Collet and Mohammad Roheel at the crease they managed to get us over the line with a bye off the final ball making our final score 109-7, good batting at the end from Jobe Simpson, Harvey Collet and Mohammad Roheel pushed us over the line in that match.

In the semi-final of the cup against Five Ways, we went in confident after winning by 107 runs the last time we played them, they



batted first and were quickly under pressure at 9-3, they made their way slowly while losing wickets to 54 all out, with most of their runs coming from the last five wickets. We displayed good fielding all round with Madyan Basit taking two catches at short midwicket and taking the final wicket, despite only being called into the team the morning of the match. Two wickets each for Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, 2-1, William Mackie, 2-2 and Humza Rana, 2-4. Batting wise we got off to a bad start being 7-2, but then a 53 partnership between Ajay Shingadia and Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, with the latter scoring the winning runs with a six, each getting 19 and 28.

Into the final we went up against Holte at Aston's playing fields the following Wednesday, the team hoping to complete the start of season goal of winning the cup and going the whole season only losing one match. We batted first and got off to a terrible start being 8-3 after four overs an excellent fight back from Jobe Simpson 35, and good support from Tanav Kotha and Humza Rana pulled us up to

112-7 off our twenty overs with a late flurry of wickets, trying to get as many runs on the board as possible. When Holte batted, their openers got off to a good start making 33 off the first eight overs. But then two excellent spells of bowling from spinners Arnav Sudhir and Taran Dhaliwal, taking 4-3 and 5-9 each, with a run out as well, meant that Holte were all out for 49, with an excellent catch from Jobe Simpson and a stumping as well.

At the end of the season we completed our objective of winning the cup and went the season with only losing one match. Thanks must go to Mr Burgess who has been an excellent coach, allowing us to develop and excel as a team.

■ **William Mackie**

*[Stacey Jackson winners: see lower picture above]*



## Hockey

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

Off the back of a fairly successful 2015–16 season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey, the team had high aspirations for the upcoming season. Captain Sanchudaan Murugesu and our coach Mr Watkins had worked hard preparing the team for the season, but unfortunately, this did not culminate in the brilliant start that the team had hoped for, with the side losing the first three games of the season. However, upon visiting King Edward's Aston, everyone had had enough of losing and so showed who was the better side with a 4-1 trouncing of the frankly under par Aston side, with goals from Daniel Higgins, Michael Pearce and Syed Hussain.

Another Foundation School was next up in the calendar in the form of Five Ways, unfortunately the team didn't get the result they wanted (or deserved!), as the match finished in a 2-2 draw. A heavy loss to Lawrence Sheriff was an unfortunate outcome of the next game, and this was followed by another draw, this time to Queen Mary's. Next up were Bishop Vesey, who Camp Hill beat in a close encounter 2-1. The team headed out to Sutton again the following week and unfortunately lost 1-0 in another close affair. The winter term was topped off with a loss to Bablake on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Upon return to school, the side played Bablake again with what must have been the highlight of the season, as Camp Hill scored nine past a side who could not even manage



a consolation – a great performance. Next up was a 'home' fixture versus Five Ways again, and this time, Camp Hill won in style, with the final score being 3-1. The highlight of this match has got to be when Michael Pearce accidentally hit the ball over the fence, smashing the windscreen of a rather expensive Lexus parked next to the pitch.

The team unfortunately couldn't continue their winning ways when they went to Solihull School and lost 3-2 in a frustrating match. A cagey and extremely close return fixture against Queen Mary's saw another draw in which no goals were scored by either team, although Camp Hill were kept in it by stand in goalkeeper Dhyan Naik.

Finally, on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, the first team headed to KES for what would be, for many

of the team, their final match for Camp Hill. In an emotional final signing off, Camp Hill were down 6-0 at half term. However, in what could be considered a reflection of their season as a whole, the team battled hard in the second half and scored three goals without conceding again. A good game was had by all, and it was a shame to know that for Beant Thandi, Michael Pearce, captain Sanchudaan Murugesu, Kabeendan Murugesu, Aaron Shubh, Syed Hussain and George Downing, it would be their last match wearing the Camp Hill badge.

A big thanks must go to Sanchudaan Murugesu and Mr Watkins who led the team through another decent season.

■ **Dan Higgins**

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

This year's Second XI team had a solid season. We posted some convincing wins against many opponents, most notably King Edward Stratford, and have faced a number of strong teams along the way. The lads can be proud of how they played and many can expect to move up to the First team in the future to continue their contributions to the school.

This year's top goal scorer was Tom Mansfield who came into his own and has shown some real flair for the game. Abaan Butt and Alex Lee have also contributed significantly to the team's success with multiple assists and goals. Matt Sherwood must also be commended for his unwavering enthusiasm to keep team morale high even in harder matches.

We have been able to enjoy several clean sheets this season, which is all thanks to the tireless work of defenders, Sunil Patel, Craig Stewart, Johannes Beckett, Vamsi Pratapa and Pranav Thatipamula. As the season has gone on our defenders have gelled as a unit and



became real assets for the team, of course we cannot talk about assets to the team without mentioning Dhyan Naik who has proven to be a very able keeper on multiple occasions.

By the end of this season, the lads worked well with one another and can be certain they have done all they could in order to help the

team and we can look forward to this same enthusiasm next season.

■ **Isara Mahalekam**



## U15 Hockey

With the introduction of Mr Watkins as our coach, the team was looking forward to what looked to be a promising season. We got off to a great start, with a 4-0 win over Queen Mary's; this was a strong match and our newly found form remained and we were able to beat old Swinford Hospital School by 4 goals to 0.

It was evident that we had begun to adopt a thoughtful strategy and our team chemistry was impressive. However, our winning streak was not to last when we were faced against a very strong KE Aston side. Although the final score was a 5-2 loss, this does not reflect the commitment and the quality of play from the team. It must be noted that in the time that their star player was taken off, we conceded no goals and scored two.

After annoyingly losing out against Aston, the team were raring to face them again, against what was surely going to be a tough opposition. The first half did not get off to the greatest of starts as we conceded two goals. However, we turned ourselves around in the second half and managed to avoid conceding anymore. Unfortunately, the chances created by the midfield were not converted into goals; leaving the final score at a frustrating 2-0 loss. This frustration was added to when the team narrowly lost against KE Five Ways, despite controlling the game and clearly being the better team.

In the next match, the Camp Hill team



beat old Swinford by 3 goals to 1. This win was exactly what we needed before heading off on tour to Carlisle in March.

On tour, we came out with two losses and a win. In our first match, we won against Cockermouth School 3-0 with two great team goals and a fantastic solo goal from Captain Luqmaan Rashid, who managed to take the ball past their entire team before sweeping it into the corner of the goal.

The joy of winning our first game was sadly not to carry on through the rest of our trip. In our second match against a Scottish hockey club, the team were unable to rattle a tough opposition which included a Scottish national player. Despite this, we still scored two goals and excellent work from the defence kept the

opponent's goal tally to only five.

After a hard and tiring few days, the teams reluctantly battled out the final game of the season against Austin Friar's School. A shaken and fatigued side were unable to find their form and lost by a substantial six goals.

Although the final game of the season ended badly, the team can be proud of all of their performances throughout the season. The team managed to really develop as a team and as individual players over the course of the year. Special mentions must go to player of the season John Byrne, the goalkeeper Abnash Sian and the captain Luqmaan Rashid, who displayed great leadership throughout the season.

■ **Luqmaan Rashid**

## U14 Hockey

This year was perhaps one of the more successful of years for the U14s hockey team of KE Camp Hill, with a total of two wins, two draws and three losses. Throughout the season the side showed a sense of discipline and maturity on the pitch, and improved their skill in the sport, as shown by their performances in games.

The first match of the season saw an agonising draw against a tough Aston side, with no goals being scored. The first win came against an inexperienced Old Swinford side where we scored a dominant 12-0 victory for Camp Hill. The team gained another win against the same side later in the season with a result of 8-1.

Arguably one of the best performances by the team in the season came in a 2-2 draw against an incredibly tough Queen Mary's side, where the team showed great resilience throughout the match. Two losses came from Five Ways, who dominated both matches, however these helped us to realise our flaws and to think about where we needed to improve.

The last match of the season was against an improved Aston side, with the final score being 3-1 to Aston. The performance in this match showed how much we had improved from



the start of the season. With practice comes experience, something that a lot of the team did not have at the start of the season, but as the season progressed the team improved, and as next season approaches the team will have much more experience in the game.

■ **Humraj Bansal**

What a pleasure it has been to look after the squad this year. With only a few club players with any real experience, the whole squad has worked hard to improve their individual skills and understanding of the game. Constant work on basic skills and fitness really did show on the pitch. KE Five Ways, or KE England Hockey as I like to call them, were simply too advanced for us, but we never gave up!



The 20 man squad is ably led by Humraj "I'm going to dribble the length of the pitch" Bansal. Thank you HB for your support this year. You will reap the benefits of giving game time to all squad members next year. Keep the faith. Our keeper Tom "I use my ankle bones to block shots" Heppel definitely deserves a mention.

Even if it is just for having to run the length of the field at half-time in a rig-out that is clearly not designed for running.

Sam "I'd like to try on the keeper's kit when I get the chance" Gray, did a sterling job stepping into the GK role and is proving to be a valuable asset for match reports, fetching the

kit but perhaps more importantly as a hard working defensive player.

For a very inexperienced team, you have done yourselves proud this year. I look forward to hearing your results as U15s.

■ **W.T.**

## Athletics and Cross Country

### Athletics

**D**espite the weather continuing to surprise us, all the matches took place this year. In a competitive match against other Foundation Schools and KE Stratford, the Year 11 and Sixth Form teams did very well indeed.

Year 11 were short of a few stars for a variety of reasons but, as in true Camp Hill fashion, others stepped in to fill all events. Top performers were Albert Chang third in 400m and 800m; Osama Chihani third in Triple Jump; Alex Byrne second in 1500m; Arjun Kaushal second in Shot; Ryan Humphreys first in Hurdles and Kamil Khan, first in Triple Jump and second in Long Jump.

The Sixth Form team were particularly strong. Here the outstanding athletes were Adam Khan third in the 200m; Johannes Beckett third in Hurdles; Chris Marshall second in Long Jump; Shreyas Annadate second in Discus; Tom Haddon first in 400m; Dan Hill first in High Jump; Anant Kapoor second in Shot and first in Triple Jump; Cameron Steel second in 100m and first in the Long Jump and Isa Idris excelled with first in both 100m and 200m. Ed Connolly couldn't quite match his record breaking results from last year, but still placed second in the Hurdles and won the 1500m with an impressive time of 4.48. The relay squad looked invincible, and would have been, had the runners in the first changeover not collided and trip each other up. However, they still placed third!

Final results when checked had KE Stratford fourth, Aston third, KES second with 243 points but CHB came comfortably first with 261.5. The strongest result in this annual event for many years.

The next match is an annual affair against Solihull, KES and RGS Worcester. The combined Years 7/8 team were placed a very pleasing second overall. Peter Kippax came second in 1500m; Omaree Johnson won the Hurdles and Discus; Joe Day won 300m and High Jump, despite recovering from an injured arm and Emery Uzoma won all three of his individual events, 100m, 200m and Triple Jump. The relay team of Joe, Emery, Omaree and Adam Rarko produced some skilful baton changes, which supplemented their natural speed to win con-

vincingly. Sadly, Suleman Abdullah, one of the quickest in the year, fell badly in his 100m race and we discovered later that he had fractured his arm. If he had been able to continue, first place overall would have been likely. The Years 9/10 team did however go one better and won their age group with an outstanding team performance. Second places went to Ross Evans in the 400m and Yusof Elsherbiny in Shot, which is noteworthy given they were competing as Year 9 against Year 10 athletes. Year 10 winners were Josh Birch in Hurdles; Joe Clarke in Discus and second in Javelin and Judah Daniels in both 100m and Long Jump.

The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in two events and scores points for both performances. These points are added together for the whole team and so positions are not important. This year, unfortunately, only three boys' schools competed, but given it is based on performance it was still competitive. The strongest athletes in the Junior team were Joe Day 36 points; Jack Johnson 34; Omaree Johnson 34; Emery Uzoma 30; Adam Rarko 28 and Adnan Chowdhury 28. Best intermediate individual scores came from Ross Evans 28; Michael James-Thomas 31 points; Tommy Ransbotyn 31; Joe Clark 34; Richard Amoshe 35; Josh Birch 36 and an amazing 43 for Judah Daniels. Both teams won and qualified for the Regional round, but this event took place during Year 10 exams, so only the Junior team competed.

In the Regional there were schools from distant places such as Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Shropshire. The team managed to score a similar total points to the first round but eventually placed fifth.

On the Thursday 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. This is also the first match ever for Year 7 which is daunting enough but even more so when most of the year group were away on the French trip. They understandably struggled and placed eighth. Year 8 came third with Joe winning High Jump, Omaree winning Shot and second place going to Peter Kippax 1500m and Emery Triple Jump. Year 9 came fourth, the same as last year. Fintan Hogan won Javelin and third

places went to Joe Thompson 1500m; Joel Keenan Long Jump; Ross Evans Triple Jump and Yusof Elsherbiny Discus. Year 10 also had the Battlefields trip and were due to leave at 8 o'clock but many were keen to compete before leaving. They, too, placed third with Judah coming second in 100m by just 0.01 s behind the winner yet Joe won the Discus again.

The Junior Foundation competition is split into two matches; years 9 and 10 followed by years 7 and 8. In the first half of this competition, the Year 9 team were outstanding. Finishing first were Joe Thompson 1500m; Fintan Hogan Javelin and Yusof Elsherbiny Shot supported with second places by Richard Amoshe Hurdles; Thomas Hepple 800m; Ross Evans Javelin; Karthik Bharadwaj Shot and Yusof in Discus. Year 10 also scored highly, so again well done to the usual ones but also to Jason Tahiri, Ayyub Ali, Henry Moreau-Smith and Henry Hoare. Total scores were Aston 92, they had only one team; Sheldon Heath 277; KES 314; KE Stratford 344 and Camp Hill 350.

In the second half of the competition, both Year 8 and 7 competed well, but KE Stratford and Aston were very strong. Well done to all who competed, which included the usual athletes together with Year 8 Zak Malik, Will Taylor, Seth Turner; Rufus Hall; Prithu Krishnan; Sam Morris; Jack Johnson; Ben Brown, Ali Iqbal and Year 7 future stars Tamjid Islam, Sam Ankram, Milan Dawson, Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, Samay Patel, Zoheb Kahn, Dawud Mustafa, Paul Kelly, Asadullah Khan, AJ Velasquez and Vernon Kenworthy. Final position was fourth.

Due to many school trips there were only three boys available for the South Birmingham team in the County Championships. At the Intermediate age group Judah Daniels entered the 100m but made a poor start and didn't do his best but he did compete in the winning relay team. At the Junior age group, Yusof Elsherbiny struggled to perform to his best yet Fintan Hogan won with a notable 31.29m and was selected for the West Midland team in the Mason Trophy.

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

■ **G.H.**



## Cross Country

**W**e all know that Cross Country is the most demanding school activity and only those with real strength of character and determination attempt this sport. In the South Birmingham Trials early in September, the Year 7 team were placed an impressive second. Point scorers were Milan Dawson

sixth, Sam Ankram eighth and Harvey Collett eleventh.

The combined Year 8/9 team did one better and won their age group with Joe Day in third place, Peter Kippax sixth and Sam Morris fifteenth. From this event, district teams were selected and competed in the West Midlands Trials at Sutton Coldfield on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Although many boys were selected, the race conflicted with other events.

Congratulations to Joe Day, Milan Dawson and Sam Ankram for their fortitude despite severe competition.

■ Liam Garside

*[Pictured above: Athletics and Cross Country Teams]*

## Badminton

**C**amp Hill hosted the local area round of the National Badminton competition. Our U16 players were Amartya Maheshwari, Abbas Mirza, Sam Howarth and Prasanth Sathish.

In the first round we faced Bishop Chaloners, whose team, while enthusiastic, lacked experience. Camp Hill's superior racket skills soon told and we enjoyed a comfortable 5-0 win without dropping a set. The second round was a very different story. KES could always be relied upon to field a team with strength in depth. Their already formidable team was boosted by being able to field at Number One seed, a former Camp Hill player. The knock on effect of this acquisition was that they were able to field stronger players against our lower seeds.

The matches were played over three games, so there was little chance of catching the opposition with a quick win while they were getting into their stride. Camp Hill put up determined opposition, repeatedly scoring 10 or 11 points in matches being played to 15. However, the strength of the KES side inevitably told and we lost the match 0-5. As ever, our players took victory and defeat in the same sporting spirit.

At U14 CHB was represented by Adarsh Palanikumar, Jamie Wen, Zak Malik, Noah Lloyd and William Yang. The first round was played against Wheelers Lane. Their team lacked depth in play and set up too many winning



shots for the Camp Hill players. We strolled to a comfortable 5-0 win.

The second round followed a similar pattern. Our opponents, the University of Birmingham School were outclassed and failed to reach double figures in any of their matches. Another easy 5-0 win.

Meanwhile KES were enjoying similar easy victories in their half of the draw. Inevitably we were due to meet in the final. Due to time constraints, the games were limited to 15 points and this was to prove crucial. In the first two rounds we had enjoyed easy wins without having to find top form. Against KES we would have to find this form quickly as the matches were so short. In the event, it was the KES team

who hit the floor running. As we struggled to lift our game, their steady error free play gave them a lead which we did not have time to claw back. KES adapted to the limited game more quickly and were steadier in their play. On the day, they deserved their 4-1 victory. We emerged as silver medal winners, but alas not to progress any further in the competition.

■ M.R.



# Basketball

## U15 Basketball

After a successful U14 season, the new Year 10 boys went into the season feeling confident. But with the last year's top scorer Sachin Subramonia no longer in the school, there was some doubt in our minds.

This year we started the season with a 28-22 win against Kings Norton Boys School, with Karthik Bharadwaj, one of our Year 9 players, scoring ten points. Our next match against Shenley Academy was a tough one with Shenley coming out on top, with an 8-27 loss. The next two matches were convincing wins against Bishop Challoner and Bartley Green, two teams that have been very good for the last few years. The Bishop Challoner match was a very low scoring affair at 10-6, Judah Daniels scored eight points in our 30-18 win against Bartley Green.

St Thomas Aquinas were our next opponents, having not played them before we did not know what to expect. As it turned out, both teams were very evenly matched with a last minute basket for St Thomas Aquinas pushing the score in their favour (16-18), Tommy Ransbotyn, Joe Clarke, Judah Daniels and Yusuf

Elsherbiny all scored four points. The season ended with a disappointing 22-35 loss against Lordswood School, meaning that our overall stats for the year at three wins and three losses but we conceded six more points than we scored; not bad, but we ended the season with a bitter taste as this would be the last season for the Year 10 boys, as there is no Year 11 league. Top scorers were Judah Daniels with 20, Tommy Ransbotyn with 19 and Karthik Bharadwaj with 18. Tommy Ransbotyn, Matthew Dixon and Simon Halstead all played every match, with Joe Clarke, Leon Zhang, Michael James-Thomas, Eyob Mekonnen, Josh Birch, Judah Daniels, Alec Lee, Karthik Bharadwaj, Yusuf Elsherbiny and Mohammad



Farooq all making appearances.

The whole team thanks Mr Burgess for organising all of our fixtures and transport this year and giving up his time for training sessions. It has been a great experience and it would not have been possible without the commitment of our coach.

■ **Tommy Ransbotyn**

## U13 Basketball

The Year 8 boys started off the season with a tournament which they hoped would give them more knowledge of the game. They played four other teams of players in Years 8 and 9 from various schools, eventually taking home bronze medals and a valuable learning experience.

A week later, the boys played their first league game against Cardinal Wiseman. The boys played a strong defensive game, but lost on the offensive. Unfortunately, after playing a well-balanced game, they still went on to lose 20-22. Zach Hobson-Taher scored eight points, Joe Day four and Jack Johnson, Mustafa Shoukat, Pranav Juloori and Subhan Ahmed all scoring two points.

The boys had trained hard to ensure they were superior when playing Kings Norton and Camp Hill was the dominant side leading to a well-deserved victory and a score of 36-12. Joe Day and Emery Uzoma were top scorers scoring four baskets and eight points each. Rufus Hall, Jack Johnson and Sam Morris scored four points each and Subhan Ahmed, Humair Hussain, Ali Elsherbiny and Zach Hobson-Taher took a basket each from the opposing team.

After their confidence boost from their last match, the boys played Bishop Challoner in their third League fixture. The boys were yet again the dominant side winning the match 30-8. Top scorers were Sam Morris and

Zachary Hobson-Taher scoring eight points each, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Shoukat and Emery Uzoma all scoring four points and Abdullah Hakiem scoring two points for the team.

The next match the boys played was against Nishkam. This was the last match the boys played in the season as the other teams were unable to attend the matches. The boys took an offensive approach showing that they had the ability to work as a team and were able to stop opposing team's attempts to score. This proved to be very effective, leading to another Camp Hill victory. The final score was 46-13. Top scorer was Joe Day scoring eleven points for the team. Shortly followed by Sam Morris' ten points. Jack Johnson contributed eight points; Ali Iqbal and Mustafa Shoukat scored six points each. Rufus Hall and Zachary Hobson-Taher took two points each



and Abdullah Hakiem scored one point.

Altogether it was a very successful season for the boys, with them taking 132 points from four matches, which made them the League Winners and the Play-Off Winners as Baverstock withdrew their team.

■ **Zach Hobson-Taher**

## Chess

Chess Club resumed, as usual, early in the autumn term 2016. These lunchtime sessions on Mondays and Fridays proved as popular as ever, especially with Year 7 boys. Mr Garrod took up the club leadership baton from Mr Rogers. He soon enlisted the assistance of some experienced chess players from the Lower Sixth. This co-management situation persisted through the year and proved to be a highly effective and successful way of organising the club.

The Birmingham League matches started after the October half-term and our First and U13 teams performed well. The First Team played away at Queen Mary, Walsall, and won (3.5–2.5) and played at home against Five Ways and also won (4–2).

The U13 Team, which gets to play twice as many games as the First Team in an evening due to different rules in their division, played at home against Five Ways and won (11–1) and played away against Windsor School scoring a resounding 12–0 win!

These Friday after school league matches continued into the spring term although we had a slightly sluggish start in the New Year. The U13s lost (only just) away to Solihull School in late January (7–5), but were back in form by early February, when they won emphatically against KES (8.5–3.5). In a similar vein, the First Team lost 2–4 to a very strong KES First Team (complete with at least one national level player) in February, but got a definitive 5.5–0.5 win against the KES Second Team in mid-March.

Due to a few outstanding fixtures, we had to wait until well into the summer term to receive the final results of the Birmingham School Chess League 2016–7. Both of our teams were podium finishers. The U13's came 3<sup>rd</sup> to Solihull School (1<sup>st</sup>) and Bishop Vesey (2<sup>nd</sup>). In the combined Division 1 and 2, our First Team repeated last year's result, placing second to King Edward's A-team. A very good set of results to complete the year's play!

The teams also competed at a number of stand-alone tournaments spread throughout the autumn and spring terms. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, the school's First Team took part in an all day tournament at KES. There was very strong competition, with several of the opposition teams including one or more England Junior Team players and ECF grades in excess of 200. The competition was comprised of local schools (King Edward's School A and B-teams, and Queen Mary Grammar School, Walsall) and schools from further away (Nottingham High School, Hampton School and The Royal Grammar School, Guildford). KES A won the Birmingham Schools' trophy, although they were fourth overall, with Camp Hill following just behind, having competed very strongly. The outright competition

winners were Hampton School, followed by RGS Guildford and then Nottingham High.

In the spring term, our teams' successes at tournaments improved. After the slight downturn in performance in January, we upped our game for the King Edward's School Lightning tournament in the first week of February.

"Lightning" tournament rules means ten minute games (approximately). This well-run tournament attracted fifteen teams (each with six players).

In addition to the hosts and us, there were teams from King Edward's Five Ways, King Edward's Aston, Queen Mary Walsall, Wolverhampton Grammar, Bishop Vesey, and Windsor. Despite the large numbers, KES staff ran a very enjoyable tournament, with excellent refreshments. The smooth running of the tournament was helped in part by us loaning them some clocks! Our generosity was rewarded with a clear win over the second placed King Edward's Five Ways and third placed KES. In addition, our U13 team placed second to KES in their category, beating Five Ways into third. A number of players won board prizes: Vamsi Pratapa and Rohan Aggarwal on the First Team and Viswamedha Nalabotu and Arjun Pandit on the U13 Team.

The Queen Mary Quick Play Tournament in mid-March, where games are about forty minutes long, provided us with an opportunity to develop the next generation of First Team players at Camp Hill. With those who routinely play on the First Team excluded by tournament rules, a Second Team, along with our usual U13 Team, competed against seven other teams from Queen Mary, Bishop Vesey, KES and King Edward's High School for Girls in a well run, enjoyable, three-round tournament.

Our Second Team proved itself a good match for the competition as it scored fourteen points and placed second, just one point behind the winners, KES, and two points clear of the third-placed Bishop Vesey. Our U13s placed fifth (nine points), which was an excellent result given that the competition was open to all pupils, including Year 13s.

Many of the boys competed as individuals at local tournaments. Several played at the Warwick-

shire Junior Chess Championships, which was held at Arden School, Solihull, on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016. In the U12 category, Hemal Aggarwal scored 2.5–6 and Aarav Duggal 2–6. Viswamedha Nalabotu placed third in the U14 group, winning a medal with a score of 4–6, and Karthik Chinnaswamy scored 1–6. In the combined U16 and U18 group, Rohan Aggarwal scored 3–6, winning a medal, Ajay John scored 1.5–6 and Chris Marshall, with 4–6, came away as the Warwickshire U18 Champion. On the Sunday of half term in February, four Camp Hill players spent day at KES competing in the Birmingham Junior Open. In the Masters section (for those with English Chess Federation ratings of 100 or more), Qiyan Chen scored three and placed mid-way in a very competitive field. The U18 Open section featured three Camp Hill players: Saksham Shah (scoring four), Hemal Aggarwal (scoring 3.5) and Arjun Pandit (scoring 2.5). They also finished in the middle ranks. Well done to all four!

House chess also took place during the spring term. The results are covered in the House reports. Suffice to say, there were lots of enjoyable matches and several unexpected changes in House rankings. Former winners saw their rankings tumble and other Houses soared ahead. However, there is always next year and another opportunity for the losing Houses! What seems clear is the enduring high demand for chess club. As always, it is a friendly venue for boys to challenge each other in a non-violent combative way. Definitely a true sport!

■ **Chris Marshall**

Without an official master-in-charge of chess, I asked a number of senior boys whether they would be willing to run the club. A number of them said they would and they have been superb. But two have been quite extraordinary, and I would like to acknowledge that here. John Hayton took particular responsibility for the juniors and Chris Marshall for the seniors; together they have ensured the club has thrived. Their organisational ability has been stunning and their mature reliability astonishingly good.

■ **M.J.G.**





## Football

Following a reasonable season the year before, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team [pictured right] were hoping to kick off the new season with a strong start. From training sessions, it was immediately clear that the squad were blessed with plenty of talented players, as well as an excellent captain in Cameron Walker, who led the team by example throughout the whole season.

Our first match was against Handsworth Grammar. Despite the physicality and organisation of our opposition, the inexperienced Camp Hill side gelled well, dominating the game with quick passing and movement. An early strike from Cameron was enough to give Camp Hill a winning start to the season. This was followed up by an impressive 4-1 victory over Bablake, who had often beaten us in previous years. Despite conceding first, Camp Hill took the lead through a Cameron Walker hat trick and a goal for striker Rowan Osborne sealed the win. From our first two matches, it was apparent that the team had a solid defence and real goal-scoring ability, not to mention a superb goalkeeper in Matt Allely.

We next travelled to Priory, who we completely outclassed. Man of the Match Rowan scored five goals, whilst Mohsin Najafi completed a hat trick of his own with an outrageous bicycle kick. The final scoreline of 13-1 to Camp Hill reflected the gulf in class between the sides. We then proceeded to play Moseley twice in a row, winning 4-1 and 4-2. Liam Garside, Soumitra Chakravarti, Arran Kingston and Zidan Salim (top scorer from last year) scored impressive goals and the whole team grew in confidence.

Sadly our unbeaten run came to an end, as we lost our next match 5-1 to a very slick Archbishop Ilsley team. Despite a well taken goal from Arran Kingston and a valiant effort from the Camp Hill team, Ilsley played with an intensity we were unaccustomed to. In response we trained even harder and longer, working hard to iron out our weaknesses as a side.

Next came the undoubted highlight of our season; a stunning win against Henley School in the quarter-final of the cup. Camp Hill had a notoriously poor record in the cup competition, and having received two 'byes' before the quarter-final, we knew the remaining opposition in the cup would be high quality. Cameron Walker converted an early penalty to give us the lead, but the rest of the match saw Henley dominate possession and territory. The Camp Hill defence, led by Aqueel Zulfiquar, was outstanding, and Matt Allely was at his brilliant best against a vicious Henley attack. Injury time spelt heartbreak for Camp Hill, as our opponents netted an equaliser. However, we held our nerve in the penalty shootout to seal



a historic win for Camp Hill.

With several players missing we performed poorly in our next match, losing 1-0 to Kings Worcester. Our eagerly anticipated cup semi-final against Dudley College also ended in disappointment. Against a team full of county and academy players, Camp Hill showed determination and heart, but the final score of 6-0 reflected the brilliance of our opposition.

A disappointing result followed, as Camp Hill lost 6-2 against Old Swinford Hospital. Although the match was competitive, the team made too many uncharacteristic errors which were punished by the other team. We bounced back however, winning 5-2 against Bablake. As usual Cameron was outstanding, scoring a fine brace; Zidan also contributed two goals before Soumitra scored to seal the win. A frustrating 2-2 draw away at King Henry's followed, as a dominant Camp Hill side failed to convert many chances and conceded a controversial last-minute goal. Nonetheless this was a tense and exciting football match, with Zidan Salim the standout performer in midfield.

After this came another game versus Bablake, which we won convincingly. Highlights of

the game were a memorable team goal scored by Hamza Umar, as well as a stunning 35 yard free-kick from Cameron. To finish the season we played Archbishop Ilsley, a side who beat us convincingly earlier in the season. With this being our final game as a team, the team were extra motivated and we fought back from a goal down to get a memorable 2-1 win. The match highlighted our improvement over the season, which was owed to the team's collective hard work in training sessions. Cameron was top scorer with fourteen goals, and he deserves special mention for running training all year round.

Our thanks go to Mr Speake and Mr Garrod, who brilliantly managed the squad all year round and organised the fixtures. Overall, we won nine out of fourteen games and the team can reflect on a truly unforgettable year of football. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI will have a tough job in trying to match the success of this year, but the Year 12 players are already looking forward to the season ahead.

■ **Liam Garside**

[Pictured below: 2<sup>nd</sup> Team]





## Swimming

The Swimming Team last season, captained by Lewis Evans, competed in a number of matches. Camp Hill Boys were placed well against a number of opposition teams throughout, these included Warwick, Bromsgrove, St Martins and Camp Hill Girls and the whole team should be proud of their efforts.

The first match of the season against Warwick School saw the new Year 7s competing for the first time in their school career and it was great to see a number of good swimmers entering the set-up at Camp Hill. Consistent performances throughout the rest of the season led to the side finishing first against St Martin's in their annual match, and also placing well in relay galas at Warwick and Bromsgrove.

In the House Gala, *Victor Ludorum* prizes for the best swimmer in each age group were awarded to George Hill, Joe Day, Joe Clarke and



Michael James Thomas and Daniel Higgins and Henry Belai, with the overall victory in the gala going to Beaufort.

There was one final match to be had in the season after this, with a home fixture against bitter rivals Camp Hill Girls. The boys swam extremely well and thrashed the opposition, finishing with far more points than the girls, despite some dubious maths by the officials.

Most improved swimmer goes to Anil Sivakumar, who went to after school training week-in, week-out and is now one of the top swimmers in the age group - an example to everyone else!

Many thanks to Mr O'Malley, Mr Jack and Dr Higgins, without whom, the great performances would not have been possible.

■ **Daniel Higgins**

## Tennis

### Seniors

The Senior Tennis team (Danny Blyth, Liam Garside, Ajay John, Ludo Ventura and on one occasion each, Alex Hughes and Chris Marshall) have had an excellent season with two notable victories against Rugby School in the deciding match of the Senior Students League and against local rivals KES in our annual "friendly" fixture.

The comprehensive 5-1 win against Rugby, past national winners of the competition is something never achieved before by a Camp Hill team in my memory. Their reward was a place in the last thirty-two in the country and a long trip down to Magdalen School, Oxford, on a rather damp and drizzly Wednesday back in November. They proved to be worthy opponents and although Camp Hill fought hard in some very competitive sets, the momentum of the match gradually swung Oxford's way, winning the match 0-6. A result that in no way reflects the effort made by the Camp Hill team.

Ironically the summer term only saw us play two matches. After losing in the first round, we travelled to Wolverhampton GS in the second round of the Glanville Cup, only to be beaten 1-5 by very strong opponents. Our sole winner being Ajay John at four.

The season's finale was our annual match against KES, who were keen to make amends for the previous year when a KES player made up the numbers for Camp Hill and helped us to win the match. In a fine afternoon's tennis, the team produced some of their best tennis of the year to win 4-0. Both Camp Hill pairs (Danny and Ajay; Alex and Liam) were dominant in



their matches. Alex was playing his final match for the school and he did not disappoint with a powerful display. It is a shame that Alex's LTA rating has meant that he has been ineligible for all Senior Students matches, but he has been a key figure, particularly in Junior Tennis over the years. Four of the rest of the team all remain next year, so we can hope for another successful season.

### U15

The U15 A-team (Madav Manoj, Aadam Zafar, Luke Hemmings, Karthik Bharadawaj and Michael James-Thomas) played four matches in their league programme. They battled hard against Bishop Vesey before losing 2-4 and lost by the same score against KE Sheldon. KES proved much too strong, winning 1-5, Aadam being our sole winner. Their final match saw them gain a well deserved victory against Bishop Challoner 5-1.

The U15 B-team (Michael James-Thomas,

Sai Potluri, Max Shally, Abinash Nirantharaku-mar, Sufiyan Ahmed and Joe Shalabi) played three matches. They lost heavily to Bishop Vesey and Priory School, but gained a satisfying 6-0 win against St Georges.

### U13

The U13 A-team (Aryan Singh, Milan Dawson, Jai Bhalakar and Sai Ponnuru) played two matches. The first resulted in a 5-1 win, setting up a predictable league decider against KES. In a very competitive match, KES just had the edge and won 4-2. However, it should be noted that all the team are Year 7 pupils, playing this term against older pupils. Next year, as Year 8s, they will be a difficult team to beat and have a real chance of progressing into the regional stages of the competition.

The U13 B-team (Jai Bhalakar, Shaan Dhillon, Pranav Juloori, Prithu Krishnan, Pra-neeth Udathu, Matthew Skaria and Hemal Aggarwal) also played three matches beating



St Georges 5-1 and Priory School 6-0 before narrowly losing the league decider to Bishop Vesey 2-4.

At the beginning of term a team of four boys from Years 7-9 (Luke Hemmings, Aryan Singh, Milan Dawson and Jai Bhalakar) took part in the "Road to Wimbledon Competition" at Billesley Tennis Centre. Luke, Milan and Aryan all progressed from the group stages, before Aryan and Milan were drawn against each other in the quarter final. Aryan edged the match with a close 7-6 win. Luke made it

through his quarter final before narrowly losing to his KES opponent 5-6. Aryan gave a convincing display in his semi-final against a Year 9 opponent and made it through to the final with an 8-5 win. Unfortunately he met a Year 9 KES player in the final who was too strong, but he can be proud of his runner up spot and progressed through to the next regional stage of the competition.

In July, a Year 7 team (Aryan Singh, Milan Dawson, Jai Bhalakar, Sai Ponnuru. Shaan Dhillon, Praneeth Udathu and Zayn Alderwish)

travelled down to Warwick School to play their Year 7s at Warwick Boathouse Tennis Club under the majestic walls of Warwick Castle. The Year 7s acquitted themselves well with both Aryan and Milan winning their singles and drawing their doubles matches. Jai and Shaan managed a win in their doubles and Praneeth was unlucky to lose his singles on a tie break. It all resulted in an enjoyable afternoon's Tennis against strong opposition. Camp Hill eventually losing the match 5½ - 3½.

■ C.M.J.

## Sports Day

















# Results Summaries


TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	19	12	0	7	538	242
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	16	6	0	10	301	379
	3 <sup>rd</sup> XV	1	1	0	0	31	29
	U16	7	3	0	4	153	214
	U15 A	18	9	1	8	433	434
	U15 B	5	2	0	3	106	95
	U14 A	16	12	0	4	610	210
	U14 B	8	3	1	4	204	301
	U13 A	15	6	0	9	358	409
	U13 B	10	7	0	3	421	239
	U13 C	4	4	0	0	157	77
	U12 A	12	0	0	12	150	345
	U12 B	7	1	0	6	105	255
	U12 C	6	2	0	2	200	105
	U12 D	5	0	0	4	105	200
HOCKEY	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	16	4	3	9	34	46
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	17	7	0	10	28	61
	U15	9	4	0	5	18	20
	U14	7	2	2	3	24	24
BADMINTON	U16	2	1	0	1	5	5
	U14	3	2	0	1	11	4
BASKETBALL	U15	6	3	0	3	114	126
	U13	4	3	0	1	131	55
FOOTBALL	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	14	9	1	4	35	27
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	4	2	0	2	12	18

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	15	6	5	2	3

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	6	5	2	3	1

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	6	1	0	5	S. Khan 69	J. Mukherjee 3/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1	1	0	0	K. Khan 46	H. Yate 4/12
U15 A	9	6	0	3	V. Venkatamaraiah 57*	V. Venkatamaraiah 4/14
U15 B	1	0	0	1		
U14 A	6	1	0	5	S. Suresh 36	H. Ahmed 5/5
U14 B	1	1	0	0		
U13 A	8	4	0	4	J. Day 62*	M. A. Zahid 4/0
U13 B	2	2	0	0		
U12 A	8	7	0	1	A. Shingadia 60	T. Dhaliwal 5/9
U12 B	2	2	0	0		

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

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 – 2017				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	5	7	10	3
BADMINTON	1	3	2	4
BASKETBALL	3	5	1	7
CHESS	4	1	2	3
CRICKET	10	7	4	4
CROSS COUNTRY	10	5	7	3
FOOTBALL	1	7	5	3
HOCKEY	3	5	7	1
MUSIC	1	3	4	2
QUIZ	2	4	3	1
RUGBY	8.5	8.5	5	3
SWIMMING	10	3	7	5
TABLE TENNIS	1	2	3	4
TENNIS	1	4	3	2
OVERALL TOTAL	60.5	64.5 	63	45





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