



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe how quickly this Spring Term has flown by! I cross my fingers and touch wood for luck, when I say that I am optimistic that COVID is finally beginning to fade. I know that there are still many people who have recently caught it, and I know that for some it is still a very serious disease, and I really hope that you and your families are all safe and well. As I write, so many good things are starting to come back to our community: we have had academic competitions, house competitions, large-scale trips, fantastic music & drama and many more lunchtime and after-school Clubs & Societies.

One important development here is our piloting of a new extra-curricular system. Soon you will be able to log in to a site similar to the sports fixtures site (it's called SOCS if you are interested) and see what events are available to your child, and which ones they have attended. We're not doing this so that you can spy on them (!) but we know it's important that you know if they are going to be late home for example, and we know that the students don't always remember to tell you what they are doing! For us, one of the most important elements of this system is finding out who doesn't go to any of our clubs, societies or Sports events – we'd really like to know why not, and more importantly, what other clubs we could offer. I genuinely want our school to be fully inclusive, and that means finding something for everyone if we possibly can.

So, what has been going on recently? On the academic enrichment front we've had the Chemistry Olympiad, Biology Big Quiz, Physics Big Quiz, Maths Challenge, Maths Feast(!), House Quiz, Philosothon (to be followed by the Ethics Cup) and more.

Our Careers support team have been extraordinarily busy too: UCAS evening for Y12 and their parents, Apprenticeship talks to Y10 and Y12, Armed Forces speaking to Y10-Y12, Higher Education Day for Y12, National Citizenship Service for volunteering to Y11, Medical Healthcare morning for Y8, Cadbury World Trip for Y9, Business Languages Day for Y9 and Warner Brothers' Studios trip for Y8. The Year 7s can look forward to the National Space Centre visit and Year 9s to the Environmental Careers Day straight after Easter.

Sports and House Competitions continue to flourish, and I hope you all like to new Sports Kit introduced by Mr Burgess for September 2022. Various sports clubs have been running before school, at lunch time and after school, including badminton, water polo, swimming, indoor athletics, basketball, squash, football, rugby and hockey. The recent rugby matches against my old school Bishop Vesey were a delight – the Camp Hill juniors and seniors played with real heart to overcome stiff opposition, and the Vesey boys accepted defeat with grace with dignity, so my former colleagues are still talking to me. The rematch at Camp Hill Rugby Club was also a superb set of fixtures although the weather was a little bit on the chilly side for us spectators. The highlight of the sporting term has to be the Junior and Senior Rugby & Hockey Tours. The feedback from teachers, parents and the opposition staff was delightful – the boys clearly worked hard and played hard and were outstanding ambassadors for the school. It was an emotional final hurrah for the Year 13 students after an exceptional 7-year career at CHB – we will miss them!

The Student Charity Committee organised a Charity Week like no other Charity Week the school has ever seen! It was a triumph of enthusiasm, planning and hard work and they raised a total of £3500 for Beat UK (an eating disorder charity). This is a new school record and we are so proud of them, so much so that we have initiated a new award for charity giving – you will hear more about this in a future edition. This was an event that brought the school together as a community with a common goal. Events included Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Would I lie to you – the staff were worryingly good at this, The Great Debate – the students were reassuringly good at this, Mario Kart and a Talent Show. Despite having to postpone the event twice due to COVID the team delivered a spectacle that simply must be repeated next year. Watch out for their next big event, The Walk to Ukraine, where students will attempt to walk the school grounds and accumulate the equivalent distance to Ukraine and back, currently scheduled for July.

The music department has been busier than ever. Firstly, we had the Tea Time Concert which was well supported by you the families, so thank you for that. Then there was Oliver! What a delight! The combined inspiration of Messrs Palmer and Dowling led a cast of actors, singers and musicians through four performances of foot-tapping tunes, laughter and tears that would be the envy of a professional company. My hearty congratulations to all involved – it was truly a team effort with huge numbers of staff and students giving up hours and hours of their time to make this dream come true. This is Mr Palmer's last full production at Camp Hill Boys after 33 years of faithful service to the school. There are only two more concerts in the Summer Term to look forward to under his stewardship, so please make sure that you get your tickets for this finale of all finales.

We also say a sad goodbye to Miss Lamb this Easter. After 12 years of devotion to our community, she has decided to leave teaching, but all is not lost as she will be working for the Ambition Institute and designing and delivering the National Professional Qualification programme that supports school leadership across the country. Students and staff will miss her passion & energy, her creativity & intelligence, and if I were to sum her up in one word it would be kindness. Good luck Miss Lamb, and please stay in touch!

The Association of Friends of the School (AFS) have relaunched their activities in line with all of the exciting events that have returned to school life. All parents are welcome to join the committee or the group of helpers that run the refreshments at events like Oliver! or the concerts. Take a look at our new website pages:

<https://www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=ASSOCIATION+OF+FRIENDS+%28AFS%29&pid=45> Most excitingly the AFS are running welcome evenings for parents of Year 7 and Year 8 students, as these groups of parents are the ones who may never have even been in the school building! We will then be running welcome events for the new Year 6 parents too. The “Brighter Futures” Mural Project for the new Careers Room has now commenced and we are grateful to the AFS for funding this worthy project.

As I write the government have just released their latest guidance on “Living with COVID” and you may have already noticed that the requirement for regular testing has now been dropped. If you are ill, then you can now return to work or school as soon as you feel better. If you test positive for COVID (and are asymptomatic) the recommended period of isolation is now only 5 days for adults and 3 days for children. I hope that we manage to achieve a sensible balance between protecting others from potential infection and getting your child into school as much as possible. Certainly the students and staff have really benefitted from a return to relative normality, but we don’t want to risk an outbreak of any disease, and infection rates are still high both locally and nationally.

I’ll finish by saying that one of my favourite activities is my morning visits to the Tutor Groups. I love to hear from the students about their school. They are excellent at delivering thoughtful and sensitive feedback about what we can improve, and they are equally eloquent in their praise for the school, the staff, and their peers. We continue to work on improving computers, food, queues, toilets, drinking water stations, curriculum and enrichment breadth. We have new laptops in the library, more table tennis tables, more table football, more cricket bats, and we look forward to installing an outdoor basketball hoop. Work continues on bigger projects like the proposed new all-weather pitch and re-cycling facilities. The student council continues to promote the students’ voice and has recently elected new leadership. The Charity Committee has established a succession plan by electing a new committee structure. The Eco Committee and EDI Committees continue to remind us of important priorities for our community.

Not since the pandemic struck has the school been so active and reclaimed so much of that community coherence that we were so used to. Bravo to the students and staff for this gargantuan fight back! And thank you to the parents and families who have supported us all the way!

I would like to wish you all a wonderful Easter Holiday with all the peace and happiness you deserve. For those families observing Ramadan I hope that you enjoy the Eid al-Fitr celebrations in early May. I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to being with you again at the start of the Summer Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen
Headmaster
April 2022

Spring Term Art News!

We had another brilliant visit to the **Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour** on 28th and 29th March for our year 8's and film club students. The students (and staff!) loved hearing some exciting behind the scenes facts and secrets while taking part in a set design lesson, delivered by the education team at the studio. Our students gave some brilliant answers and loved all of the props!

Instead of Hogwarts in the snow, they had a 'Magical Mischief' experience with loads of props, creatures, costumes and special effects. They also got to see the numerous creative careers that went into making the Harry Potter films, as well as the cross-curricular links with maths, DT and English. We look forward to offering this as an annual trip for our year 8 students!



The department has also been busy painting the backdrop and set for the outstanding performance of Oliver and we would like to thank our students and also students from Camp Hill Girls, along with Miss Irving, who all helped us get it done in time! We thought the whole show was incredible!



Sketchbook Circle is still in progress with numerous students across various year groups creating work in a sketchbook that has come from Handsworth School for Girls. Here are some images from our latest sketchbook with work from Muhammad Yusuf in year 8, along with students work from Handsworth.



We also have a new addition to the department! This amazing paper owl sculpture was made by Muhammad Ibn Zakariya in year 8, who has been fine tuning his paper sculpture skills and donated this fantastic piece to the department! Thank you!



camphillboysart



@CampHillBoysAr1

The English Department

The focus for the English Department this term has been all about speaking, talking and debating.

As a Department we now have two debating societies running on a Tuesday lunchtime. Senior Debating, run by Mr Wilkins, takes place in E2; while Intermediate Debating, run by Mrs Parmar, takes place in E1. Both are successful societies, with the students enthusiastically practising their skills. With fears of Covid receding, we now hope that we can begin to take part in competitions again soon.

Last term, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in Readathon. This annual charity event involves our students taking part in a sponsored reading week in support of the Read for Good Charity, which supports young people who are in hospital and gives them an opportunity to read or be read through, while also raising money for our own school library too. Our wonderful students (and their parents) raised an amazing 485.00 for the charity this year and this meant that the school library benefitted by 97.00 as well. We really appreciate this and look forward to running another successful event during the next academic year.

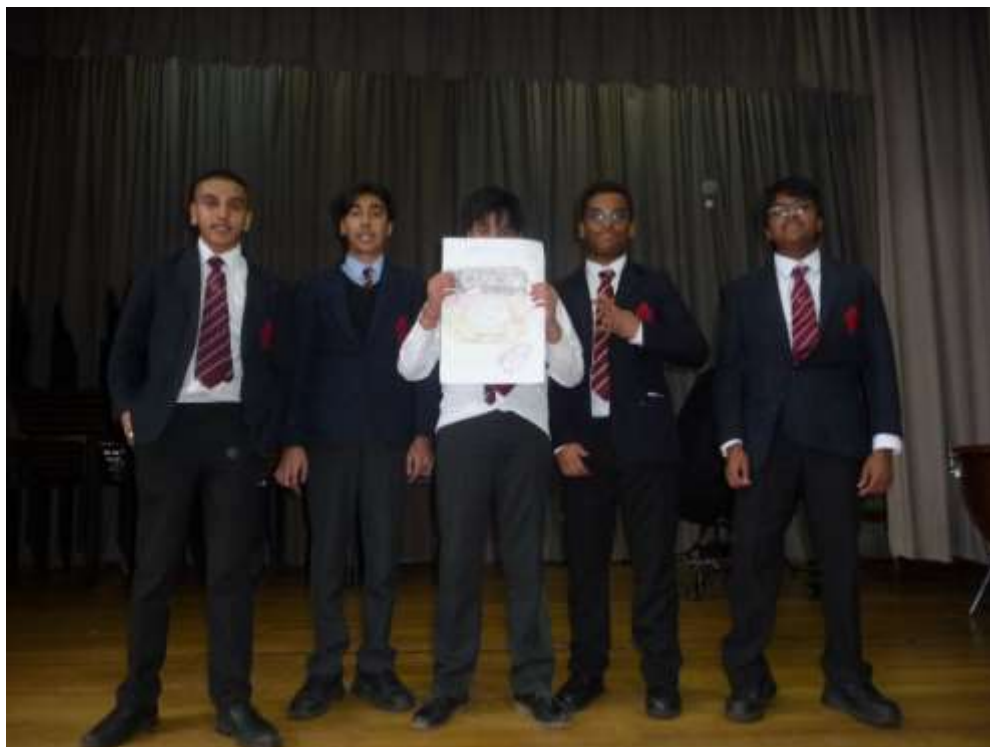
Finally, this year we have been able restart our Annual Public Speaking Competition. All students in Years 7 to 10 have been giving speeches in their English lessons for the last two weeks before students from each class are selected to take part in the semi-finals next week, with the final scheduled to take place on Thursday 7th of April. We will announce the winners in the next newsletter.

Business Languages Day

Business Language Day was an amazing day for everyone that took part, we began the day with an exciting talk from Dr Sanjay Nath, who is an ex-student of Camp Hill. He explained to us how languages had helped him achieve his dreams and how they could help us achieve ours. After this,

we went to the rooms of our selected language's teacher and began a group activity where we had to design a cereal brand that was launching in either Germany or France. We made funny tunes as our jingle and posters to market our products (all in the target language of course) and even showcased our work to the other groups in our class to work out a class winner. In the afternoon the winner from each class went head to head on stage in the hall! With the overall winners being Curry Pops! To finish off an already good day, we went back to our rooms and we were given many talks from some Camp Hill Sixth Formers about their own native language. This included Russian, Malayalam, Swahili and Farsi. On the whole, the day was a very enjoyable one with many fun activities. I think everyone that took part enjoyed and also learned plenty from it, as it was a brilliant day.

Matthew Dainty and Vidyut Tutika



Music

It's been another very busy yet exciting term in the Music Department.

Early in term, Concert Orchestra was delighted to be asked to accompany a Royal School of Church Music Choral Festival in Birmingham Cathedral, as we have done in the past. The event went really well, with a good choir of around seventy singers, and many in the congregation. I was very pleased with the positive comments about the event – and particularly the school orchestra - published in an article written by chorister Olwen Hetherington from Knowle Parish Church. She writes:

“It was with delight and eager anticipation that a small group of us from Knowle Parish Church travelled into Birmingham on the fourth Sunday of Epiphany to form part of the Royal School of Church Music Festival Choir singing evensong at the Cathedral Church of St. Philip. Our first outing since the lifting of Covid restrictions that had prevented us from singing together for so long; and for the first time there would be an evangelistic dimension to the service as it live-streamed to a wider congregation at home. Perhaps there is an upside to a pandemic after all! There was a feeling of picking up where we had left off as this event had also been our last excursion in January 2020 before the first lockdown, so we were excited to be joining other choirs from Birmingham and Solihull once again in raising our voices to mark the passing of another day in faith. Particularly, we were pleased to see the boys of West House School and to hear those young voices – our hope for the future of the choral tradition. The sense of occasion was further heightened due to the wonderful accompaniment provided by King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools Concert Orchestra, conducted by Head of Music, Simon Palmer; though this was tempered with a little sadness that this would be their last collaboration with us as Simon will be retiring shortly. A lasting memory will be of the perfect rendering of the difficult horn solo in Saint-Saëns' *Morceau de Concerts op. 94* that ended the event, played by Benedict Scott. Although fewer in number than on previous occasions and especially short of tenors, we still managed to produce a pleasing sound (so I am reliably informed) that gave a sense of tapping into something much greater than ourselves. After all the uncertainty of the past two years, there was something very comforting in observing the rituals as countless others have done before us for over 1000 years and we went home with a sense of hope and peace in our hearts.”



Concert Orchestra in Birmingham Cathedral

Another event which has been cancelled for a couple of years is our trip to Symphony Hall to hear the CBSO. Each year we take all of our Year 7 pupils, and they enjoy a concert given by the outstanding musicians of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

This year we were delighted that this event took place. It was a wonderful concert, titled “Natural World”. The music was varied, and used all the colours of the orchestra. Some of the pieces performed were sections from Smetana: *Vitava*, Stravinsky: *The Firebird*, Britten: *Sea Interludes (Peter Grimes)* and Barry: *Out of Africa*. Many pupils had not visited Symphony Hall before, and loved both the spectacular building and the most exciting live music.



The view of Symphony Hall from where our Year 7 pupils were sitting

Many will remember how delighted we were last year when we heard that Sam Gray, one of our talented musicians, had gained a place at Trinity College, Cambridge to study music, and a bass Choral Scholarship in the Chapel Choir.

We went to visit him during February Half Term, and I am delighted to report that he is well, enjoying student life, and extremely busy with a wide range of musical activities.

He told us that members of the choir were encouraged to compose, and their compositions would then be performed by the choir. Sam took up the challenge, and composed the short piece “As pants the deer” with words from psalm 42. This was performed in a service in the Chapel, and broadcast live.

Introit- As pants the deer

Text drawn from psalm 42:

Sam Gray

Adagio

Soprano *p*
As pants the deer for flowing streams, so longs my soul for

Alto *pp*
Ah.

Tenor *pp*
Ah.

Bass

S. *p*
you, my God. My soul thirsts for the living God, my

A. *pp*
my God, my God. My soul thirsts for the living God.

T. *pp*
my God, my God. My soul thirsts for the living God, my

B. *pp*
my God. My soul thirsts for the living God.

If you'd like to hear the choir, you can hear them live in the College Chapel. If you're ever in Cambridge, do consider it. The Trinity Chapel Choir sings Choral Evensong in their Chapel on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at 6.15 pm.

If you can't get to Cambridge in person, you can go to the Trinity College Choir website, and hear them in a live broadcast. Just click 'live webcast'. The website is: <http://trinitycollegechoir.com>

Choral Evensong Live from Trinity College Chapel - Tuesday 8 February 2022

Trinity College Cambridge

Live from Trinity College Chapel

6.15pm - Live audio webcast of Choral Evensong

Next video webcast - Sunday 13 February 2022

The GCSE Options Evening is a useful opportunity for parents and Year 9 pupils to consider what GCSE option subject they would like to study. For each option subject two current GCSE pupils give a short talk outlining the course, and the benefits of taking that subject.

For music, Sampanna Raut and Noshua Chau gave a lively talk. In addition, I was pleased that members of our Year 10 GCSE group came along to perform one of Sampanna's compositions, called *Winds of Change*.

Winds of Change

Sampanna Raut

The musical score for "Winds of Change" is written for a large ensemble. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 140. The key signature consists of two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Horn in F, Piano (marked *mp*), Drumset (marked *mp*), Bb Trumpet, Alto Saxophone, Electric Guitar, and Violoncello. The first five measures of the score are shown, with most instruments having rests in the first two measures.

The Instrumental Parents' Evening is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet out instrumental teachers, and talk to them about their son's progress. This has been run most successfully using the online system "schoolcloud" during the past two years. We continued this way this year, and many comment on how useful this evening is.

The Teatime Concert is joint with CHG and features mainly our junior pupils. The pupils enjoy this event, as they stay at school and receive a tea before the concert, which begins at 5pm.

String Orchestra began the evening with the theme from Dvořák's *New World Symphony*, and then *James Bond*. They played with really tight ensemble, and good tuning. We then had a range of instrumental solos and small groups. This included three interesting guitar ensembles, some enjoyable singing, and a most effective table ensemble. Amongst the solo items, I must highlight the performance by Yueh Zjang which was presented with style and virtuosity. The evening ended with lively and spirited versions of *She Loves you (The Beatles)* and *The Avengers* given by the Training Wind Band. We thanked all the pupils involved, and the many instrumental teachers who had contributed to this event.



Guitar Ensemble



Tabla Ensemble



Training Wind Band

The biggest musical undertaking of this term was the decision to put on the wonderful musical *Oliver!* We knew it would be a lot of work for everyone involved, but also that it would be an exciting opportunity for a large number of pupils.

Auditions began at the beginning of term, and we were delighted with the enthusiasm of the pupils, large numbers coming to audition for chorus or solo roles. Within a couple of weeks, we had the cast settled, and began learning the songs. Mr Tom Dowling, the Director, started to rehearse the smaller scenes, and the show began to take shape. We put together an orchestra fourteen players, and we began to rehearse the exciting arrangements which were to accompany the singers.

Everyone was very busy in the week before the show, as we tried to fit everything together – acting, singing, props, lighting, orchestra, dancing, costumes, radio mics. – there was a lot to think about. In the week of the show everyone worked very hard, and long hours, and we were very pleased with the results. We had almost a full house every night, and all agreed that the production was a great success.



The Oliver! orchestra in our dark corner of the Hall.

On the last Tuesday of term we held the House Music Competition. This is an opportunity for some of our most able musicians in each house to get together and organise a good programme of music, and gain credit for their house. It was adjudicated by Mr David Griffiths, until recently Head of Music at King Edwards Five Ways.

We all met in the Hall during the afternoon. First were the Junior Ensembles. All were effective, and in differing styles, from a violin and piano duet to a band performance of *Wonderwall*. The soloist performances were given by Yuehao Zhang, Christy Baiju, Sampanna Raut and Garjun Ho, and they all performed with confidence and style.

After adjudication came the Senior category. The ensemble performances had been well prepared, and were most enjoyable. In the solo section there were some outstanding performances, and two houses gained full marks – Jack Johnson for Tudor and Deniz York-Mikhailov for Seymour - a fine achievement. At the end of the competition Mr David Griffiths said how much he had enjoyed the afternoon and how impressed he was with the quality of music making.

At the end, the scoring was very close. In fourth place was Beaufort with 49 points out of a possible 60. Third with 52 points was Howard. But with 54 points each, the joint winners were Tudor and Seymour.



House Music Competition winners 2022: Seymour & Tudor

We now just have one important event left this term: on the penultimate day of term our GCSE pupils record their GCSE performances. It is then time for us all to have a rest.

School musicians will be active early next term, however, as we will be getting ready for the Senior Concert which is on only the second Tuesday of next term, Tuesday 3rd May. Do come and join us!

With best wishes,
SFP

Biology Big Quiz report

During the morning of the 30th March, 16 of us Year 10 boys set off to the University of Birmingham for the return of the annual Biology Big Quiz. This was to be the first in person Biology Big Quiz since lockdown had begun, and we were all prepared to make this year's performance one which would stand out above the rest. The format of the quiz was as follows: six rounds covering a wide variety of topics, one of those being a specialist round on cancer. Each round was multiple choice and involved ten questions and each team also had a joker which we could use to double our points for one round. The topics were: Genes and Genomes, Plant and Animal adaptations, Evolution and the Environment, Molecules of Life, Cancer causes and cures and finally Microbiology. On top of this, there were some other mini challenges and a lecture given by one of the professors about carbon dioxide and the environment.

Upon arriving at the university, the sixteen of us split up into four groups and before the main rounds of the quiz began, there was an appetiser word search challenge to work through with a small prize at stake. Naturally, we all tried to complete it, however whilst all of us were stuck on the

last question, we were 'invited' on a tour of the campus, wasting the precious minutes we needed to find that last word, seemingly ruining our chances of winning it!

After that the main quiz rounds had started. The questions, despite being quite hard, were able to be answered consistently and every member of each team managed to contribute to each round, though some more than others... This was mainly thanks to the excellent teaching at Camp Hill which had drilled the complex biology knowledge into our brains and came in clutch multiple times. Our teams consistently got high marks, each one getting more than 7 or 8 out of 10 each round, oftentimes even getting full marks. The Genes and Microbiology sections despite being far above GCSE level and certainly harder than the other sections were still cleared without difficulty.

Despite our successes on the main rounds, we faced difficulties when it came to the spot prize rounds; in these three rounds, we would be faced with a question and have to get a number as close to the true answer, which would often be far into the hundreds of thousands. These questions proved to be difficult and ultimately none of our teams would end up winning one of these rounds, though luckily these questions would not contribute to the final result. On a question about how many years it would take to count every nerve cell in the brain, a critical error by myself as we rushed to do some basic maths meant I accidentally put an answer of 5 years, when the actual answer was 3000!

Finally, once the six rounds had concluded, the final results were given. It was here that it was revealed that in the initial word search round, despite our setbacks, two of our teams had drawn first along with two other school's teams, and the winner had been decided by random. Although we had a probable chance of victory, luck was not on our side. Following the smaller awards, it was time for the main results, and to our elation, Camp Hill Team B had come first place amongst the hundreds of other competitors with an outstanding score of 66 out of 70. Our other teams had possibly come second or third, but one school could not win more than once sadly. Nevertheless, this victory was ultimately a team effort and a Camp Hill win which we certainly deserved. Though of course it wasn't just the boys but the teachers too who helped us attain this victory. A big thank you to the boys for a spectacular performance and also Mrs Cameron and Mr Bruten for organising the day and driving us there.

Written by Hun Kang, Year 10



Year 8 RS trip to Birmingham Central Mosque

Over three mornings in March, all of Year 8 went to visit Birmingham Central Mosque to enliven and enrich their study of Islam this term. Students were treated to a guided tour of the entire Mosque, currently undergoing massive renovations, and learned loads about the lived experience of Muslims in Birmingham. It was fascinating to hear the history of the community of Muslims in this city, and to see what the future holds with all of the renovations taking place. Students took the opportunity to ask and answer loads of questions, and were overjoyed to be offered biscuits and Rubicon Mango for refreshments before they headed back to school for the afternoon. We were given a lovely welcome and very much look forward to returning next year!



Computing

As usual the Spring term means lots of competitions in the Computing department and more and more students are taking part year on year. In chronological order.....

British Informatics Olympiad

The BIO is the most prestigious (and difficult) competition we take part in each year in the Computing department. A three hour challenge, it is based around 3 questions and each requires a combination of mathematical problem solving plus practical programming skills to complete.

**British
Informatics
Olympiad**

While really aimed at sixth-formers it was great to see students as young as Year 10 taking part for the first time this year (and proving that success in computer science is down to what you can do, not who you are).

Top scorers this year were:

1st (joint) Ben Brown / Peter Kippax (y13)

3rd Jas Dzieziak (y11)

4th Kareem Mehanna (y13)

5th Seth Fisher (y10)

Braben Cup (Perse School competition)

Every year we offer an opportunity to take part in this competition aimed at those up to Y11. Round 1 involves paired programming against the clock. After the ease of last year's competition, where competitors could take part from home, this year was logistically far more difficult as we had to fit competitors into computer suites which were in frequent use for regular classes.



Overall we had 78 separate teams taking part in the competition at the start of February (a significant majority being from CHB). This was the biggest take-up yet. Of those 19 teams gained a Distinction and thus qualified for the 2nd round.

The rules are different for round 2 as teams can be up to 3 people (no more than 2 in Y10/11) and each can have their own computer. We therefore had 17 enlarged teams in the final in mid-March. It took place in the CHG computer rooms (as we don't have enough space in CHB). Final results will be confirmed on April 18th but the top placed teams across the two Camp Hill schools were:

1st : J. Dzieziak (y11), S. Hapuarachchi (y11) & P. Mullapudi (y9)

Joint 4th: V. Battu (y9), T. Islam (y9) & S. Kumar (y9)

Joint 4th: S. Fisher (y10), A. Gupta (y9), & F. Shah (y10),

Joint 4th: K. Lau (y10) & H. Yasotharan (y10)

TCS Oxford Challenge

The Bebras Challenge (November) is open to all, but the TCS Oxford competition is only open via invitation (generally through getting a Distinction in the Bebras competition). Of the 1000 students (approx. 50% CHB) who took part in Bebras this year around of the 344 qualified (again around 50% CHB) and around 200 were actually able to take part.

This particular competition is logistically very difficult to organise as most schools don't have anywhere near the number of competitors we have. While we ran sessions in virtually every slot the computer rooms were free, and after school, we still couldn't accommodate everybody so apologies to those we couldn't fit in in the time window available.



Competitors had 60 minutes to accurately complete as many challenges as possible, using a mixture of Blockly and Python (depending on age bracket).

Following round 1 at the start of February, 3 boys qualified for the national final on March 15th. Their placings have now been confirmed as:

- Senior age category (Y10-11) - Jas Dziedziak (12th nationally)
- Intermediate age category (Y8-9) - Taheen Islam (1st nationally), Shubham Kumar (6th nationally)

These are our best results ever. Congratulations to all those involved.

Year 9 Cadbury World Visit

Year 9 visited Cadbury World as part of their Geography studies, focussing on globalisation, TNC's, the Mondelez takeover of Cadbury and the role of FairTrade and Cocoa Life. Students undertook a number of different activities during the day including a tour of the factory, the 4D cinema and an educational talk by the staff at Cadbury. During the exhibition, students were able to get hands on with the chocolate, practicing the tempering process as well as 'taste testing' a range of products. Year 9 were a credit to themselves and the school and we look forward to returning again next year, with the current year 8's.



Oliver!

We were delighted to welcome parents, pupils and friends of the school back on Thursday 31st March for a three night run of 'Oliver!', Lionel Bart's classic musical based on the Dickens novel 'Oliver Twist'. It was the first student production in over two years and pupils and staff alike were excited to see the streets of Victorian England brought to life on the school stage. All hands were on deck to ensure the production was a success, with costumes, staging, lighting and sound all a fitting match for the musical and theatrical performances of the pupils. We were delighted to share the limelight with our talented neighbours from the girls' school. Inspired by the legacy of the late Mr Southworth, and spurred by the knowledge that this would be both Mr Palmer and Ms Lamb's last school production (CHAOS 2023 notwithstanding...), the pupils delivered three outstanding shows that left audiences amazed. We also saw the final curtain close on three stalwarts of the Camp Hill stage, in Omar Ismail, Simeon Humphries and Matthew Anderson, who each delivered unique and memorable performances. We wish them the best of luck with their future theatrical endeavours, as next year's thespians and stage crew busy themselves with dreams of Rydell High and dear old Shiz...







PE

Rugby U18

The 1st XV have had a fantastic 2nd half to their season with victories against Bishop Vesey, Alcester Grammar School, Aston and Camp Hill RFC. It's been a decent season overall with 9 wins out of 18 games. Captain Will Taylor has held the troops together extremely well. Youngsters Toby Taylor, Vernon Kenworthy, Sam Ankrah, Emile Ngueissy, Humza Rana, Aj Velasquez and Hasan Syed and Chude Nzodi have been very influential. The senior rugby tour saw the last game for a number of the squad, an emotional occasion for all involved. My thanks go to Will Taylor, Sam Satodia, Joe Day, Simeon Humphries, Omar Ismail, Sam Morris, George Lanham, Yusuf Khan, Karthink Chinaswamy, Lorcan Halstead and Emery Uzoma for all they have given to rugby over the years here at Camp Hill.



The Covill King Edward VI Foundation Challenge Cup

On Friday 28th January the highly anticipated U18 Foundation Select XV vs Solihull School rugby match took place on the all-weather pitch at Bournville Rugby Club. An invitational squad from players across the foundation competed against Solihull School for 'The Covill King Edward VI Foundation Challenge Cup'

A huge crowd saw a close first half with the score at 19-12 to Solihull at half time. However, a very well drilled and organised Solihull School pulled away in the second half to win 46-19. very high quality match with plenty of heart, passion, skill and talent on display.

This inaugural match truly was a special evening for all involved. The players did the Foundation proud. Mr Burgess, Head of PE & Games at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys was the chief organiser of the event but thanks must also go to Mr Evans & Mr Thomas of King Edward VI Five Ways School, Mr Adams of King Edward's School, Mr Taylor King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys & Mr Cheney of King Edward VI Aston School.

Thanks also to the Solihull players and staff for all their efforts in making the event happen and congratulations on winning the trophy!

Well done to Will Taylor, Toby Taylor, Sam Satodia, Joe Day, Emery Uzoma and Simeon Humphries who represented Camp Hill Boys



Rugby U15

For the under 15's, this season has gone through a lot of ups and downs. Coming back from the large absence of matches in year 9, we didn't get off to a great start and I think it is fair to say that we were all a bit apprehensive, especially since we lost our first two matches were against Old Swinford Hospital and Fairfax, both of whom are very strong teams who we have encountered in our previous years. Despite our slow start and our pride taking a large blow, we went on to secure fantastic and unexpected wins against Prince Henry's who we knocked out of the National Vase with a final score of 31-22 and the try scorers being Christy Baiju, Jai Varaich(2), Ayan Butt and Edward Cheung. The second win was against Bishop Veseys, who are notorious across many schools for their dominance over the sport. The final score was 19-7 with tries scored by Christy Baiju, Jai Varaich and Karl Rodrigo.

Unfortunately, due to the unpredictable weather, 8 of our matches were forced to be called off or abandoned and later on in the season, we would go on our longest losing streak of our season with four matches being lost against teams we'd have been confident about beating in the past. But as a result of this, we learned something that will go on to help us greatly in our matches to come.

Rugby U13

After a tough start to the season, the boys came back after the Christmas break ready and raring to go. First up were Habadshers Adam's. In difficult weather conditions and on a substantially larger pitch to what the boys were used to, Camp Hill initially struggled to contain the raw pace and

physicality of the Habdashers forwards. Dawud Husayn's led by example, tackling everything that moved and showed the rest of the boys the physicality that would be needed. Two fantastic individual tries from Joel Fletcher and Lemuel Adjei kept the score level moving into the last five minutes of the game. Tired legs and a several injuries saw Habdashers score two late tries with game ending 35-25.

After a narrow loss to a very strong Bishop Vesey side, up next were Camp Hill RFC. The boys were ready to write the wrongs from the loss earlier in the season and were keen to show the progress and improvement they had made. Two early tries from Joel Fletcher and Ashton Okello saw the school take an early lead. Adam Bashir showed his class in attack, dictating the play before scoring a fantastic individual effort himself. Camp Hill Club's pace man was starting to cause the school some problems. Lemuel Adjei took it upon himself to stop him at every available opportunity, showing fantastic game understanding in the process. Two more tries from Hasan Malik and Zidane Ahktar saw the school triumph 30-20, showing all how far they had come.

Up next were King Henry VIII School, who would arguably be the strongest side we faced all season. Camp Hill opened the scoring with a try from Lemuel Adjei showing fantastic footwork before handing off the fullback and scoring under the posts. Both sides showed huge commitment in defence with some ferocious tackles flying in alongside some expansive attacking rugby. There was nothing to choose between the sides and the scores were tied leading in the final quarter. The King Henry back row put on a break down masterclass, isolating our runners and turning the ball over at every opportunity. This proved to be the difference in the end, with two King Henry turnovers leading to two late tries. The boys came out of the game with their heads held high, having played some of their best rugby all year.

The highly anticipated Worcester School 7's tournament would be the U13' last opportunity of rugby for the year. After several weeks of dedicated training we took a very strong squad across to Worcester School. The school started the day brilliantly with a very competitive game against OSH. Raes Latif showed devastating pace out wide, scoring two fantastic tries. Having previously lost heavily to OSH earlier in the season, it was fair to say OSH seemed stunned at the quality of the rugby the school were playing. Another two tries from Lemuel Adjei and Adam Bashir saw the school draw 20-20.

Next were Sir Thomas Richards from Gloucester. A school with huge rugby pedigree, the boys knew they would have to be on top of their game. The boys were slow to start making several costly errors from restarts leading to three early tries. St Thomas Rich played some fantastic sevens, keeping the ball alive at every opportunity. The boys learnt a lot from the way Sir Thomas Richards played.

Camp Hill ended the day with wins against Magdalin College, King Worcester and Ashcroft St Peter. This was a fantastic way to end the season and showed the boys that they can compete with teams of a very high standard. Player of the tournament went Adam Bashir whose passing, individual running and team play were outstanding.

Rugby U12

The Year 7 Rugby Team have capped off what has been a fantastic year for the squad. We came back after the Christmas break fresh and ready to go, beating Adams Grammar in a closely contested fixture, which set the tone for victories against KES Stratford, Queen Marys and even Camp Hill Rugby Club!

As a team, this group of students have gelled together extremely well, and now put in performances of a team with true synergy. As they begin to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses, a bright future is ahead for this group of players.

Not only this, the year group as a whole have been excellent, which has allowed us to field 5 squads of Year 7 Rugby at once, which shows tremendous strength in depth. Whenever someone is missing, the flexibility to rotate and play other students has been easy, with a number of people ready to step in and perform to the best of their abilities straight away.

A mention to every single player who has represented Camp Hill this year needs to happen as it has been a truly excellent one. Some individual mentions also need to happen. Firstly, nothing epitomises the squad and year groups efforts this year more than that of Alex Innocenti (Captain). Alex has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities and organisational skills throughout this year, as well as providing consistently brilliant performances in the 1st team week in, week out - especially in defence! Alex has been helped out by a strong leadership team around him as well! The likes of Sebastian Robotham, Mushaf Mir, Ahmed Mahfoudhi and Ollie Smoldon have shown you don't need to wear the armband to be a leader. Both on and off the pitch, these students have shown their ability to lift the morale and performance of a team through good communication and purposeful demonstrations of skill. Barachel Ankrah, Tom Walker, Esa Butt and Jia Le Chen must have a mention for bringing the metal to the side, with all four leading the charge in aggressive and powerful shows of attack and defence. This is not what it's all about however, and therefore the speed and skill of Zak Khalid, Rafe Sullivan, Zane Shah, Bashier Said, Daniel Lo and Ibrahim Uddin.

Well done to every single person who has contributed to this team and Year 7 Rugby as a whole this half term (and whole year)!

Mr. Rees.

Rugby Sevens

We have had only one tournament this Year for Rugby Sevens, over at the Kings School, Worcester.

We took 2 teams in the U12's & U13's and this was their first experience of Rugby Sevens, which anyone with any experience of the game will tell you, is a completely different ball game to Rugby Union.

Starting with the U12's, they did fantastic!!! Having had no prior experience or training at Rugby Sevens, and missing 2 key players on the day, we turned up not knowing what to expect. However, we started the tournament off with a huge win over the hosts, followed up by 3 more victories and a closely fought loss in the group stage against Solihull School. The team then went through to the semi finals against Warwick School (an amazing Rugby Sevens school) and smashed them!!! This was the pinnacle of performance for this group of players, putting in an unbelievable shift against a quality team, and coming out of the game victorious! This meant we were entering the final with high confidence and ready to avenge the group stage loss against Solihull School. Unfortunately the final could not be played for various reasons, so let's put it down as a big W for Camp Hill!

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rugby the school were playing. Another two tries from Lemuel Adjei and Adam Bashir saw the school draw 20-20.

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Well done to every person in the team!

Mr. Rees.

Racket Sports

This half term, racket sports have performed extremely well!

Starting with Badminton, this group of players have shown their excellent skill and ability throughout the term.

We have been victorious over every school we have come up against, a hell of an achievement, until we came unstuck against Bromsgrove School where we took 16 players (4 teams) over and came back with 2 wins and 2 losses - still not a bad effort). Every student has contributed excellently to the Badminton cause, namely Adarsh Palanikumar and Zak Malik for their consistent high standard performances, as well as helping the younger students become part of the squad. 7 year unbeaten for these two now at Camp Hill!

A big mention must go to Jingxi Bai. Still only in Year 9, he has shown himself to be a key part of the Senior Badminton Squad, amongst others like Pranoy Nishanth, Ankur Ramesha, Ethan Philippe Tumbos, Tristan Tse and Hassan Soonsara.

Well done to everyone who has contributed!

Mr. Rees.

Hockey

Camp Hill had a frustrating end to the season with three of their final matches cancelled due to Covid outbreaks and exam commitments. They did however manage to play three closely contested matches against Bablake and King Henry, King Edwards Five Ways and King Edwards. The boys had a disappointing loss to Bablake and King Henry where they had the majority of the possession but couldn't convert in front of goal.

Up next were Fiveways, where the boys played some of their best Hockey of the season, with flowing counter attacking Hockey eventually winning 3-1 with two clinical finishes from Ben Brown and another from Humza Irfan.

The final game of the season was against local rivals KES. This would be the Year 13's final game together. Camp Hill started brightly with a fantastic counter attacking goal in the first half. KES came out after the half time break firing on all cylinders and Camp Hill struggled to cope with the relentless pressure conceding an early goal after half time. Brothers Jonah and Peter Kippax were outstanding in defence keeping the score at one apiece.

Unfortunately, KES scored two late counter attacking goals ending the game 2-1. Despite the score line, the boys were in high spirits as they reflected on their time together at Camp Hill.

Football Juniors

For the first time in recent Camp Hill history, a football fixture was arranged for the Year 9's & 10's against local rivals Five Ways. The two games were highly anticipated and expected to be full on!

The first game from the Year 10's ended with a 1-0 victory over Five Ways, after Zinedine Zafar put away a great finish from a lovely through ball from Jack Mistry. The majority of the possession was mainly with Five Ways in the first half, but it didn't prove to be enough as Christy Baiju (aka. The Cat) did not let anything past him. With an unusual goalkeeping technique, it clearly proved to be too much for the Five Ways strikers as they just could not get past! Mentions to Mathiwos Misghina, Krishna Nair, Jai Varaich and Aayan Nagra must occur as they gave so much to the performance, as did the whole squad.

The Year 9's were of course encouraged by this result from the previous day and travelled to Five Ways in full confidence. A great team performance showed off some great passages of play and highlighted the talent that this year's group has in football. Unfortunately, the 3-0 final result did not reflect this, however it is vital to mention that we scored 2 of them! So let's say we were the better finishers. Felix Iliff was man of the match by a country mile with his top performance from centre half. Other mentions must go out to the likes of Reuban Howard, Luke Dolan, Vinay Bora, Ben Hodgetts, Will Brett and Jesse Okunbor, as well as the rest of the squad.

Well done to everyone involved!

Football Seniors

This term has seen the 1st XI play six matches, with a couple of 2nd XI games also played.

We've had a number of matches against Handsworth Grammar this year and they've been consistently pleasant affairs. In January we beat them 2-1, with Stan Alizada scoring the goals. Kings School Worcester, which came next, is always a tough one, but our team this year has proved to be a strong one, so we were hoping that perhaps this would be the year we ended our run of defeats. I'm afraid it was not to be, but we did perform well, so the score of 3-0 was disappointing. In the West Midlands cup game, we played King Edward's Stourbridge. They normally put out a good team. In fact, when we used to have a regular game against them, they used to play a weaker first team in order to make it a better game. However, on this occasion, we put in a very strong performance and held them to a 3-3 draw. (Scorers were Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, Taran Dhaliwal and James Derham.) We've played Old Swinford Hospital twice this term: we won the first game 3-2 (Jack Johnson, Taran, Stan) but the second game was a good win for OSH – 6-1 (Taran). We particularly value the OSH fixture because we also have a 2nd XI game. On this occasion we lost 1-0. Our second game of the term against Handsworth coincided with a Y13 assessment day, so we put out a Y12 side, while Handsworth

played their 2nd team. The scoreline (a 7-3 win for us) suggests the teams were more mismatched than they were, whereas in fact it was a thoroughly enjoyable, well-fought game. Our final match of the season was against King Edward VI Five Ways. This game is a new one for us, and we hope it will now become a regular fixture. Certainly this match was highly contested and ended in a 2-2 draw, with Taran and Ahmed Fadlalla scoring our goals.

This team has been an outstandingly pleasant, sporting group of boys, who have shown themselves to be a strong, competitive side. It has been well led by Jack Johnson, not only on the field but also in his superb organisation off it. As well as some very strong Y13 players, such as Stan, Sam Morris, Ahmed and Hugo Mulligan in goal, there have been more Y12 players than usual, with Taran and Milan Dawson proving particularly strong.

It's a pity that the 2nd XI have only had a couple of outings this term; it's difficult to find opponents able to put out two sides. However, Wolfie Spyrou-Kirby has led the side with enthusiasm, good humour and skill.

We've played much of this season without a coach, as Mr Speake has been recovering from ill health and an operation, so more has fallen to the captains than usual. They have risen to the task with aplomb. We're delighted to see Mr Speake returning to his role, particularly as, unusually, we have a cup fixture (against Dudley College) carried over to next term.

MJG

Indoor Cricket

Indoor Cricket has been a triumph this year. Camp Hill entered both the U13 & U15 indoor cricket competitions that are running in the West Midlands and we have a 100% record! This is an amazing achievement which has landed both teams in the Regional Finals being held at Edgbaston at the beginning of next term!

A couple of shoutouts must go to some stand out performers for both teams. Firstly, Mushaf Mir in the U13 team, being the only Year 7 in the squad has shown excellent ability and attitude to merge into the team seamlessly and contribute hugely. Parth Trehan has led the way with his bowling prowess, much to the downfall of many opposition batting lineups. In the U15 squad, both Haasiq Wani and Hassan Soonsara have led the way with their leadership and ability. Both batters have shown maturity and skill to put together ridiculous scores, and away from batting, Hassan bowling and Haasiq wicket keeping, opposition sides have really struggled to score any runs at all! Ishan Gautam, Elliot Fernandes and Aakshat Kumar have also been amazing in this unbeaten run.

Good luck in the finals!

Mr. Rees.

Handball Regionals

Handball is something that has been growing in popularity at Camp Hill through its introduction in the PE Curriculum and House Tournament. We entered two teams for the U13 & U15 Regional Competitions, with no prior experience in the game or previous fixtures played.

That however did not stop both teams going and competing to a very high level. Both teams only just missed out on qualifications to the next round, mainly through lack of experience and exposure to Handball as a sport. Next year will be the year for success in Handball!!

Some mentions must go to Matthew Ransbotyn, Krishna Nair, Mushaf Mir, Ahmed Mafoudhi and Mathiwos Misghina for their performances at the tournament.

Well done to everyone involved!

Mr. Rees.

U16 Basketball

The U16's had a frustrating start to the season with several matches being cancelled due to Covid outbreaks in other schools. Camp Hill's first came against Aston Manor Academy in early January where the boys narrowly lost 63-69. The game was lost in the final quarter where the depleted Camp Hill squad struggled to keep up with the relentless pace of Aston Manor.

Next up and in quick succession were two matches against Kings Norton and Aston Manor. In the first game, Kings Norton came out all guns blazing in the first quarter taking a substantial early lead. Camp Hill came back into the game in the second quarter led by the power and energy of Chude Ndozi with Camp Hill showing more determination and grit at both ends of the court. The game finished in 50-30 in Kings Norton's favour, but the boys were pleased to have been so competitive against a very strong opposition.

The boys game against old rivals Aston Manor was another hugely competitive affair, with Aston Manor winning by the narrowest of margins 44-41. It only seemed right that we would end the season with yet another game against Manor. They do say good things come in threes. The boys saved the last game to play their best basketball with standout performances from all involved. Camp Hill ended the game worthy winners with a comfortable 48-37 victory.

House Tournaments

A flurry of house events have taken place this term, ranging from the swimming gala to table tennis. This term also saw the first ever house handball and volleyball tournaments. House chess kicked things off this term with Howard victorious in a revamped speed chess competition. Another revamp has seen the house quiz take on a pub quiz format which has proved highly popular with the students. Seymour were quickest on the buzzers beating Beaufort to the title. House Handball was up next. Each year participated in vast numbers. Howard this time pipped Tudor to the inaugural House Handball title. Beaufort were supreme across all Year groups in the Volleyball competition as ran out handsome winners. Beaufort also claimed the swimming championship following a hard fought swimming gala. This term has seen hundreds of students take part in the house competition. It has been fabulous to see so much healthy competition taking place across a number of activities- roll on the summer!

Howard House Report Spring 2022

April is the cruellest month... if you happen to be in other Houses. Howard have been able to make a redoubtable contribution to the school competitions system this term with some fantastic performances and an eagerness to perform at the very highest level across all age groups. Our weekly gatherings for House Assembly in the hall have been unfortunately curtailed by the needs of examinations but we have still managed to wax lyrical on Reading (Berkshire), CBeebies, Oscars Slaps and the shame of the Qatar World Cup among others.

Howard have been able to win in the new competition of handball and in chess where the squad – capably run by Will and Karan – were able to knock the socks off the opposition. We have also been able to perform adeptly in Volleyball, finishing a close second, table tennis (where we have so far won in the senior section and it could still go to any house). Our third place in the swimming following a strong standards and a creditable gala performance including intermediate relay success was pleasing with many performances suggesting future improvements over the next few years. Third place in House Music was a credit to the input of Caleb, Dylan, Alex, Hun, Joel and Sampanna working their magic against some very stiff competition. With just the Senior 7s to compete in rugby, we are in a commanding position to take this crown of crowns too. The less said about quiz... considering I run it!

I wish to offer thanks to all who have shown leadership in the house, those willing to captain squads and organise teams for competitions during games and at lunchtimes, big thanks in particular to Manav and Jiale for their organising skills with the Table Tennis ladders. Also a huge thanks to Sam Morris and his team of seniors who have made a remarkable contribution and ensured we have a competitive squad in all events – Seth, Zac, Will and Emery in particular, I owe you!

Looking forward to a competitive summer – to finish off the hockey competition and take part in Tennis, Cricket and Athletics, ‘Look to yourself – the Blue Wave is coming...’

GNH