

The Chronicle 2022





KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



It feels like a cliché now to say that this academic year just gone was like no other before it. We said that last year, and the year before, but unfortunately I think it is still true to say it now.

Optimists will say that we have spent this year returning to “normal” (whatever that now means) and remain hopeful that we have seen the worst of the disruption. Certainly many positive steps were made across the world, the country, the region and in our schools.

At Camp Hill Boys we cautiously welcomed back the trips, the clubs, the societies, the sport, the music and the drama, but it often felt like a slow and precarious walk, sometimes with two steps forward followed by one step back.

It was the ambition of the school community that shone in these difficult times. The

series of charity events led by the students was staggering, and the extra planning undertaken to mitigate for the potential dangers of COVID was exceptional. The breadth and variety of the clubs and societies reintroduced (or introduced for the first time) was truly breath-taking. The competitions, intra-school and inter-school, were superb. We played chess, handball, water polo, rugby, athletics, tennis, football, cricket (and more). We went to all the science and maths Olympiads (and more) and won many of them. We debated, argued and presented. We invited special guests to assemblies and we ran conferences to support charitable causes. We held concerts, carol services, musicals and drama productions galore, and we managed to recapture the spirit of Sports Day with the addition of fun events and musical accompaniment to boot. It was stunning – even more so when viewed against the backdrop of the ever present threat of the pandemic.

Perhaps the best positive sign of things to come was the reinstatement of the public examinations system. Whilst not everyone necessarily will admit to liking exams, we certainly felt for our students from the last two years who had their external examinations taken away from them. Yes, we made a good quality replacement system for them, and they still came away with recognition of the years of work they had put in, but I know that many of our Year 13 students were excited to be sitting their A-Level exams and having a chance to prove themselves to the world (after having had their external GCSEs so suddenly removed two years before).

To say that I am proud of the students and staff is a gross understatement. The spirit and determination shown by all was outstanding,

and I am still hopeful that this will be remembered as the year that we fought back. This year we say goodbye, thank you and good luck to some of our amazing staff, including three who are retiring (and who have a combined service of 81 years!) – please look out for the valetes for each of these wonderful people. We also welcome our new staff, and as I write this I am optimistic that they will enjoy many happy years working in this wonderful school with our amazing students.

I hope that the optimists will be proven correct and that the world will continue on its journey to the new normal. I hope we will continue to see that breath-taking array of “additionality” that is part of Camp Hill life and that there will be no more staggered starts or finishes, no more bubbles, no more social distancing and segregation, no more base rooms, no more mass blended or online home learning, no more track & trace, and no more chaos. We will see.

I invite you to read on and to discover the detail of all of the exciting things that the students and staff have been up to this academic year, against yet another restrictive backdrop. I wish you and your families peace and happiness and, if you are a religious person (or even if you are not), I ask you to pray that we never have to experience the pain and disruption of the last three years again.

■ **Russell Bowen**, Headmaster

Editorial

In the midst of a busy new term, as I prepare to edit *The Chronicle*, it is often hard to remember just how many things King Edward Camp Hill School for Boys, packs into a busy year. And yet, as always, the staff and students never fail to amaze.

After two Covid-ridden years, it seemed hard to believe that we could ever return to normal. Years of no trips, no Open Evenings, no in-school parents evening... it seemed an impossible ask.

However, even an editor of *The Chronicle* can be surprised. This year saw a vast amount of events take place – the first highlight for me was the return of Junior Drama, with the incredible production of, what was loosely Charles Dicken’s epic novel, *Oliver!* directed by Tom Dowling (who starred in many plays and musicals in his youth, whilst at Camp Hill) and Mr Caves, another old Edwardian. The force is clearly strong at Camp Hill.

Secondly, the creation of the Charity Committee, which showed the compassion and sheer amount of initiative that our students can show. Led by Kishan Sambhi, I think it is fair to say that their efforts dominate this edition of *The Chronicle* – and rightly so. With numerous memorable events, including Camp Hill Got Talent, Blindness Awareness Week and the Walk to Ukraine, they demonstrated their understanding and a care for others, and an amazing ability to organise themselves and others in the process.

Finally, I feel that I should mention all the staff who have left Camp Hill this year, as they were, in their own individual ways, amazing. And it is evident that our students felt the same. From the portrait of Ms Lamb and the Lamb Tribute Assembly, to the recently renamed Geography: Eckley and Jackson classrooms. It is clear the impact that teachers can have on their students and the deep respect felt on both sides.

However, for now, we welcome new staff to our Camp Hill community and I am sure we will see their impact on the school in next year’s *Chronicle*. But firstly, let’s look back on last year... please read on.

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

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Leavers

David Eckley



David Eckley took up his appointment as Head of Geography in September 2014, joining us from our sister Geography Department in King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls. It was rumoured that he had received his secondary education from King Edward's School Edgbaston, and with such an unexpected and auspicious double pedigree, his arrival was awaited with some interest by those in the know.

Dave came to a small Geography Department, as one of two teachers on full timetable, and two more on a part-time timetable. The previous Head of Geography, Mr Keith Phipps MBE, had led the Department with distinction for some 26 years; for 25 of those years I had worked alongside him, through all the changes and evolutions, both within the school and beyond. A quarter of a century and I was getting a new boss, a new close colleague and a new direction. Change. Old Dog. New Tricks. Unsettling.

I had met him, in passing, on the day of the interviews, deep in laughingly boisterous conversation with our then Headmaster, Mr Mike Roden, talking about rugby — CHG, KES and Rugby... ok.

Within a day or so of his joining us as our, indeed, my, Head of Geography, I had decided, albeit from my fleeting first impressions, that this was a decent person of ability, enthusiasm and integrity. Suffice to say that any lingering disappointments I may have harboured, from losing out to Dave as Head of Department, were quickly dispelled, and I determined to seek to actively support him in his new role. I had made the right decision.

To add to the above acknowledged traits, there is another one which helped foster our close working relationship. I wish to mention his mannered direct approach, and his honest

openness. He assures me that he was brought up in Harborne, but Dave's social certainty, to put it politely, has been seen over the years, amongst my more genteel colleagues, more as a "Northern" character, to be allowed for in dealings with, for example, the esteemed Mr George Cookson, the late and dearly missed Mr Mervyn Brooker, and, at times, apparently, myself. Mr Jones is far too nice, but it must be there somewhere.

Only rarely, in his early weeks, did I have to travel to Departments far, far away, on diplomatic missions to calm the waters and translate my Master's misunderstood wishes; a role I liked to think of as somewhat akin to that of the celebrated protocol droid C-3PO.

Having already worked next door, as it were, he was not unfamiliar with the Boys' School and he arrived fresh from teaching similarly exceptionally able pupils in the Geography Department of Camp Hill School for Girls. In addition, Dave was able to draw upon his recent experience of working in several other schools across the full secondary age and ability range, both in the private and state sector, including King Edward VI School Lichfield, Myton School Warwick and King's School Worcester.

He inherited a happy Geography Department in good academic shape, but one in which decisions on significant curricular changes had been deliberately held back pending the change of leadership; to give the new incumbent a free hand. 2014 was a year of change. Together with a new Head of Geography, we also gained a new Head Teacher, as Mr Martin Garrod stepped up from Deputy Head to his new appointment as Headmaster of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

There is a peculiar Camp Hill Geography challenge, or asset, depending upon your point of view, which presented itself to the new Head of Geography seeking to implement radical changes. In recent years, two Head Teachers and two Deputy Head Teachers have been timetabled classroom teachers, as subject specialists in the Geography Department; working as very much part of the collaborative deliv-

ery of the subject in all respects. The Head of Department, for example, has a Senior Leader working alongside him and present in all meetings. I think Dave understood this inherited situation when he was appointed; but even so. It can have great advantages, but, in leading initiatives, it needs a measured, professionally confident, open and considerate approach through the use of good interpersonal skills. It also helps if your colleagues decide that they like you.

The weekly meetings of the three, could be viewed by the casual observer as Del Boy, Rodney and Grandpa; Dave, with all the enthusiasm and good ideas, Deputy Head Teacher Mr Andrew Caves with the practicalities, and the freely offered anecdotal wisdom of the Village Elder Mr Christopher Jackson. It must be noted that Messrs. Caves and Jackson were together at Camp Hill, a quarter of a century earlier, as pupil and Form Teacher at the school; and were now able to contribute their different experience, evident deep professionalism, unspoken mutual understanding, sophisticated shared sense of humour, and biscuits.

Joined, on occasion, by Mr Tom Burgess, now Head of Physical Education, Dave used these genuinely enjoyable and productive sessions, together with ongoing informal discussions, to actively audit and review all the work of the Department, prioritising A-Level and GCSE and working down to the establishment of skills and understanding in KS3. It was very clear that his choices were based upon practical experience in other schools. He also understood the assessment system, having worked as an examiner for the newly proposed examination board. Confidence in the adopted assessment process was a prerequisite for us. We drank a lot of tea, bought more expensive biscuits, and changed and resourced the GCSE and A-Level Syllabus. The teaching was amicably divided up by personal choice and interest. What could have been a wearisome task became almost enjoyable. Mr Eckley as leader; confidently and quietly persuasive, but very open to being convinced otherwise, or being tempered in his enthusiasm.



Dave very soon placed great emphasis on auditing and developing our learning opportunities outside the classroom to meet the demands of the new courses. The response to a parent or fellow teacher enquiry of "What do you do?" i.e., fieldwork, can be a good reflection of the whole approach and ethos of a Geography Department. Every class, in every year was to be taken out. Links to other academic departments were fostered through offering our colleagues days out to exotic places; like New Street and the Bull Ring. Existing day trips were redeveloped and new ones created. New localities had to be found for outdoor learning. The Conway Centre on Anglesey now served as a base for both Year 8 and A-Level field activities. A day out to Carding Mill Valley and the River Severn became an annual event for the GCSE classes. Local microclimate studies were developed in the school grounds; easily accessed within timetabled lessons.

Dave planned and led a very successful Geography Department trip to Iceland in 2015. His experience of three previous visits helped greatly in our choice of tour operator and the planning of the week's activities. Our Icelandair flight took us along the South coast and into Keflavik, with the blue of the ocean and the glistening white ice and snow of the land, in brilliant sunshine. We had one day of this and then the near Arctic fog and cold wind descended. Early Winter in Iceland. Great days travelling around with a local guide, looking at volcanic landforms, geysers, glaciers, waterfalls and icebergs. Great evenings in comfortable hotels with excellent food. The boys behaved impeccably in the unanticipated sharing of a hotel with a girl's grammar school. How could we have thought otherwise? Time out in Reykjavik and a leisurely float in the Blue Lagoon, where Mr Caves was very pleased to be given an armband as a Responsible Adult. We all had to duck down to avoid the worst of the driving hail storm that swept across during our wallow in the steaming warm water. Mr Caves was bumped off our overbooked return flight,



but saved at the last minute. Safely back in the UK and home to Birmingham. A memorable adventure.

Appointed, principally, to lead in Geography, outside the classroom, David Eckley has shared his love of rugby in his coaching of the U12 team, including the annual and not to be missed, Junior Tour to the North of England. His younger, and more agile, self had once turned out for Lichfield RFC and Five Ways RFC. I realised that it was no idle, blokey conversation I overheard at interview. He was also out with myself and Mr Downing on the Cannock Chase DoE Expedition practice. The staff sports regulars gained another player for tennis, badminton and football; fun, but also a way of finding time to keep fit in meeting both the demands of work and family life.

It has always been remarkably easy, right from his arrival at the school, to persuade Dave to attend any convivial social occasion with colleagues outside school hours. These colleagues were, for the most part, fellow collaborators; the aged and time served survivors of a previous era of Camp Hill staffroom society. He loved it. Beyond his teaching duties, Dave also chose to serve his colleagues, and the school, as a reliable and effective union representative for the NASUWT; a demanding, sometimes onerous, but essential job.

I was privileged to work alongside Dave, prior to my retirement, for four of his eight years

at Camp Hill. I am sure that my impressions are a reflection of his later years in a Geography Department of which I only heard the stories. In my time, I saw his increasing focus upon individual pupil wellbeing, progress and attainment, through effective assessment, accessible record keeping, and informed mentoring. University applicants, from both Camp Hill schools, were offered practice interviews. A-Level classes were encouraged to attend the Geographical Association meetings at Camp Hill Girls' Geography Department. As classroom teachers, we created a programme of student requested GCSE revision classes as the examination time grew near. Dave had the subject confidence of his students and of his colleagues, and this was reflected in the record of course take up and attainment of pupils in Geography, at both GCSE and A-Level.

David Eckley, a man of principle and integrity, both personal and professional. It has been my last Camp Hill Geography privilege to write this tract, freely and without pecuniary remuneration, for my former colleague and continued friend. I, and indeed I am sure, all his colleagues, past and present, will wish him and his wife Helen, and children James, William and Annabelle, all the best for his move to a new appointment as Head of Geography at Westonbirt School in Gloucestershire.

■ C.M.J.

Emma Lamb

Emma arrived here as Head of Religious Studies in 2011, having completed her NQT year at Arthur Terry. When she arrived, there were two students in Emma's upper-sixth RS class. By 2015, there were twenty-five. Emma had transformed a cosy but rather traditional subject of study into a modern, challenging, engaging subject which the students absolutely loved. She also took on the role of Head of Year 7, giving her a wonderful relationship with so many of the boys as they moved up through the school – that's why the RS numbers were what they were. The students just wanted to be where Ms Lamb was!

Emma had a year away from teaching when her daughter arrived in early 2016, but came back to job-share her Head of Department role, paving the way for much more flexibility in leadership roles at Camp Hill Boys. Before long, she took over leadership of Personal, Social and Health Education, and shortly

after, become Camp Hill Boys' first female Senior Leader as Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning.

There are two reasons why this job made so much sense on Emma: the first is that she's an absolutely fantastic teacher. I have never seen anybody do it better, and it was an honour to work with someone who I can happily and unabashedly say is much, much better at this than I am! To work on building a curriculum



with her over the years was a pleasure: she has an apparently bottomless box of tricks for planning and her creativity is genuinely a marvel to me.

The second reason why Emma's Senior Leadership post made sense was because it was really a role about staff. All of her colleagues have, at some point, gone to Emma for some sage advice, to sense check a decision, to hear a sensible person's opinion, to have a rant or whatever else. She was, for a long time, the most human person in this place. Both staff and students have relied on her kindness,

compassion and wisdom.

Emma's contribution to school life went beyond the curricular; but she also never let the curriculum limit her! Her students have been spotted on Socratic walks, debating Greek philosophy while dressed in togas. Others have filmed Hindu epics in full costume around the school grounds. Trips to Sigmund Freud's house in London, to Hindu temples, and to Buddhist viharas have all been memorable elements of the RS experience at Camp Hill Boys – not one of them was ever a requirement!

Emma contributed outside the Department

too, never more notably than in the arena of drama. From *Jungle Book* to *Summer Satire* to *Journey's End* to *CHAOS* to *Oliver!* – Emma has been one of the key figures in Camp Hill's dramatic life for the last decade, and she leaves big shoes to fill in terms of managing the creative types!

On leaving Camp Hill, Emma took up a role at an education charity working on training future school leaders. We hope that this proves rewarding and exciting, although we also hope she will come back to Camp Hill one day!

■ **J.S.F.**

Ruoshan Li

When I think of Ruoshan, the first quality I attribute to her is that she is very tenacious. The first time I met her was when she was a trainee teacher and she popped into observe one of my lessons. She made a good first impression with that confident, self-assured aura. I therefore wasn't surprised when she applied for the Physics job to fill the vacancy left after Stuart Davenall's retirement. What did surprise me was to find out that her degree was in Biology!

Nevertheless, her passion for problem solving and Physics was clearly evident during the interview. Despite only recently moving to the UK from China with English skills that needed a lot of polishing, the School saw in Ruoshan a teacher with potential, and she started here in 2013.

The language barrier initially proved to be a challenge, especially in the first couple of years, but her natural intelligence and hard-working attitude won through. She moulded her weakness into a strength and developed



a unique teaching style that enabled her to provide fantastically succinct and memorable explanations of physical phenomena.

Both inside and outside the classroom, Ruoshan often commented on how the Chinese education system instilled a better work ethic into their students by getting them to

repeat Maths and Physics skills over and over until they acquired a muscle memory for them. She lamented all the silly mistakes a number of our students made, and thus set about improving the already high standards at Camp Hill.

A superb Form Teacher, Ruoshan always kept her form in order, but was always willing to listen if they needed support and the students spoke highly of her, as she was firm, but fair.

As a Physics Department, we greatly appreciated her tireless efforts – from excellent support for those preparing for the Oxford Physics Aptitude Test, to getting the Department through the recent lockdowns (including the abundance of exam prep and marking that involved). We will sorely miss her steady leadership, she became Head of Physics in 2018, and her positive good humour.

Tenacious, some may even say hard-headed – like the time she put a school bus out of action with an accidental head-butt... But that's another story.

■ **J.W.**

Andy Nash

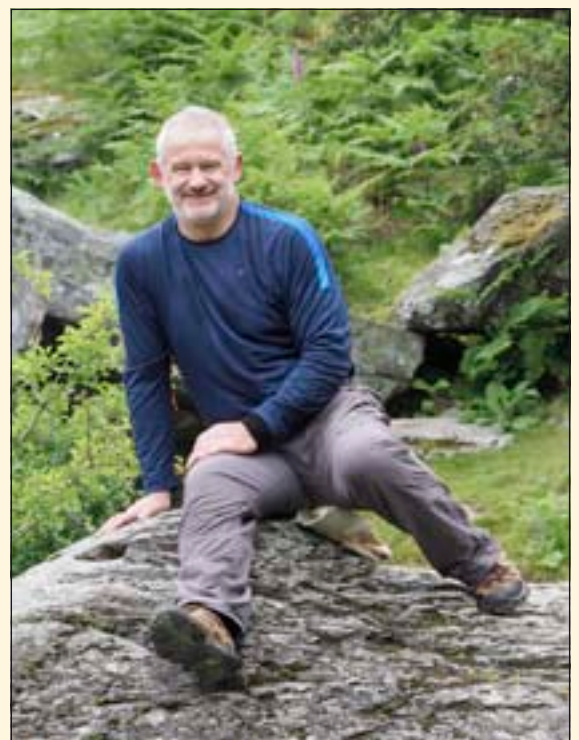
When I was asked to do Andy's *Chronicle* retirement piece I was more than happy to oblige. Talking to other staff and tapping into some of the already retired colleagues for some information, the same words kept cropping up to describe him. Committed, reliable, loyal, supportive, a big part of the Camp Hill community.

Andy and I started at Camp Hill at the same time, September 1993. Andy as a teacher of Design and Physics, and me as a "first year" student. When I reminisce with old school friends, teachers obviously get discussed, sometimes positively and sometimes not so positively, but I can safely say that whenever "Nasher" came up in conversation from students of the past have the upmost respect for him. This is something that has continued throughout his time at Camp Hill. His years of commitment to the students of the school cannot be questioned and his reliability and loyalty meant that he

has been respected and well-liked by staff and students alike.

Not only was he an outstanding teacher over the years, he had spent a good number of them, nineteen to be precise, as Tudor's Head of House. The "*Jolly Green Giant*" had led the Green Machine with pride, winning it twice. He rarely missed an event, always finding time to support the students, and proved to be useful at big events when attention of the students was required. Although, I am still unsure why he needed to use the microphone for House Assemblies!

I think one of the biggest contributions Andy made for the school has been with trips. Skiing, Czech Republic, North Wales Residential, Paris Art Trip, and many more. He had become an expert shopper of cheese and all things delicatessen to make sure staff were well fed during



their stays. He brought an element of medical expertise that was second to none. I believe that he now has his own parking space at Bangor A&E, and that the doctors and nurses there know him as *Nurse Nash*. He was also handy at rounding up the students when they spread themselves around a ferry, a lake or a city, by whispering "Er...Excuse me Camp Hill".

As we know, these types of trips are a chance for students to see the staff in a different light and this is one of the reasons why Andy was so well thought of amongst the student body over the years. Andy didn't just volunteer to go on these trips, he often went above and beyond what is expected from anyone acting *in loco parentis*. On a personal note,

since taking over the North Wales Trip Andy had been invaluable. He was always happy to do anything that was asked of him and always did it with a smile on his face. I was so glad that we were able to do the trip in his final year and that he was happy to come along. The standing ovation from the Year 10s for him was a highlight of the final evening. I've pencilled him in for this year's trip!

Ironically, Andy also quietly got on with his job at Camp Hill, was very humble in all that he had offered over the years. His pastoral care of students in his Forms was always been a strength of his and, I believe, he would have made a great Head of Year if he had been given the chance. The way he built relationships with

the students made him approachable and I know that they had really appreciated his consistent support.

Andy was a great support for me when I first started teaching at Camp Hill, where I got to see his outstanding pastoral care and rapport with the students when sharing his form with him. He was always available to chat to regarding anything, whether school based or not, and I know that he will be missed by all.

I wish him all the happiness in his retirement and I hope he fills his time spending it with his family and friends, relaxing, walking and getting out on his road and mountain bikes as much as possible. He deserves it.

■ T.J.W.

Simon Palmer

Writing a *Chronicle* article that summarises the career and contribution of such an amazing friend and colleague is a privilege. It is also rather daunting! I will do my best to do justice to Simon's outstanding contribution to Music and Drama at Camp Hill (and in his local community).

Born and brought up in South Wales, Simon attended Llandaff Cathedral School, where his love of music flourished. In actual fact, Simon is the only musician of note in his family and his decision to attend Llandaff was a very personal one. Rather strangely, he did not initially choose to study Music at University. He actually started on a Biology degree course before realising (thank goodness) that his real passion was for music!

Having completed his degree, he signed up for a PGCE and that led to his first music post at a Eversfield, small preparatory school in Solihull. By now, he had also begun his long association with St Faith and St Lawrence Church, where he has been organist and choir-master for 30 plus years. It was here that Simon met his wife, Susannah.

After a short spell at Eversfield, Simon was practically head-hunted for the Head of Music role that had come vacant at Camp Hill. I think the story goes something like this; he was invited to a senior production in the Spring of 1989 before being invited into the Head's study to, essentially, be offered the job. Thankfully, he accepted, and so began his long and distinguished career at Camp Hill.

It was obvious from the outset that Simon had the vision, energy and skill to take the Music Department at Camp Hill to new, previously unseen, heights.

Simon inherited a much narrower curriculum. Music was taught in a carousel with Art and RS in Year 9, for instance. In those days, the Music accommodation was a shared room in the old Camp Hill Girls' music block and Room 6, which had a piano. I recall C.H.A.O.S. rehearsals in there (Room 6) in the early 90s. I also

remember classes of students being marched between Room 6, where they had been singing, and the music block, where they would work on instruments – how times change.

The Ofsted inspection in 1994 changed music at Camp Hill forever (and for the better). The inspectors criticised the narrow curriculum; the new music block and practice rooms followed a year later. This was a fitting development, as Simon's impact on music at CHB was already clear. A music block of our own allowed Simon's influence really to flourish and the Music Department grew from strength to strength. However, the growing music provision placed almost immediate pressure on these new facilities, and increasingly, we are finding ourselves stretched for specialist facilities.

Simon's commitment to extra-curricular provision was truly breath-taking. He believed passionately that performing is a crucial part of musical development and so his support for the countless ensembles, groups, orchestras and choirs was no surprise. The fact that the team of instrumental teachers played such a major part in this provision was testament to Simon's example, support and commitment. Through his wholehearted drive, others were carried along.

To the uninformed, it was easy to think of Music as being a small department, with just Simon and Lorne doing the teaching. In fact, Simon managed 17 (yes, seventeen) visiting instrumental teachers. Add the chasing after boys who missed lessons, left their instruments on the bus, or mislaid their music and it is easy to wonder how Simon ever taught a lesson.

This makes it easy to believe that Simon's major contribution to school was all the extra-curricular provision. Nothing is further from the truth. He was an outstanding and innovative teacher in his own right; he was always used by those charged with leading Teaching



and Learning as a brilliant exponent of differentiated teaching. Given the range of ability in a typical Key Stage 3 class, this could be seen as inevitable, but Simon perfected this skill in a way that encouraged beginners yet honed the proficiency of the more talented.

His commitment to classroom practice was epitomised by his pride in his long-standing relationship with Birmingham City University, supporting and developing their next crop of music teachers. Always positive, Simon had the knack of getting the very best out of trainees, with many of them going on to prestigious teaching positions.

Mike Southworth, the legendary Drama lead at Camp Hill, very quickly realised what an asset he had in Simon. The first school production Simon did with Mike must have been in the early nineties; maybe a CHAOS or West Side story; neither of us could remember. Countless others have followed since, with shows such as *Oliver!*, *Les Miserables*, *Cabaret* and *Sweeney Todd* being favourites that stand out in my memory. The number of students whose love of musical performance has been supported and developed under Simon's lead seems almost uncountable; I can only imagine how proud he must be of that legacy.

Originally, Simon had been thinking of

retiring last Summer, but there were two main factors that delayed this: Covid – Simon did not want to leave when there was no extra-curricular music going on, and nothing to celebrate, and that year's A-Level class were probably the most able set of musicians the school has seen in one group. Simon, understandably, wanted to support them and see them through to the end of their studies.

There was a third factor which helped him decide that this Summer was the right time to hang up his baton – the arrival of our new History trainee. Simon always welcomed staff into the music block to practice and I know he has enjoyed witnessing Sylvain's piano playing going from strength to strength. He immedi-

ately showed Jamie where the practice rooms were and said that he was welcome to use them any time. However, Simon did not realise that Jamie played... the bagpipes. Who was to know that this was definitely **not** Simon's favourite instrument? If anything was going to persuade him to retire, that was it!

Simon, not surprisingly, has lots planned for his retirement. Cooking and squash will certainly play a part but what he's really looking forward to will be the chance to play music for himself, especially on the organ in St Faith and St Lawrence.

He will undoubtedly continue his long service at Camp Hill in some form or other, maybe by offering Wednesday afternoon

squash to senior students, or as an accompanist for grade exams.

I also know Susannah, his wife, has plans for him to drive the minibus at her school too. It's clear he is not going to be bored!

Simon leaves behind an incredible legacy. We will miss him. We will miss more than just his ability as an inspirational teacher. Simon is a kind, thoughtful and truly "nice" person. I have never seen him rattled or angry (either with students or on the golf course!). He was an example to us all; I think that just about summarises Simon's 32 years of dedicated service!

■ **P.A.B.**

Adam Syed

Adam joined the Biology Department in 2018 following his NQT year at Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby. It quickly became apparent that, in spite of his young age (as a Department, we constantly educated him on any music or television pre the start of this millennium!), he operated like he had been teaching for years.

We immediately knew we were very lucky to have gained him at Camp Hill Boys; not only has he taught every biology topic, for every year group, he has also been loaned to Physics, PSHE and Camp Hill Girls Biology Department to heroically fill difficult timetable gaps. Always the consummate professional, Adam was quick to suggest initiatives in the Biology Department and equally as eager to make them happen. He has outstanding technical skills, as demonstrated by his video-making abilities, and can assemble a PowerPoint quicker than even our most talented students can reconstruct a Rubik's Cube.

During his time here, Adam attended two residential biology field trips and ran a practical Microbiology Club for Year 8. He also assisted and supervised Friday prayers and, during lockdown, he organised a special Eid Mubarak video message compilation that meant a great deal to so many of our students. He also delivered Teaching and Learning professional development sessions for trainees and NQTs,

and enthusiastically volunteered for various school trips.

Not only did the boys trust and respect him, so did the staff! He always made time to listen, is incredibly sympathetic and very caring, particularly when individuals are struggling. On more than one occasion, he went out of his way and far beyond expectations, to make someone feel better. His kindness, and his brilliance, have not gone unnoticed.

Adam is only human though and he does have a few negatives. Firstly, he spent his formative years at our (friendly-ish) rival, KES; secondly, he is far too modest; and thirdly, he put us to shame with his unbelievable tidiness. His desk at work looked like he had never used it, and every piece of stationery had been specially selected to perfectly add to his minimalistic office look.

Syed, Adam Syed, oozes style and charisma in much the same way as the nation's favourite secret agent, whilst also channelling his inner Attenborough with his calm, dulcet tones. It was very rare to hear him even slightly raise his voice (I can only think of two occasions in his whole time here) and the usual sounds coming from his classroom were a quiet buzz of productivity or relaxed giggles from the



group. Adam is inspiring and supportive in the classroom; the students speak very highly of his subject knowledge and gentle, good-humoured nature.

He leaves us, selfishly wishing that we could have kept him here longer, but also really proud that he is going on to lead the very successful Biology Department at King Edward VI School, Stratford. We wish him all the best in the next stage of his illustrious career and we will miss him enormously.

■ **C.E.C.**

Dave Warrillow

Dave Warrillow, Birmingham born and bred. Camp Hill born and bred. Dave is one of that illustrious group who have given so much to the school during their tenure. He may have retired and moved away, but his heart will always be here in the Midlands.

Born 1953 in Hodge Hill, Dave attended the local primary school before securing a place at Camp Hill Boys in 1964. Aside from passing his

11+, he was a promising sportsman and loved the active lifestyle that Camp Hill allowed him to enjoy. Dave was a pupil who relished both the academia and the sport that the school so readily offers. He immersed himself in both School and House activities, most notably rugby. Indeed, he was awarded Colours three years in succession and had the honour of captaining the side in the 1970–71 season. In addition, his CV from Camp Hill reads strongly to include senior prefect, 1st XI Cricket Vice-Captain, House Captain of Beaufort and Secre-

tary of the Sports Committee. Dave has always had a place in his heart for Beaufort House, so much so that when he returned here in 2011, he was both keen and delighted to hear they were thriving under the leadership of Messrs Southworth, then Surr, Southall and most recently, O'Malley (coincidentally another ex-pupil). Dave was pleased to find the Reds were the most successful champion House in the new millennium, winning nine titles in the 2000s (they won three when he was a pupil).

Life after his first chapter at Camp Hill

didn't take Dave too far away. He went to study Physical Education and Geography at West Midlands College of Education in Walsall from 1972–75. His passion for rugby stayed with him and he was recognised as a skilful scrum-half, leading the College side for two years. His commitment to learning the game and developing himself as a player were rewarded with selection for the Midlands Colleges and English Colleges sides. He would go on to play over 300 times for Camp Hill RFC 1st XV, his love for the club keeping him on board as Chairman of selectors post-playing career. The representative honours continued with caps for Greater Birmingham and North Midlands. Cricket was also a game he enjoyed, and it was Camp Hill again who were the beneficiaries.

All this may sound like Dave had a sterling career as a sporting superstar... well almost! He did have to supplement *this sporting life* with work as a teacher. That element of his career began at Alderlea Boys' School in Shard End where he taught for four years before moving to Waverley School, Small Heath, where he stayed for 28 years. Head of PE, Dave also had a pastoral role as Head of Year and progressed to Assistant Head, Acting Deputy Head and Teacher Governor. Commitment was something you had aplenty from Dave throughout his career. Coaching and tutoring his school charges was the day job, supplemented by giving freely of his time to coach Birmingham Schools Cricket and Football teams.

In 2007 Dave took up a position as 14–19 Schools Adviser for Sandwell. This role centred on school improvement and curriculum development, particularly work-based and work-related initiatives. He had the honour of working with the charity Mosaic, within the Prince's Trust. Their belief that every young



person deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever their circumstance or background, could so easily be Dave's mantra in life.

In 2011 the opportunity came for Dave to return to Camp Hill and it was an offer he didn't need to think twice about. For the next eleven years he undertook a variety of roles and approached them all with the same diligence, organisation and reliability. Lesson cover, staff support, photocopying (he must have the sound of copiers whirring in his sleep!) and latterly Sixth Form Supervisor. Perhaps most notable here though was the enthusiasm he gave in volunteering for the extra-curricular programme. As Head of PE and Games at the time, I can fully vouch for the incredible level of support Dave gave to the pupils. Coaching and running teams, driving minibuses across the Midlands, umpiring and refereeing. Dave had a wealth of knowledge to pass on and did so at all levels, especially with the senior players.

He was good company on both senior and junior tours and could always be relied upon to regale tales of his friendship with ex-Leicester and England fly-half Les Cusworth. The boys only heard these stories once if lucky, whereas the staff had repeats aired on an annual basis! Thankfully he had a range of other anecdotes beyond that. One colleague claims such stories lasted the time it took to drive from school to Tebay en route to Carlisle for junior tour!

All good things come to an end and Dave made the decision early in 2022 that it was time to cut the Camp Hill cord and finally retire. He should now find more time to enjoy hobbies such as watching sport, theatre and music concerts, reading (he does enjoy a good crime novel). He shall also agonise over the mixed fortunes of Aston Villa, more fool him... The respect the boys had for him was shown by the warm round of applause Dave received from the Sixth Form on his last day.

Dave married Rachel in 2014, a wonderfully romantic occasion in San Francisco. He clearly has a soft side to him. They have now relocated to Heptonstall in Yorkshire, along with their two cats and Rachel's ever-increasing collection of arts and crafts as part of her job as a paper crafter and workshop provider. Dave apparently has become a dab-hand as her assistant! They will visit Birmingham to keep in touch with family and friends. His son Alex having two girls, Coral and Poppy, means Dave is keen to remain the doting grandparent.

I owe him a personal vote of thanks as he became a trusted friend as well as colleague. I could always rely on him to listen and advise in a supportive manner. Thank you, Dave. Farewell and all the very best for a happy, peaceful future.

■ M.W.D.

Debbie White

This summer we said goodbye to Dr Debbie White, who has taken up the position of Head of Biology at Camp Hill Girls. Debbie taught Biology here for fifteen years and was Head of Careers for ten, a role she was well qualified for given her wealth of experience in the science sector before moving into teaching.

After studying A-Levels at Chelmsford Sixth Form College, Debbie moved to UCL to complete a BSc in Microbiology. Her first graduate science job was working for the National Coal Board on a publication called *Coal Abstracts* where she condensed scientific research articles into a publishable format.

Although the future of this role was clearly

in jeopardy by this time, it stood Debbie in good stead for a three year PhD at Southampton General Hospital in the Vaccine Development. Here she worked on the Meningococcal Meningitis B strain that had no vaccine and a very poor prognosis, especially in children. Here Debbie experienced the highs and lows of scientific research with an exciting breakthrough in the first month, followed by a lull in positive data before another breakthrough in her final



months. The culmination of three years of patient, careful lab work was the discovery of a protein which was an effective antigen in mice and is now part of the Meningitis B vaccine. Debbie left Southampton for a post-doctoral position at the Thrombosis Research Institute in Chelsea followed by a second post-doctoral at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital where she worked on anaemia and malaria.

After a productive period in research, Debbie then embarked on an MSc in Science Communication at Imperial College. She describes this as a wonderful year where highlights included making radio programmes for the World Service, working on the televised Royal Institute Christmas Lectures, and writing an article about Chocolate for the *New Scientist*.

From here Debbie diversified in the world of scientific communication to the role of Exhibition Developer at the Science Museum in London. Here she spent two years with Science Box Touring Exhibitions and learnt the art of developing news exhibitions and taking them in kit form on tours around the country. These included Future Foods, DNA Fingerprinting and Atomic Clocks.

Debbie then spent a memorable three years on the Wellcome Wing's "Who am I?" Gallery which was focused on the science of

human identity. This involved collecting unusual objects and obtaining iconic animals to stuff such as Onco Mouse, the first mouse to be genetically engineered with a human cancer gene. During this time, Debbie was present for the royal opening of the Wellcome Wing by the now late Queen Elizabeth II in June 2000, which she describes as a truly memorable occasion and amazing after-party.

The scene was set for the future when Debbie took on the role of Exhibition Content Project Leader for the "Centre of The Cell" at Queen Mary University. This children's educational science exhibition was to be housed inside a strange, pod shaped, structure suspended over the medical research lab.

The four-year project was a blank canvas and an incredibly exciting venture involving a lot of development work with schools in the east end of London. Here she got an insight into different types of schools and the seed was sown for a future in teaching.

Debbie moved to Solihull with her daughter and carried out a PGCE at the University of Warwick. In 2007 she started teaching at Camp Hill and was able to apply everything she had learnt in science research and communication to her lessons. She taught the boys with enthusiasm, dedication and a passion for broadening their biological experiences.

The activities that Debbie organised for the boys were endless and the summer lunchtimes spent around a paddling pool of ducklings will live on in the memories of many. There were butterflies, fish, quails, stick insects, hamsters, guinea pigs and Gardening Club, all for the purpose of enriching the boys' time at school.

Latterly, Debbie ran also Film Club, an initiative she set up as Head of Careers to expose the boys to the wealth of opportunities associated with the film industry. Somehow, between full-time biology teaching and arranging work experience, interview practice and events as Head of Careers, Debbie found the time to join many of the school trips and even gave up weekends to support DofE expeditions. Her last project was to organise an artist to create an inspiring mural in the Careers Room which, fittingly, boys will be able to enjoy for years to come.

This zest for life and endless capacity to maximise every opportunity available to the boys will be greatly missed. She was a valued work colleague and a treasured friend. Debbie, we thank you for all your hard work and everything you have done for so many people at Camp Hill Boys and wish you every success in your new role at the Girls' School.

■ **E.H.L.**

Obituary

Paul Anthony Twiby 'Oscar' 3 April 1943 – 14 March 2022



Born Paul Twiby, but known universally by his nickname, 'Oscar' was a Camp Hill man through and through. He started at Camp Hill Boys in 1954 and was a student when the School moved from Camp Hill to Kings Heath, making him one of a select number who were educated at both sites. He often reminisced about the excitement of moving to the brand new building, surrounded by grass. He was proud of his Camp Hill education and the majority of his lifelong friends were fellow old boys.

Towards the end of his school life, he indulged one of his other great passions, music. He formed a band with, among others, another Camp Hill legend, Micky Parkes. Oscar went on to be the singer and front man for the band *Scot Free* who made appearances all over the local area in the 1970s.

Oscar played for Camp Hill Old Edwardians Cricket Club where he became 2nd team Vice-Captain in 1970 and went on to be Captain in the 1975 and 1976 seasons. He was also Honorary Team Secretary in 1979 and 1980 and served on various Club committees.

He, like many other Old Boys of that era, was always a regular at Camp Hill Rugby Club, especially at the thriving social side. He took on the role of Publicity Officer in the 1980s. From that time onwards he was an integral part of the Club producing the match day programmes and also match reports for the newspaper and, more recently, for the website.

He was keen to be involved in all areas of the Rugby Club but was particularly supportive of the women's rugby. He was elected a Life Member of the Camp Hill Rugby Football Club in 2012 and the home dugout is named in his honour.

Oscar struggled with serious ill health for a considerable portion of his life, and this started when he was a young man in his prime. Whatever ill-fortune hit him, however, he was always positive in his outlook, never bemoaned his fate and continued to do whatever he could for the Club and his family. Oscar was one of a kind and is survived by much loved daughter Melanie.

■ **Steve Terrace and Martin Crutchley**

School Activities

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 – 2022				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
FOOTBALL	8	12	4	6
CAMP HILL MILE	12	20	12	6
BADMINTON	4	7	2	7
BASKETBALL	8	12	4	6
HOUSE POINTS	6	8	4	2
CHESS	4	12	8	6
SWIMMING	20	10	14	6
QUIZ	8	6	12	4
RUGBY	10	20	14	6
HOUSE POINTS	4	8	2	6
HOCKEY	12	8	6	4
MUSIC	4	6	10	10
TABLE TENNIS	8	12	4	6
CRICKET	8	11	20	11
TENNIS	4	6	2	8
HOUSE POINTS	8	4	2	6
ATHLETICS	20	14	10	6
HANDBALL	4	8	2	6
VOLLEYBALL	8	6	2	4
OVERALL TOTAL	160	190	134	116



HOUSE REPORTS

Beaufort

As the newly elected House Captain of Beaufort, it is my pleasure to bring you a report of last year's successes.

The new academic year saw the return of the House system back in full operation, following the disruption of House events for two years due to the Covid pandemic. Beaufort looked to continue their winning streak and make it five Championship wins in a row.

We started the year off well coming second overall in House football, and just losing out to Howard who looked to be our biggest competitor this year for the Championship title.

We had to settle for third place in rugby overall, with good performances coming from

each age group, especially Joe Day and Sam Satodia. We performed strongly in the cross country standards with points pouring in from Y7 to Y10 and the "Camp Hill Mile" saw some impressive displays of stamina and mental fortitude, with special mentions to Peter Kippax, who came first in the senior finals. We came joint second with Seymour in that event.

Our badminton team came in a commendable third place behind Howard and Tudor. Our quiz team came in second, a positive end to the autumn term as we moved on into the spring term.

The spring term did not start off as well as we would've liked, with fourth place finishes in both chess and music. We managed to settle for third place in the new handball

competition. However, we quickly picked ourselves back up with well fought second places in table tennis and basketball. This trajectory was carried on with outstanding performances across the board in volleyball, allowing us to come first overall. We also achieved first place in swimming, one of our strongest events every year, following excellent performances in the standards and the swimming gala, especially Joe Day who won his 6th *Victor Ludorum*. This brought us to the end of the spring term and we looked to carry this momentum over to the summer.

Record breaking heat waves led us into the summer term, as we looked to win the Championship and break records. This was certainly the course that we looked to be taking with an

extremely well deserved first place in hockey, where we were the only House to field a full team in the Seniors, something that we as a House strive to do in every event. There were signs of hope in separate years for tennis and cricket, but in the end we had to settle for third and fourth place respectively.

This brought us to the final event of the year.

Sports Day was incredible with support and encouragement coming from members of the House, especially Milan Ram and Amar Sangha and we were victorious on the day out-performing the other Houses in our individual

events; special mentions go to Senior *Victor Ludorum* winner Sam Ankrah and Y8 *Victor Ludorum* winner Adam Bashir, who also broke the school high jump record.

Alongside the more traditional track and field events there were also “fun events” organised by Mr Rees, with members of Beaufort enthusiastically taking part. This marked the end of the House Championship and our winning streak, with Beaufort coming a respectable second place behind Howard.

Thank you to Mohammed Karim for leading the House throughout the year. We also have to thank Mr Burgess, Mr Rees and

Mr Norton, as without them it wouldn't have been possible for such a range of activities to take place.

A special thank you to Mr O'Malley for being the Housemaster of Beaufort for as long as I can remember and one of the most, if not the most successful Housemaster in Camp Hill history. We welcome Mr Breakwell into the role and look forward to the success he can bring to the House this year and for many years to come.

■ **Sam Ankrah**

Howard

After two years of House events being interrupted due to Coronavirus, we finally returned to the normality of a fully functioning House calendar.

Following the victory on Sports Day in 2020–21, which was one of only two events along with touch rugby which we won, the new academic year provided another opportunity to be successful.

This was certainly the trajectory the House took in the first major event of the year. To start with, two wins and a draw in senior football as Sam, Stan and the squad performed magnificently. This start was carried on by the Y7 and Y8 in rugby, who enjoyed success, which was followed by competitive performances by the seniors in the spring term which enabled Howard to take first place for rugby. Special mentions go to Alex in Y7, Raees and Rupert in Y8 and Will Taylor for the seniors.

A very impressive display by the collective Howardians in the cross country standards during the newly named “Camp Hill Mile” saw us battle towards the top and although our elite runners were not medallists on finals day, our strength in depth led us to shine through the rest of the competition.

We also had a positive outcome in badminton, with our juniors coming out as joint

winners and the seniors, under the leadership of Adarsh Palanikumar, hardly dropped a point and saw us with yet another victory. Our quiz team came in a creditable third behind Seymour and Beaufort to end the autumn term as we marched on into the spring term.

The spring term saw utter dominance from Howard and in Mr Hill's words “April is the cruellest month... if you happen to be in other Houses.”

In chess, run by Will and Karan, Howard wiped the floor with the opposition and a close finish in table tennis saw us come out on top. We were able to win the new handball competition and we were second best to Beaufort in volleyball where the team put in some fantastic performances. We achieved third place in swimming following standards and a strong gala performance throughout the year groups after seeing success in the intermediate relay. We managed to settle for third place in House music after outstanding input from Caleb, Dylan, Alex, Hun, Joel and Sampanna and we only came short due to fierce competition. This concluded a triumphant spring term, which will go down in Howard history.

The sweltering heat led us into the summer for a grand finale. The summer term did not show as much promise as the spring; in hockey, cricket, athletics and tennis, we had promising starts and victories in separate years

but it was not to be overall.

Sports Day was eventful, to say the least, with the encouragement of Jack, Toby and Hasan from the side lines, we were able to manage a second place finish which reflects our performances on the day; special mentions go to Senior *Victor Ludorum* winner Milan Dawson. Sports Day was a successful event overall, which not only had the track and field events but also had “fun events” organised by Mr Rees. This concluded the academic year and an immensely successful year for Howard culminated with our victory in the House Championship.

Thank you to Sam Morris for successfully leading the House throughout the year and congratulations to Will Taylor for winning the House Trophy and Seth Turner for winning the Simon Fenn Award for contributing towards House activities over many years.

We all also have to thank Messrs Burgess, Rees and Norton for the management for such a range of activities. Finally thank you to Mr Hill for the organisation of the House activities and delivering assemblies every Tuesday morning ranging from Will Smith slapping Chris Rock to the troubles of the Qatar World Cup. It leaves us to reflect on a brilliant year and look forward to another year as we hope to retain our title.

■ **Yuvanash Nirantharakumar**

Seymour

September dawned and the empty paths of Vicarage and Cartland Road were painted navy with Camp Hill blazers. Victory was a common goal for the Seymour students going into the first events of the year.

September began with House football, our teams were eager to face the other Houses, however a poor showing led to Seymour coming dead last. This devastating defeat lit the fires of retribution amongst the House. It was imperative to string together some victories from then on.

Seymour proceeded to come tied second

in the Camp Hill Mile, one of the few major high value events in the year, and then followed up with a series of good results. An excellent performance by the House meant that we came second place in swimming and rugby, and an outstanding effort by all involved earned us first place in the House quiz, music and cricket. Despite being behind going into Sports Day, gaining enough points to cover the gap to the other Houses was doable. Sports Day was Seymour's last stand. The sun rose on a warm Wednesday in the middle of July. The finale of a campaign that had begun almost ten months previously had arrived.

Sports Day was set to be a great day for the students of Camp Hill, and, for Seymour, it held

a rollercoaster of immense highs and lows. The day's events started with the throwing event and the long distance running, which showed great promise, as Seymour gained a number of individual wins, granting us an essential early advantage. Our excellent performance continued into the afternoon, and the Seymour crowd were in full voice during the sprints.

Seymour's downfall came in the short distance sprints and relays. Fatigue left our teams at a disadvantage, and there was a lack of points coming in, as we came to the end of a long afternoon.

One of the most well received events of Sports Day, and most people's favourite, was the tug of war. There was a great sense of

community: roars and cheers were all that could be heard during this competition of raw strength.

The conclusion of Sports Day revealed that, to our dismay, we had dropped from first to third, completely extinguishing our hopes for the House Championship, despite our best efforts.

The final results of the House Championship revealed that Seymour had ended up in third place. 2021–22 was a sub-par year for Seymour and did not meet the standard of our House's rich history. However, I am sure that 2022–23 will be far better. We were extremely pleased to beat Tudor, but next year we will challenge Beaufort and Howard. A coordinated

and consistent effort from Seymour will easily win the House Championship and I have high hopes for success.

Congratulations to Howard but Seymour will be back on top...

■ **Zahid Alidina**

Tudor

Well, what a busy and exciting year it has been on the Tudor House front, we have had a year to be proud of come what may. I, as Tudor House Master, can firmly say that even though some of the results haven't gone in our favour your efforts have given me great pride. It is a pleasure to be associated with the "Green Machine" when seeing your endeavours throughout the year, even when the chips have been stacked against us.

As a House you have never given up the challenge and have always conducted yourselves with the dignity expected of a Tudor House member, long may this continue.

Can I say a big thank you to the Y13 lads, who have now moved on to pastures new, as without their help and support then, it would have made the running of the House a far greater and onerous task. Thanks must go to Jack Johnson and Joe Matin for their help and support as House Captain and Deputy.

I must also say a big "thank you" to all of the House Year Captains, who have regularly worked tirelessly to arrange teams at short notice due to schedule or format changes.

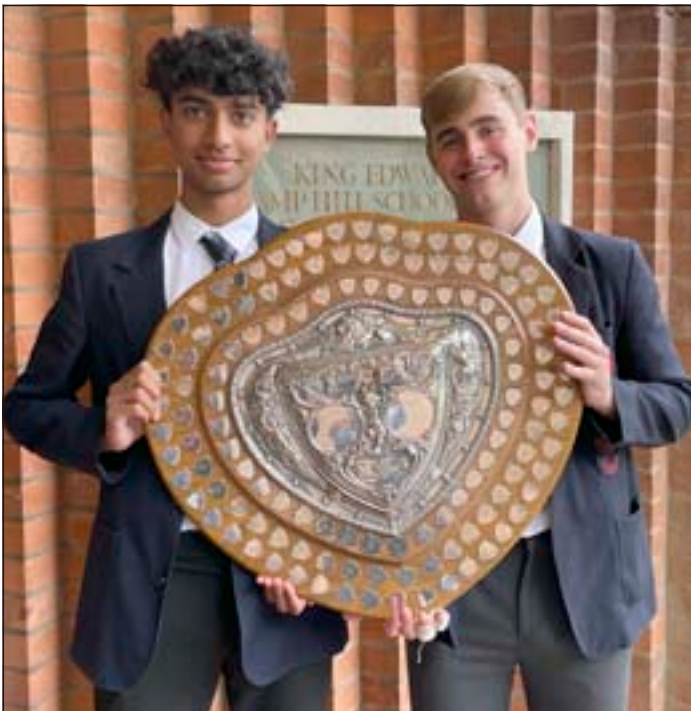
At the time of writing there are still two competitions to be concluded, the tennis and Sports Day, which I am sure those representing the House, will have given their all in the hot and humid conditions. All members of the

House who participated in doing their athletics standards enabled us to be in joint second place – one point behind the leaders.

As Tudor House Master for the last nineteen years, it now comes for me to hand over the reins to Mr Rees. I hope that he finds the task as Tudor House Master as enjoyable as I have. It has been a pleasure to be acquainted with such a great bunch of young men over the years and in my days of retirement I will look back fondly on the moments shared with you all over the years.

Have a relaxing summer, you all deserve it, and come back in September ready to lay the foundations for the year ahead.

■ **A.J.N.**



Sports Day pictures can be found at the end of the Sports section

Brighter Futures Mural

"Art should be something that liberates your soul." — Frida Kahlo

Whenever a student or a member of staff enters Room 5, they take a moment to appreciate and admire the significance of the mural that has been painted there. This piece of art can be described as a symbol of hope for the students. It is a guide intended to tell students that they all have a unique skill or interest, which may have an impact on the world as they can utilise that skill to help their careers. It displays the many doors of opportunities waiting to be opened and it informs people *"To boldly go where nobody has gone before."*

The mural in Room 5 shows a variety of interests and careers, some of which students have not attempted before but may become an interest that could develop into a career. Students may discover their abilities through exploring these interests and find that they can enjoy them as well as make them feel good. This piece of work is intended to offer inspiration and that was the goal that we had hoped to achieve.

Led by Mrs Smith (Head of Art) and Dr White (Head of Careers), we decided that this project should be student based, as it is meant



to inspire. Therefore, the mural had to be created by students so it would be relatable. The mural needed to come from the student mind and showcase their aspirations and interests in the form of a phenomenal piece, drawn and painted by artist Jennifer Foxley.

All years were involved so it would reflect the thoughts of a diverse range of students and would not be in any way biased to one year. Thoughts can change over time, as we mature and find new interests. Of course, the mural concluded by connecting all these perceptions together, and now, the mural stays in Room 5, prepared to give a dream or let the dreams of others become true. However long it takes you to gain your dream, never lose hope.

■ **Muhammad Yusuf Qamar**
9H, Creative Leader



Jennifer Foxley

Many thanks go to the AFS for funding the mural painted by local artist, Jennifer Foxley. Jen is a professional artist who has been working in the interior design sector since 2004, in both private and commercial sectors. It has been such a valuable experience for our students to be able to work directly with an established artist and designer throughout the project.



Jen came into school for several meetings with a group of Creative Leaders. It was their role to ensure that everyone's ideas within their form groups were represented in a visual way for the theme of "Brighter Futures". The students were quickly impressed with Jen's designs and were great at offering suggestions on how the design could be modified and

improved. They wanted to make sure that all of their likes, hobbies and interests were visible in the mural, along with their future hopes and aspirations. Jen came in for just four days and completed the mural from start to finish! We are absolutely delighted at what an inspiring and vibrant space the room is now.

■ **G.S.**



GCSE and A-Level Student Art

Here and on the following page is a small selection of the work created by our GCSE and A-Level students over the last year. Refer to the key for titles and artist names. Some art images have been cropped to fit the available space.





④



⑤



⑥



⑦



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Key to GCSE and A-Level Student Art images above and on previous page

① Will Pettifer, Y13

④ Arthur Breakwell, Y11

⑦ Marzan Ahmed, Y13

⑩ Humza Irfan, Y13, ("The Hug")

② Jack Johnson, Y13

⑤ Tom Li, Y13

⑧ Harry Lownes, Y11

③ Louis Bailey, Y11

⑥ Sam Nouhov, Y11

⑨ Pranoy Nishanth, Y11

Y9 Cultural Identity Art Project

Here and on the following page is a fantastic selection of personal final pieces for our Y9 Cultural Identity Project this year. Refer to the key (also on the following page) for artist names.





Key to Y9 Students who produced the Cultural Identity Art Project images shown here and on the previous page

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| ① Aditya Krishna | ⑬ Joel Pumphrey |
| ② Adwaya Gupta | ⑭ Mustafa Ahmed |
| ③ Alex Hopkins | ⑮ Rafael Kenny |
| ④ Aneeq Naveed | ⑯ Reuben Havard |
| ⑤ Anthony Botros | ⑰ Tristan Tse |
| ⑥ Babar Zaffar | ⑱ Vidyut Tutika |
| ⑦ Finlay Guevara | ⑲ Vrishank Battu |
| ⑧ Finn Sambridge-Davies | ⑳ Yahye Badeed |
| ⑨ Haaziq Wani | ㉑ Zahi Ihsan |
| ⑩ Ishan Gautam | |
| ⑪ Jesse Okunbor | |
| ⑫ Jingxi Bai | |

Whether it was the pink, cat-obsessed but secretly sour Dolores Umbridge's office or if it was the Gothic, grandiose book-filled Dumbledore's office, the elements of art we had learnt about were embedded into the design and thought around these ever-so iconic settings.

Then we began the tour itself, and what can I say, it was great. Being an avid fan of the series myself, it was awesome to see these things from my younger years transformed into reality at a scale I could comprehend. It was also impressive to see just how many props and effects were made practically, rather than having everything being produced in CGI like what often happens in other popular franchises today. From the cramped space of the cupboard under the stairs to the magnificent Ministry of Magic to the "average" home of 4 Privet Drive, it was amazing to see how each and every one of these sets was made and how they played their part in the Harry Potter story. We even went inside of the Hogwarts Express Train!

It wasn't all sets and props, however, we also looked at some of the technology used in creating the film. We looked at technology such as motion capture, which at the time was relatively new, and how it was used to bring some of the CGI characters to life. We looked at even more concept and reference art used as the blueprints to the magical world.

The tour brought out the Potterhead in many people, even in non-fans of the series. Personally, my favourite attraction had to be the last one – the Model Room, containing an enormous, 1:24 scale of the Hogwarts Castle. It was a sight to behold, a massive, meticulously detailed and constructed intricacy of every tower, courtyard, bridge, window and quintessential element of the ever-so-recognisable castle of the films.

After sifting through an overpriced gift shop for things to buy, we had to unfortunately get back on our coach and return to the Muggle World. For those who haven't been there yet, it is a fantastic tour for HP fans and non-fans alike, and it is a great opportunity to learn about the many careers in the world of art and drama.

■ **Afnan Muhammad**

Art Trip to Warner Brothers Studios The Making of Harry Potter

The seven-part story about a wizard boy who lived has become the most well-known work of children's fiction of our time. Its presence has become ingrained in modern popular culture and the eight films made to expand the scope of the franchise have only scaled up this influence much, much more. Nearly everyone can understand a reference to the cupboard under the stairs or the evil man with what looks like a plug socket for a nose. The fact is, Harry Potter has become synonymous with the fantasy genre as a whole.

We honoured the legacy of the eight legendary films by visiting the Warner Brothers Studio in north London where the movies were filmed and at which many of the iconic props, sets and costumes are kept. Unfortunately, we couldn't all attend on the same day as a year group, so the trip was split with half of the attendants going in December and half of us going in March, to the delight of the teachers.

The site itself is quite fascinating - it's a massive film studio with many large studio buildings known as soundstages where scenes for movies are filmed. The tour itself is set in two of these soundstages, the only ones open to the public. We noted that the main studio was obscured and at a distance from the tour, as they needed it to be as confidential as possible.

Historically, this area was constructed as Leavesden Aerodrome as an RAF base just outside of the small village of Leavesden, but after the war it saw little action outside of manufacturing until becoming a film studio for use in producing a James Bond film and later the Harry Potter films.

Before going on the tour, we had a workshop. This workshop was about an hour long and went into detail about the filmmaking process and the wide array of careers in filmmaking, from directors, producers and writers to concept artists, prop artists and set designers, and what each of these do. We learnt about the process of concept to reality, using the example of Hagrid's hut, showing how words from a page were transformed into the real world. From book to concept sketch, to storyboard to model and finally to set piece, each part of the process was shown with the authentic props from real artists made for the films.

We also learned about the importance of setting to represent character in film, by looking at and discussing the many well-known settings associated with certain characters, as well as where the elements that we had already learnt in Art such as shape, tone, colour became relevant as we saw how these aspects of art became analogous with our favourite characters.

Careers Environment Day

Back in January, Year 9 were supposed to have a Careers Day, which was focused on the environment. It was postponed, but thanks to the hard work of Doctor White, finally took place in April 2022.

Our Keynote speaker, Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad is an exemplary man of medicine, moral and virtue. The most striking fact that stands out about him was his eagerness to learn about his surroundings constantly and desire to experience new things. He carried himself with an air of learned wisdom and his actions have earned himself prestige such as an OBE from Her Majesty herself.

The morning of Environment Day started off with an inspiring talk from Professor Gatrad detailing his ambition and his journey from his humble beginnings as a postman into the ground breaking person he is now. He talked to us about the importance of hard work, learning from failure, experience and education. He spoke to us about the people from all different walks of life that he has helped around the world with cleft lip operations, hospital work and humanitarian aid, instilling a newfound respect from us.

Then, he addressed the defining problem, that we – the rising generation – will inadvertently face in our lifetime: Climate Change. “Everything and everyone will be affected by climate change,” he said. Professor Gatrad has set up a global anti-plastic organisation called WASUP to educate people against single use plastics and combat such waste that detriments our environment. “Not all plastic is bad,” he says “but in hospitals, everything is plastic,



from the equipment to the breakfast packaging.” His words show us that plastic is so apparent in medical environments due to its ease of use and sterile nature, even though plastic will eventually cause sickness.

After the talk, we had the chance to interview him and in the smaller and relaxed environment of Meeting Room 1, he was much less conservative and more open. We asked a few thought provoking questions which were met with even more astute answers. But the most memorable answer was when we asked him: “Who was your most memorable patient?” He replied with two stories...

“I have had many memorable patients. For obvious reasons, I can’t give his name but he’s actually an MP. He was two years old when I got a call about a very sick child. When we got to him, he was in a terrible state, so I put him in my car and took him to the hospital. We tried to resuscitate him but nothing was working. He had an infection in a place where you don’t normally get infections. He had an infection in

the gallbladder. The first and last time I have seen it in a child. So I removed his gallbladder.”

“In Africa, there was a child with jaundice. Someone rang to the hospital that there was a very sick child. He didn’t move for two days, so I thought he had died. I had found out he had been taken to a bush hospital but they wanted me to see him. The child’s family went to my own parents to get me to personally help him. When I got there, I had never seen someone so close to death. The American doctor there wanted me to take him off his hands, but I said he wouldn’t survive the journey. But my wife, a nurse, asked to take him and so we drove through the jungle with his fancy equipment to our home. He was in a coma and the only way I could give him food was to pour melted ice cream and sugar cane juice in through his nose. So that’s what I did. After running a few tests we found his urine was black and he had enough potassium in his body to almost kill him. I finally diagnosed him with black water fever and gave him the appropriate medicine to treat fever and five days later, he woke up.”

After that raw and resounding interview, the three of us interviewing him were left with a profound impression of Professor Gatrad. Conclusively, he is an astounding figure of the medical field, who shed light on the often overlooked side of the medical field in our school – humanity. He taught us the importance of a doctor’s smile, which in itself is a preliminary medicine as soon as you enter and how it’s slowly disappearing with the machinist norms of today. Professor Gatrad sits on the border of spirituality and science and consequently, he is a source of inspiration to us all.

■ **Aditya Krishna**

Enterprise Day 2021

I can still remember the excitement I and my specially chosen fellow Year 9s felt even when we were still weeks away from the KE Foundation Enterprise Day. Meeting what were literal celebrities to us who built and worked for their living from the ground up and taking on board some memorable sagacious advice. Followed by the opportunity to design a product in a *Dragon’s Den* type workshop courteously run by James Merry and Owain and not to mention a whole entire day off school (!), all certainly lived up to our high anticipation!

I personally had a smashing time at Enterprise Day as one of the lucky Camp Hill Year 9s who were present, and I’m going to share with you what was on offer, what we all learnt and of course all the extremely fun, exciting and a

couple of mildly comical moment from me and my peers’ experiences that we took home and treasured as memories and highlights of our school life at Camp Hill and other members of the Foundation!

We promptly boarded the mini-bus at 8:40 am; thankfully everyone made it, although I will admit I was running head over heels having mistakenly thought we were leaving at 8:30am! A short drive to King Edward’s for Girls and we entered a small canteen where we registered for the day. After being registered and given name labels, some of us helped ourselves to the wide range of morning snack delights comprising pastries, chocolate croissants and beverages galore! In my opinion the chocolate croissant was unmatched to any other pastry I’ve ever eaten, and that’s not hyperbole.

Having rapidly charged our listening skills, all schools filed into the extravagant auditorium

to listen to an exceptionally empowering speech by Tru Powell called: “Why Entrepreneurship Education Matters”. Powell is a multi-award-winning creative entrepreneur and publicity expert, from Birmingham, just like his audience. He explained his roots to us, complemented with an engaging and concise presentation to show us how far he’s come from virtually nothing.

Powell even started his first mini event run by him and his brother in the house backyard! This was when he discovered his spark and passion to become an events entrepreneur, reinforcing the idea that even our childhood dreams can be achieved if we persevere and work for them! Powell paid homage to his late grandma in his speech, honouring her by suggesting that she made him the man he is today, and sharing some of her favourite sayings such as: “victory don’t come from lying in a bed”. This

struck a chord as it is one which I sometimes use to get out of bed on a weekend!

Powell shared his lockdown success story with the audience, explaining how he had been worried that his events planning companies, which relies on physically attending events, wouldn't be able to provide him any money during the Covid lockdown. Despite these difficulties, Tru adapted and thought outside the box by manipulating the main aims of his brands to encourage young people to get creative at home, along with many more achievements and contributions such as a virtual quarantine performance in his performing arts academy. These successes, while we were all cooped up, got him won the prestigious award of "Birmingham's Man of the Year" last year as well as "Lockdown Hero of the Year" by MBCC Awards.

Needless to say, Tru's speech was sensational and I'm sure students and teachers alike could take some of that memorable knowledge on board in their daily lives, not just starting businesses. In fact, I think it was the best part of the day in my opinion! Oh, um... yes, I almost forgot to mention the typo on the sentence "listen to your grandmar" as a final piece of advice written on the last slide; little laughs could be heard all around the auditorium!

After Tru Powell's speech, the panellists arrived, ooooooh...

The first panellist rocking the stage was Lexi Willetts, CEO of "Little Black Door", an online wardrobe app that allows users to see, style and share their wardrobe collections with other users and the wider fashion community. She even came wearing a little black dress!

LBD is not the only accomplishment of Willetts, she was also a former IP lawyer and head of IP for FIFA, and spent her career representing football clubs and luxury brands. After gaining a First Class Master's in Luxury Brand Management, she repositioned as COO, working within

consumer tech space. Voted as one of top 100 Women in Fashion and recently nominated for Role Model of the Year (Women in Tech Excellence Awards), Lexi is inspiring young girls worldwide to pursue their aspirations in management in whatever field they choose!

The second panellist was Xiaofan Zhang, a technology enthusiast with a particular interest in electrical vehicles, battery technology and the future of mobility and energy. He's been fortunate to contribute to the Innovative Cambridge Autonomous Metro and lead a team that developed and raced Helia, one of the world's most efficient electric cars, as well as building a state-of-the-art solar powered car that raced in the 3000km long World Solar Challenge in Australia. Zhang is one of the much younger entrepreneurs, to the point where some boys in KES still remember him as a schoolboy in the older years! This of course comes as great motivation to us young people that we can achieve so much in so little if we pursue what we love and work hard at it.

Our third panellist was Sally Jones, an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, who in the late 1980s and 90s, was the BBC's first woman TV sports presenter, fronting the Corporation's Olympics Coverage and BBC Breakfast News along with presenting a variety of shows such as "Women's Hour" and the sports politics show: "On the Line". She now writes on news, health, education, sport and obituaries for all major news companies in the UK. On top of all these hard-earned achievements, Jones has written books on West Country Legends, tennis and Warwickshire local history. Jones has even showed off her tennis prowess in captaining Warwickshire tennis for a decade and winning three women's Real Tennis World Championships!

The final panellist was Sarah Sahdev, who studied Classics at Cambridge before beginning a career as a talent agent. After working

at a number of major companies in the industry, Sara founded her own agency, *Core MGMT* in 2013, working closely with exceptional clients, directors, producers and casting directors to evolve with the developing industry and to respond to the ever-changing needs and demands of the market. Furthermore, Sara co-founded *Three Little Birds Picture Ltd*, a production company championing untold and diverse stories.

All these successful, exciting and inspirational panellists happened to be old King Edward's School students (with the exception of Tru Powell)! Another motivational factor to everyone in the Foundation that they are where these successful entrepreneurs were as kids, and with a bit of work, resilience and effort they can follow their passions and show it to the world through a successful business, whether it be fashion, technology or drama.

The panellists were lovely people to listen to as well! They talked about their lives engagingly and described the highs and lows in detail, as well as giving advice to any aspiring entrepreneurs in the audience. In addition, the panellists were willing to answer questions. For example, my question was: "Would you consider a healthy relationship between an entrepreneur and other team members of a project key to a successful business?" All panellists shared their opinions on this view, collectively answering: "Of course, when other members of projects in a business feel connected with their senior, they're motivated to work better and feel safe around you and their workplace, whereas workers who feel they have a negative leader won't feel safe and will produce lower quality results." Thanks for the enlightening answer, guys, I'll be sure to be nice to my hypothetical employees in the future!

After a refreshing break and biscuit in the spacious KEHS dining hall, it was time to put what we've learnt in the auditorium to the



test, time to try it out ourselves in the amazing *Dragon's Den* workshop. This was full of educational, creative and fun activities designed to get us to think like entrepreneurs, all fabulously put together and run by James Merry, who you may know for his role of Simon Brooklyn-Bell in CBeebies BAFTA nominated "*Waffle the Wonder Dog*", and his assistant Owain (which he says is pronounced like a glass 'o'wine)! We were put into teams in the hall and sat at our team tables as soon as we arrived back from the dining room. I was in a team of seven with my classmates and four other girls from KEHS, who fortunately were friendly and weren't afraid to contribute and share ideas and opinions, in turn making it easier for us to pick our best business ideas.

After talking to us a bit about his career and how to start a meaningful business to cater for what the people want rather than just any random product, James Merry assigned us the tasks of coming up with two or three ideas. We then had to decide the best one and what its specialities were, choose a logo, as well as starting to have a think about how to market the product. This would take us to lunch.

We had some good ideas, with suggestions of a medicine made from bacteriophages which target superbugs effectively, an innovation on drone delivery, and geo-engineering technology being pitched and scribbled on our A3 sheet. Eventually, we opted for a domestic version of carbon capture from the atmosphere (my idea :). This would involve a solid slab of special porous rock stored in a container within your house or business building or any kind of building, which contains a "spectro-filter" to assess the spectrograph of the gases in the air it comes into contact with, and blocks out all other gases other than the infamous greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. Following the entry of the carbon dioxide into the container with the rock, controlled conditions within container would cause the CO₂ to solidify into the pores of the rock, where technology within the walls and floors of your home leading to gas reliant appliances recycling the captured carbon dioxide gas into a renewable fuel source for these appliances rather than using new fuels and releasing more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Alternatively, the brand would work with fuel companies to encourage people to buy the product by being able to call someone from the fuel companies to collect the rock full of captured carbon dioxide which the fuel company recycles into fuel rather than extracting more. In return, the owner of the product would receive cash as an award for capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by buying the product! Solution number three would involve the rock being buried deep underground, which means the carbon dioxide would never pollute the atmosphere again. New rocks for the container would come free from the brand.

However, the pure genius, the pinnacle of intelligence for me, was our logo design. Remember solution two of trading the carbon dioxide filled rock to fuel companies for cash? Well, our logo was based on this most appealing "seller", which is what James Merry describes as something that makes your product special and gives a reason for people to buy over other rival brands' options. Our logo was CO₂, notice the subscript dollar taking the place of the 2 in the original carbon dioxide chemical symbol? King Edward's Foundation smarts at its finest!

After being shown the iconic Cadbury Dairy Milk advert of 2007 consisting of a gorilla drumming to "Feel It In The Air", as well other ad templates for our business and products such as bus ads, YouTube ads, car radio ads etc. and having a short think about how our team was going to create a convincing ad to market our product, Merry and Owain dismissed us for lunchtime, which was delicious to say the least. A lovely hot pizza slice with curly fries had me raring to go for the second half of the workshop!

Upon returning from lunch, we cast our minds back to some of the exemplary material we were shown before lunch on how to make an advert, and decided as a group we wanted to film a short, minute long TV ad. A brief synopsis of this was a scenario where a man was buried in gas bills, and wished for a miracle to get him out of his mess. Using some editing software on our phones, we managed to put a beam of light around the person playing a saintly figure presenting our product to the man in need! The saint listed the product's mission to encourage climate action while being paid in return, and mentioned how the money you can earn by trading in your captured carbon dioxide would eventually compensate for the fee of having the product installed. The man kneels and thanks God and the saint for such a miracle!

We then thought about finance and cost, the final part to building our business. That was a huge roadblock, the business would need a loan into the billions in its first year if the idea was really going to work! Although we planned our business on a global scale, even Jeff Bezos would cringe at that value! On the bright side, we were still going to make near a billion pounds in profit after selling the product, costing around £7000 with finance plans available, to around a million homes and/or public buildings in the first year.

The big moment, the grand finale, would our toil and sweat in creating our concoction for a perfect climate change fighting business and product prove to be fruitful? It was presenting time!

The teams were sent off in three groups heading to a different part of KEHS to present to the judges, and as a man who will admit my flaws, although our team's ideas were on

the money, our presenting skills weren't. We couldn't make much of an organised script due to the amount of time we spent trying to improve our product despite the fact that it was already sufficient, which meant we stuttered and couldn't get across our ideas fluently to the judges or audience, and I could never get past the line of "our product's function is..." without hitting a mind blank! To add to the disappointment, there was no way we could show our ad which was filmed on a phone to the audience, which was a real shame as a good chunk of time and effort and learning lines was spent on that!

Lesson learnt, don't fix what's not broken, because it could break other parts as a result, like how spending to long improving what was good decreased our presentation quality when it all mattered. Then again, I went to Enterprise Day to learn about entrepreneurship, not to prove I was an expert at it already.

After choosing the finalists from the three groups who managed to present well in the initial phase, it was up to these finalists to convince us about their product's worth in front of everyone in the hall! A team with a similar idea to ours, which was called "Biopaint", a DIY paint made from calcium hydroxide which could react with carbon dioxide to form harmless calcium carbonate as the final product of the paint, managed to win first place. Personally, my favourite finalist was "Booklight", though, which was a flash drive which could store all your favourite reading material to use anywhere. Perfect for GCSEs!

After a long, tiring, exciting and memorable day with lots to learn from, we headed back to school at around 3:35pm.

In conclusion, I think Enterprise Day was an extraordinary success and something I will treasure and remember from my school like at Camp Hill and the bigger King Edward's Foundation. This isn't just down to meeting the famous entrepreneurs and the lovely *Dragon's Den* workshop, but also for the sheer number of lessons and advice I took on board that day. Tru Powell's speech was the highlight of this for me, especially his teaching that if you do what you love, like he loves planning events, you'll never have to work a day in your life. How he wanted to be what he is from such a young age and how he's achieved that so well astonishes and inspires me, as well as all the other great achievements of the other panelists! Moreover, I took the workshop as a learning experience on how to pitch my ideas in later life, yet enjoyed it all the same and would love to repeat the experience. A huge thank you to King Edward's High School for Girls for organising such a lovely event, to Mrs Parmar and Dr White for taking the Camp Hill group as well as Mr Garrod for bringing us back, and I hope to attend more educational and fun events like this as I progress through school!

■ **Mohamed Eltair**

Charity Committee 2021–22 Our First Year

Last year, came up with the idea of making charity a key part of Camp Hill Boys again. Coming out of COVID, battling through teacher assessed GCSEs and being stuck at home for nearly over a year; our once proud memories of Camp Hill Charity had fizzled away. We nostalgically reminisced about the glories of the Talent Show and even the random doughnut sales, yet still we wanted to be better, we knew Camp Hill could be better. We decided to set up a committee with this goal in mind; consistent, engaging events to put Charity back at the heart of Camp Hill.

Looking back on this year, we couldn't have made a better decision. From the long, extensive planning for Charity Week to the flurry of successful events after exam season; we've raised over **£19,000**, a figure we never could have imagined last year. However, we

threw ourselves into the deep end.

Abbas learnt how to make posters, edit videos and put out social media campaigns, while Idries coordinated our emailing systems and our task management, which allowed us to plan our ideas months before events – making a *ClickUp* server from scratch is harder than it sounds; although I still can't get the hang of posters or videos. While both of us played a role in overseeing all the charity events that took place this year, teaching us the organisational skills to go forward and put on even grander events for all of you next year. We also learned how to use many new technologies, such as *Eventbrite*, *JustGiving* and *ClickUp*. These hard skills along with the many soft skills gained from event planning and team management are truly invaluable and worth the long hours and constant swerves in fate we experienced; nearly every event has been close to being "postponed" at one point, although when all the events went down we had quite a bit of fun taking the day out for "photography".

Nevertheless, the most important and invaluable thing we hope to have created is a community; the Charity Committee has given birth to unexpected friendships and lifelong experiences for our members and, we hope, the whole school. Not only that, but a strong proactive community, one that doesn't look at an issue and wait for someone else to solve it, but one that designs their own creative way to help out; even if one life is made better by your work, it is worth every bit of work you put in.

Having said that, we hope to continue our successes next year and do even better! We hope you enjoy the following articles that go into detail on some of the best events from this year written by our amazing and committed Charity Committee members and collaborators, as well as a few done by us.

We hope you enjoyed what we put on for you this year and we look forward to making next year even better.

■ **Abbas Nathani and Idries Bharmal**

Baton Bearing for the Commonwealth Games

It wasn't long after Charity Week that I was passed a note informing me Mrs Johnstone wanted to see me in reception, and so I went down not really knowing what to expect. There, much to my surprise, she told me she was nominating me to be a Baton-Bearer for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. I graciously accepted her nomination, but ultimately thought I wouldn't get it – surely there would be better people than me in the pool of nominees.

So it was once again much to my surprise that in late April I received an email telling me that I had, in fact, been selected! I quickly completed the acceptance form, where I was told I would be receiving a uniform shortly.

I remembered vividly the events of 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics, from the Opening Ceremonies to the events themselves. I remember as a young child watching the Olympics Torch Relay, the procession coming down the street as Union Jack flags were waved and it all went by. I remember when the torch came to my primary school, and when it visited a friend's birthday party – though, annoyingly, I don't remember when I got to hold the torch in the comfort of my own living room, despite pictorial evidence I dug up over lockdown 2020!

It was with these fond memories from my childhood that I waited, with much anticipation, for my day to contribute to an event similar enough to the celebrations I remembered from my childhood. In April, I would receive my pink and grey uniform, like all the Baton-

Bearers, with more information about where I would be running coming closer to the date itself – that date being the 26 July 2022.

For context, the Baton Relay was a relay across the Commonwealth of a baton, called The Queen's Baton, designed in the West Midlands and created from Copper, Aluminium and Brass (with some platinum signifying the Platinum Jubilee weaved in), complete with a 360-degree camera, sensors and LEDs. The Queen's Baton contained a message to the Commonwealth from Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and took a trip around the Commonwealth, then a journey around England before finishing in Birmingham at the Alexander Stadium with the Opening Ceremony. There, the message it contained was read out. Unlike London 2012, there was only one baton (and perhaps some backups), so I didn't get to keep one like the torchbearers of 2012.

On the day, my parents dropped me off at a central meeting point where I'd meet my fellow Baton-Bearers. We were divided into groups – some people had to take shuttle buses to their location, ours however was just a short walk away.

I got talking to some of my fellow Baton-Bearers, discovering that all the adults in my group were holders of MBEs – so I was in good company! The details of each are hazy now, but one was nominated for charity work done against cancer, another for running a local version of the "Make-A-Wish" charity for several decades, another for his struggle after a life-changing traffic accident in his teens, and for



all he had achieved after the accident, and the final Baton-Bearer was a student at Langley School, nominated for work on the Student Council and the school's Eco-Committee.

The organisers gave me a number of 116, as the 116th Baton-Bearer of the day, and we set off. We were placed into position and briefed on the running order. The email I had received beforehand had listed timings down to the minute – so I was expecting precision. The baton was to go up the street I was in, round a local park, then back down the street, with me being the last runner. So, I waited. Then I waited some more. Then I kept waiting.

Finally, nearly an hour after I had expected it to come, the previous runner came round the corner out of a nearby park (where a small celebration was going on), and came forth. A brief exchange for some photos occurred with the official photographer, and then I ran.



post-run, I got talking to one of the organisers. She said that this wasn't her first time on a race like this – and that she was off to Spain (I think) for a thing with JLR later. She also said she had worked on the London 2012 Torch Relay! Whilst 2012 had been one continuous run throughout the country, the Birmingham Games had gone for a series of smaller relays across England as they were aiming to be a more “sustainable” games, which I found quite interesting.



And what can I say other than it was... exhilarating. I ran, and then ran some more, down the street with my friends and family cheering me on. I was surrounded by orange jersey runners (the police in fact, to make sure I or anyone else didn't try to steal the valuable baton), as I ran my 200m to the end. At the end I was greeted by the orange jersey runners again, and members of the public who had gathered. The baton was then taken off me and loaded into a transport vehicle to be moved to the next location.

The day was not yet over however – like many of the volunteers for the Commonwealth Games, being a Baton-Bearer meant I was given two tickets to the second dress rehearsal of the Opening Ceremony! With my memories of the London 2012 Opening Ceremony, I relished the opportunity to go and watch the dress rehearsal – we even had floor seats meaning we were up-close to the action! We raced over to the Alexander Stadium (since the dress rehearsal was on the same day as my run) and plonked ourselves on seats to watch the ceremony. It was a blast (as anyone who

watched the real thing will know)! Though, we were told to keep the whole thing (such as the legendary Bull) a secret, and surprises like the names of the final Baton-Bearers and Malala's appearance weren't in the dress rehearsal.

The whole experience was something I will never forget (and I still have my uniform hanging at home!) – as I said running with the Baton was exhilarating. Thank you to everyone who supported me along the way, and to Mrs Johnstone in reception for nominating me!

■ **Kishan Sambhi**

Blindness Awareness Week

I started Camp Hill's first Blindness Awareness Event with the help of Abbas, Ali, Idries, and the Charity Committee.

"But how can you be blind if you can walk?"

"Surely, you can just wear glasses?"

"It can't be that bad, right?"

"Haha... you're not really blind."

The commentary above is often sprouted to my mother on a daily basis; her experience of living with macular dystrophy is often denied and invalidated by others who are, through no fault of their own, ignorant of what it truly means to be blind.

Around 2.2 billion people are currently living with some form of visual impairment and yet it continues to be a heavily misunderstood topic shrouded by darkness. Throughout



history we see the moral disapproval, denigration and avoidance of those who are blind, with health-care professionals believing these actions contribute to the discrediting of the individual's experience; I wanted to tackle these misconceptions in an aim to remove the stigma which manifests as a result of these dynamic cultural processes.

This is the main reasons why I decided to found Camp Hill's first Blindness Awareness Event. Wishing to raise awareness about being blind, the Charity Committee partnered up with the University of Cambridge, working closely with their Inclusive Design Team who developed visual impairment glasses for us to use in our event. These glasses simulated what a person with visual impairment would see, with six glasses being the strongest as it emulated 20/400 acuity). [see picture right]

Our event consisted of teachers being sponsored – with donations being handed to Focus Birmingham who are a charity focused on supporting people with visual impairments/complex needs – to wear these visual impairment glasses while carrying out daily activities, to almost give them a rough glimpse into the reality of those living with any visual impairment. Teachers often wore these during lessons which promoted students to ask questions and explore visual conditions. Mr Li commented on how he could not even tell the time from his watch clearly, and Mr Rees recalled tripping over the stairs. Hopefully this helped students to become more aware of oth-



ers around them (potentially even classmates) who live with a form of visual impairment.

I wanted to give a platform so that teachers who participated could explain their experience and I therefore organised an assembly as a follow up on the event. I explored five different visual impairments: macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, glaucoma, and blindness, through the use of visual images that depict the perspective of those living with said impairments, hopefully allowing students to take a peek into the world of visual impairments.

Following this, I invited the first speaker onto the stage: Mr Li. He began by sharing with

us a very personal story, the story of his son having retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) which is a disease that can lead to blindness due to abnormal blood vessels to grow in the retina. I would just like to thank Mr Li for choosing to share such a personal story with us as it helped to educate us. Our final speaker, Mr Rees, also shared the fact that his nan had Retinitis pigmentosa which is a disease that affects peripheral vision. I would also like to thank Mr Rees for being honest about some of the misconceptions he had and how this event has helped tackle them.

The lives of those with visual impairments are often heavily misunderstood and I hope that my event has helped to inform Camp Hill a bit more about the array of visual conditions that exist; I hope to have started a discourse surrounding the topic of visual impairments to help deconstruct the wall of stigma that cages the topic. As well as this, I wish my event has reminded us all to attend regular eye examinations as they are crucial in detecting eye conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. Just a reminder that any students or teachers that wish to use the visual impairment glasses are free to do so by emailing the Charity Committee.

Overall, we managed to raise £370.75 (including *Gift Aid*) which should hopefully help Focus Birmingham and their mission to enhance people's lives through multi-disciplinary approaches.

■ **Sahil Rahman**

Camp Hill's Got Talent

Following the tremendous success of the original *Camp Hill's Got Talent* in 2018, I was keen to ensure Omar was onboard with Charity Week so we could do it again – and thankfully, he had already started looking into one at the start of the academic year. After some discussions to get him into the Charity Week organisation group, I gave Omar Ismail and Jess Sandhar the task of organising the Talent Show. Whilst KECHG unfortunately wouldn't be involved due to *Songs from the Shows*, we still knew that there were enough talented individuals in KECHB to deliver – and deliver they did.

Following the relaunch of Charity Week, we quickly set about booking MR2 for auditions. From rappers to piano players, stand-up comedy and child geniuses, a plethora of acts took to MR2 to perform not just to Omar – the only man standing between them and the hall's stage – but their friends who came along to support them as well. It's quite a miracle that we got such a wide range of acts on such short notice!

We went away, and patiently awaited Omar and Jess to deliberate over which acts would make an appearance. One breaktime, those



lucky nine, who were selected, were gathered to find out would happen when they took to that high stage. A wide range of acts had been selected – guitar players, rappers, stunning yo-yo tricks and stand-up comedy just to name a few. Uniquely, @kechmemes.atp had decided to shed their mask of anonymity, taking to the stage to delivery memes live through PowerPoint. Meanwhile, we got down to rehearsals.

For me, these were mostly a breeze, since I was confident – and Omar himself confident – Omar knew how he wanted his event to look after his previous success. It meant that for once, I could just sit back and watch things unfold. After some chaos to procure the necessary equipment, including amps and pianos, we were ready. Mr Wilkins and Monsieur Renault would return as our judges, joined by Ms Lamb and Mr Burgess.

On the day of the event, however, there was a little problem. The *Maths Feast* was that day,





and the hall was to be occupied – with a layout not for an assembly but of clusters of exam desks for teams – until very close to lunchtime. It meant we had a very short amount of time between the end of the Feast, and the controlled chaos of checking in the hoard of students we were expecting as our audience.

We knew we needed a plan, and the people to deliver it. Anyone we could get from the Common Room, along with Mrs Bourne, was recruited, and a class currently in the Art Room was called into action. As soon as the Feast finished, we scrambled into the hall. Exam tables were moved to the front to form our VIP seating, the rest stacked in the corner. Chair by chair our army of Camp Hillians rearranged them into the necessary layout and somehow,

within just fifteen minutes to spare, the hall was ready to accept its audience.

The event began with much anticipation as the fabulously dressed Omar took to the stage. He had ditched the bowtie from last time for a glorious red rugby blazer, complemented by sun-glasses, the ultimate symbol of coolness. One by one, each act came and went to the cheers of the students – and the scrutiny of our judges. Monsieur Renault, and sometimes even Ms Lamb, would take it upon themselves to adopt a Simon Cowell persona, finding something wrong with every one of our acts, whilst Mr Burgess and Mr Wilkins desperately tried to inject some complements into the chaos. It was remarkable to me just how unforgiving our judges were – props to the

performers for bracing through it all!

With all our acts – the full list of which is in the Charity Week credits – over, we anxiously awaited a winner. The crowd may have called out for Jai Varaich the rapper, but alas it was the impeccable Aditya Krishna with his performance on the electric guitar that won over our judges' hearts. As the crowd cheered, he took to the stage to receive the ultimate prize – a J2O bottle, and a gift card.

With that, the second instalment of *Camp Hill's Got Talent* had come to an end. Congratulations to all the performers for taking part, and thanks to our judges as well! Well done to Omar for once again being an amazing host.

■ **Kishan Sambhi**

Culture Week 2022

Carrying on the Charity Committee's steamroll debut year, we get to Camp Hill's very first Culture Week — and wow, what a success. I'm sure we can all agree that it's a great privilege to be in such a diverse, wonderfully vibrant community, packed full of different cultures and traditions, each one with its own rich and intricate histories, and what better way to celebrate that, then with an event that allows each student to represent them. So there lay the idea and basis for our Culture Week.

We were very proud to host the Head Chef from *Chartwells*, who came in for a day to teach our students how to cook a cultural dish. The dish chosen was Zanzibari Chicken with lentil sambusas and it originates from East Africa. We held two sessions with different Key Stages throughout the day. The coconut chicken curry paired perfectly with the spiced rice and it's safe to say that everyone loved it, although not all had as much fun cleaning up as eating! Huge thanks go out to Mr Cattermole, and Head Chef Cale Flynn for giving up their whole day to make sure nobody cut their fingers or

set the school on fire!

In addition, to be able to appreciate each other's culture, we must be educated about them. So, to educate our fellow students, we had an incredible line-up of Year 12 students educating us with their wonderful assemblies.

Brian Mintah and Akanimo Nkantahon told us about their Ghanaian and Nigerian culture, respectively, educating us all on the history of their nations, their foods and traditions, perfectly demonstrating how similar two nations can be. With Akanimo's amazing dresswear to light up the stage, the assembly was enjoyable for all that attended!

Rafed Alasadi and Saud Qureshi talked to us about Iraqi and Saudi Arabian Culture. Both came dressed for the occasion, wearing the traditional headdresses of their nation, with the



similarity being clear for all to see. Both spoke about the fashion of their countries with a surprise visit from Gigachad and the stunning viral quiffs of Iraq!

On Friday, we had Toma Hoffman's assembly on Romanian Culture! And oh my, what



an assembly! With anecdotes about Vlad Dracula's gruesome ways, all the way up Marvel's winter soldier. With the assemblies being as informative as they were, it was a wonderful way to learn about the culture's represented! Thanks so much to all of those who volunteered to represent their culture, something they all did in amazing fashion!

Finally, on Friday, came our non-uniform day, the theme was cultural dress, and it was amazing to see how everyone

lived up to it. With clothes from all over the world being worn and more colour being seen among the student body's uniform than maybe ever before, it was a sight to behold. Turbans and hats, robes and sports kits, we had it all!

And to finish off Friday's assembly, we as a school were incredibly privileged to have a direct video address from the Former Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Nadhim Zahawi! The Honourable Gentleman spoke on his own culture, and how cultural integration benefits us all in the UK, and especially in Birmingham. A special thanks of course, goes to the now (as of writing) Chancellor of The Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Nadhim Zahawi!

■ Naadir Qazi



Grand Debate

Camp Hill is a school of arguments. Arguments ranging from the best food on the High Street to the validity of assisted suicide. However, arguments are not always a bad thing, as at Camp Hill each side seems to always reach a greater understanding of different perspectives on the issues. This informs us about other opinions, thus giving us a more balanced view of otherwise deeply contentious issues; such as the monumental UK's Chicken vs KFC Debate of 2022. Nevertheless, while debate, from informal canteen line arguments to formal Oxford style at weekly Debating Society, flourishes at Camp Hill, it is nearly always between students.

Now, here was the biggest stage for students to shine on: a momentous occasion; the first event of, albeit an extremely delayed, finally existent Charity Week. These students had the opportunity of their lives, not only to show off their debating skills in front of hundreds of students and cement their status as fundamental to the inner workings of the Camp Hill system, but also to humiliate Ms Freeman and Mr Hill (among others) in front of a live audience. What a prospect!

Thus, the Grand Debate was born, a chance for some of the shining talents of Camp Hill's Debating Society and a team of two Y8s and one Y10 who had never partaken in a formal debate to torment their teachers for the countless years of homeworks debating similar topics.

The four judges: The infectious teaching duo of Dr Taylor and Mr (English) Hill, accompanied by the figureheads of the newly founded Charity Committee (*the authors of this article*) Idries and Abbas.

Motion 1 ♦ This house believes if students have to wear school uniform, so do teachers.

Going into the first debate, the students' team of Zayn, Toby and Naadir, some of Deb-Soc's greatest talents, were confident. They shouldn't have been confident. Through a ruthless fifteen minutes stacked full of Mr Dowling rousing the crowd followed by our adjudicator Mr Wilkins having to calm them down, the boys couldn't make a single clear point, while Mr Hill and Mr Rudd flourished in their non-uniform suits and ties and the judges unanimously ruled against them. Disappoint-



ment for students all over the world, but could our two Y8s and one Y10 pull it back for us?

Motion 2 ♦ This house believes homework should not be mandatory.

The second debate was one stacked to the brim with talent, with the RS and History Department's brightest talents (Ms Freeman, Dr Page and Mr Breakwell) facing off against our noble team of amateurs. Our teaching talent must've been flustered on the day, as in what was, to put it mildly, a giant upset, the students seemed to take the upper hand with clarity and structure ebbing and flowing through their deliveries, whereas the staff struggled to capitalise on the opposition's gaping errors, merely sitting idly while their team was torn to shreds by our young heroes. 3-1 Students.

Motion 3 ♦ This house believes History is a better subject than RS.

Now, for the third and final debate. Staff on staff. In what they must've perceived as a valiant gesture, Mr Hill, Mr Rudd and Mr Dowling entered the floor waving the flag of the USSR and wearing Soviet soldiers' helmets, much to the joy of our (non-communist) crowd. Through a debate which was, admittedly, much better structured than either of the students' debates, both sides argued a clear case, with notable arguments being that History is RS in practice and that they're the same thing. However, logic only took them so far until drama was unleashed as History accused the RS team of not having enough staff to fill a debating team (while also not hav-



ing enough staff) and Ms Freeman retaliating by accusing the History Department of "begging for her to teach History".

Conclusion

Then, came the turning point. The point our amazing judges knew what the outcome was going to be. Ms Freeman's closing speech. She preached about how, in essence, teachers are teachers and we should all lay in a field of flowers holding hands. This speech clearly stunned our first judge, Mr Hill, who decided to vote for both teams at once, rendering his verdict completely useless. Dr Taylor, on the other hand, seemed to sympathise with Ms Freeman, maybe longing to lie in a field of his own one day, so voted on the side of RS, leaving all the pressure on our two student judges. Idries, an RS A-Level student, didn't seem to enjoy Ms Freeman's monologue (I didn't) so was swayed against the side of RS, voting for History. Abbas, a History A-Level student, seemed virtually unaffected by the RS ("Really Simple") side, and in what seemed to be a biased vote, chose the History side. So it concluded, 2-1 History.

And with that, as quickly as it began, the Grand Debate was over.

■ **Abbas Nathani and Idries Bharmal**



Mario Kart Tournament

The return to charity events as part of Charity Week we felt necessitated something different to the usual roaster of hall events. Furthermore, in my proposal I had talked about events that students could participate directly in – but what would these events be?

We thus came up with the idea of an eSports Tournament. Despite our expectations it would be rejected for involving “video games” by the school, to our surprise Mr Bowen was more than willing to accept the idea, even admitting to playing on the Nintendo Switch himself.

As I personally had no experience playing video games, I called up my good friend George Lanham, a Nintendo whizz, and we began discussing what tournament we'd do. Originally, we planned to do a SuperSmash-Bros Tournament, but after an Is It Week A survey and some discussions we settled on a Mario Kart one instead, deciding it was more accessible.

We knew we'd be expecting demand to be high, and so held a meeting to discuss the tournament structure. Several options were considered – including a suggestion by George for a cross-year group finale – settling on a series of six 4-way matches, with winners progressing to two 3-way finals, the two top players of each taking part in a 4-way final for the year group (an idea of George to ensure we had as big as finals possible).

Cross-year group participation was achieved by combing year groups with low demand. This had the advantage of maximizing participation with the time we had (twenty-four could compete in each tournament), at the disadvantage of most people only getting one go at the game since if you lost, you were instantly knocked out. George decided the tournament rules: standard Karts, Items on, with 100cc Karts (150cc was allowed if people called for it).

George procured the equipment from people he knew; I got the rooms reserved for each year group. We spent some free periods and lunchtimes doing reconnaissance, using a spreadsheet to track if rooms were free period three to allow us to set-up, who to contact to reserve them and what facilities like projectors and HDMI ports each room had, so any adaptors could be gathered for the day.

I knew that we had to ensure all equipment we used was returned, since we'd likely be borrowing people's personal equipment and any loss/damage would earn their annoyance – and that of the school. So, it was on the Tuesday of the event I turned up to school with a box of boxes, some sharpies, and envelope labels (plus a big box of cables I had in

case any were useful).

Over the first three periods of the day me, George and our helpers (there were so many people involved, I couldn't possibly list them all) sat in Meeting Room 1 and took in the switches, controllers, game cards and equipment people were lending us. Everything was labelled with people's names, packed in boxes labelled for each room along with a packing list to ensure everything was brought back. The entire thing was one massive logistics operation – one of the most complex of Charity Week.

Procurement of equipment was a hard task – the direness of the situation was made clear when George told me he needed my Wii, something I had previously thought I was just bringing as a backup option. Further, it was of paramount importance everyone bought their Switch docks with them (something you normally don't carry around) since without them the Switch couldn't be plugged into the projectors of each room. This was something we had discovered by testing it ourselves. One scare in our base room of Meeting Room 1 did happen when we thought we didn't have enough controllers – with Farhan Hafeez prepared to run to the high street and buy some outright – but a quick recount led us to breathe a sigh of relief, as we discovered we had just about enough. The Charity Committee ran around school, sticking up signs due to some very last-minute decisions about the rooms for each tournament.

Then, just before lunchtime, like the valuable cargos they were, the boxes were sealed up and transferred by congregations of Prefects to each room. Tournament sheets were laid out for Prefect game hosts to use for tracking. Frantic problem solving occurred, connecting adapters and switches up to projectors and screens, and loading Mario Kart up – all the mean time ensuring someone was always at base so that nothing was stolen. Further complications came from the fact that once a box



of equipment was delivered, a Prefect always had to be present to monitor it, meaning each delivery removed someone from our pool of volunteers. Shortly after lunch began, the order to go was given, and the tournaments began.

I'm proud to say that of the equipment lent to us that day, all of it – yes, all of it – made it back intact to its lenders, except for two HDMI cables (that are easy to replace, and not nearly as much of a concern as someone's Nintendo Switch or Joy-Con Controller or game card).

Congratulations to the winners:

- ♦ Y7: Jermaine Tulloch
- ♦ Y8: Rupert Bowler
- ♦ Y7 / Y8 combined: Did not finish
- ♦ Y9: Zeeshan Huda
- ♦ Y10 / Y11: Thomas Pitfield
- ♦ Y12 / Y13: Khubaib Ibrahim

(Note: I can't figure out exactly what year groups were where on the day since I don't have records of this, so sorry if I got something wrong).

■ **Kishan Sambhi**



Walk to Ukraine

Let me cast your mind back to the 24 February 2022, the winter's last chills were being thawed away and the coming of spring with the fateful recovery from COVID, seemed not like a distant light at the end of the tunnel, but a real tangible goal. However, as our winter ended, in Ukraine their suffering had just begun as Russia began its "special military operation" to "demilitarise" and "denazify" the government, as missiles and airstrikes began to hail across the Ukrainian countryside and cities.

Suddenly we were thrust from the naive new year optimism to the confusing, rapidly changing world of sanctions, refugees and war. A real war, right on our doorstep and becoming the world stage of global political tensions. We as students studying the Cold War, chillingly saw a return to US-Russian rivalry dominating the world again. The stuff of movies had come to life and we were stuck in our seats bewildered by the reality of the situation.

Many of us in the Charity Committee resented our own inability to do anything to help the people suffering in Ukraine, we felt a deep jealousy from even those who just helped refugees to those who offered up their lives to defend humanitarian corridors such as those at Mariupol. "I would walk there if I could" became our common retort about our willingness to do more, encompassing our passion but conflicted with the physical inability to go.

Until one fateful day when discussing new charity ideas with Mr Bowen he mentioned a "Walk to Africa" he undertook at his previous school where they walked the distance to Africa by walking around the school grounds. Immediately we all looked at each other and had our eureka moment: *We should walk to Ukraine.* Our dream of doing more became something real, something that could actually make a differ-



ence. While the money raised will make a huge difference to many lives, we hope the biggest influence of this event was to show that we are not stuck in a box of protection and privilege, together we can respond to any crisis no matter how much we have to "walk".

With the *Walk to Ukraine* being one of our first large scale events since the successes of Charity Week, stakes were high and a lot of preparation and organisation was required to pull the event off, so we'd again like to thank all of you that helped us on the day, it couldn't have run so swimmingly without your help.

On the day, students seemed as involved as ever in the school spirit, walking laps on laps with our top runners Adwaya Gupta and Jingxi Bai managing 10 laps, amassing over 10.6km in distance each for our trek. Students were also seen sporting blue and yellow attire to stand in solidarity with those suffering in Ukraine as well as all those humanitarian crises around the world, with Aryan Chaudhari being our favourite.

We'd like to thank you all again for your cooperation, we raised a fantastic amount of

money totalling **well over £2400** and couldn't have done any of it without your help, we want you to rest assured that all of your money is going to people suffering around the globe, especially Naadir Qazi who was our top donor, raising an awe-inspiring £270 for the cause. Thank you also to the AFS who cooperated with our every move and were fantastic on the day providing the students with refreshments at a price which they can agree was a bargain.

Last of all, we'd like to say, we're proud of you! We made it to Ukraine and a lot more. Ukraine is **2240.8 km** away from us and we as a school walked over **4395.5km!** However, no matter the distance nor the money, we hope we showed you that YOU can make a difference; just get some trainers on and start walking.

■ **Abbas Nathani and Idries Bharmal**



Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Fifteen Questions were all that stood between the contestants and the path from the ghettos packed full of Camp Hill general knowledge amateurs to living the lavish life of a *Genius Camphillionaire*. It wasn't going to be easy, to get on the stage you'd have to win a Kahoot against your new enemies- the rest of the audience – with only the six fastest getting through. Once in, you'd be up against the classic music slowly raising your heart rate; the spotlight on you and the silent tension of the audience as everyone watched your every move.

The first couple contestants kept falling at the same stumbling block, the safety net of £16,000 as our questions requiring both in-depth knowledge of Camp Hill culture and general knowledge ploughed through unworthy Camphillians, but the search for our Camphillionaire seemed a doomed one as a much more powerful player was about to end the whole event; the school bell at 1:35.

In these trying times, despite the ever looming probability of no one succeeding, a hero emerged. Francis Luke, a name that would ring through the school hallways (at least until the end of the day); a man worthy of winning the £50 Amazon Gift Card and complementary millionaire shortbread, crowning him the very



first *Camphillionaire*. As he walked upon that stage, the spotlight beaming onto his face, he had a certain elegance about him. And as he sat, next to our beloved quiz master Kishan Sambhi, the hero who made the Charity Week possible, we knew that, instead of that dark, demeaning bell, this would be our last contestant.

His game itself was one not without its fair share of controversy, with the audience seeming to be riled up at his streak of correct answers which blasted him past the previous winner who dwindled down below at £16,000, in that they seemed to “hint” the answer to him, where hint is to mean exclaim wildly when our beloved quizmaster read the correct answer aloud. After our attempts at moderation and controlling the crowd, Francis was left with one question. The final question, which would make him a Camphillionaire, a man with a reputation that would last at least until the end of the day: “Though today it is

treated like a treasure, what famous painting was once cut into to place a door under it?”

The options:

- A: The Birth of Venus
- B: The Girl with a Pearl Earring
- C: The Last Supper
- D: The Creation of Adam

Francis, with nothing but confidence (although after a little bit more than a moment of hesitation), declared the answer to be A. The crowd went silent. The lights dimmed. The music abruptly came to a halt. The quizmaster, breaking the silence, simply announced the answer to be correct.

Those four words caused an eruption. The crowd came to their feet, the lights flashed gold, even the staff were in awe. Our winner had been crowned.

Pocketing a £50 Gift Card and Millionaire Shortbread, all in all we'd say it was a win for Francis, and for those students who got to experience a once in a lunchtime phenomenon. Now, after Thursday's success, onto the closing event of Charity Week.

■ **Abbas Nathani and Idries Bharmal**

Would I Lie To You? Students vs Teachers

Can the students deceive the teachers? Or will the teachers deceive the students? — was the tagline plastered across the school for our final event of the week: *Would I Lie To You?: Students vs Teachers*.

Having run a version of the show with just teachers back in 2019 (with the help of Adeen Irfan and Ardeel Hussain as part of the Student Council), organising this version was significantly easier. I kept the assets and structure used from last time, mostly just editing the background of media from the blue of 2019 to a new purple branding.

Omar Ismail, Will Taylor and Eashan Varma

were all recruited for the student team, facing Mr N Hill (English), Mr Taylor and Mr Burgess. Mr Dowling was chosen as the host, following his performance in 2021's CHAOS production.

The event began with much excitement, with students shouting out the numbers as the 60 second countdown reached its end. After an explanation of the game from Mr Dowling – taking no time to make a joke at the students' expense – and introductions for the team members, Round One “Home Truths” began.

Will Taylor started by claiming to have “organised a common room chess tournament, but lost the first game so humiliateingly [he] had to call it off”. Mr Taylor was quick to snuff this out after Will Taylor said he lost the match in question to Joe Matin, with the teachers suc-

cessfully deducing it was a lie. The students then had to decide if Mr Burgess, of all people, had in fact “shared drinks with the Queen's Granddaughter and beer with the England Rugby Team” – something one audience member quickly shouted out “lie!” to. And yet, to the surprise of everyone, including the students, it was in fact true! The round finished with Omar arguing he had been to McDonald's in a dressing gown and the teachers, believing his lying to be so bad, decided it was a mistruth. In fact, it had happened the previous night, with photo evidence shown on screen – meaning Omar had successfully deceived the teachers into thinking he was lying.

We then hit the related person round. Last time we had (somehow) managed to get



Mrs Balkham on stage, however, this time Rohan Shergill came on stage! The three possible relationships the students gave were:

- ▶ Will: This is Rohan, who I once kissed during a treehouse hang out.
- ▶ Omar: This is Rohan, who I beat up at a Judo competition.
- ▶ Eashan: This is Rohan, and about three months ago I found out we're related.

The teachers took it in turn to interrogate each of the three students, with Mr Burgess quickly striking Omar down alleging he couldn't do Judo. Mr Taylor attempted to establish the precise location of the claimed treehouse, with Will just saying it was on a tree in a garden somewhere. Omar described how he supposedly knocked Rohan out, to the cries of "do it!" from some blood-thirsty Year 7s (for obvious reasons, their cries were ignored).

Mr Hill, in his typical wit, managed to insult every member of the student team before announcing their pick of... Eashan! And yet when Rohan took the microphone, he revealed the connection was, in fact Will, to rapturous applause. The two young men smiled for the crowd together, however despite the heckling of the crowd they did not choose to share another kiss (since that would probably be very awkward and uncomfortable).



The final round was "Quick Fire Lies". Mr Hill began by claiming to have "lost Mr Dowling's homework essay," not giving it back" until he re-joined the school as a teacher". Mr Dowling played along with this, and their deception was successful: the students decided it was a truth when it was in fact a lie.

Second was Eashan, whose claim of spending two hours on the teacups at Disneyland quickly fell apart to laughter from the audience. The final story of the lunchtime was from Mr Taylor, who claimed Mr Hill could have been his brother-in-law, revealed to many wows of the audience. Will Taylor quickly pointed out that Mr Hill had a "close relationship" (Will's words) with his aunt, and the students were successful in determining this was a truth.

The final scores were announced by

Mr Dowling – 2.5 points to the students, 4 to the teachers. Rubber Duck prizes were handed to the teachers (as was the prize in the 2019 edition) and, deciding they had nothing to do with them, threw them out into the crowd to a clambering of students trying to get them.

An impromptu speech from Kishan finished the event, thanking as many people as he could remember (*unfortunately I did forget some people – sorry!*), to a rapturous standing ovation from the students.

Overall, an enjoyable final event, full of wit, to cap off what was a chaotic week.

■ **Kishan Sambhi**

Institute for Research in Schools – Visit

You may think, that all the ionic compounds around us, such as the common table salt, are solid at room temperature. However, what if I told you that there exists a fascinating field emerging around salts that are liquid at sub-100°C temperatures?

For some context, this year saw our school's debut as part of "The Institute for Research in Schools" (IRIS for short). Alongside two physics groups, we chemists put our academic skills to

work as part of a research project, with ours titled "Ionic Liquids".

Our group comprised of Aarav Duggal, Matteo Gianni, Yicheng Guo, Adrian Ifrim, Benedict Scott and Yurui Zhang. Meeting regularly after school, we first kicked off the project by firstly understanding the concepts behind these fascinating compounds and by putting our research skills to use in order to analyse various published research papers. We did this to explore different approaches to synthesis, discern the theory behind the ILs, and ultimately to find inspiration to decide where we could take the project.

As part of this project we synthesized a number of different ILs – to various degrees of success! Initially, we seemed to struggle in getting a product we were happy with, however we can attribute this to our inexperience with techniques such as reflux and roto evaporation as well, as our general unfamiliarity with these compounds. Nonetheless, this proved to be an invaluable learning experience, and by our final "mega-synthesis" sessions we were ending up with results that we were pleased with.

The next phase of our project involved finding potential applications of the ILs that extended beyond the laboratory. The notion of utilising them as part of textile recycling in the garment industry particularly caught our attention. One of processes involved is the extraction of dyes, which is an essential prerequisite that must occur

before any fabric fibres can be recycled.

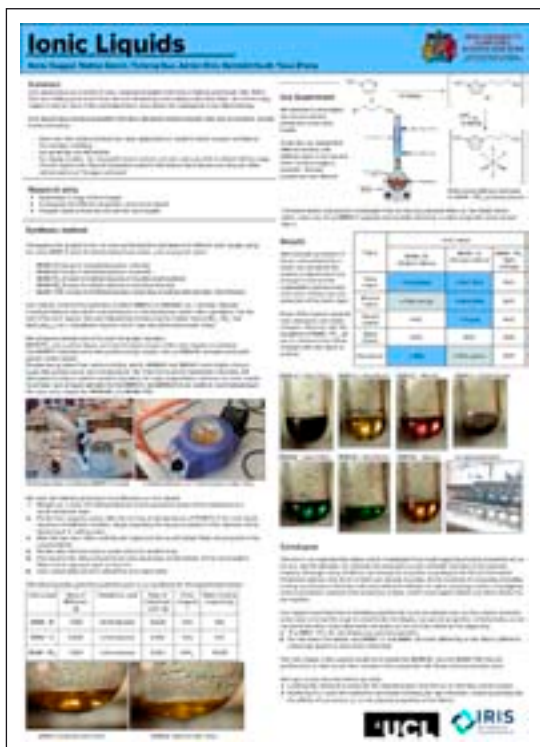
To investigate this, we soaked various textiles (courtesy of Mr O'Malley!) in three of our Ionic Liquids. The outcome of these experiments was promising, with two of our three ILs successfully absorbing some of the dyes present within the fabrics, effectively "beating" their competitors, the organic solvents. This definitely demonstrated the potential for Ionic Liquids to be used in this context which is certainly something to be optimistic about.

The final stage was to present our findings at a conference at University College London in late June. We prepared a poster to outline the work we had completed over the past half a year or so. Unfortunately, though, due to circumstances that were out of our control we were unable to present our poster.

Despite this, I am still extremely proud of all the work that we put in, as it didn't exist simply in a vacuum: effort was put alongside school across the whole journey, from the extra hours before, during and after school, to our UCAS exams. We collectively have a lot to be proud of. We also would like to thank those who helped us during the entire process, including Mr O'Malley who supported us throughout and Dr Taylor for enabling the project to happen in the first place.

Lastly, my message to the aspiring chemists in the younger years... I hear that this project will continue in the coming years, with you building upon the groundwork that we have set. So, I hope that you will take up the opportunity to take part, as it is both an incredible and enjoyable learning experience that is well worth it. I hope you will enjoy it as much as we did.

■ Adrian Ifrim



Royal Society of Chemistry Young Person's Book Prize Competition

Camp Hill was lucky to be selected as part of the judging panel for this competition in the 21/22 academic year (the last time we were chosen was 2015!!). Six of us, from Year 8, took on the challenge of reading and reviewing the nominated books, as well as attending regular meetings to discuss progress and ideas.

The six of us taking on this challenge were: Rupert Bowler, Adeel Awan, Youssef Omar, Sathya Vaidyanathan, Isa Naveed and Musthafa Ahmed.

We had to read six amazing shortlisted books, which were: ♦ Under The Stars, ♦ Agent Asha, ♦ 100 things to know about saving the planet, ♦ I am a book, ♦ I am a portal to the universe, ♦ I ate sunshine for breakfast and finally ♦ Inventors.

All of these were amazing books and we

couldn't wait to get stuck into them! The books were handed out and we proceeded to have weekly meetings with Mrs Atwell to discuss what we had read throughout the week and to collect more book review sheets (we had a lot of these to fill in!).

We started in the middle of October and luckily managed to read most of the books between us, by the start of term in January. This included a lot of us reading books in one day and staying up late at night (which we enjoyed!). Between us we did loads of book swapping, and reviewing with our peers and writing feedback on our numerous review sheets.

After going through lots of reading, we started to have bi-weekly discussions about our favourite books, and filling in our sticker chart. All of the books ranked very highly, with



five out of six scoring sixteen in our opinion!

However, Under The Stars clearly stood out to us as the best – engaging and informative, and not boring – we felt some of the other books are more suited to a younger audience. Other books appealed to us as well, but after

lots of discussion, *Under the Stars* was selected as our final winner. We also created a mini video to submit as part of the competition, as well as uploading our numerous review sheets!

The final ceremony was live streamed in March, was very exciting, as we anticipated who would win. They hosted discussions with

all the authors, with some additional information here and there. The final two were announced: *I am a Portal to the Universe*, and *Under the Stars* — just as we had expected. As we tensely awaited the results, the judges announced *I am a Portal to the Universe*, as the winner of this year's competition.

We had a really fun time reading and discussing all about these cool books, and as most of us were non-fiction lovers, this was really fun to be doing as we loved all of the facts even at an older age.

■ **Rupert Bowler and Sathya Vaidyanathan**

The Big Bang Fair

Three reports from Y7 visit

Going to the Big Bang Fair was an absolutely fantastic experience, with all the stalls, talks and places to just roam around. Also, let's not forget the amount of freebies there! These included: stationery, earphones, and much more. There were also competitions to enter, with fantastic prizes, like an oculus! or indoor skydiving.

For me, the entire experience showed me just what an enormous range is encompassed in phrases such as "Science", or "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and gave me an insight into what it can actually mean. My main highlights were the: "Make a virus" stall and the microscopes.

■ **Zakaria Bora**

While I was there, we went to an interactive talk where people from a range of occupations, ranging from engineering to economics talked to us about their careers. After they all finished talking about their different careers we were allowed to ask lots of questions and the topics ranged from climate change to engineering solutions.

Whilst there, we were allowed to explore



what different careers such as being an optician, zookeeper, electrical engineering may involve. We eventually came to an RAF stall where we were enlightened as to what it meant to be part of the RAF. Overall it was an amazing experience.

■ **Joud Boujamaa**

The Big Bang Fair was packed full of exciting, interactive activities and was designed specifically, to provide the best careers inspiration, advice, opportunities and a chance to see from the perspective of

real scientists and engineers.

Some of my favourite activities were making slime, learning about chemical engineers, about how nuclear power is safely activated and also about the amount of protection you need to have a whole body x-ray. Other things I enjoyed were learning about how fast people who control the English electricity had to react (about 150 milliseconds), what happens if you shoot a man with a nerf gun and putting having the opportunity to use a VR headset. Overall it was an amazing experience.

■ **Abbas Haroon**

Chemistry Race 2022

On Saturday 19th February, five of Camp Hill's top chemists (Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Ben Colleran, Sam Cole, Ben Scott and Aarondeep Singh) rose early to head to the Chemistry Department at Cambridge University to compete in the annual Chemistry Race.

Armed with two boxes of sacred Chemistry textbooks and share packs of Toffee and Mars Bars, the minibus carried us as well as Dr Taylor and Mr O'Malley onwards to Cambridge. After a scenic detour, we arrived at the Chemistry Department and parked in a manner so as to block as many other minibuses as possible. After technical errors and an introduction to the competition by the organisers, our team was ready for whatever Chemysteries awaited.

When the competition began, we ripped open the envelope of six initial questions and began to work. Every time a question was completed, a team member had to take it upstairs to a marker, who would either reject or accept the answer. A right answer granted the next

question, whereas a wrong answer deducted one of the possible four marks for answering that question, and we would have to submit another answer.

The team battled valiantly through questions from all regions of chemistry for two hours, hovering around fifth on the live leader board for most of the competition. Only a few questions about shampoo, and of course the demonic colour question, could hold our team back. Even in the last few seconds, we managed to score maximum points for one question through hasty calculation, but would it have been enough?

The lunch break was a gruelling wait where Ben Scott met a Chemist of legend, Deniz drank all the potable water in the Department in one go, and Aarondeep logged on to the free Wi-Fi. To calm our nerves Mr O'Malley briefly showed us around the nearby streets of Cambridge and we returned to see the results.

The scores separating the top ten or so teams were mostly incredibly close, with no margin for even a single point to be dropped. The top three teams would get to choose from

the "prize buffet" in order of achievement, and the top five would be gifted special Chemistry Race beaker-mugs. With a score of 125, Camp Hill had come tied for four-and-a-half-th (because mixed numbers are great). We were just one point away from both sixth place and third place.

Our team descended to the front of the lecture theatre to receive our beaker-mugs, and waited for the wrath of Dr Taylor, who doesn't believe in "taking part". Fortunately, we had a good excuse for not coming first, since the gap between first and second was greater than between us and 28th: the winners had two members of Thailand's International Chemistry Olympiad team from last year.

Overall, not bad! We placed 4.5th among over 50 schools from across the country and got some exclusive Chemistry merchandise. Ben Scott can do better next year!

Thank you to Dr Taylor for organising and preparing our team and Mr O'Malley for taking us there on the day and for the scenic detours.

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**

Computing Competitions

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 three questions and each requires a combination of mathematical problem solving plus practical programming skills to complete.

While really aimed at sixth-formers, it was great to see students as young as Y10 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 Dziedziak (Y11)
- 4th – Kareem Mehanna (Y13)
- 5th – Seth Fisher (Y10)

■ N.J.F.

Braben Cup (Perse School Competition)

Every year we offer students the opportunity to take part in this competition, it is aimed at those up to Y11.

Round One 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 also being used by 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 second round.

The rules are different for Round Two, as teams can be up to three people (no more than two in Y10/Y11) 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. Dziedziak (Y11), S. Hapuarachchi (Y11) and P. Mullanpudi (Y9)
- Joint 4th – V. Battu (Y9), T. Islam (Y9) and S. Kumar (Y9)
- Joint 4th – S. Fisher (Y10), A. Gupta (Y9) and F. Shah (Y10),
- Joint 4th – K. Lau (Y10) and H. Yasotharan (Y10)

■ N.J.F.

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 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 One at the start of February, three boys qualified for the National Final on March 15th. Their placings have now been confirmed as:

Senior age category (Y10–Y11)
Jas Dziedziak (12th nationally)

Intermediate age category (Y8–Y9)
Taheen Islam (1st nationally)
Shubham Kumar (6th nationally)

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

■ N.J.F.

Professor Cody – Code a Game Competition 2022

A new competition for the Computer Science Department was the Professor Cody – Code a Game Competition 2022.

Organised by Edulito, the competition was for Year 7 students only, and involved them developing their coding skills in Scratch in order to produce a game with a climate change theme. Students worked through a series of tasks in lessons to introduce them to new skills, such as using a list, and then set to work designing and coding their game.

A number of pupils developed a finished game and these were entered into the competition by the department at the end of the Summer Term.

The entries were judged on the game's use of sequences, selection, iteration, variables, broadcasts, and the inclusion of a list, as well as the game's link to the theme of climate change and the quality of the game play. It was a fantastic start to the new school year to learn that Luka Segas-Afridi 7C had been selected as the "worthy winner" from the "excellent games"

entered by over 100 schools. In the words of the competition organisers:

"We really liked Luka's game and it just had to win! The game was extremely original and provided a fun way of highlighting the issue of climate change for young people."

Luka's prize was a £100 gift voucher (Kids' Favourites Gift Card) and the school also received a £200 voucher to spend on the Edulito website.

■ L.P.

Oliver!

Drama returned to the stage for Camp Hill students after three long years with a joint performance of Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" at the end of March 2022. With just six weeks between the initial rehearsals in the music room and the final curtain call, it was certainly a herculean effort by director Mr Dowling to get the forty strong cast in shape in time.

Drawing in students from both schools and all year groups, the production was many people's first experience of performing. Nevertheless, Mr Dowling, along with Mrs Mitchell's choreographing expertise, picked up the baton of the late great Mr Southworth and made sure we had a show to be proud of.

The rehearsal schedule was intense, but fun, and interspersed with such things as pizza parties, pranks, Capture the Hat and the spilling of beer (apple juice) all over the stage once a few people got too carried away. No names mentioned.

The victimised young orphan Oliver was played to perfection by Oliver Smoldon, a great singer, whom the audience took an immediate liking to. Luka Segas-Afridi played a bright and playful Artful Dodger, but showed a sly and intelligent side to his character as well. The audience took to him in a similar fashion. Omar Ismail's portrayal of the nefarious rogue Bill Sikes was enough to strike fear into the hearts of not only the audience, but the cast during rehearsals as well. No-one let that man near a crowbar in real life, please. An equally sinister, but also heart-wrenching, performance was



put in by Simeon Humphries as the "avaricious old skeleton", Fagin. Perhaps "skeleton" isn't the best word to use here; the way in which Simeon brought Fagin to life was astounding.

Not wanting to be outdone, however, Camp Hill Girls also contributed a host of entertaining actresses from the other side of the canteen. At the forefront was Amulya Maganty, playing Nancy as the strong and defiant, yet kind, girl at Bill Sikes' side. Her habit of taking a different cast member around the stage for each performance of Oom-pah-pah kept everyone on their toes. Bahar Kayani also, as Nancy's friend Bet, provided a friendly presence in less-than-friendly scenes. Mayuri Swaminathan's performance as Mrs Corney (a "humane woman"), along with Matthew Anderson as Mr Bumble (a "naughty bad man"), was one of the funniest double acts in the play, timed to comedic perfection.

It is also important to credit the many smaller roles that supported the play. Akanimo Nkantah brought a calming presence to the stage as Oliver's elderly grandfather; Zayn Alderwish's Dr Grimwig added more laughs; Maureen Ampatin was a very caring Mrs Bedwin; Cherry Black as Old Sally gave a new meaning to the words "sudden death"; Caleb Wilton, Moriah Ejechi, Anushka Shah and Krrish Mehta played a darkly entertaining Sowerberry family. Credit must also go to Lois Lawal, who stood in for Moriah as Mrs Sowerberry for the first two performances, learning her lines during the dress rehearsal. And the rest of the ensemble, which was too big to list everyone here, sang their hearts out and made sure the



big numbers had lots of volume.

The whole cast would like to thank Mr Dowling, our Director, for his commitment to seeing the play through in such level-headed style, and Mr Caves and Ms Lamb for their experience and for putting up with us. Mrs Mitchell taught us all the dance moves and made the big songs look interesting – I still don't know where she found the determination to keep us going when we couldn't master stripping the willow. Thank you also to Ms Freeman, for digging through the costume box and hiring all of the costumes that weren't there, making sure we all looked fabulous; and to Ms Garvey for all her help with the props and making sure backstage was shipshape. Mr Cattermole, Mrs Hodges and Mrs Smith worked their socks off to provide an exquisite setting for the play at short notice. We must also thank the tech team – Jonah, Tommy, Maheen, Bjorn, Naadir and Haaniah – for their support with mikes and lighting, and the orchestra for providing an excellent soundtrack after just three rehearsals.

Finally, we must thank the amazing Mr Palmer, for learning and practising the piano score long before we could even audition, for staying at rehearsals until the late evening, for making us sing louder, and for conducting the orchestra so brilliantly. You will be sorely missed.

We're already looking forward to next year's musical. *So long - we'll be back soon!*

■ **Caleb Wilton**

Go to pages 60–61 for more about Oliver!



Carding Mill Valley

Y10 Geography Field Trip

In the first week of the Summer Term, on the 26th and 27th April, the Year 10 classes studying Geography had the exciting opportunity to visit the Carding Mill Valley, which would form part of our rivers' fieldwork.

After our coach-driver skilfully evaded a reckless individual on the M6, we arrived in a small town called Atcham in Shrewsbury. The initial, far shorter part of our trip involved stopping and viewing the River Severn (the longest river in the UK) in all of its middle-course glory. As we gathered next to the river, our Geography teachers Mr Butcher and Mr Eckley constantly reminded us that there had been significantly less rainfall this year compared to previous years, which was why the water level seemed really low. They also didn't hesitate to mention that if this part of the River Severn had flooded, we'd be three metres underwater where we were standing!

The teachers allowed us to spend fifteen minutes exploring and studying the area around the river, and we quickly discovered that the rocks lying about were smooth and had quite rounded edges. The more sharp-witted amongst us also realised that these rocks made great skipping stones. So, having enjoyed the first section of the field trip, we sat back on the coach and looked forward to arriving at the "main attraction", the Carding Mill Valley, in Shropshire. We would be studying the upper course of the river, focusing on one of its tributaries.

When we reached there at around 11:30 am, there were two things that we noticed straight away. The first, most obvious

detail were the huge hills (AKA interlocking spurs) that were on either side of us, which is where the location gets its name from – the Carding Mill Valley. The second, more subtle observation was the sheep dotted around the picturesque landscape.

As we stepped off the coach we were met by an important looking fellow, who gave us a run-down of all the rules we needed to follow. However, I think it's fair to say that the most important thing we learned during this introduction was to always keep our heads down as we were walking, in order to keep our shoes away from sheep faecal matter.

We began our fieldwork at approximately 12:30 pm, and this involved visiting four different locations along the same river, which were hundreds of metres apart. After an explanation of the methods by Mr Butcher and Mr Eckley, we were under way in groups of five or six, in order to distribute the work. We collected various bits of data at each location, such as measuring (a) the depth of the river, (b) the rate of flow using the high-tech flow meter, (c) the types of rock found there, and (d) my personal favourite, timing how long it takes an orange peel to travel down the river – seriously, this was part of the investigation! Our hypothesis was that these measurements would change as we travelled downstream (the Bradshaw Model); we were pleased with ourselves, when we found out that our results supported this and that our efforts were not in vain.

Overall, the trip to Carding Mill Valley was highly enjoyable and was definitely a fascinating experience. Not only did it improve our fieldwork skills, we were also given tips regarding how to evaluate the effectiveness of these methods for our exams. A win-win situation! A

special thanks to the Geography Department for organising the field trip, as well as the members of staff that helped us on the trip.

■ **Ayan Butt**

On the 26th (to the 27th) of April, Year 10 set off on the first field trip of their GCSEs to the Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire, and the atmosphere beforehand was animated after almost two years without a school trip. Following an hour or so of travelling, the coach paused for a break at the middle course of the River Severn at Atcham, where the boys identified the parts of the river they had discussed in lessons.

After a few photos, it was off to the valley, where everyone could have lunch, and we had a sense of relief getting off the coach. In the wake of a few close calls in the stream, the classes were split into groups of roughly six and took all their equipment to the stream, where they received a demonstration from Mr Butcher and Mr Eckley.

Each group set off to their first site, where they recorded the depth, speed and angle of the river and rocks nearby. After the four sites were done, it was apparent that many had fallen into the stream at some point, from just damp trousers to Aditya's trainers, which looked like they had been in a peat bog.

Mr Eckley took some "team" photos, and then it was back on the coach for another one and a half-hour trip back to school. I know firsthand that all of Year 10 had a great time that day and can't wait for their other field trip in Year 11, so thank you to all the teachers who organised the trip.

■ **Harvey Murray**



Conway

Y12 Geography Field Trip

The Year 12 Geography students set out for Anglesey on 13th June. Unfortunately, after only just reaching Edgbaston Cricket Ground, issues with the engine forced the group to turn back around and switch minibuses. A short while later the students set off, for real this time, for their three-day trip, on a journey that would last over three hours.

The group arrived at Criccieth Beach on a relatively windy day to start their A-Level field-work. Albeit a bit late, the students got to work straight away measuring how rock sizes diminished along the beach due to longshore drift. As well as characterising the rocks into different groups, the group used new instruments to measure the different sediments.

After this exercise, Mr Eckley then talked to the group about the different coastal defence systems along the shoreline dating back to the Victorian era and weighing up the pros and cons of each one.

Then a short drive to the Conway Centre where the boys decided on their dorm rooms and set out for their group dinner. A two-hour lesson in the classroom followed where the group analysed the data they had found in different ways including box plots and pie charts led by Mr Butcher and Mr Brear.

At the end of a strenuous day, a fiercely competitive football match on the field commenced – the start of a three-day series. The PS4 was set up in the common room for some FIFA doubles matches and *Love Island* was



watched by some students before lights out at 11pm. The next day, the group woke up somewhat rejuvenated for their eventful day ahead. After breakfast, Mr Eckley led a lesson based on the coursework element of the trip, designing questionnaires that the group would ask the members of the public in Llandudno.

In the scramble onto the minibuses, one unfortunate student was left at the Conway Centre and the van had to turn back, but other than this, the day's events rolled out smoothly, with the questionnaires being completed early, giving the students plenty of free time on the pier.

Shortly after leaving Llandudno, the group began an ascent up the Great Orme, and on reaching the top, the astounding view revealed that the uphill struggle of the minibuses had been worth it. Some students went to explore an old quarry whilst others simply enjoyed sunbathing and looking out over the ocean.

On return to the Conway Centre, after dinner and another of Mr Eckley's short classroom sessions, the fierce football series recommenced with a game that not even Mr Butcher or Mr Brear could turn down the opportunity to participate in; one highlight included Mr Butcher scoring from behind the halfway line.

After such a tiring day, everyone slept well, preparing them for their final day in Wales.

The morning's events began with breakfast and the loading of bags into the minibuses in preparation to leave the Conway Centre for the last time. However, there were still two last stops to make before arrival at school, and the first one of these was the Maltraeth Saltmarshes. The group followed Mr Eckley into the marshland where they learnt all about wetlands as an ecosystem, and looked at the resident flora and fauna, which included some black crabs of particular interest. Another short drive took the group to their final study site, the Aberffraw Sand Dunes, where the third and final football game occurred on the beach. This was shortly followed by a study of what species were present in the sand dunes and how they varied based on distance from the coastline. After the short walk back to the minibuses, the students set out for the three-hour journey home, arriving back at school at around 5pm.

We would really like to thank Mr Eckley, Mr Butcher and Mr Brear for a really enjoyable and informative trip.

■ **Taran Dhaliwal and Dawud Mustifa**



Cadbury World

Y9 Geography Field Trip

On 6th April 2022, there was a tangible excitement emanating from the Year 9's. They were out of uniform and dressed for the arduous five-minute journey they were about to make, some possibly overdressed... They were on their way to the confectionary wonderland of Birmingham: Cadbury World.

The day started off with us being rounded up into the dining hall, and from our colourful getup, we stood out like parrots in a pigeon

coop. After the initial ramblings had ceased (with the help of the teachers), we were briefed on our groups and given the "talk" reminding us that we are "representing the school" that was customary as soon as any student sets foot outside the school compound.

After a quick five-minute bus ride to Bournville (courtesy of the Green Bus company), we arrived at Cadbury World. And even though, it wasn't a Willy Wonka wonderland with overly colour saturated edible grass and flowers, it still retained a certain magic with its deep purple highlights.

As we entered the first exhibit, we were

each handed three full-size bars of chocolate, and to the average Year 9, such amounts of complementary chocolate was like Christmas coming early.

The first exhibit detailed the history of chocolate dating back to the ancient Mayans to John Cadbury and his sons and their revolutionary methods throughout the years of extracting cocoa. We then learnt about how it is extracted, from bean to bar in an exciting, seat-shaking and steam-puffing room that quite literally put us on the edge of our seats. Some of us may have even fallen off...

The second exhibit was a live insight into



chocolatiering and it started off with a hands on experience of messy melted chocolate, as we got to use tools to scrape melted chocolate then write in chocolate

too. Afterwards, we were given a cup of delectable, creamy melted chocolate embellished with the toppings of our own choosing before watching a live demonstration of how the scraped mess reaches into the iconic shape we all know and love.

The third exhibit showed us with an interactive game how cocoa is grown, with us needing to adjust the wind conditions and rainfall before a tree sprouted and dropped the cacao beans. After that, we were shown an archive of old Cadbury adverts with a legendary live performance, the not really a man, the myth, the legend- the drumming gorilla.

Soon after, we embarked on a psychedelic experience, more commonly known as the ride through "The Bean Village", where hundreds of



little chocolate beans were frivolling in different scenes, from snow to whole villages whilst under a hazy rainbow light and with joyous music playing in the background. After a short snack break, we entered the 4D cinema with the seats moving, lights flashing and water squirting whilst a short animated feature that had questionable graphic quality but was entertaining nonetheless with talking chocolate and an anthropomorphized rabbit.

Finally, we had an educational talk which explained topics essential to Cadbury such as Fairtrade/Cocoa Life that guaranteed a decent living wage for the cocoa farmers that are all but too often exploited for their produce and marketing as a global company.

We would really like to thank the teachers for organising this excellent trip – that even included chocolate!

■ **Aditya Krishna**

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. While there the students undertook a number of different activities during the day including a tour of the factory, visiting 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.

■ **C.J.B.**

HISTORY

The Battlefields

Y10 History Trip

The Battlefields Trip took place on 27th to 30th May this year and it was the first foreign trip that Camp Hill students have been able to experience since the start of the pandemic in 2020. The Battlefields team consisted of Mr Hill, Mr Rudd, Dr Page, Ms Freeman, Mr Downing and Mr Bulloch. We wish to offer our sincere thanks to all involved in the organising and running of the trip. Below are the despatches sent after each day's adventure to give a flavour of the ventures undertaken by 35 Year 10 students (who were a perennial delight).

Dispatches from the Western Front

Day 1

Being taken to a foreign field in night-time manoeuvres, accompanied by pals they signed up to serve alongside, disorientated by lack of sleep and unaccustomed to the rations served up when on campaign, means that perhaps there is some small equivalence or empathy for what hundreds of thousands of people, barely older than themselves experienced just over 100 years ago.

Our journey to the continent was blessed

with good weather and good cheer. An early crossing through the Tunnel enabled us to enjoy some rest and recuperation at the Aire de St-Eloi Services on the autoroute before turning off into Belgium and encountering the bitter experiences of the soldiers and inhabitants of the Ypres salient during four hellish years of war.

At Brandhoek, we had the honour of encountering the resting place of double VC awarded Noel Chavasse and the even greater privilege of listening to Alistair Bulloch, now into his fifth decade of Camp Hill ventures to Flanders and the Somme – or should that be resembling Flanders and Swan! Under such esteemed guidance, our students were able to learn about the commemoration of the war dead, the common theme being the recognition of all being equal in making the ultimate sacrifice.

Military medicine was a key feature at Lijssenhoek Memorial. The cemetery of 11,000 souls is a symbol of how far medicine still had to come in the early 20th century. However, the fact that over 300,000 soldiers were brought to the Remy Siding Casualty Clearing Station and 97% made it out shows how successfully it



was able to improve life chances through new procedures, technology and understanding of disease.

Onwards, and we moved closer to the front lines and landed straight into no-man's land and the Hooge Crater Cemetery and Museum, here we could explore the range of weapons, equipment and accoutrements required by soldiers on all sides as they endured four years of challenge in the muddy fields of Flanders. A cemetery full of unknown soldiers made us appreciate the small pleasures of a picnic lunch and a drink.

Into the heart of the Ypres, the symbol of Belgian and British resistance, a town ravaged by the heartlessness of war beautifully rebuilt. The Menin Gate, the last symbol of civilisation

for many unlucky soldiers facing down Hellfire Corner, is now a monument with inscriptions for over 50,000 British and Empire troops for whom there is no known resting place.

Our final visit to Essex Farm Cemetery was where John McCrae, the Canadian poet, wrote *In Flanders Fields* in 1915. Poignantly it also contained the grave of Valentine Strudwick, a boy of 15, who faked his identity to have the opportunity to serve.

And so on to Carvin, the hotel and hospitality in the billets of the French commercial traveller, a wonderful welcome after three years of absence. Our students conducted themselves with dignity and humility throughout and even went to bed when they were told to.

Speaking of being humble we wish to make no comparisons between our Logistics Corps of Johnsons Coaches and any similar sounding names; to the best of my knowledge there have been no raucous events in which play equipment has been damaged or inappropriate gatherings, and we were assured that no one was condescending or disrespectful towards the driving staff.

■ **The Battlefields Team**



Day 2

Not many of you will have read Norman F. Dixon's 1976 classic *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence*. Today's visit was a practical observation of how hubris and managerial control can lead to catastrophe. The first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 has gone down as one of the worst disasters in military history, it was certainly the worst day for casualties in the blemished record of British military ventures. With 58,000 casual-



ties and 20,000 killed, ambition turned into anguish and hope into horror.

But could it have turned out any differently? We started our day where there was a glimmer of hope for a positive outcome. Montauban, where the British and French lines met, saw our party stand in the middle of a field, pollen infusing the nostrils and imagining the experience of those standing and waiting to go over the top at 07:30 on that fateful morning.

Getting a feel for the lie of the land and the challenge ahead, we then were able to admire the achievement of taking the village and surpassing their Day One goals. In the village we saw the monument to the Pals regiments from Liverpool and Manchester, those who joined up together to fight for "King and Country".

As the front line on the western front arced to the north, the story became ever more awful. Our next visit was to the Devonshire Cemetery, the battalion buried where they lived in their own front-line trench, 99% of the casualties buried there died on 1st July, 1916. In spite of the human cost, their objectives in taking the village of Mametz were successful. This could not be said for the efforts to take control of the old Roman Road from Albert to Bapaume, the stark reality of the force applied to remove the German occupants of the high ground through the explosion of the mine which created the Loghnagar Crater is stupendous. Yet still it failed.

Moving north to the top section of the front line at Beaumont Hamel, we saw further sapper activity in the explosion of the Hawthorne Ridge mine, again the shock was more visual than it was practical, soon the Germans could recover their composure and present staunch defence of the line. The tragedy of the Newfoundland Regiment, 2,500 miles from home and their enthusiasm to fight for the mother country led to catastrophe which is commemorated in the hallowed Canadian ground of

Newfoundland Park, a managed and preserved space for remembrance and reflection.

Venturing back to Ulster Tower and the Thiepval sector, we saw acts of heroism and partial success only to be let down by a failure to push forward on a common front thus leaving exposed advanced companies trapped by enflading fire and failures of supply. The Thiepval Monument to the missing of the Somme ended



our visit, the scale of the structure in keeping with the scale of this fellowship in death.

Four and a half months later, over half a million casualties, and six miles of advance made, the campaign was called off. Heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers juxtaposed with arrogance and acceptance of the expendability of human life from the commanders, how can we possibly measure the entirety of the Somme. For our students; thoughtfulness, reflection and the willingness to ask questions characterised their engagement with the events as they unfolded, amazingly coupled with a camaraderie and bonhomie of the group united by shared experience, a confined space, a Champions League Final and access to USB ports and Nintendo Switch.

Mentions in despatches to those particular supporters of one of our party who injured their knee (playing football): those being a human crutch, pushing the wheelchair (thanks Canada), and carrying an injured comrade. Those who helped with lunch, distributing food and helping to tidy up, and encouraging positive nutritional choices in others. Those who showed the courtesy to thank school staff, the hoteliers and our driver for their commitment over the day.

■ **The Battlefields Team**





ing and counter-mining in an area with an exceptionally high water table. Across the field was Croonaert Wood Cemetery where we learnt about how the war kept killing even after the Armistice and the story of the Chinese Labour Corps employed to clear the battlefield of live ordinance, often with fateful consequences.

Onwards to Spanbroekmolen (best translation: Tight Trousers Mill) where now sits the Pool of Peace. Here the heavens opened and we abandoned hopes of an early picnic lunch. Still we could see the sight of one of the great mines which went off on the Messines Ridge to disrupt the Germans and enable the securing of the southern sector of the Ypres Salient in anticipation of the big



The under the oak-leaved canopy, we visited the sombre site of Langemarck German War Cemetery, a small space evoking an atmosphere of loss, defeat and the awkwardness of interlopers on occupied land. Students were visibly moved by its contrast with the muted triumphalism of allied memorials.

Day 3

It is still a matter of wonder how fluid the boundary between France and Belgium is, the ease of Schengen Area borders, a few short kilometres (or am I only allowed to talk these days in miles) from the motorway in France, a country road and – lo! – a sign with an EU Flag to mark a political boundary and all the road signs change. The countryside does not really change, as the houses look similar, but all of a sudden we are in Flemish-speaking Flanders as opposed to French-speaking Département Nord (59 for Number Plate fans...). Out of France and into Belgium for another day exploring the Ypres Salient and the battles of 1917.

Following a short stop to buy tickets in the beautiful village of Kemmel, we visited the Bayernwald trenches on the Messines Ridge, a stronghold for the German army at the start of 1917, it is said that Hitler himself was stationed in this sector as a Corporal in the Bavarian Army. Here we could marvel at the challenges presented by the terrain and the underlying geology and the adaptability of the Germans in making resilient defences against their enemies. Steered by the steely hand of Mr Bulloch, the Battle of Messines was laid out for the students using a contoured map of the area forged in bronze. Meanwhile, others looked at the trench design and the challenges of min-



push further north.

With hopes of a break in the weather we ventured further towards Ypres and the railway spoil heaps of Hill 60, another site of mining operations and one of the areas on the whole Western Front which changed hands more than any other, with front lines only metres (or should that be yards?) apart. In spite of looming skies, the weather held long enough to get out the trestle tables and set up the wholesome fare for another lunch.

Then to Ypres itself to admire its medieval splendour of Ypres (albeit rebuilt after the traumas of the Great War). Ypres presented an opportunity for the students to buy chocolates and waffles – they really wanted to ‘gauffre’ it – then we all met back at the Menin Gate in good



Our final visit was where we poignantly bid adieu to Mr Bulloch (and also to Mrs Bulloch) – thank you once again for his wonderful knowledge and inspiring delivery – our students offered kind words and round of applause on his departure. Here was Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest cemetery in the Ypres Salient yet with only a quarter of the graves of Langemarck. Mr Bulloch told us of former Camp Hill students whose final resting place was here before we walked the beautiful site and reflected on the thousands who died for this small patch of land.

Back to the hotel then for dinner, a bit of light exercise and time to pack prior to Monday’s departure.

■ The Battlefields Team



time to hear Dr Page’s moving lament on the bagpipes under the arch of Lutyens’ great monument to the fallen.

Onwards north into the Passchendaele sector, first visiting Vancouver Corner where the first gas attack of the war was orchestrated by Fritz Haber against allied troops, only for the Canadians present to repel the German advance in 1915.



Day 4

A day moved at slow pace north-westward towards the Tunnel and reflect on the truly global nature of the war in this small part of France...

Sitting on the front seat of the coach (and what a coach – Johnsons and its drivers have done us proud over the past few days) as we caress our way through the Kent countryside admiring the M20 lorry overspill contraflow, we can celebrate our successful return following another full day in the field. We packed up in good time after a hearty continental breakfast and left the Parc Hôtel behind with words of gratitude from the management (read that as you wish to read it) and headed off to Arras.

In the stellar capital of Artois, we visited the monument to the missing airmen of the Royal Flying Corps and RAF, including the name of a Camp Hill alumnus, who was still at school when the war started in 1914, but had risen to the rank of sergeant and served as an observer flying with an American pilot when he was shot down. Arras Cemetery, with over 30,000 inscriptions to the missing and 3,000 graves, brought home how the war was about a constant grind of minor yet fatal encounters and not the sweeping ambitions of the big pushes. One of the missing was Walter Tull, professional footballer and first black officer in the regular British army, we used this as an opportunity to reflect on the roles played by diverse peoples from all over the Empire.

Beyond Arras we went to the high ground overlooking the mining basin of Northern France around Douai, Lens and Lille – the ridge was fiercely contested as it could provide either a buffer for the Germans or a point of aggressive action for the allies. Here we visited Notre-Dame de Lorette, a French cemetery and memorial lantern which now has a commemoration in the shape of a ring, the inside of which was inscribed with over 500,000 names of soldiers who died in that region of the Pas de Calais. Listed in alphabetical order, the pan-

els named the dead with no reference to rank or nationality – equality in death not seen in the more formal monuments.

Following further along the escarpment we moved on to Vimy Ridge, site of a fiercely contested sector of the western front where in parts the front lines were mere metres apart. Efforts by the Moroccans in 1915 to take the ridge were ultimately unsuccessful, actions by Canadians in April 1917 amounted to their most significant operation of the war until 1918. The Visitor Centre was a pleasure to visit as it gave us the opportunity to enjoy our final picnic lunch – courtesy of the boulangerie next door to the hotel and then a visit to the restored trenches and tunnels used in the assault in 1917.

From the story of the assault on Vimy, we moved on to the Memorial, an imposing edifice in white marble overlooking the settlements and pyramids of the mining plain. Dr Page treated the assembled nations to a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace on the pipes in the shadow of the sculptures and sheer faces of the monument.

The afternoon moved further towards north with a visit to Fromelles where we looked at the contribution of Australian soldiers in an oft forgotten encounter in 1916, the story made more moving by the discovery and recent re-burial of hundreds of soldiers killed and buried in a mass pit by the Germans holding their position. Then on to Neuve Chapelle where the war dead from Imperial India were commemorated in stone. Designed with style cues from Asia, it sought to bring a dignity and harmony to the missing through common use of white Portland stone adapted to the tradi-



tions of the sub-continent.

With a final visit for dinner to City Europe just outside Calais, we then boarded the Shuttle and headed home. The students have relished their chance to explore and experience new sights, tastes and smells, finding a good balance between erudition and entertainment as they used their valuable time to enjoy each other's company and to be party to a profoundly moving shared experience.

We have been commended for the interest and politeness shown throughout the tour from those we have encountered: members of the general public, hotel staff, custodians of the historical sites have all commented on the pleasure of meeting our students. We extend our thanks to all who have volunteered for this tour and their role in making this Battlefields Trip of 2022 a vital and revitalising experience.

■ G.N.H.



Holocaust Education Trust

Ambassadors' Conference 2022

Last summer, myself and two other students, Rufus Hall and George Lanham, took part in *Lessons from Auschwitz Online*, which gave us knowledge of the complexities of the Holocaust, as well as the privilege of bearing witness to the survivor testimony of Janine Webber BEM. Upon completion, we became Ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET), and have the responsibility to ensure that events that took place during the Holocaust are never forgotten, to stand up to antisemitism, and all forms of hatred, discrimination, and prejudice. As Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel put it, "when you hear from a witness, you become a witness". It is only right to pass on the legacy of Holocaust survivors, who willingly relieve the darkest and most painful experiences of their lives with us to keep their memories bright and shining, especially as my generation is the last generation to be able to hear directly from survivors, who will not be with us for much longer.

The prospect of becoming a HET Ambassador was quite daunting for me, but my willingness to be open to new experiences, especially in the field of history education helped me to overcome it, and the results were completely worth it, as I am now part of a massive community of Ambassadors all over the UK, and opportunities to connect with them at events such as the opening of the new Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum (IWM), and the Ambassador Conference, have been heartwarming, friendly, and emotional.

Thursday 14th July: I was in London on a lovely sunny day, and I spent my time inside an often stuffy conference centre with questionable air conditioning for the HET Ambassador Conference 2022, which bore the theme of #PassItOn, and I had the opportunity to hear from inspirational speakers, and meet possible life-long friends.

Before the morning's workshops kicked off, we heard from guest speakers, including Dov Forman, who co-authored his great grandmother Lily Ebert's memoir about her life during the Holocaust in Auschwitz Birkenau. The youth reading this may know Dov and Lily from TikTok, @LilyEbert. Another notable moment was from Rabbi Daniel Epstein, who told the story of Moses and the rock as a metaphor for today, that speaking up (speaking to the rock) was the most effective for achieving goals, even if hitting (the rock) still yielded results (water).

I previously mentioned the new Holocaust Galleries at the IWM – James Bulgin was one of the main directors; Workshop One, led by him, was about the importance of individual stories

and how best to reconcile the messy lived experiences with the more constructed narratives that the general population might understand to be factual. Another notable idea was being mindful as to which narratives are being told; the Holocaust has often been seen through the perspective of perpetrators and what they "did" rather than the Jews who had it "done" to

them. Treating the often limited source material as fragments that capture moments in time rather than serving a grand narrative is enough for us to physically feel the presence of individuals Jews and their lives. The account from a neighbour of the little boy who was drinking hot chocolate the night his family were arrested by the French police particularly struck me, and I'm sure it will touch you too as we can all relate to the experience of snuggling down with a hot drink in the comfort of our own homes. Finally, I'd like to recommend that you pay a visit to the IWM next time you are in London; it's free to visit and walking through the Holocaust Galleries and taking in every little detail is an unmatched experience.

Nurit Davidson's workshop opened with a quote from a powerful poem by Benjamin Fondere who was a contemporary Jewish poet: "I too had a face marked by rage, by pity, an ordinary human face". One of the most essential facets of learning about the Holocaust is first understanding what we lost, approximately six million Jewish men, women, and children, around two-thirds of Europe's entire Jewish population, each with their own individual lives and hopes and aspirations for the future. Only then, can the incomprehensible tragedy of the Holocaust become more tangible, when we treat it with great empathy.

Source material from the Holocaust, and pre-war Jewish life across Europe is limited, but occasionally some gems appear; Nurit revealed some rare contemporary video footage, including this one from Yad Vashem, showing a rare glimpse into rural Jewish life in the Shtetl. I also had the privilege to briefly chat with Mala Tribich MBE after this workshop, and I complimented her new shoes.

After a short lunch break, the afternoon sessions commenced, firstly with a Q&A, from David Baddiel, author of *"Jews Don't Count"*, a book about modern day antisemitism and its position as a lesser form of oppression in progressive circles. The book is seriously eye-opening and I would recommend it to everyone. Cheeky bit of spon here, but the library has a copy...

Another aspect of the Holocaust was the sheer range of diverse experiences of Jews



across the European continent. We had the privilege to bear witness to Joan Salter MBE's testimony of the Holocaust in Vichy France, her secular urban middle-class family's life a whole world away from rural religious Shtetls.

Engaging with the Holocaust is uncomfortable as it is, but hearing stories which tell of a different perspective apart from the polite, comfortable, inspirational stereotype of Holocaust survivors is even more so as it forces us to confront the reality that world leaders did not act until it was too late, that the world isn't black and white or divided into the goodies or baddies, because the Holocaust was enabled by collaborators of the Nazi government, from local police and vigilantes, to informers, to workers and admin staff. Jonathan Freedland's book *"The Escape Artist"* told the little known story of Rudolf Vrba, a young Jewish man who broke out of Auschwitz to warn the world after realising that Auschwitz was a "death factory" and not the Nazi lies and deception of a promised new life, while working in Kanada, where possessions of deported Jews were sent to be sorted and distributed. Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler escaped, and walked across Europe to deliver their report to those in power on the Allied side. What struck me was the fact that Rudi was able to save the lives of 200,000 Hungarian Jews from Budapest, but that it could have been more.

Finally, I'd like to implore you to also #PassItOn, whether it is reading the testimony of a survivor, opening up discussions about the Holocaust, for example taking a piece of media established in the collective consciousness, like the *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and realising that it is in fact just a work of complete fiction and is more harmful than useful to introducing, particularly, children to the horrors of the Holocaust, who are the next generation to grow up, under the guise of "protecting children", which is more accurately described as "fostering disinformation from a young age". If you are in Year 12, or are going into Year 12, then please do take part in LFA, I know a new unfamiliar environment seems scary, but I sincerely believe that the gain is worth it.

■ Thomas Li

Politics Day 2022

On the 27th June, ten of Camp Hill's finest were given the privilege of attending a politics day hosted at KES. Walking up one of the multiple drives at KES, the boys realised that in hindsight they should have accepted their KES offers. This thought was only furthered when the boys were met with a great breakfast selection in one of the multiple buildings. The hall was filled with pupils from the other Foundation schools, but the boys had only one thing on their minds, to deliver the best possible manifesto and ultimately be voted the winning party.

The day started with a speech by Jess Phillips, Labour MP for Yardley and Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding. The speech intrigued everyone as Phillips talked about empowering the younger generation and the importance of using one's voice in order to bring about change – rather than just wait for things to happen.

This was followed by a speech by Professor Mark Webber of the School of Government at the University of Birmingham. The Professor offered a vast insight into the theory behind politics and gave a taste of what it would be like to study politics at degree level.

After this came some time for everyone to work on their manifestos. Spearheaded by nominated Prime Minister Zayn Alderwish and Chancellor Dylan Datta, the Camp Hill team worked hard to iron out the final creases in order to be as best prepared as possible for when it came time to deliver their manifesto – however it seemed some members of the team

were more interested in the confectionery provided by KES, not to mention any names – Raunaq.

For lunch everyone headed to the KES canteen, where once again, the boys realised they should have accepted their KES offers! But were too focussed on their manifesto to eat what was an impressive meal hosted by KES, and Naadir and Ali were too focussed on finding a toilet that was not locked!

After lunch the boys had the immense pleasure of hearing a talk by the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street. Andy spoke about his journey into politics, from being CEO of John Lewis to holding his current position and inspired everyone with his words regarding the future he envisions for Birmingham and the areas surrounding.

But finally, after all the waiting and talks, it came time for the manifestos to be delivered. Camp Hill Boys were to go third and the main aim was merely to beat the Girls' School.

The boys delivered the manifesto, well Zayn and Dylan did, whilst everyone else sat on stage and gave reassuring nods to the points made by the "Prime Minister". After delivering the manifesto, the boys waited eagerly for the votes to be cast and eventually the winner to be announced. There were some talks of students bribing other schools so they vote for Camp Hill but those were merely rumours by a jealous KES as they realised that despite their



Pictured above (L to R): Raunaq Foridi, Jaward Manzoor, Dylan Datta, Zayn Alderwish, Abbas Nathani, Naadir Qazi, Swayam Sarangi, Ali Gohari, Tobias Oliver Taylor, Akshat Sharma

fancy campus, amazing facilities, great food, beautiful grounds, they were no match for the intellect of the Camp Hill Boys Team.

The votes were counted and everyone was told to take a seat as the results were announced. The boys waited eagerly as the results were called out in reverse order and once second place was announced, Zayn screamed loud enough for the entire team as he realised Camp Hill Boys had won! The boys were called to the stage to soak up their moment of glory as they realised that perhaps Camp Hill is not that bad, despite KES's fancy campus, amazing facilities... etc etc.

A special thank you to Dr White for arranging the day and to Mr Caves for rushing to KES at the last minute when the boys realised they needed someone there to supervise them.

■ **Jaward Manzoor and Naadir Qazi**

Cadbury Research Library

Sixth Form History Trip

On 12th October Mr Hill and Dr Page took a group of Sixth Form historians to visit the Cadbury Research Library at the University of Birmingham to hear a talk from library staff and handle some of the original historical documents held there.



Students were able to speak to chief archivist Mark Ecclestone about the Cadbury's conservation and educational work, and to find out about the function and rationale of archives, as well as interact with some of the original documents held in its collections.

Some of the highlights included a fifteenth-century Book of Hours, an eighteenth-century Arabic prayer scroll, and an album of photographs taken during Neville Chamberlain's diplomatic visit to Munich in 1938.

Also on display was a facsimile of the Birmingham Quran, a manuscript fragment carbon-dated to the time of the Prophet Muhammed. Students were able to get a sense of the processes involved in conserving and studying original historical documents, and to have a small insight into the kind of research



involved in undergraduate history.

We are very grateful to the staff of the Cadbury for facilitating this visit and look forward to the chance to take future generations of Camp Hill historians to repeat the experience.

■ **J.P.**

The Library 2022

It has been a busy year of celebrating diversity in our library and working in collaboration with our neighbours, Camp Hill Girls.

In September we championed **Banned Books Week** with displays of books that have been banned around the world throughout the last century. Students were encouraged to examine the various reasons given for removing incredibly famous and popular titles from school and public libraries. It was fantastic to hear our students debate and understand all the various problems that arise from censorship.

During Black History Month a group of Y8 students took part in a live online event with the author Catherine Johnson. Her excellent historical fiction books focus on the smaller, lesser known stories occurring during larger events in history. Her impressive storytelling



inspired us to select *Sawbones*, a book about a young black surgeon's apprentice in Georgian London, as a class reader for Y7.

In March we welcomed award winning author, Manjeet Mann, to the school to discuss her verse novels, *Run, Rebel* and *The Crossing* with our Y8 and Y9 students. Her path to writing fiction was not a direct one and it was fascinating to hear how she was motivated to create her own work to perform as an actor. After Manjeet's talk we invited her to attend a Joint Book Club with selected students from both Camp Hill Boys and Girls. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to talk one-to-one with an author they so admired. Some of the students in attendance had recently taken part in the school production of *Oliver!* and treated Manjeet to an impromptu performance!

In the same month, we hosted Chris Bradford who was visiting to discuss his new *Soul Hunter* series of books. His interactive games (very loosely based on *Squid Game*, much to everyone's delight!) had our Y7 and Y8 students going wild for his books.



Our Book Clubs shadowed both the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards and The Carnegie Book Awards over the course of the academic year. The shortlisted books introduced our students to a broad and diverse range of authors and subject matter. There was a lot of heated debate over which titles we needed to vote off each week, with Y8 and Y9 students rarely agreeing! We also had the opportunity to have a joint Carnegie Book Award meeting with staff and students from the Girls School. It was fascinating to hear students from both schools discuss their views on the various titles. We hope to host a similar joint event next year.

To round off the great year of reading we had, students from all the library book and comic clubs went on a rewards trip to see *Thor 4* at the cinema and to Waterstones to do a stock pick for the library. It was wonderful for all our avid readers to get together and celebrate, even if it was on the hottest day of the year. Thank goodness for cinema air-con and giant slushies!

■ **A.G.**

MATHEMATICS

With Covid restrictions only just starting to ease at the beginning of the year, the majority of our usual team challenges were still unable to take place this year. The individual challenges were in full force though!

Maths Challenges 2021 – Late Results

When writing about the Maths Challenges in last year's *Chronicle*, we were still waiting for the result of the Junior Olympiad. Of the six boys who qualified for this stage of the competition, Adwaya Gupta and Shubham Kumar (Y8) and Sean Li (Y7) all achieved a Certificate of Merit. Taheen Islam scored full marks on section A, and full marks for four of the six questions in section B; this superb achievement secured him a Certificate of Distinction. Well done Taheen!

■ **D.J.T.**

Senior Maths Challenge

The autumn term saw the Senior Mathematical Challenge, which took place in early November and involved all mathematicians in Y12, further mathematicians in Y13 and the top set in Y11. This year the boys achieved a total of 53 Bronze, 73 Silver and 26 Gold Certificates from our 177 entries.

Top results this year came from Hemal Aggarwal and Peter Kippax [pictured right] of Y13, who both qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1. A further 24 boys qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. In the Kangaroo, Ben Brown, Samuel Cole, Joe Day, Kareem Mehanna, Hani Moussa and Nathaniel Pinkstone (Y13), Farhan Awaiz and Hassan Malik (Y12), Samuel Nouhov and Pruthvi Shrikanth (Y11) all did very well to achieve Certificates of Merit. In the Olympiad, Hemel did well enough to achieve a Certifi-

cate of Merit; Peter did even better, obtaining a Certificate of Distinction (plus a book and a medal!), and qualifying for Round 2. This involved a 3½ hour paper, with some *incredibly* challenging questions. By his own admission, Peter found this "very difficult"; he should be proud of qualifying for this stage of the event – this puts him in the top 100 Mathematicians in the country!

■ **D.J.T.**



Intermediate Maths Challenge

The spring term brought with it the Intermediate Challenge. This is also the largest, with over 300 entries, so the logistics of the day had to be handled with military precision. This was done, and the papers sent off (electronically): when the results arrived, the boys had achieved 86 Bronze Certificates, 102 Silvers and 84 Golds.

Six boys did extremely well, qualifying for one of three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads; in addition a hugely impressive 106 boys qualified for one of two colours of Kangaroo, 39 of whom got Merits. In the Grey Kangaroo aimed at Y9, Aman Koiri, Amen Tomas and Tristan Tse were especially successful, while on the Pink Kangaroo aimed at the older years, Raphael Mahgerefteh, Dhanvin Narendra, Malachi Powell, Hanzalah Rayaz, Ethan Philippe Tumbos, Harry Lownes and Arnav Aphale did particularly well. Amogh Shetty (Y11) was fortunate enough to receive an invitation to the National Mathematics Summer School! In the Maclaurin Olympiad (for Y11), Louis Bailey performed strongly enough to gain a Certificate of Merit. We only



had a single entrant in the Hamilton Olympiad (for Y10); Kenny Lau achieved a Certificate of Merit. The results for the Cayley Olympiad (for Y9) are yet to be returned to us...

■ **D.J.T.**

Y10 Maths Feast

On Thursday 17th February, two teams of four students from Camp Hill Boys awaited the two and a half hour 'Maths Feast'. Opposing us were 14 teams, from nine other schools. This included Camp Hill Girls, who Mr Thompson thoroughly encouraged us to defeat.

Round 1 was instruction-less, leaving students at their peril to understand what was being asked of them. Round 2, titled "Four for fifty" included a set of four problems exploring different areas of maths. Round 3 was by far the most challenging – a confusing array of cards, with minimal instructions and information that teams had to learn on the fly. The concluding relay involved the answers to each of the questions requiring the previous answers under tight time conditions.

After a short wait for scores to be totalled, awards were handed out. Both Camp Hill Boys teams were feeling confident, and rightfully so. The "B" team (Arnav Aphale, Adam Bora, Ayan Butt and Karan Kukreja) came second with 126 points out of a possible 135, whilst the "A" team (Kenny Lau, Raphael Mahgerefteh, Aditya Prasad and Richie Yang) finished in first place, having only lost three points overall, meaning they achieved an incredible 132 out of 135. The two teams left with a smile on their faces, and a lonely chocolate bar in their hands, but the most important thing – victory over the girls' school!



Special "thank you's" go to Mr Thompson for practising with the two teams to get them ready for the competition, and Suleiman Mahmood (Y12) for helping with the marking.

■ **Kenny Lau and Raphael Mahgerefteh**

Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge was the challenge of the summer term, and once again, we were very pleased with the results. The boys amassed a total of 62 Bronze Certificates, 74 Silvers, and 68 Golds. Of these, eight boys qualified for the Junior Olympiad (both Lemuel Ajei and Kabir Singh scored full marks!), and a further 35 boys qualified for the Junior Kangaroo.

The Kangaroo (being multiple-choice) is relatively quick and easy to mark. Eight of our boys achieved Merits: Tim Bespalov, Levi Dandy, Sean Li, Abdurrahman Maneer, Hrish Narayanan (Y8), Mahdi Hussein, Adam Yousafzai, and Yuehao Zhang (Y7). On the other hand, the Olympiad papers (which require full written solutions) are not being marked until August, meaning that we won't get the results until September.

■ **D.J.T.**

Key to photographs (on this and previous page):

- 1 – Peter Kippax
- 2 – Y10 Maths Feast
- 3 – Y10 Maths Feast (A Team)
- 4 – Y10 Maths Feast (B Team)
- 5 – Senior Kangaroo Olympiad Team

Business Language Day

Year 9 Business Language Day was an amazing day for everyone that took part. As in previous years, 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. Thank you so much to the teachers for organising it.

■ **Matthew Dainty and Vidyut Tutika**



European Languages Day

If you didn't know, 26th September was National European Languages Day. This is a day about celebrating languages from all across Europe. Even though this took place on a Sunday, that didn't stop us from celebrating it.

In my German lesson on 26th, it started with a quiz about the many European languages. This quiz was all about identifying a certain word across multiple sentences in different languages. This was a fun and enjoyable activity. Next, we went onto a quiz where we had to identify different monuments across Europe. In the second half of the lesson, we were given marshmallows and spaghetti and were tasked to build a monument. We worked in groups of three and this activity was very chaotic! We all

had lots of fun and there were also very good replicas. Some on the other hand...

The day passed and at lunch time, we were offered a very scrumptious deal. Some of the teachers in the Languages Department had set up a tasting session filled with lots of unique European foods. Each year had a time slot and could try the many foods available.

The first table had lots of different types of cheeses, including Mozzarella, French, Feta and many more. The second table had different types of bread from Italy and Germany. The third table was (in my opinion) the best! It contained lots of sweet and delicious croissants, pretzels and cakes. There were many choices and something for everyone. The fourth and final table had a broad variety of meat. It ranged from Salami to sausages and many more.



So that was an eventful day filled with excitement and laughs. Everyone enjoyed it and we all had a highlight. After all, we have Miss Wells to thank for organising this.

■ **Ayaan Ali**

Pictured above: Shaan Nisar, Edward Neep, Haaris Khan, Mohammed Alam, Zain Ahmed, Adam Maflahi, Eissa Ahmed and Ehsaan Saquib

Experiencing a French Breakfast

On the morning of Monday 13th December 2021, half of Year 7 gathered in the canteen to take part in a French Breakfast. The aim of the French breakfast was to give us an idea of what a traditional French breakfast consists of.

Once we had all gathered into the hall, three senior students from the Sixth Form gave a presentation about Modern Foreign Languages and what to expect if you take Modern Foreign Languages for your GCSEs or A-Levels.

After the presentation, the menus were handed out and the waiters started taking orders. The atmosphere was very lively, and everybody was excited to start eating. I ordered a croissant and a brioche roll with an

orange juice.

The food was served and we could finally begin eating. I didn't know what to expect because I am not familiar with French food, however, I was pleasantly surprised. I thoroughly enjoyed the food that was being served.

After we had eaten, we took part in a French Quiz, where we were split into two groups and were pitted against each other. The quiz was very informative and tested our very limited knowledge on all things French. The quiz was very engaging and exciting.

After a very interesting morning, this breakfast event was the hot topic of the day. This was a very good experience and it would be amazing if we could do it again sometime in the future.

■ **Umar Qureshi**

Y10 Modern Languages Presentation

On Monday 26th June, Year 10 were visited by Dr Edward Boothroyd from the University of Birmingham. We had the exciting opportunity to find out about taking a language at university.

Dr Boothroyd initially discussed the many languages that could be taken as a degree, and to our surprise, there were nine! Among these degrees were languages such as Japanese and Russian, that have a completely different alphabet to English. We also learned that a student could take a language and another subject (for example History or Business) as part of their course. However, the highlight of studying



languages at university is the year abroad, where students travel to a country where their language is spoken natively in order to immerse themselves in the culture and develop their language skills further.

It was fascinating to discover the benefits of learning languages, including making better decisions and in some cases helping people avoid Dementia. He also pointed out that learning a language at university can improve an individual's employability because you learn a lot of transferable skills.

Some of the careers we explored that utilise a language degree were the civil service, translation and interpretation, as well as teaching. Additionally, it was interesting to learn that by studying a language, you had a wide range of career paths to choose from.

Overall, Dr Boothroyd's presentation was very insightful in what languages can offer, both in terms of advantages to one's health and future job prospects.

■ **Amaan Ahmed and Ayan Butt**

German Afternoon Tea

On the 15th of December, forms 7K and 7E had a German afternoon tea in the canteen. As a variation from the traditional coffee and cake, Mrs Wells bought Stollen, Lebkuchen (a type of gingerbread), orange juice and hot chocolate to celebrate the pupils learning German this year.

The afternoon started with two Y12s giving a talk on the importance of being multi-lingual. Then, the boys did a quiz on Germany, with the highest score being one hundred percent! Afterwards, we began our afternoon tea, having to ask for the food and drink in German.

Some Y10s helped Mrs Wells out by being waiters for the afternoon tea.

Afterwards, Xander said, "The Stollen was brilliant, but the Lebkuchen was not so nice." Miqdad commented, "The Stollen was nice, but the Lebkuchen wasn't my favourite." Arham also made a comment, "The food tasted OK. There was too much fruit in the Stollen, but otherwise it was brilliant!" Josh said, "The hot chocolate was watery, but the food was brilliant!"

Thank you to Mrs Wells and the other



member of staff for organising this – it was really interesting to try other types of food.

■ **Nikhil Gilliam and Ashad Begg**

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Philosothon First report

On Friday 4th February, a team of ten from Y9–Y13 set off to participate in the Philosothon. However, it was not nearly as simple as a generic debate, this was a revolutionary new concept that had come in from a prominent philosopher in Australia. Instead of being scored on the value of your argument and points, the value was placed on how we contributed to the overall discussion.

Facing off against five other schools, we all engaged in three rounds of intellectual "conversation" as they'd prefer we say it. The first two rounds were between year groups, and the third round was a mix of year groups. The discussion was fun and interesting, and felt much more natural after we'd settled in. Anyway, after our discussions, there were refreshments and then the winners were announced.

Unfortunately, we didn't breach the top three schools (the Girls' School came third — we'll get 'em next time!). But two of our students did receive individual awards for the best contribution in their year groups: Mohammed Eltair in Y9 and Toby Taylor in Y12. No other school received two individual awards, so that's an achievement to be proud of!

Finally, we can say that we had a great time

getting used to this interesting structure and it definitely pushed a few of us to start studying more philosophy. Next year we're going to win the whole competition!

■ **Sampanna Raut**

Second report

The Philosothon team gathered in the hall at 3pm on the 4th February to prepare for the departure to the KES Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

When everyone was ready, we boarded the mini buses for an amazingly entertaining and encouraging drive, courtesy of Mr Taylor! Once we arrived, we were greeted with a wait in the cold outside the Performing Arts Centre as we were half an hour early (that was Mr Breakwell's fault!). However, after this we went inside for hot drinks and treats to relax and recuperate and take some final glances at our preparation materials, before being gathered into the auditorium for a small speech about what the Philosothon is and some of the ways it's benefited educational communities around the world.

The Philosothon consisted of three rounds. For round one we had a time limit to explore an excerpt from the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* in the most philosophical way possible, challenging some of the ethics, morals and lessons we could learn from the story. Round two was

about a futuristic space travel device called the "teletransporter", the whole audience engaged with this concept sharing their first impressions of the device and some of the ethical issues one could associate with it. The main concern about the teletransporter, was voiced by all participants, is the dilemma of if you are the same person entering the teletransporter, after you leave it, it works by copying all your biological information relating to cells and brain activity to recreate a replicator at the person's destination. This means the teletransporter has to destroy the original body first, which resulted in this issue: is being the same person limited to a physical state? Another ethical issue raised was that if the teletransporter malfunctioned and replicated the person on a different planet, but didn't entirely destroy the original body thus rendering it still alive but in a critical state. Does this body have any worth, as the "better version" of you is alive and well at the intended destination? If this body dies do **you** die?

After a multitude of views being shared and questions being raised and answered, round two came to an end. Once again, the judge congratulated us and we were released down to the mini cafeteria for a sandwich break in preparation for the third and final round!

For round three the year groups were mixed and this round focused on the ethics of

a new product being marketed as the solution to all human terminal illnesses and diseases which affect the body in a long term manner by creating “non-sentient” clones, identical copies of people on Earth made for the sole purpose of harvesting organs and other useful items. As expected, innumerable ethical issues were raised by the text and all participants had different viewpoints to share on the subject, including questions like “if these clones are physically humans, does it mean emotional sentience and intelligent awareness is what makes us ‘people’?”. Other analogies with this topic could be linked with human treatment of animals. Should they have human rights? What

is it that makes us superior from the greater animal kingdom?

A number of different philosopher’s views were incorporated into discussions as well, including Peter Singer’s ideas of animal treatment. Opinions such as sentience shouldn’t decrease from how well we treat an organism were voiced, as well as hypothetical suggestions that an animal can become a “person” if it were to gain sentience, intelligence and awareness on a human level. A general consensus was also established that being a “person” is above being human. The clones mentioned in the text could be humans, but may not have achieved “personhood”. All participants made

an equal amount of equally valuable contributions to the discussion, it wasn’t just the A-Level students!

After a thoroughly enjoyable, memorable and educational evening, everyone attending Philosothon were once again gathered into the auditorium to announce individual and school winners! To my complete surprise, I managed to secure the best Year 9 Award of the evening, and received a shiny certificate, not to mention a generous Amazon voucher!

Unfortunately, Camp Hill Boys didn’t manage to secure the trophy this time round, but this certainly isn’t the last they’ll see of us!

■ **Mohamed Eltair**

Bhaktivedanta Manor Y10 Trip

Year 10 Religious Studies students spent the day at Bhaktivedanta Manor in late June, welcomed by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in support of their study of Hinduism at GCSE.



The day was a whirlwind, involving everything cart rides from two oxen weighing more than all of us put together to traditional Indian dancing. On a tour around the Manor and its grounds students extended their classroom learning about the nature of the world, considering the concept of ‘ahimsa milk’ – milk taken as a share from the feeding mother cow, but gently and with respect. We learned about sacred plants, grown in exquisite greenhouses by way of worship to the goddess of the Vrindavan Forest, where Lord Krishna is believed to have lived.

After touring the grounds, students heard from Alison, the Manor’s education officer, about key Hindu beliefs and discovered artefacts from practice. Some groups dressed up and made quite the impact when they came through into the Arati ceremony in the main shrine room shortly after. Here, students witnessed the joyful and noisy atmosphere of communal worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

We were welcomed to lunch in the communal hall, where we enjoyed paneer made on site from the ahimsa milk of the beautiful cows we had met earlier that day. Many



students (and staff!) took two or three servings of the delicious food. When we moved on to the dance presentation we marvelled at the dancer’s skills, especially in the light of how much heavier we felt after our lunch! We learned about the symbolism of Indian



Buddhist Observance Y12 Study Trips

Year 12 supplemented their A-Level study of Buddhism with trips to three separate places of worship to explore the diversity of Buddhist observance in our local area. In Moseley, we visited the Birmingham Buddhist Centre and learned about the Triratna Buddhist Order, a key group in popularising Buddhism in the West.

We travelled to Hockley to hear from the Senior Monk in a Sri Lankan Theravada Order, and finally to Malvern to meet some Pure Land Buddhists who challenged many of our A-Level – limited assumptions!

At every turn we were met with a warm welcome, and the final group were very forgiving when the students struggled to maintain concentration for five minutes of meditation. It’s not as easy as it sounds!

■ **J.S.F.**

classical dance, and of the dress and decoration which goes with it.

Finally, students were able to have face, hands or arms painted with beautiful patterns, and to buy some souvenirs and gifts in the shop set up for us. Many invested in a sort of wooden penny whistle; I doubt their families were happy to hear that when they arrived home!

A number of volunteers and tour guides at the Manor commented on the exemplary behaviour and respectful attitude of the students, and Year 10 seemed to have an absolutely wonderful day. We look forward to going back next year!

■ **J.S.F.**

Y9 Synagogue Trip

Before October half term, the Year 9 students visited Singers Hill Synagogue in central Birmingham in support of their study of Judaism in Religious Studies.

At the synagogue, we were warmly welcomed by our wonderful tour guide, who explained the history of the Jewish community in Birmingham and the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, which is based at Singers Hill. We sat in the children's synagogue to hear about Jewish belief and practice, and our guide talked to us about day to day life within the Jewish community, as well as enlightening us about lots of the festivals celebrated throughout the Jewish year.

When we entered the main synagogue, we were amazed at the "cathedral-style" architecture, designed by the same architect as Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We saw beautiful stained glass and were shown the beautiful and very old Torah Schools in the Ark, as well as our tour guide's own personal prayer shawl, head covering and prayer book, giving us the personal insight.

It was wonderful to hear our guide's stories, and the students from every form asked fantastic questions, building on their classroom learning. There is no doubt that our study of Judaism for the rest of the term was hugely improved by our visit and we look forward to going back again next year!

■ J.S.F.



Birmingham Central Mosque

Y8 Trip

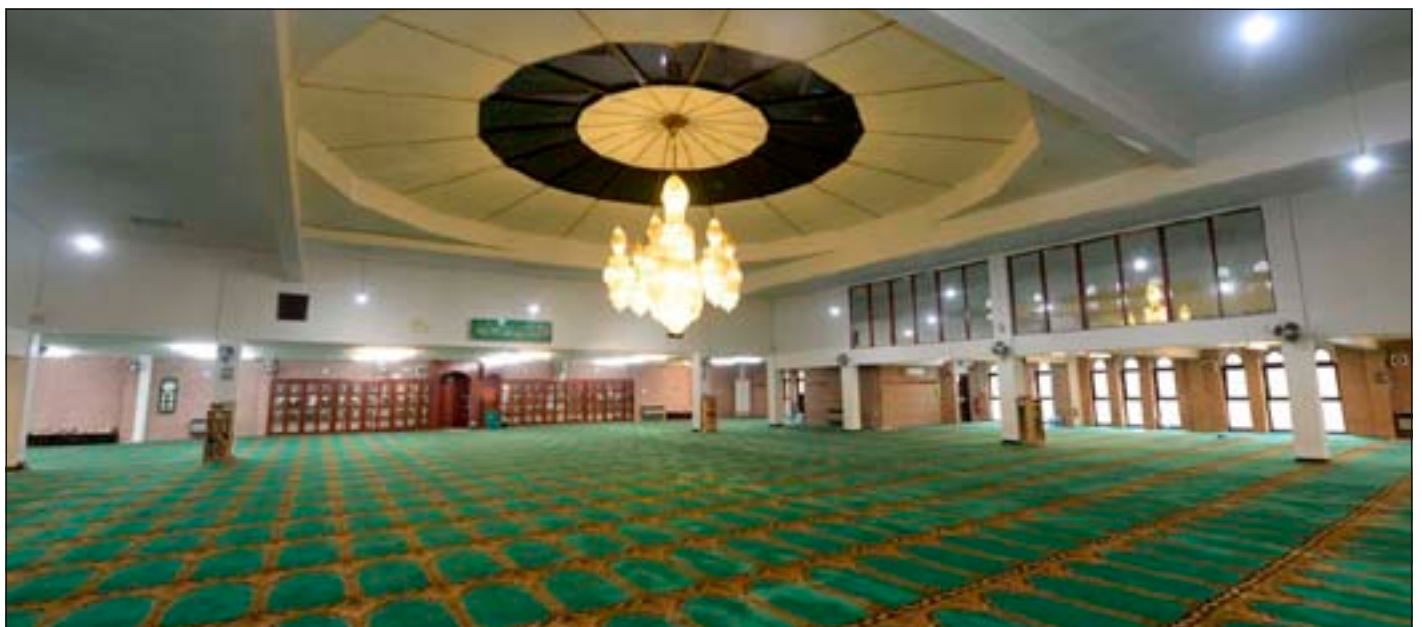
Over three mornings in March, all of Year 8 went to visit Birmingham Central Mosque to enliven and enrich their study of Islam during this term.

Students were treated to a guided tour of the entire Mosque, which is currently undergoing massive renovations, and they 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 oppor-

tunity 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!

■ T.A.B.



Cambridge Divinity Visit

It was a great privilege, being in a high achieving school like ours, to be invited by the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Divinity, for an Enrichment Day. Although the sentiment of gratitude was widespread amongst the year group, perhaps actually making the trek down to Cambridge in the early morning wasn't that appealing...

However, Idries Bharmal and I (Naadir Qazi) took the opportunity as it came, waking up at about 4 am, to catch a 5 am train down to Cambridge, for the Faculty's 9:30 am start. Luckily, the train was fairly quiet, and the ride was pleasant, and prospects for sleeping seemed good! Until Idries started speaking... and my hopes were squashed and my exhaustion grew worse and worse, and almost as I felt myself drifting off, we'd arrived!

The train arrived at 8:00, giving us time to get some breakfast, and we heartily took the opportunity at the nearest Greggs, chomping down on some vegan sausage rolls, before we used Mr Breakwell's expert transport instructions to find, and consequently meet him.

Taking the U-Bus down to Mr B's location, we got a feel for how picturesque a city like Cambridge really is, with its quaint architecture giving it the feel of a small town, yet it's vast array of shops and big name brands giving it the feel of a city all at the same time; the charm was not lost on us whatsoever. Finally, however, a familiar face, in the form of Mr Breakwell, greeted us outside the Faculty building, registering us and showing us about before the true beginning of the day. Which began with a warm welcome from Dr Redhead, explaining her role in outreach and giving us a rundown of how the day was planned to pan out. Need-

less to say, it sounded incredibly intriguing.

First, we had lectures from Dr Weiss and Dr Snyder, on Religion, Violence and War, and how they all interact, (incredibly interesting). Followed on by an informative lecture by Dr Lockhart on Christian Salvation. After these lectures, we were placed into a room with soon-to-be teachers, who gave us very interactive lessons on theological topics, such as the apocalypse, and whether God has a gendered body.

By now, hunger was building back up, and luckily its answer was close. The Faculty graciously provided us with sandwiches, drinks, biscuits, and a large array of fruits for lunch. The tiredness from the early morning had by now almost fully faded, and was replaced with anticipation for the rest of the day, hoping to follow on in the same fashion as the wonderful morning we had — and as expected, the afternoon definitely delivered.

First, we had a lecture on a very specific topic, "Demons in antiquity", which ended up being my personal favourite of the day, by Dr Lunn-Rockcliffe. And then the programme concluded with a talk again from Dr Redhead, on what studying theology and religious studies at Cambridge really is like.

After this, Mr Breakwell had a treat waiting for us, as a Graduate of Cambridge, studying both his Undergraduate and his Masters



there, we had a wonderful tour of the area. Mr B showed us the outside of the huge library, and around the different colleges, specifically his own (Selwyn), clearly nostalgic for his time there, he pointed out different locations and areas that seemingly meant a lot to him. A huge thanks goes out to Selwyn College Master, Roger Mosey, who very kindly spoke to us and encouraged us in our studies. We left Mr Breakwell outside King's College, after an amazing day, full of wonderful experiences which we'll treasure forever.

A massive thank you goes out to the RS Department for organising a trip like this for us, and a special thanks to Mr Breakwell, for putting up with us for the day, and sacrificing his time for our benefit.

■ **Naadir Qazi**

Pictured above: Naadir Qazi and Idries Bharmal at Cambridge Central Mosque

Y7 Gurdwara Trip

To support their learning about places of worship in Religious Studies, Year 7 visited Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick where they saw active worship and were welcomed into the Langar to share lunch with the community of observers. The students learned about key Sikh beliefs and practices and showed themselves to be respectful and interested learners.

■ **J.S.F.**



Y10 Conway Trip North Wales Residential

On the 7th June, 120 students (with a few exceptions) as well as a multitude of teachers, endured the four-hour journey for an exhilarating experience in Conway, Wales.

We would for a few days take part in an enjoyable range of activities such as kayaking and so much more. The journey was arduous yet amusing with a lot of sleeping and a lot of rap vocalised by Yeabsersa. We made a few useful pit stops along the way and a few of the boys played some competitive card games. We eventually all made it in one piece to the Conway Centre and fell into a well-deserved sleep as soon as we could.

Ready to explore the incredible activities that were in store for us, we were woken up by a lively Mr Thompson who was clearly as excited as we were. We ate our breakfast which consisted of various cereal, meats, fruits and vegetables filling up our stomachs and preparing us for a good time cycling. We had a bit of practice getting used to our newly acquainted mountain bikes and had a few races, Mr Redshaw excelling especially, teaching his skills to the rest of us.

After what was most definitely an unforgettable experience, we had some recrea-

tional time in the evening, where we all had fun playing various sports the PE Department kindly brought with them. After dinner, we all retreated to our rooms for an early morning the next day.

The next day required us to be equipped with a towel as we entered the water for a valuable paddle-boarding lesson. After we learnt the ropes, we attempted tricks such as handstands and the usual pushing of which I was the first victim of Mr Burgess. Despite it being three hours, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activity and were more enthusiastic for the raft building that was to come later on.

After a quick break to take a shower and change our wet clothes, we prepared ourselves for abseiling. Although it might have sounded easy, it was a difficult task for some to overcome their fear of heights and bravely make it down to the bottom; however, with Mr Nash's encouraging words, everyone successfully abseiled down the frame. As we devoured the food generously provided by the staff at the Conway Centre, Mr Watkins informed us of the exciting activities planned for our penultimate day in North Wales.

Kicking off the morning with a relaxed start, we trudged towards the field for a sporty start playing a bit of football, touch rugby and some cricket. Overall, everyone had tons of fun challenging the teachers as a bit of competition, which did not go at all how the boys had planned it, with Mr Dowling not holding back on us.

The final activity for the day was raft building which, in my opinion, proved to be the best activity of the entire trip including all the friendly banter and tussles to win a race that seemed as important as winning the world cup finals. The evening dinner was quite an eventful one with everyone still pumped with energy from the raft





building. Mr Watkins told us what our last day in Conway would look like which was followed in quick succession by a series of “Thank you to Mr Taylor” initiated by Samar.

Being our last day in the Conway Centre, everyone wanted to relish the last activity before we returned back to our “boring” school lessons. This activity was the walk to Aber Falls which proved to be the most challenging and also the least liked of them all, but that was soon changed by Mr Watkins as he persuasively displayed the many sights there were for us to see as we progressed through the walk. And indeed what sights they were, ranging from steep mountains to a beautiful waterfall which we witnessed at the end of the walk. After the walk, our legs were fatigued, perfect for the long coach journey we had ahead of us.

The trip to Conway was really rewarding for both the students and the teachers who could take a break from their normal routine and instead enjoy a good few days of fun packed activities. I would like to thank Mr Watkins immensely for organising such a pleasurable

trip as well as the other teachers who dedicated their time from their busy schedule to make this trip as enjoyable as possible.

■ **Krishna Nair**

St. David’s Rock Climbing Trip 2022

After our enforced sabbaticals in 2020 and 2021, it was wonderful to return with a group of Y9 and Y10 boys 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 Bruton, Bourne, Brear, Burgess and Rees and we were joined by ‘old boys’ Hardy, Downing and Cookson.

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, plus 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.**

Y8 Conway Trip North Wales Residential

This summer, Year 8 took a greatly anticipated four day trip to the Conway Centre on the Isle of Anglesey, north-west of Wales. It was to be half a week of fun, activities, and physical tests, one of which was having to wave goodbye to our phones and the internet for four days.

Our trip started with a three hour coach journey from school to the Centre: a kaleidoscope of shifting and conflicting emotions of boredom, excitement, tension, and suspense. For some of us, being free of the restrictive bonds our phones impose on us for a few days felt needed, while others dreaded how they would sleep at night without their hourly dose of TikTok.

But, a short lunch stop at Cwm Idwal, a beautiful lake in Snowdonia, put our emotions to rest. Our first taste of the sights we were to see was stunning, especially considering the triple classrooms are the best view we are used to. After lunch, we got on the coaches again and arrived at the Centre shortly after.

Upon arrival, we toured the site and went to our dorms where we met with the second challenge: making our beds. This posed a greater struggle than expected by a good bunch of the year group, but that was defeated quite quickly. After dinner, we played on the field for a while, then got ready for bed and didn't sleep. It would be a lie to say we slept soundly at all, as the frequent teacher visits to dorms showed and our excitement kept us awake that night. Nevertheless, we got some slithers of slumber and were up on time for our first day of activities.

The activities over the following two days



ranged from land to sea, climbing to cycling, and hiking to high ropes, but they all had one thing in common: they were all immensely entertaining. Over Tuesday and Wednesday, we participated in six different activities: raft building, field sports, two land activities (mountain biking, high ropes, rock climbing, or canyon climbing), a water activity, and – the trip's high point – Aber Falls. The hour-long journey up to the waterfall was quite long and tiring, but the view of the waterfall from above and the scenic hills were both worth the walk.

Other favourites were the water activities and raft building in the Menai Strait. Raft

building required us to work as a team, follow instructions carefully and make our rafts float. Most of us completed this task, whilst some people went overboard due to notable raft breakages.

Compared to raft-building, the rowing activities were considerably simpler and equally as entertaining. While canoers had fun playing team activities, kayakers could explore the waters further than anybody else. Paddleboarding required far more technique than the other activities, but was also enjoyable.

Our Conway stay finished on Thursday after two days of challenging and entertaining



activities. After breakfast, taking our belongings from the ineffective drying rooms, packing our bags, and reversing the effort we had put into making our beds on Monday, we went on our way. After a short service station stop, we arrived back at school in time for the regular 3:35 pm home time.

All in all, I'm sure we can agree that this trip was incredible, and everyone will look back on the unforgettable four days as some of the greatest in our school lives, so far. Many thanks to the school, coach and Conway staff for putting on this great trip.

■ **Lemuel Adjei**



Aosta Valley Adventure Trip 2022

After a tiring school year, on Friday 22nd July, forty-two lucky Camp Hill students, along with five selfless teachers departed from the suburbs of Kings Heath for a week of adventure in the picturesque Italian Alps.

The trip didn't get off to the best of starts with news of the more than six hour delays at the port of Dover, meaning our twenty-four hour journey was prolonged even more. However, we made the most of this, particularly the chorus at the back of the coach which helped to lift everyone's spirits. Luckily, despite our 18:00 ferry being delayed to 04:00 we were able to make up a significant amount of time,

and even with all our service station stops to fill our bellies, we made it to the hotel in time for dinner.

Upon arrival at the Hotel des Roses, we all took the opportunity to have a much needed shower and took our first tastes of the fine Italian cuisine with a nourishing pasta for dinner. Following this we took the opportunity to stretch our legs and visited our base for

the next week in the picturesque town of Villeneuve. Afterwards we all took the opportunity to catch up on some much needed sleep before our busy week of activities.

Our first day started optimistically with a great view out of the window, with many of us glad to wake up to the sound of water crashing on the rocks below or the clean natural mountain air, instead of the grey clouds and pollution of Birmingham. We started slowly with breakfast but there was certainly a buzz in the air and eagerness to get started. This meant an enjoyable hill walk right to the peak of a mountain. Even though most of us are not keen on walking or hiking in general, it was an enjoyable and liberating experience as we wandered around having conversation, taking photos, learning about the interesting geography and nature of the area and generally having a great time with our friends. That of course is not to take away from the beauty and awe at the size of the mountains.

After this walk we had a quick detour to another local town which had a festival before returning to the hotel for a shower and dinner. After another excellently cooked pasta by the hotel we walked back down to Villeneuve, but this time to the rafting base where we enjoyed sports, our friends' and teachers' company once again. We then set up for another restful night's sleep.

On the second day in the beautiful valley of Aosta, we went out early in the morning for the most awaited activity: white water rafting. After a safety briefing and changing into our wetsuits we grabbed our oars and boats and headed down to the river. It was a good day for rafting with the sun beaming down on us. After we got into the river, we paddled downstream following the instructors' commands, such as forward, back, left forward etc. The favourite was "down" where we all had to get down into the raft due to a big obstacle or wave in the way. After moving downstream we followed some more safety precautions, with teaching us how to enter a recovery position if falling out of the raft and how to pull someone back up. After all this was done, we kept on going downstream with incredible speeds as it felt like we were flying. We went through rapids, waterfalls and dodged and weaved through rocks and pillars. Many can confirm that white water rafting was a great experience and a very memorable activity. We exited the river with smiles and laughter and went home for an enjoyable meal, well deserved sleep and shower, ready for the next day of activities that awaited us.

On the third day, we were particularly excited to have a relatively relaxed day of swimming and a visit to the capital city of the Aosta Valley, conveniently named Aosta. We started off with a gentle morning by the pool which was extremely relaxing and chaotic at the same time, with some preferring to stay on the side of

the pool, but others electing to take Mr Burgess' backflipping classes, with some more successful than others. After the morning swim session we visited the city of Aosta where we once again saw some beautiful Italian architecture and took the opportunity to bring back some souvenirs for our loved ones back in the UK. Overall it was a very enjoyable day!

On the fourth day, we got to enjoy white water rafting again, and to no surprise everyone was raring to go. This time we went to a more exhilarating course and route through the rapids. Despite the long coach drive up to the start of the course, the journey was very much worth it, with many people jumping and hijacking other people's rafts.

After a very nice lunch made by the hotel chef, we headed out to the lake for an afternoon of kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding. After hours of trying to stay afloat on our boards and pushing each other off the floating trampoline, we had some friendly competition with one of the instructors, Sabo, in which he absolutely annihilated us.

After an amazing afternoon on the lake, we headed back to the hotel for showers and some delicious dinner. For the final activity of the day we headed to the bowling alley which was great fun, there were also some pool tables and an arcade there too. After playing many rigged arcade games, we had won enough tickets to buy some prizes. We also had amazing luck on the notorious claw machine, where we managed to win three teddy bears.

On last day, with the thought of returning back to school and leaving the Italian Alps all behind, spirits were low and many of us were not excited about the long journey that awaited us. Luckily that morning we had the very much anticipated activity of participation in high ropes!

We trekked up the hills and put our harnesses on, everyone raring to go. With safety first of course, we had a briefing to make sure we all were confident going into it. This was led by none other than "Monkey", our safety instructor, and afterwards we could not wait to get started. With various climbs, jumps, a couple of falls, and most importantly the zip lines, this led to a very enjoyable and exciting experience. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, we were challenged with a near impossible task, of scaling the course without a vital sense, vision. Tom Cruise-style we did mission impossible and put our blindfolds on. We each had a partner to guide us and with confidence we attempted the course. It may have



taken longer but eventually, we made it past and with time to spare we were ready for the journey back to England.

On the way back we got to enjoy another scenic route through France, seeing the sunset in the evening which overlooked the vast and flat fields of France. Thankfully, compared to the way to Italy, the way back to England was much quicker, taking around sixteen hours in total. Sleep was kept to a minimum but vibes were not, with music playing from the back of the coach, resonating all throughout.

As we got to the border of Calais, we were unfortunately stopped by the Border Control making it difficult to tell if we would make the ferry or not. Fortunately, we were just in the nick of time and as we boarded, we made sure to tuck into the delicious full English breakfast that they had served. I'm sure many will tell you that if you haven't been on a ferry, it can be very exciting and scary, but the sea breeze in the early morning was an experience I will never forget.

Finally, we were back in England and it was safe to say that we were all tired. We slept and before you know it we were back on school grounds. Parents waiting and a surreal feeling that a whole week had passed in a different country. This is an experience that all the students who went on this trip had experienced and through ups and downs it has made many great memories.

Special thanks to all the staff (Mr Burgess, Ms Freeman, Mr Rudd, Mrs Smith and Mr Ros-siter) and instructors involved in making this one of the most memorable and exhilarating trips I have been on. Thanks to all the effort put in to organise activities that could have been dangerous and the quick thinking that led to everyone making it back in one piece. Also a thank you to the coach staff Kevin and Ean for driving us around for countless hours on end.

■ **Edward Cheung, Musa Ahmed
and Matthew Ransbotyn**

Music

Open Evenings

It was not possible to invite visitors into school for our Open Evening again this year because of Covid-19. Instead, each Department recorded a presentation, advertising all that is available at Camp Hill.

I was pleased to add some live music to our presentation, the Wind Trio [pictured right] getting us off to a cheerful start with *Oh I do like to be beside the seaside*, and then the Barbershop Quartet finishing with *Goodbye*.

■ S.F.P.



Foundation Celebration

Early in term we were asked to contribute a musical item for the Foundation Celebration. This event is a celebration of the King Edward VI Foundation in Birmingham, with Year 7 pupils from around the Foundation attending in the Great Hall of Birmingham University. Sadly, it was decided that this could not take place in person, and so we were asked to record our contribution.

Our Barbershop Quartet [pictured right] rehearsed well, and decided to record in the generous acoustic of the front entrance of the school. Two items were chosen: *Steal Away*, a Spiritual from The Yale Song Book, and then a popular barbershop piece called *Coney Island Baby*. The boys had fun recording the pieces, and we hope that they were enjoyed by schools around the Foundation.

■ S.F.P.



Prize Giving

We were very pleased that Prize Giving, held in early December 2021, could take place with invited prize winners and guests.

To provide variety for the evening, and to show the skills of our most talented musicians, we had two musical interludes. The first was our excellent Wind Trio of Connor Huss (flute), Matthew Anderson (clarinet) and Thomas Li (bassoon). With great skill and musicianship, they presented three short movements from *Divertimento* by Mozart.

The second interlude was our Barbershop Quartet [pictured right] (Matthew Skaria, Matthew Anderson, Connor Huss and Rufus Hall), who sang an enjoyable and lively version of *Coney Island Baby*.

■ S.F.P.



Chamber Concert

Over the term we managed to get our ensembles rehearsing again, making sure that the rehearsal spaces were well ventilated, and other Covid-19 precautions were put in place. Many pupils wore masks.

The first big joint concert of the year is always the Chamber Concert, which features our most junior orchestra and band, plus a range of smaller groups and a few solos. Just after half term we decided that it was still not

safe to invite an audience into school for an event such as this, so instead we decided to record it. So it was that on a Tuesday afternoon the pupils assembled in the Hall, and after a short rehearsal, recorded their pieces.

The concert began with the String Orchestra, who played neatly and with good intonation. We then moved on to a range of small groups, which included a String Quartet, Wind Trio, Flute Choir and Piano Duet. Each was well prepared and most enjoyable.

The concert – just forty minutes long-ended with rousing version of *Spiderman* by the

Training Wind Band. Within the concert we had just two solos: these were from Sophie Jobanputra (violin) and Connor Huss (bassoon). We were delighted to allow these two to perform, as they had just heard that they gained a place in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra. Many congratulations to them both!

I am very grateful to Kishan Sambhi who worked very hard recording all the items, and then to Adrian Ifrim who edited the items and put the concert together for the website.

■ S.F.P.



[Pictured above] Flute Choir



[Pictured above] String Orchestra



[Pictured above] Cello Ensemble



[Pictured above] Training Wind Band

Carol Service

On the last Wednesday of the autumn term, the School Choir led the music for the School Carol Service in All Saint's Parish Church.

As well as a Choir of over fifty pupils, we had a number of instrumentalists performing. These included our Brass Ensemble and String Trio, Connor Huss on flute and Thomas Li on bassoon.

Joshua King sang an accomplished solo in the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* to get the service off to a good start. The Choir then performed a range of music from the atmospheric *Coventry Carol*, with a quartet of boys at the West End of the church, to a lively version of *Ding dong! Merrily on High* arranged by Mack Wilberg. The readings were well read by pupils, and the congregation sang the traditional carols with enthusiasm.

Overall, a wonderful event, and we raised over £200 for the chosen local charity: *Edward's Trust*. I know that this beautiful, traditional service, which has a procession by candlelight, is regarded by many as the beginning of the Christmas season.

■ S.F.P.



Christmas Concert

In December 2021 we held our Christmas Concert. We were delighted to be able to present this to a "live" audience, but made sure that we put Covid-19 safety precautions in place to ensure safety. The audience were asked to take a LFT test before they attended, and to wear a mask for the evening.

The concert lasted just an hour and a half, and there was no interval. The pupils were delighted to be performing to a real audience, however.



The evening started with accomplished performances by the Intermediate Orchestra, conducted by Mr Hay, and then followed a selection of smaller ensembles. These included Jazz Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and two items by the Barbershop Quartet, which were excel-

lent. The Choirs of both schools sang a selection of Christmas items, which went down very well. The evening closed, as is traditional, with Concert Orchestra playing *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson, and a visit from Santa! ■ S.F.P.



Assemblies and Awards

We are delighted to celebrate pupils' success in music examinations and in other areas of music in assemblies, and pupils go up on stage to be congratulated by the Headmaster.

This term has seen us host our first face-to-face exam sessions in school for two years. Some additional Covid-19 precautions were put in place, but otherwise they ran very much as they had done previously, once we had remembered what needed doing!

In addition, a number of pupils have continued to prepare for and record videos for digital submissions, which are now a permanent alternative to "live" exams. The bulk of the entries for this term are just about ready for submission and we hope to have more results and good news early next term.

This term I was delighted by some very special achievements by three of our Y13 musicians:

Connor Huss gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra (Bassoon)

Matthew Skaria gained a Choral Scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford (Tenor)

Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov gained a Cello Diploma, with Distinction.



Exam results known at the time of *Chronicle* publication are given below.

Pupils are listed in alphabetical order within each grade

Sri Grandhi, Classical Guitar, Gr1 (Distinction)

Arnav Aphale, Violin, Gr3

Jedidiah Beeston, Clarinet, Gr3

Aditya Prasad, Classical Guitar, Gr3 (Merit)

Pagiel Quarmyne, Bass Guitar, Gr3 (Merit)

Haoran Bai, Classical Guitar, Gr4 (Merit)

Jagveer Bhamra, Singing, Gr4 (Merit)

Daya Fernandopulle, Violin, Gr4 (Merit)

Alexander Hopkins, Violin, Gr4

Reuben Howard, Violin, Gr4

William Lin, Violin, Gr4 (Merit)

Harshith Salanke, Clarinet, Gr4 (Merit)

Ben Hone, Violin, Gr5

Harley Hau, Violin, Gr6

Vansh Pradhan, Classical Guitar, Gr7 (Merit)

Kishan Sambhi, Classical Guitar, Gr7 (Merit)

Udayan Nayyar, Classical Guitar, Gr8 (Merit)

■ **S.F.P.**

[Pictured above] Sophie Connor and Connor Huss

Birmingham Cathedral Concert

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 choir members 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.”

■ **S.F.P.**

CBSO Concert in Symphony Hall

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 Y7 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)*
- Barry: *Out of Africa*

Many pupils had not visited Symphony Hall before, and loved both the spectacular building and the most exciting live music. I was delighted with the positive feedback that we had:



“I just wanted to say that I was pleased that when 7C returned on Tuesday they sounded very enthusiastic, and seemed to have enjoyed the concert.”
(Y7 Form Teacher)

“Thank you for organising the Symphony Hall trip; he found it very inspiring.”
(Y7 parent)

■ S.F.P.

Teatime Concert

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 piano performance by Yuehao Zhang in Y7, whose grade 8 piece 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.

■ S.F.P.

Y9 Options Evening

In the spring term we hold an evening for pupils and parents of Y9 to explain more about what the Music GCSE is all about.

The “options” subjects, of which music is one, ask pupils to give a short speech about their subject, giving details of the course and why it would be a good option. In music, we thought it a good idea to present some music as well. Twelve of our current Y10 GCSE group came along and gave a rousing performance of Sampanna Raut's composition *Winds of Change*.

■ S.F.P.

[Pictured right] Sampanna Raut's music (image shows only a portion of the composition).

Winds of Change Sampanna Raut

♩ = 140

House Music 2022

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.

■ S.F.P.

GCSE Performances and Compositions

I have been very pleased with the high standards achieved by our Y11 pupils this year. Their performances have been recorded as both audio and video, and they have prepared really well for these. They have composed using their instruments, and have then transferred the pieces to *MuseScore*, a very helpful program which allows you then to alter, adapt and manipulate the initial ideas into a complete composition.

■ S.F.P.

[Pictured right] A selection of compositions (images show only a part of each piece).

[Pictured immediately below] Caleb Wilton at the piano.

[Lower pictures] [L] Dylan Mbchire [R] Anushtup Chaterjee



Oliver!

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.

■ S.F.P.

Go to page 33 for more about *Oliver!*



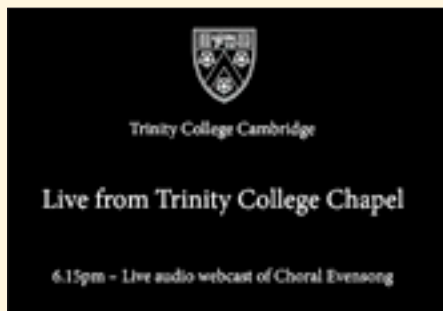


Sam Gray

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

He has had an enjoyable and busy year. 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 titled "As pants the deer" with



Introit- As pants the deer

Text drawn from psalm 42 Sam Gray

Adagio

words from Psalm 42 [part of the music is shown above]. This was performed in a service in the Chapel, and broadcast live. 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 Even-

song in their Chapel on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at 6.15pm. 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" at: <http://trinitycollegechoir.com>

■ S.F.P.

Music Alumni

It is always good to hear of our Alumni continuing to work in music and making a success of it. One of these is Ed Gray who was with us in 2007. He is now a successful and award winning composer, arranger and orchestrator.

In June we were pleased to welcome him to school to talk to the combined CHB and CHG Y10 GCSE groups. He spoke about how he got into his job, what was required, and how to progress in the business. It was then fascinating to watch and hear some of his compositions. He set the pupils an interesting composing task, and then we all got together at the

end to discuss the results of the morning. It was a really inspirational event, and one that we hope to repeat.

Another Alumni doing really well is Ross Garrod, who was in the same A-Level group as Ed Gray. Both were pupils of Miss Pearcy and went to study percussion at Music College.

Ross has devised his own app called *Practice Pal* [see app screenshot above] which we are now using at school. It allows the instrumental teachers to set their timetables online, and then publish them with an email to pupils and



parents. We wish him all success in the future with this. Why not have a look at his work at: practicepalmusic.com

■ S.F.P.

Conor Smyth-Chakraborty (Mr C)

Each year we host a PGCE student from Birmingham City University. In November Conor Symth-Chakraborty came to us for the year.

He wanted to be known as "Mr C", and over the weeks and months he gained in confidence, and became a big hit with the pupils. His teaching developed well, and he became an important part of the Department. Always cheerful and willing to help, he was a great colleague. He is now finishing his PGCE academic work, and we wish him all the very best with that.

As well as his teaching, he came to play in Wind Band and conducted from time to time. He established and directed a Brass Group, and was supportive in so many school activities. He even came and played in the band for



Oliver! [see above photo] when he was teaching at another school!

I was pleased when I heard that he had an interview at a school near his home, and then delighted to find out that he had gained the position of music teacher at Harrow High

School. We gave him a good send off when he left, including a mug which said "Keep calm and carry on – and pretend it's on the lesson plan". Our thanks and very best wishes to Conor for the future.

■ S.F.P.

Baroque String Orchestra



It is good to have links with musicians in the community. In the spring term we agreed to form a small Baroque Orchestra to accompany a piece in a concert for *The Harborne Consort*.

The music was the wonderful *Magnificat*

by Antonio Vivaldi. We rehearsed a few times in school, and then the performance was in St. Peter's Church, in Harborne. The pupils enjoyed the event, and members of the choir were very complimentary about their playing.

■ S.F.P.

A-Level Musicians

We have had an outstanding group of A-Level music students this year. The quality of their performances and compositions has been outstanding. Not only are they all wonderful musicians, however, they have also been a tremendously cheerful, reliable and supportive group, keen to contribute to school music. I want to thank them all for being so helpful in re-establishing school music this year, after the difficulties of Covid-19.

■ S.F.P.

[Pictured right] Connor Huss and a portion of his music.

[Pictured below, L to R] Y13 end of term group picture, Matthew Skaria, Charlie Moore.



Senior Concert

Early in the term we held the Senior Concert. This is a special event, as it is the last school concert for our talented Y13 pupils.

The evening began with one of our established smaller ensembles, the Lower Strings Ensemble. They got us off to a really good start with a *Waltz* by Shostakovich.

During the first half we then had percussion ensemble, flute ensemble, clarinet ensemble and brass ensemble, all playing with precision and musicianship. The first half finished with rousing performances by the Concert Band, demonstrating our senior musician's technical skills.

The second half began with the Chamber Orchestra than Connor Huss had formed and conducted. They played the *Allegro* from Schubert's Fifth Symphony most stylishly, and Connor looked in full control, directing with con-



summate ease. In the second half we also had a guitar ensemble and saxophone ensemble both of which played with confidence.

Sadly, one of our most talented Y13 musicians, Rufus Hall, was unwell on the day. This meant that the Clarinet Quintet could not perform their first movement of the Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*. Rufus was also a bass in the Barber-shop Quartet – and because “the show must go on”, SFP stepped into this role [see picture top centre].

Choirs from both schools sang with great conviction and style, and the concert finished



with a lively version of the *Dambusters March* performed by the Concert Orchestra. Just before the end of the concert Charlie Moore gave a generous speech thanking me and Miss Hawthorne, and giving us gifts [see picture top right].

The leaving Year 13s then sang, and acted, the song “*So Long, Farewell*” from *The Sound of Music*. I was directed to sing the final “goodbye”!

■ S.F.P.



Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée was held in the Girls' School Hall, as our Hall was being used for examinations. We are very grateful to CHB AFS for agreeing to help and provide refreshments during the interval.

As an opportunity for our Intermediate and Junior musicians to perform, we got underway with assured performances from the Intermediate Orchestra under the baton of My Hay and then the Training Band closed the first half with

lively versions of *Summer Nights* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Rather be by Clean Bandit was an exciting way to start the second half, performed with enjoyment by the String Orchestra. In between these large groups, we had a variety of smaller ensembles, which included oboe ensemble, string quartet, jazz ensemble and flute choir, all playing with great musicianship. There were a few solos, and it was good to see the variety as we went from a Jimmy Hendrix electric guitar solo *Hey Joe* (Aditya Krishna) straight into the

Waltz in C# minor for piano by Chopin (Catherine Villabroza).

Just before the last items – which were exciting versions of *Mission Impossible* and *Hawaii Five-0* played by Wind Band there were some very nice presentations to me organized by the Y10 pupils: gifts, flowers, and all the pupils in each band and orchestra had signed cards. We were delighted with the very large audience for this evening event.

■ S.F.P.



School Choir at Hagley Road Village

We thought that it might be difficult to re-establish some of the groups after Covid-19, but of all of them, the School Choir has been excellent throughout the year. It was great to hear a professional musician commenting on their high standards at the Senior Concert.

I was keen to keep this momentum, and so we continued to rehearse over the summer term despite the difficulties of examinations and trips.

We thought that it would be good for the choir to sing to a new audience and get into the community, and so I arranged a concert at Hagley Road Village in Harborne, a complex of flats with its own large Concert Hall. We sang a selection of our repertoire: Folk Songs and



Spirituals to begin, then selections from our recent show *Oliver!* and finally songs from musicals, including *Les Misérables* and *The Lion King*. We were delighted to have a large

and appreciative audience, and our choristers enjoyed the afternoon.

■ S.F.P.

Music Examinations Spring and Summer Exam Success

Over the time of Covid-19 the “grade examinations” organised by the Associated Board and Trinity College, London, have moved to become recorded examinations. Some pupils and teachers have embraced these, and quite enjoyed them. Others have not liked them as much. This academic year we have given the choice of ‘live’ with a real examiner, or whether to record the exam and submit it electronically. This has been a good solution, as it seems that some like one system, and some the other. It has been really good to see so many pupils continue to practice hard and enter to take their “grades”.



Congratulations to all of them.

Huge congratulations to boys who have also gained the qualification beyond grade 8 — a diploma. One of these is Matthew Anderson [pictured above left] who passed his clarinet diploma late in the term with a very high mark.

■ S.F.P.



[Pictured above right] Rufus Hall

The results for the past academic year are listed below.

KEY TO RESULTS LISTINGS

Boy's Name, Instrument (M) = Merit (D) = Distinction Boys' names are listed alphabetically within each grade

Grade 1

Sri Grandhi, Guitar (D)
Nethiran Mugunthan, Guitar (M)
Samuel Wiseman, Euphonium

Grade 2

Lemuel Adjei, Trumpet (D)
Vivek Gohel, Tabla (D)
Zane Shah, Electric Guitar (M)
Sathya Vaidyanathan, Flute (M)

Grade 3

Musthafa Ahmed, Bass Guitar (M)
Arnav Aphale, Violin
Aiden Arul, Singing
Christy Baiju, Guitar (D)
Jedidiah Beeston, Clarinet
Pascal Fernando, Trumpet
Aditya Prasad, Guitar (M)
Zane Shah, Electric Guitar (M)

Grade 4

Haoran Bai, Guitar (M)
Jagveer Bhamra, Singing (M)
Nisith Fernandes, Violin (M)
Vivek Gohel, Dhol (M)
Alexander Hopkins, Violin
Reuben Howard, Violin
William Lin, Violin (M)
Benjamin Little, Tuned Percussion (M)
Hemakesh Muddha, Flute (M)

Grade 5

Elliot Fernandes, Jazz Saxophone (M)
Clement Franklin, Trumpet (M)
Ben Hone, Violin
Zayan Khan, Singing
Kenny Lau, Piano (D)
Thomas Pitfield, Viola (M)

Grade 6

Harley Hau, Violin
Yicheng Hu, Violin
Sampanna Raut, Drums (M)
Sushant Shyam, Violin (M)

Grade 7

Vansh Pradhan, Flute
Vansh Pradhan, Guitar (M)
Kishan Sambhi, Guitar (M)

Grade 8

George Hill, Piano (M)
Keshav Najran, Classical Guitar (D)
Udayan Nayyar, Guitar (M)

Thank You and Goodbye



On a personal note, as I write my last *Chronicle* articles after 33 years as Head of Music, may I say what a wonderful time I've had at Camp Hill.

After a really difficult few years with Covid-19 I am delighted that we have managed to re-establish our ensembles, and it has been great to see music flourishing once again. This was so evident in the wonderful production of *Oliver!* at the end of last term, and in the two concerts this term. The Senior Concert and the Summer Soirée were both very well supported by parents, and the pupils took part with enthusiasm. We were delighted with them.



Special thanks to Prue Hawthorne and Lorne Pearcey, wonderful musicians, colleagues and friends, for all their support over so many years. To all the other Visiting Instrumental Teachers who have been so dedicated and loyal, and have served Camp Hill music so well. And thanks to all our supportive staff, receptive parents and enthusiastic pupils who have made my time at Camp Hill so rewarding and enjoyable. Goodbye, thank you, and my best wishes for the future to you all.

■ **Simon Palmer, Head of Music**

[Picture top right] Senior Concert

[Picture right] Summer Soirée



Visiting Instrumental Teachers

Parents and pupils may not be aware that we now have over twenty Visiting Instrumental Teachers between the two schools. This dedicated and experienced group of professionals not only teach our pupils their instruments, but also support them in their ensemble work.

Once a year we hold a morning of INSET for them: a chance for us all to "recharge our batteries". In June we held this event.

After a meeting to discuss pupil matters,

we had an interesting session from Ross Garrod on *Practice Pal*, and then Peter Buckby of Trinity College explained how "live" and "recorded" examinations would be administered in the future. They were very interesting and helpful sessions.

Whilst writing about the Instrumental Teachers, I must make special note of Lorne Pearcey. We are so lucky to have Lorne who, as well as teaching Y8 music and percussion, also undertakes all the administration for the "grade" exams. She does



a fantastic job, and we're very grateful. In the evening we went out for a meal together.

■ **S.F.P.**

Sports Day Band

An innovation for this year's Sports Day is that we had a Y10 Band playing in a marquee near to the Sixth Form Block. A bit of fun to entertain the spectators, we played a varied selection of popular tunes. Some had a sporting theme, such as *Chariots of Fire*, *Match of the Day* and *Rocky*. Others were just fun tunes: *Batman*, *Summertime*, *James Bond* and *The Adams Family*!

■ **S.F.P.**



Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Having missed what many were saying would have been a golden year of 1st XV rugby due to COVID restrictions, this year's Y12s and especially Y13s needed the 2021–22 season to live up to great expectations.

For the Y13s this season would be the last in which they were able to play Camp Hill rugby and with many strong players in this cohort, it was bound to be a good season. The first game was a tough one over at KES which ended with a narrow 24-30 loss, but showed a lot of promise especially from a few of the younger lads stepping up to the 1st XV. With the likes of Chude Ndozi and Ibbi Tahir making Y11 debuts and setting a genuinely encouraging tone for the season.

Despite an ever-strong Old Swinford side claiming victory in our next fixture, the boys were well aware that this squad was going to be strong and that all we needed was to put in the work to get rid of the rust due to the COVID enforced hiatus.

A narrow loss to Five Ways 22-19 was only due to the lack of Emery Uzoma and Will Taylor who would have inevitably combined for 50 points on the blindside had they both not been exceedingly ill.

Importantly this game taught us a few lessons about rolling mauls and conceding penalties in your own 22 and despite the potentially demoralising 3-loss start to the season, the team secured their first win in a bout against Camp Hill RFC. This game was one of the highlights of the season, seeing the likes of Luke Hemmings, Jonny Anderson and Alex Simpson arrive to show their unwavering love of Camp Hill rugby having been deprived of their final year. We brought home the win with the help of a Morrisclan0305 hand-off special and would

later in the season go on to beat them a second time in a similarly close, but even more enjoyable game, closed out by Emile Nguinessy's magnum opus, a try which many in the squad would agree was the try of the season.

This first win led to two more in quick succession as Newcastle-under-Lyme and Shrewsbury were put to bed, the former won by Chude Ndozi's blocking of their final conversion as he rose sixteen feet into the air and swatted it effortlessly away keeping the game at 24-22 for the final whistle.

As for the rest of the season, six of our boys: Joe Day, Simeon Humphries, Sam Sotodia, Toby Taylor, Will Taylor and Emery Uzoma did themselves and the Foundation proud in the first ever KE Foundation Match against Solihull School. Mr Burgess' brain child had come to life and amidst confusion surrounding the purchase of the trophy, he somehow signed away the right to name the cup "The Burgess Cup" and instead this fixture will be known as the "Foundation XV Select Covill Cup" for ever more.

Despite a close first half, the coaching team decided to remove Simeon from the pitch for the second half and the game went from very close at half-time to a 48-19 loss, the loss of the greatest front row of all time being the sole reason for this happening.

A 57-19 win over KE Aston, was exactly what the boys needed before going on senior tour, our first utter domination on the pitch, bringing to light the strategy we had been missing the whole season – give it to Sam Ankrah.

An honourable mention goes to Toby who stepped up at 10 and threw not one, but two interceptions to the same inside centre resulting in 14 of their 19 points. This led into the 7s Tournament at Stratford, the key details of which are as follows. We turned up late to Stratford. We somehow ended up with Stratford's tent. We beat Stratford at 7s. We went to McDonalds.

The dominant performance over Aston showed the boys what they could really do and



so when it came to rugby tour, the first match against Llanishen High School was telling. What looked to be a relatively close match at the beginning soon became our biggest points margin of the whole season. A superb try from Omar Ismail was what really turned the tide of the game as off a Sam Morris left peg, he took to the skies combining the elegance of a swan with the strength he'd gained from military pressing the weight of his unfinished RS worksheets to snaffle the ball and run it in for the try. This game ended 66-10 and put a smile on the face of everyone who'd taken part.

The final game of the season was played on Sunday on the way back through Cheltenham against Gloucestershire County finalists, Old Patonians. Many of the boys were weary, many were ill, but every man on that pitch rose to the occasion. What ended in a narrow loss felt far from it as the boys fought hard against a very strong side. The game was played in great spir-

its and there were no Y13 dry eyes in the changing room after including Emery who, in his own words, "wasn't going to get emotional like that".

I want to say a huge thank you to the coaching staff: Mr Burgess, Mr Taylor, Mr Rees and Mr Norton without whom, we could never have hoped to experience such a good season. Another personal thank you goes to my Vice-Captain Sam Satodia, it's been a pleasure captaining this season with you I couldn't have asked for a closer mate to do it with. Most importantly, I want to thank each and every member of the squad, it has been an honour to be your Captain and a hugely enjoyable season. I hope the Y12s, Y11s and Y10s take the



mantle and continue to beat Camp Hill Club year-on-year. I'm sure I can speak for all of us leaving when I say, we'll be back to watch the fixture. Cheers boys, it's been a pleasure.

■ **Will Taylor**

[Pictured above] 1st XV after KE Aston match

U15 Rugby

For the U15's this season has gone through a lot of ups and downs. Coming back from the large absence of matches in Y9, 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, 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, eight of our matches were forced to be called off or abandoned and later on in the

2nd XV Rugby



[Pictured below] 2nd XV Rugby Team after KE Aston match

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.

Finally, the part we had all been looking forward to since we had missed out on it in Y9 – Junior Rugby Tour.

As we knew that this would likely be our last season playing with each other,

we decided to end it on a high, and we did exactly that with our first match against Cockermouth on a Friday afternoon ending in a victory of 27-12 to us, securing us the first of three wins.

Our second match, which was due to be against Galashiels Academy, was called off due to the Scottish weather freezing their pitches. Luckily we had other plans and we went to watch a game between Carlisle RFC and Penrith who happened to be their biggest rivals.

On the final day of the tour, the weather was nice and we played our last match as a team against Wigton RUFC. We were dead set on winning and due to our rule in which whoever scores a try must convert it, only two conversions were made and there were too many tries scored to even count. The final result was 54-7 to us and the *Man of the Match* was Gian Khera. We left with our heads held high knowing that we could go back to school wearing



our exclusive ties and say that we were the only team to win all of their matches that tour.

Special mentions to Christy Baiju who won two very well deserved awards which were *Top Try Scorer* and *Player of the Season*, Malachi Powell who always has an incredible work rate, Edward Cheung for taking on the responsibility

of filling in for Ayan Butt at Fly Half as he had been injured, Gian Khera for making an absolutely astonishing amount of tackles in conjunction with Karl Rodrigo, Pagiel Quarmyne for some astounding tries and also storing a Hat Trick, Matthew Ransbotyn for being our Scrum Half and Kicker, but most importantly, I would

like to thank Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor for being our superb coaches throughout the year.

Finally I'd like to say that it has been a great experience and pleasure to be the Captain of this squad and I look forward to playing with you all next year.

■ **Rahul Chauhan**

U14 Rugby

The 2021–22 season was a tough year for rugby in Y9. Throughout the season we suffered with a shortage of players and many injuries, but we kept going and were proud to get a couple of wins under our belt, including 30-25 against Fairfax and 7-5 win against Bishop Vesey's.

We also saw a huge improvement within our team; when we played Camp Hill Rugby Club at the start of the season we were destroyed 70-5, however when we returned to the Club later in the season we played a far better game and closed the score gap to 40-20.

Beside our team performance, we also had some outstanding individual perform-

ances. Notable mentions go to Captain Kaaraj Chandock who could always be relied upon for strong running with the ball in hand, Zion Osolase whose pace left many would-be tacklers in his wake, Luke Dolan whose distribution skills were a feature of many tries throughout the season and Samad Adeniran with excellent dedication to completing tackles.

The end of season awards went to Harith Kadir, as the *Top Try Scorer*, whose powerful, evasive running challenged even the strongest defences. Matthew Dainty won *Player of the Season* for intelligent play around the breakdown, and the *Captain's Award* went to Kaaraj Chandock who could always be relied upon for strong running with the ball in hand.

Aside from individual performances the team has also really engaged many other parts of the season such as an amazing time on Junior Tour in Carlisle, progressing to Under 14 age grade rules to include lineouts, the Greater Birmingham Tournament (even though we finished in last place) and the time spent travelling together as a squad on the mini buses were some of the best parts of rugby this year as always.

A big thank you has to go to all the coaches, including Mr Taylor and Mrs Jermine who gave up countless weekends to go to matches and evenings for training and to parents for supporting us in our rugby journey.

■ **Matthew Dainty and Kaaraj Chandock**

U13 Rugby

After a mismatched rugby season last year, the Y8s were greatly determined to play twice as hard for every match we would have. But, determination aside, our rugby playing experience was very low (through events out of our control), with some of the side having never played a game of rugby before.

A loss against OSH in our first game showed our inexperience compared to other teams, and left us disheartened, but not destroyed, as we held our heads high into our next game, against Fairfax School. After a quick start with three consecutive tries, we held onto our lead the whole game. But Fairfax pulled it back slowly with their great defensive play. However, time was on our side as we saw the game out to be 30-25. This was our first win and coming in the second game, we had all confidence for the following matches.

But, this building momentum was cut short by a trip to the neighbours up at Camp Hill RFC. A (once again) quick paced start with a couple of tries gave us hopes and an advantage, heading into the second quarter. But fast runners from the Club caused open lines and wide gaps to gift them multiple tries. However, the outstanding defensive efforts of Dawud Husayn were the reason we only lost the game by two tries, the score 30-40.

Scores would only go downhill from here, with a subsequent 10-45 loss to King Edward's Aston and an away loss to Newcastle-under-Lyme School. Our first and only draw came up against Haberdashers' Abraham Darby, eight tries each way, and the consistent try-scoring from Adam Bashir, Raees Latif and Joel Fletcher



were a key factor in this result. We would then go on to lose nine games in a row.

Close-knit ties against Five Ways (45-35) and King's Norton (20-25) were our silver linings, but thrashings from KES (0-55), Queen Mary's Grammar (15-60), and Princethorpe College (15-45) were on the other end of the scale.

Nevertheless, we pushed on to achieve our first win in 11 games against Camp Hill RFC, on their own turf. After another quick start, we had the game in our hands, up 20-0 at the break. But momentum was shifting, and it was not long before the tie was almost neck-a-neck. Pushing on against all odds, we were able to **not** throw away the game and grasped a late try to seal the deal on a great game of rugby ending 30-20 to us.

To end off the season, we had the Greater Birmingham Tournament, our final full team match this year. Despite the matches being a lot shorter, we managed to hold teams such as KES and Bishop Vesey's Grammar to singular

try wins. Even though we finished last, we'd proved how much everyone had improved as not just individual players, but us as a whole team.

As an added bonus, ten of our players were able to take part in a Rugby Sevens Tournament at King's Worcester, where our dominating attacking consistency allowed us to finish second in our group, only losing to one out of the five schools.

U13 Rugby, to say the very least, was a rollercoaster of emotions and a record that doesn't really reflect how much we've put in over this year. We've made a great improvement from what we were at the start of Y7, and we can owe that all to our coaches (Mr Taylor and Mr Norton) and the ever growing atmosphere the rugby team provides. There's clearly a lot of potential in the squad, and let's hope we can win a few more games in the next season.

■ **Lemuel Adjei**

U12 Rugby

The Y7 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 five squads of Y7 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 is important, as it has been a truly excellent one. However, nothing epitomises the squad and year group's efforts this year more than that of Alex Inno-



centi (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 Y7 Rugby as a whole this half term (and whole year)!

■ **G.R.**

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. A 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 and the players made the Foundation proud. Mr Burgess, Head of PE and 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 and Mr Thomas of King Edward VI Five Ways School, Mr Adams of King Edward's School, Mr Taylor of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys and 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.

■ **T.J.B.**

[Pictured below]

[Upper right] Solihull and Foundation Teams

[Lower right] Foundation XV

[Lower left] Camp Hill Boys



Rugby Sevens

We have had only one tournament this year for Rugby Sevens, over at the Kings School, Worcester. We took two teams in the U12's and 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 were fantastic!! Having had no prior experience or training at Rugby Sevens, and missing two 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 three 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!

The highly anticipated Worcester School 7's Tournament would be the U13's last opportunity to play 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. Well done to every person in the team!

■ G.R.

Cricket

Senior Cricket

A stop start season is a fair summary of the 1st XI cricket session. Fixtures kicked off in early May only then to be hit by the examination season, which puts an ever increasing amount of pressure on the sport of cricket for our young adults. However, I'm extremely proud of the 1st XI team this year.

Joe Day has led the team admirably. It was a joy to see tall Joe standing at slip next to our, not as tall, Y9 wicket keeper Haaziq Wani, laughing and joking away as if it was a pretty normal Saturday afternoon. This season also granted our youngest ever 1st XI debut to Y7 Mushaf Mir. A truly special talent, who batted well above his years to secure a draw against a strong MCC side at Harborne CC.

The season kicked off with a 15 run win vs local rival Five Ways. Areeb Tayyab produced a match winning 54 not out to see Camp Hill home. A comprehensive 84 run victory followed against Broadway in the Regional Cup. Ismail Feraz blasted the ball to all parts with 83 helping us on our way to a huge target of 200 in a T20 game.

A close encounter with Queen Mary's took place next. Unfortunately, Camp Hill fell to a nail-biting two-wicket defeat. Easa Nadeem was outstanding with the ball, at times giving Camp Hill a glimmer of hope. Ali Jawad also contributed magnificently with the bat to help Camp Hill post a respectable score.

Princethorpe was the opposition in the semi-final of the Area Cup. Again, Camp Hill fell on the wrong side of an 8 run defeat. Ajay Shingadia carried his bat to end 56 not out, stranded at the non-strikers end. Not before,



smashing a window in our vintage pavilion after smashing a huge 6.

The penultimate fixture of the year was the highly anticipated annual game against the MCC at Harborne CC. The 1st XI battled hard in the field to restrict the MCC to highly respectable, but forgettable 302-5 declared. In reply Camp Hill were in with a chance of winning for the first 20 overs. This was until Ajay Shingadia held out for a splendid 60. Old Boys Owais Akram and Year 7 Mushaf Mir were there at the end to bat out the last 10 overs for a very respectable draw — as ever a spectacular occasion for all involved. A special mention also needs to go to Y10 Hassan Soonsara who held his own comfortably throughout the season.

The final fixture of the year was the much

anticipated Staff vs Students Declaration Game. The students batted first and were somewhat surprisingly bowled out for 188 in 27 overs. Hassan Soonsara played beautifully to anchor the innings with 40. The pick of the staff bowlers were Sam Morris and Mr Redshaw who both took 2-4 off their allotted overs. In reply the staff stayed around for a bit but ultimately lost heavily. Mr Rees top scored with 26 and departing Headmaster, Mr Garrod, batted resolutely with 15* to help make the score card more respectable. Congratulations to the students who were as ever a credit to the school, winning with grace and Captained exceptionally well by Joe Day.

■ T.J.B.

Year 10 Cricket

The Year 10 cricket squad have enjoyed a lot of cricket this season and played excellently, although the results may not reflect this. A few very tight games and a couple that were thrown away cheaply, meant that our season wasn't as successful as it could have been.

Nevertheless, out of the nine games played, three convincing victories were forged against Langley, Kineton, and to finish off, King Edward VI Aston. Fixtures against Small Heath and Saltley were certainly learning curves for the tactics and understanding of how to play the game in a different way, and these lessons will be valuable to take into the senior squad.

Hassan Soonsara and Elliot Fernandes

stood out with bat in hand, as well as Jai Varaich, Dhanvin Narendra and Adam Iqbal chipping in with the odd stint at the crease. Muhammad Sikander, Adam Iqbal, Hassan Soonsara, Elliot Fernandes and Adith Raghava were all excellent with the ball in hand.

The overall record was played nine, three wins and six losses.

■ **G.R.**

Year 9 Cricket

The Year 9 cricket squad have done very well this season, pushing the league and cup runs to the final stages before unfortunately falling short. The building blocks for next year's season have been laid, with a clear understanding of the game being developed amongst the whole group, rather than individuals.

The season opener was a victory against

Bablake and King Henry VIII School, which proved with concentration and effort, this team can achieve great results! Unfortunate losses to QM's and Five Ways seemed to spark something in the squad and put us on a run of three wins on the spin! Beating Arden, Washwood Heath and Old Swinford Hospital. It was a shame that a few more fixtures were cancelled due to weather this year, but on the

whole it has been a good year.

Special mentions to Haaziq Wani for scoring his second ever Camp Hill century in a Hundred Ball game against Arden academy and Ishan Gautam for picking up 5 excellent wickets in a close victory over OSH.

The overall record was played seven, four wins and three losses.

■ **G.R.**



[Pictured above] U15 team



[Pictured above] U14 team

Year 8 Cricket

The Year 8 cricket squad have had an excellent season, improving on the previous year's performance, as well as growing as people and players. With only two losses, nine wins and a cup final victory, this season has been a success.

We started the season with four wins on the spin against the likes of Five Ways and Bishop Vesey. After a couple of narrow losses, we picked ourselves back up to win 5 on the bounce to finish the season, the last game being the cup final of the U13 Hundred Ball Tournament. Our bowling appeared to be our strong point, with almost all of our players putting up an argument to be one of the opening bowlers – not very often does this happen! Our batting has also been very strong and we

have continued to grow as mature cricketers with an understanding for the game.

Adil Kapasi deserves a special shout out for the best figures of the season, with a spell of 2.2 overs, 5 wickets and 6 runs conceded, this is truly fantastic. Adam Bashir also had a go at creating some sort of record by picking up 4 wickets in 4 balls! Something that not many people will ever replicate!

Spencer Hazzell, Raees Latif, Terrence Sutton, Abdul Rahman Ammad, Isa Naveed and Parth Trehan have also proved to be brilliant bowlers. Rayan Latif and Mustafa Ahmed have contributed fantastically well with the bat and in the field, providing a much need steadiness to the batting order. Last but not least we have Ben Law and Hrish Narayanan. These two have

battled consistently well for the wicket keeper position, using the competition to drive each other for improved, but also celebrate each other's victories. This is what the team spirit is all about and why this team has, and will be so successful.

The overall record was eleven played, nine wins and two losses.

■ **G.R.**

Year 7 Cricket

The Year 7 cricket squad have had a fantastic summer. Considering this is their first year playing together, and for a lot of them, their first year playing hard ball cricket, they have done outstandingly well.

The season opener against Bishop Vesey proved to be one to learn from, as our nerves and lack of experience showed. This was one of only two losses we had this year! After the disappointing defeat, we then went on a run of seven victories in a row, including getting our revenge on Vesey. The running between

the wickets proved to be our strong point, putting pressure on opposition fielders constantly during games. As well as this our bowling attack showed itself to be difficult to face. Batting wise, we have had a mixed bag, but every game, someone steps up to the required standard.

Everyone deserves a mention in this article, but special mentions should go to Mushaf Mir for his cricketing skills and captaining ability, who also scored three separate half centuries in these games. As well as Rafe Sullivan, Sebastian Robotham, Zane Shah, Zak Khalid, Ayaan Chaudry, Ollie Smoldon, Usman Ali and

everyone else who took part. Another mention needs to go to Ibrahim Uddin, stepping up as wicket keeper with no prior experience. By the end of the season, Ibrahim is dealing with bowlers that have years of practise over him, like it's nothing. Well done all of you!

We finished the season with a league victory and cup final win over King Edward VI Aston, to make it even more obvious that the season was a success.

The overall record was 16 played, 14 wins and 2 losses.

■ G.R.



[Pictured above] U13 team / Y8 Cup Winners



[Pictured above] Year 7 Winners

Athletics

After a long lay-off from competitive athletics due to Covid, it was fantastic to have some athletics matches back in the diary for the summer term.

As per tradition, the first match of the year was the eagerly anticipated Senior Foundation Match hosted by KES. This would be the final time the senior boys would represent Camp Hill and the boys were keen to leave their mark.

Joe Day was responsible for assembling the team and we headed to KES with a star studded line up. It was fantastic to see the positive attitude shown by the boys and they ensured every event was filled, stepping outside their comfort zone to stand in for events they may have found difficult.

The boys performed brilliantly across the board, with top three performances in the majority of the events, as well as two first places finishers from Chude Ndozi in the 100 metres and Joe Day in the high jump. Joe also

manage to break his 1.80m high jump personal best with a fantastic performance of 1.85m. A fantastic final effort in the 4x100 metre relay meant Camp Hill finished overall winners. It was a fitting way for the Y13 leavers to end their time at Camp Hill.

Up next was the annual Norman Green Junior Athletics Match at Tudor Grange. A special mention must go to the CHB staff who help to officiate and make the match an easier one for the seven other schools competing. CHB performed incredibly well finishing in the top



[Pictured above] Y10 Athletics Team



[Pictured above] U18 Athletics Team

three in Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 and therefore winning the event overall. A big thank you to all the boys who competed.

The Junior Foundation Match saw a tough afternoon of competition for the Y9 and Y10 boys against some very strong opposition. There were notable performances in the Y9 100m from Zion Osoalase and Harith Kadir as well as an impressive first place win for Edward Cheung in the Y10 100m with an impressive time of 12.11 seconds.

In the Junior Foundation Match the Y7 and

Y8 boys showed plenty of promise and potential with some very strong performances from Adam Bashir, Anson Tang, Mauwiyah Abdi and Raaes Latif. I want to encourage all those athletes to consider joining a local athletics club so they can access high-level coaching all year round.

Sports Day will be covered separately in the end of year House Reports, but it must be said that the event was a roaring success. It was fantastic to see so many boys proudly representing their Houses with flags and face paint

in their House colours, as well as the fantastic new inclusion of Mr Rees's "Fun Events" which saw the boys compete in array of events from the tug of war, slow bike race, egg and spoon race to mention a few. It is fair to say that the future is bright for athletics at Camp Hill and we are excited to see how our athlete's develop in the years to come. A final and special mention must go to Adam Bashir, who broke the long standing Y8 high jump record by 3cm.

■ **J.N.**

Racket Sports

Badminton

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 sixteen 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.

Seven years unbeaten for these two now at Camp Hill! A big mention must go to Jingxi Bai. Still only in Y9, 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!

■ **G.R.**

Basketball

Senior Basketball

The year 2021–22 was both a very impressive and very short season for the senior basketball team. Three matches played with three wins left us with a 100% record for the season – a nice reward for all the hard work put in at training.

We started the season with a win at Alcester Grammar 64-43, Joe Day and Mustafa Shoukat carrying the scoring load in a weakened team. Alcester Grammar then travelled to us and with a full strength team, we showed our class with a dominant 71-33 victory.

Finally, to end the season and an era of basketball in which we have had a great deal of success, a fitting grudge match win against KES was a nice way to end it. A low-scoring game this time, ending 33-25.

■ **Sam Morris**



[Pictured above] U18 Basketball Team

Junior Basketball

The U16s 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, as 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 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.

■ **G.R.**

Chess

House Chess

After a two year break, House Chess returned to the school calendar in January this year. Always keen to try something new, there was a new format and a new energy to the tournament – Camp Hill fully embraced **Blitz Chess**. The thinking behind this was to open it up to as many students as possible by playing it at lunchtime.

Blitz is Chess played at speed. In our version players were given an initial time limit of three minutes, and then were awarded an extra two seconds for every move they made. Due to the quick nature of play each team player got to play their opponent twice – once as black and once as white. In Blitz Chess quick thinking and smart play are the key ingredients to success. Some of the students had experienced this form of chess before and as a school we have played others schools at Blitz Chess, with some degree of success, at tournaments organised at KES and here at Camp Hill pre pandemic.

The students, after some initial reluctance, embraced the game. Never has so much concentration been focused in such a small time within chess at lunchtime. Each lunchtime two Houses faced off, with arbiters from the other Houses watching proceedings, assisting in making decisions when dubious moves were pulled off.

In the first week everything was fairly equal. Howard beat Beaufort in Round 1, then Beaufort beat Howard when the colours were switched. The same happened when Seymour played Tudor. However, in Round 2 the balance started to shift. Beaufort initially drew with Tudor, then lost to them when the colours were switched. Howard drew with Seymour in the first part, just as with the match the day before, but then Howard snuck into the lead with the change of boards. It was beginning to look like the title would be decided between Tudor and Howard, but mathematically many different results were still possible.

Entering the third and final round we started with Beaufort and Seymour, the teams that it seemed on paper were most likely to finish third and fourth. After a good first match Seymour had the edge, winning with a comfortable margin. Seymour then pressed home their advantage with a thorough defeat of Beaufort, where they failed to win any of their individual games, securing Beaufort last place. Seymour's eventual position would depend on the match played in the next lunchtime. Who would win between Tudor and Howard, and would it be as close as all of the other matches played so far?

It was a close competition, but ultimately not that close. Howard won both of the matches, and took ultimate victory for their house. The match results are below, but how did that affect the overall positioning?

Match Results

Round 1

Howard 6, Beaufort 2 = Howard Win
Beaufort 5, Howard 3 = Beaufort Win
Tudor 5.5, Seymour 2.5 = Tudor Win
Seymour 4.5, Tudor 3.5 = Seymour Win

Round 2

Beaufort 4, Tudor 4 = Draw
Tudor 5, Beaufort 3 = Tudor Win
Howard 4, Seymour 4 = Draw
Seymour 3, Howard 5 = Howard Win

Round 3

Beaufort 2.5, Seymour 5.5 = Seymour Win
Seymour 7.5, Beaufort 2.5 = Seymour Win
Howard 6, Tudor 2 = Howard Win
Tudor 3, Howard 5 = Howard Win

This gave the overall results as:

1st Howard (4 wins – out of 6 overall)
2nd Seymour (3 wins)
3rd Tudor (2 wins)
4th Beaufort (1 win)

Blitz Chess proved popular and battle for the title of **Best House in Chess** will recommence later this year. But there was some disappointment about the lack of the longer form version of Chess we have traditionally played in this tournament, and hopefully it will be back this academic year as additional matches.

■ **J.G.O.**

Birmingham Chess League

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the pandemic the Birmingham Junior Chess League was unable to be played again this year. However, our students have been active in many Chess Tournaments locally and nationally throughout the year. Sathya Vaidyanathan's article [see next page] details some of these. All of those involved have acquitted themselves as exemplary Chess players, playing to a very high standard. The plans are for the League to return next year in a new format, with 4 tournaments spread throughout the year, one each half term up until the Easter break. More information on that will be sent out as each tournament draws near.

■ **J.G.O.**

Notable Chess Mentions

As this academic year comes to an end the torch of Chess is, in true sporting fashion, passed from one generation to another. We bid farewell to our Y13s, many of whom have supported Chess in its various forms over the years. So much so that they set up their own Club at lunchtimes, and could often be found in the Sixth Form Block playing many different forms of Chess include **Double Chess** (played across two boards at the same time) and **Battle Chess**. The latter of which I was never quite able to get my head completely around the rules!

Deniz, Devesh, Hemal, Viswamedha, Will, Omar and Eashen, among so many others – your contributions have been amazing, and

I have valued the support you have given to myself and the chess community (especially stepping in for other absent players at the last minute) during your time with us.

We now look to the new Y11s and Y9s for the next chess stars, with the return of the **Birmingham League** in the form of four brand new tournaments, as well as a hopefully expanded House Chess range of events.

Chess Club was run on Monday lunchtimes in P1 during the 2021–22 academic year. Keep an eye on notices and SOC's for information about Chess this academic year.

■ **J.G.O.**

Chess – A Student's Perspective

Chess at Camp Hill took a bit of a halt during most of lockdown, however a fresh start in September gave us all we needed to spring back again and get some events going.

November was the main starting point for us, as we entered the ECF Schools Competition for the first time in about six years. On the 19th

November, six intrepid players: Karan Kukreja, Daniel Chen, Kanav Monga, Joel Skaria, Ryan Alexander and Sathya Vaidyanathan went to KES for the Regional qualifier. Our opponents in the fixture were Hallfield, Broadway Academy, and of course KES.

We got to a strong start, winning both matches 6-0 and 5-1, against Broadway and Hallfield respectively, only dropping a point to an unfortunate loss on time, in a drawn position, with winning chances. However, KES were

up next. We had a quick draw after ten minutes on one of our boards, however we conceded a loss soon after. Luckily, we got one back thanks to Kanav, and another draw happened on board five. This meant there were only two people left. Board two unfortunately ended up in a loss, and six, down two pawns, had to settle for a draw, giving KES a close win.

Luckily, we ended up in the top two, so we proceeded to the next round, but KES was to be our next opponent once again.

The fateful day came on the 4th February, a home match this time. Unfortunately, after some last minute postponements because of Covid and availability issues, our full strength team wasn't available, but Viswamedha Nalabotu kindly opted to help and play.

We went down 2-0 within about an hour, but eventually we won another back. Karan also won his game levelling up the overall score 2-2. In true nail biting fashion both of the remaining games were drawn. However, to win the match overall we knew that we needed score at least 1.5 out of the 2 available points to win because of the tiebreak earlier in the game. Ryan Alexander won a pawn in a bishop endgame, however KES knew their endgames perfectly and outplayed Ryan, defending expertly. Ryan tried everything to win and breakthrough. Unfortunately, we ended up

losing on the other board, as a very hard tactic to find was played, ultimately losing the match. We lost with our heads high, knowing we'd have won with our full team, and ready with lots of ideas to bounce back another time...

Additionally, online chess has been good this year. There have been fortnightly Secondary School Battles online, with numerous great finishes, especially as we only had two or three players in each, much less than the average team. Our 25th March event was one of our best, with 29 points scored between two players, and a 13th place finish. Standout players this year online being Pranav Mullapudi, Elliot Fernandes and Aditya Prasad. The 7th May event had to be the best though, with four of us playing, achieving 5th on the total rankings – our best ever finish – thanks to Hun Kang and Karan joining in as well.

A lot of students have played many individual events with lots of success, notably the Birmingham Rapidplay, ECF and four NCL events, as well as the UK Chess Challenge and local ones held in the West Midlands. Ryan, Karan and Sathya have all had good successes, as well as Daniel Chen and Joel Skaria doing very well overall, attaining some of the best results compared to previous years.

Chess at Camp Hill is clearly well back into action and is sure to become much bigger than it used to be, as House Chess is increasing in popularity, and there are good turnouts for lunchtime Chess Club.

Congratulations to all who received Chess Colours this Spring (Viswamedha, Devesh and Hemal), and those who represented and played in events for the school team.

■ **Sathya Vaidyanathan**

Football

Senior Football

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: 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 second 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.

■ **M.J.G.**

Junior Football

For the first time in recent Camp Hill history, a football fixture was arranged for Y9 and Y10 against local rivals KE Five Ways. The two games were highly anticipated and expected to be full on!

The first game from the Y10s 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 be given, as

they gave so much to the performance, as did the whole squad.

The Y9 students, encouraged by this result from the previous day, 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 two 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!

■ **M.J.G.**

Handball

U15 and U13 Teams

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 and 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!

■ **G.R.**

Hockey

Hockey 1st XI

After the long and anticipated return to competitive sport at Camp Hill, spirits were high within the Hockey teams for the term ahead. The 1st XI opened their season to the recently merged Bablake and King Henry's School.

The boys started the game brightly, but struggled to thwart the onslaught that followed. Strong defensive performances from Jonah Kippax and Ben Brown limited the score line, but it's fair to say Camp Hill were out-classed on the day with some tough lessons learnt.

Next up were KE Stratford, where the boys had a point to prove. In a competitive first half, the boys showed glimpses of real class, culminating in a well-executed short corner routine from Zain Rizvi following a swift counter attack. Ali Ibrahim proved to be a real handful for the King Edwards defence, but some excellent saves from their impressive goal keeper stopped him from scoring on several occasions. The boys went into the break 2-1 down, despite having the majority of the possession and clear cut chances.

Camp Hill started the second half brightly, creating several chances within the first five minutes. However, a lack of availability prior to the game and only having one substitute saw Camp Hill legs tire considerably in the

final fifteen minutes. The boys struggled to contain the pace of King Edward's front line and conceded two well executed counter attacking goals. Humza Irfan netted a consolation in the final moments but the game sadly ended 3-2 to King Edward's.

With several cancellations due to Covid outbreaks in other schools, the boys had a small lay off before playing Queen Mary's Grammar School on home turf. The frustrations of the previous losses were clear to see and the boys were fired up to get their first win.

The boys started the first half brilliantly, with two well executed short corners from Jonah Kippax and Ben Brown following accurate injections from Seth Brown. Tallah Ghauri swept home a third after some excellent build up play, with Camp Hill finishing the first half 3-0 up. The second half proved to be a much closer affair with Queen Mary coming back after the break fighting. Goalkeeper Abdur Rahman was kept extremely busy, making 10 or more saves within a 10-minute period. These saves proved pivotal in keeping Camp Hill in the game. Humza Irfan broke away late in the second half netting one last time to see Camp Hill take a fantastic and well earned first win of



the season.

With two further narrow losses to Solihull and Bablake the boys were ready for the eagerly anticipated match against Foundation rivals Five Ways. In a fast paced game, Camp Hill started brilliantly with a flowing counter attack leading in Ali Jawad Ibrahim scoring early on. Five Ways responded back quickly, with a fantastic individual strike into the top corner from their centre forward. Camp Hill remained patient, before two well worked goals from Ben Brown and Jonah Kippax left Camp Hill as worthy winners.

Full Colours went to Ben Brown, Seth Turner, Hemal Aggarwal, Devesh Aggarwal, Humza Irfan and Peter Kippax. Half Colours were awarded to Ali Jawad Ibrahim, Jonah Kippax, Talha Ghauri and Viswamedha Nalabatou.

■ **G.R.**

U15 Hockey

To say that this past season of hockey was one without hardship would be a lie – there was a lot of hardship. Normally the boys would have a year of getting to grips with the ball and stick in Y9, where their abilities would slowly be refined throughout the year with training and matches feeding them vital experience for the coming years. However, our U15s would not have that luxury, due to Covid-19 ruining any chance of us having that opportunity. As a result, we came into Y10 hockey with simply our desire to win driving our sticks forwards.

Throughout the year, our team was prone to some minor changes, but what remained consistent was the effort the boys displayed for each and every match. Dhanvin Narendra, ex-head of defence for the Five Ways hockey team, proved to be a versatile, but solid presence in our backlines, whilst in midfield Elliot Fernandes was phenomenal in transitioning our play from defence to offence.

The biggest mention, however, must go to Jujanna Deshpande. Despite having asked him to take up the role of goalkeeper minutes before our first game, he showed the rest of us that experience was not needed to be an

amazing player and he went on to make what seemed like hundreds of crucial saves.

For those with little or no form of prior knowledge of hockey it was the weekly games sessions where Mr Norton and Mr Taylor would teach the essentials, providing enough experience in preparation for our matches. If it weren't for this we would have been better with no sticks at all!

The final score lines didn't reflect the boys' efforts. Although this was a sentiment we would repeat over and over again, it was certainly true every time. Our best game in terms of our playing abilities had to be our first

game against OSH. Whilst 1-0 down, their solid defence had repelled our attacks time and time again; but some excellent passing play in the final minutes of the game allowed us to get a short corner, which Dhanvin promptly converted into a goal. Despite being a 1-1 draw, there were times when our team play showed true potential in being a competitive team.

This year's Tour Team was a mixture of Y9s and Y10s, but for the six of us who went we had an amazing time. The three games were all extremely close, despite our opponents having far more training and experience than we could ever have hoped for; and though we lost all three, it's safe to say that our time there was a definite win.

Many thanks to all the teachers who supported us throughout the season and on tour. Special thanks to Mr Norton for being an excellent coach and keeping us going through a difficult season, as well as to Mr Taylor for supporting us on the tennis court and giving us a good time on the tour bus.

■ **Hun Kang**

U14 Hockey

What a brilliant first hockey season for Y9 this year. But sadly, with a shaky start. With only a little prior training during the winter of Y8 and the start of Y9, the boys were thrown into what seemed to be a whole new game facing Queen Mary's School. Their skill and movement outmatched us, resulting in a considerable loss. Frankly, we were left dumbfounded.

But the start of the season truly was a learning experience – as we immediately improved from there. Keeping heed to our mistakes, we faced Old Swinford Hospital where we saw huge changes to our gameplay. The team's coordination, movement and tackling drove us through the game towards a comfortable win by five goals. A great first win by the team.

Over the next four months, we refined and improved our performance, grasping two more deserved wins, but soon, KE Stratford was our next new team to face. Here again, we saw a high level of hockey played with the other team displaying agility and skill on the turf. This match was a thrill to watch as goal keeper Mohammed Akhtar made multiple phenomenal saves against the opposition, standing fearless in front of the ball, leaving the score (and Stratford's strikers) stumped at 3-0 to them. Also putting in 110% effort, special mentions to Ahmed Shabana in defence, and Etik Gadiya in the midfield.

The 2022 Hockey Tour was an amazing experience of higher-class hockey, landscapes and "Use the Width!" from Mr Norton. After having built our confidence and coordination as a team, we showed optimism when facing



three other strong teams, all of which provided gruelling, tough matches.

Our mixed Y9 and Y10 team showed perseverance while taking on Cockermouth School. Although starting the match with a couple of good advancements, we just weren't able to finish and were left with quick counter attacks from the opposition. But yet again, our goal-keeper – this time, Finn Sambridge-Davies, put up a real challenge for the opponents, hindering their attack. Although 2-0 down, our team showed endurance, proving to be fruitful when a great finish by Haaziq Wani closes down the score difference, ultimately finishing the game only 2-1 to them.

Our next two matches on tour were most definitely the hardest we've played, but also some of the most useful. From drag flicks to aer-

ials, the opposition displayed a variety of skill and technique – but again the team pushed through the opponent's fearsome attack, and pulled off some impressive advances and elimination tricks. Although having conceded some considerable losses, throughout the tour the team maintained their positive attitude and hard work on the pitch, with some great contributions by Ishan Gautam, Zahi Ihsan and Haaziq Wani in the midfield and attack, working to push forward and defend.

Overall, it really was an enjoyable (and partially successful) first hockey season, one which has shown us our room to improve for the coming one. A big thank you to all the staff who made the Tour possible; it was a great experience for all.

■ **Ishan Gautam**



[Pictured above] Camp Hill and Wigton hockey teams

Staff v Students



[Pictured below] [L] Staff v Students Football [R] Staff v Students Touch Rugby



Swimming

Despite having no competitive galas to look forward to in the 2021–22 season, school swimming training was as busy as ever. Students from both Camp Hill Schools attended, with many regulars making it to almost all of the Friday after-school training sessions on offer. Special mentions go to Hannah Brewin, Anita Sivakumar, David Bai, Hassan Afzal, Alice Hoggard, Daniel Robinson and Adam Birch for their devoted attendance, and also to Sam Nouhov, who has at times assisted Mr O'Malley and Mr Jack with coaching the sessions and offering the swimmers tips on their stroke.

Student use of the pool for training was in such high demand that Mr O'Malley started a separate after school session for our junior age group swimmers. The Thursday after-school junior session was also very well attended, with Yusuf Abdullah, Terry Sutton, Nikhil Giliam, Zane Shah, Eesa Randeree and Nethiran Mugunthan making it to almost every available session. We were joined later in the year by some enthusiastic Y8 girls, plus Y10 CHG student Bahar Kayani, who came along with her sister.

Heartfelt thanks to lifeguards Daniel Robinson and Zayn Alderwish for assisting with the junior training sessions, as well as Mr Rudd who has accompanied me on poolside at times and so allowed those junior training sessions to go ahead.

The school continues to maintain a strong connection with Camp Hill Swimming Club, with whom we share a long common history through the legacy of former Camp Hill Master of Games and PE, and founder of CHSC, Gerry Thane. It has been exciting to see many of our students progress to training and competing with Camp Hill Swimming Club, and we look forward to sending more swimmers to their Development and Performance sessions over the coming years.

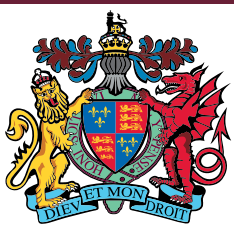
Looking ahead to the 2022–23 season, swimmers can look forward to junior and senior training continuing on a weekly basis, plus a few galas to compete in. We also have big plans for a mass participation Swimathon type event, so watch this space.

■ **S.O.M.**

Sports Day







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