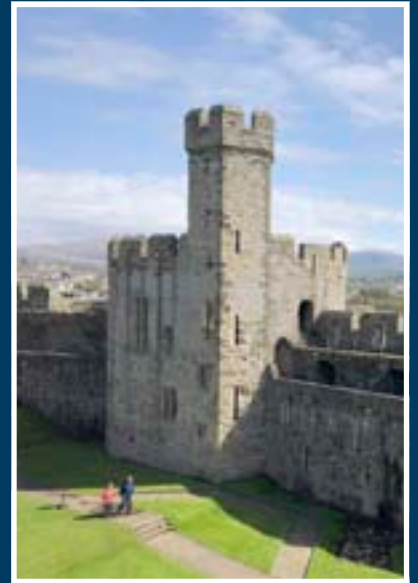


The Chronicle 2018





KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



When you read *The Chronicle*, you get the impression of a busy, thriving school. It's an accurate one. This year's *Chronicle* is full of reports of competitions, quizzes, residential trips, visits to places of cultural and historic interest, sporting activity, concerts, drama productions, chess matches and outdoor pursuit activities. And that's exactly how it feels as the year goes on; hardly a day seems to pass without there being some activity running to enrich the lives of some group of boys or other. As I write, the tents are still drying from last weekend's Duke of Edinburgh expedition and the Year 13 biologists are enjoying rather more clement weather on their four-day field trip.

As always, there seem to be quizzes and competitions for everything; as always, the boys have had not only great fun but also great success. In fact we've won the West Midlands Chemistry Quiz competition five times in a row now and our victory in the Lord Mayor's 6th Form Mega Quiz means that Camp Hill Boys have won it on half of the six occasions it has been run. That chemistry quiz success is just one example of the chemists taking an opportunity offered. Our Year 12 team in the School Analyst competition did themselves proud: by winning the regional round they were given the chance to compete in the national finals against 343 teams from across the UK and Ireland – I'll leave

you to read where they eventually finished. On an individual level, John Hayton started the year knowing that he would be in the four-person UK team for the International Astrophysics Olympiad. I said in last year's *Chronicle* that I would report in this year's edition on his success on that trip to Thailand – he collected a bronze medal. Talking of John, he started the school year preparing for the Astrophysics Olympiad and ended it preparing for the Chemistry Olympiad. Chemistry is also a four-person team; the UK team came back from the competition in Slovakia and the Czech Republic proud of their third place in the world. That's the best they've ever done. (Realistically, that's the best they can do, since China and the US are so extraordinarily powerful. For 'China and the US' read 'Chinese living in China and Chinese living in America'.) John's contribution to that UK success earned him a silver medal. That's three years in row we have provided a member of the UK team. Astonishing.

Continuing the quiz theme: well done our three Year 9 physics teams, taking part in the Physics Big Quiz organised by the University of Birmingham; read their report to see how they fared. Of the myriad maths quizzes, the one we entered with most success was the Junior Team Maths Challenge – 1700 teams whittled down to 88 national finalists; again, I won't steal the thunder from the excellent report. In biology competitions, the school's success seems to have grown dramatically over recent years. Congratulations to William Blay on winning through to be one of twenty invited to a selection camp for the UK Olympiad team; sadly, because William was unable to attend the camp, we will never know how he would have competed in that rarefied atmosphere.

A year ago, I reported that construction was about to begin on the extension to the 6th Form Block. A year later, I can report that it is complete, officially opened and much in use. We are thrilled with the addition to our facilities.

In this edition you will find photos of the junior and senior drama productions. For the juniors to stage *The Importance of Being Earnest* so successfully was, to my mind, a triumph, and I congratulate Toby Taylor and Simeon Humphries on their brilliance under the direction of Miles Smith and others. There was a moment when the senior production appeared to be lost, but staff stepped in to ensure the older boys were given a chance to strut their stuff; you can see photos of the Summer Satire

production showing how well the boys rose to the challenge of putting on a show with a very short lead time.

The music report covers the plethora of events that have been run through Mr Palmer's tireless efforts; the story it doesn't tell is of the many, many occasions when he has responded in his extraordinarily calm way to the request to organise a few musicians for this event or that. While on the subject of music, let me put in my annual plug for events that are imminent if you are reading this *Chronicle* soon after publication: the joint Christmas Concert and Camp Hill Boys Carol Service will, as usual, mark the start of the holiday season for many. Indeed, many return year after year even though they are no longer at the school, so special is the Carol Service.

I'm delighted that, as the school's Duke of Edinburgh offer continues to bloom under Mr Downing's efforts, we are looking to our first boys to complete both Bronze and Silver Awards through the school.

There's a new trip to read about this year. The staff who had run the Czech trip so well for many years decided it was time they had the same length of summer holiday as the rest of us; new members of staff immediately leapt in to grab the slot at the start of the holiday to offer the boys an outdoor pursuit trip to Italy. Many thanks to Mr Burgess and Ms Freeman who particularly led that development. On the sporting front, I congratulate the U14 cricketers and badminton players in particular; on the House front, I encourage you to read about the House Festival – that wonderful celebration we hold every five years and which fell in October this year.

You can read about departing teaching staff members in the pages that follow. But the departure of one member of the non-teaching staff should not go unmentioned. Tony Jackson worked for the King Edward's Foundation for 48 years, as caretaker and eventually as Premises Manager across the whole Camp Hill site. Generation after generation of boys have come and gone during his reign; old boys who visited and learnt that he was still a part of the school used to reminisce about his running the tuck shop. We wish him, as indeed we wish all our retiring staff, a long and healthy retirement.

I hope, and trust, that you will enjoy reading this chronicle of a year in the life of a happy, busy and successful school.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster

Editorial

As I sit here on a cold October afternoon relishing my job as Editor-in-Chief, it never fails to impress just how much Camp Hill as a school achieves. Never mind our amazing academic record or the Old Edwardians that we have sent far and wide, but the sheer number of enrichment activities we offer our young men.

This year has been no exception. From the colour and energy of the House Festival, where even the teachers showed off their... interesting sides... Mr Eckley's costume in particular sticks in my mind... to the new trips that were run this year including Mr Burgess and Ms Freeman's trip to Italy. Camp Hill has something to offer all its students.

I sincerely hope that you do take the time to read about the many wonderful adventures that have happened this year, mostly told in our students' own words. It is clear that they view this as a vital part of their school life.

And as I put my feet up, readying myself for next year's *Chronicle*, I have reflected on how lucky I feel to be part of this vibrant and energetic school. Best wishes.

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

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Andrew Rogers

At the end of the Spring Term, in March 2018, I said farewell to Andrew Rogers, a colleague and friend who has been an (almost) ever present in my 29 years at Camp Hill. I am supposed to summarise the highs of his Camp Hill career in just a few paragraphs; that is impossible. Therefore, I will admit defeat before I begin and try my best to do this amazing man justice.

A fellow South Walian, Andrew was educated at Rougemont School near Newport before taking a place at Colston's School in Bristol for his secondary education. He talked fondly of some of his 'masters' at Colston's (though not all!) and stayed in touch with a few throughout his own career. In fact, Andrew is amazingly good at keeping in touch with old friends, colleagues, teachers and lecturers, one of the many attributes I admire greatly in him.

From Colston's he took up a place at St John's College, Oxford, where he continued his love of mathematics, gaining a First, and met Abhijit Vejjajiva, the future Prime Minister of Thailand; another example of his ability to make strong, lasting, friendships. A Master's followed, at Warwick, and then Andrew stayed there to complete his PGCE. His first teaching role, at Lytchett Minster School in Poole, proved a frustrating one: he didn't get the opportunity to use his outstanding mathematical ability in the way he'd hoped. Of course, that was to be a blessing for Camp Hill, as he applied for, and accepted, a job at CHB in 1989. So began an outstanding career where he inspired and encouraged countless students to fulfil their potential.

His ability in the classroom, along with the thoroughness of his preparation, was evident from day one. Whether it was with the weakest mathematicians in the year or with the top Further mathematicians, Andrew worked with the same commitment, whole hearted enthusiasm and dedication to detail. Guaranteed to give his best, he expected his pupils to do the same. Pupils quickly realised that his overriding concern was for their well-being and success, making him very popular and well respected. Given how well the students in his exam groups performed, they obviously responded to his high expectations!

Being exceptionally able himself (I don't think I've met anyone quicker or more accurate at mental arithmetic), he had a particular empathy with gifted pupils. The ease with which he engaged talented students was impressive and innovative in equal measure. This might be through Olympiad extension

questions and mock University interviews, ways we might expect boys to be stretched, or it might be through novel teaching and learning approaches. I recall him giving over regular top set GCSE lessons so that small groups of boys could teach the rest of the set about an aspect of mathematics that they had researched. The way this developed the boys' interest, independent ability and mathematical maturity provided the perfect basis for their further study and epitomised Andrew's contribution at Camp Hill. Add in the times he helped mark British Maths Olympiad papers, and assisted with the 'Summer School' for the top 50 pupils nationwide who had been highlighted by the Challenges and Olympiads, and it is clear that Andrew is at ease with pupils of ability!

Yet equally, he was always a responsible and conscientious form tutor whose good nature and genuine interest made him approachable to all pupils, and their parents. He cared deeply about the pupils and had the patience and expertise to find ways to support them on their journey through their, sometimes difficult, teenage years. The annual submissions for the Sixth form Yearbook demonstrated how much the older boys appreciated his approach, care and humour. The contribution he made to the UCAS application process was exemplary. Hours spent reading personal statements, helping inform boys about course options and refining school references barely scratches the surface of his commitment to University admissions support.

A superb colleague, he always played a full part in staff room life and conversation, where his prodigious memory and general knowledge allowed him to enlighten us all on topics as diverse as the politics of the Far East or the TV transmitters of the UK, along with their test cards! Of course his memory extended to the names and faces of former students too; many is the time we've relied on Andrew to inform us of the name of a student that we recognised in a photo but couldn't name.

Andrew fully appreciated the value of a well-rounded education that included a range of extra-curricular experiences. In support of this, he immersed himself in the opportunities provided for the boys at CHB. On school trips to Germany and the Year 8 residential week, he was an invaluable addition to the staff teams. I remember my eldest son talking fondly of Andrew's contribution to his Year 9 trip to Bavaria; his good humour and wisdom were appreciated by the students as much as the staff. The role he played in the very successful Polish exchange to Wroclaw, which ran from 2007 to 2012, meant that the relationship formed with our partner school was a strong and fruitful one. Andrew's ability to forge strong friendships once again came to the fore; the friendship with Jacek flourished over the years. It was great fun to see if our boys could

make sense of the maths questions from Polish exams and textbooks but it is culturally that the students really grow from such opportunities; without Andrew (and Chris Jackson) this exchange would not have been as successful.

Under his administration, the already well-established school Chess Club went from strength to strength, allowing over 100 pupils each year to develop their chess playing in a happy and supportive group. The number of teams which he ran – usually six, regularly swept the board in their various Birmingham leagues, as well as progressing well in the national knockout competition. For many years he organised the Camp Hill Chess Tournament as well as taking boys, and the occasional girl from Camp Hill Girls School, to other tournaments around the country. Many still remember with pleasure rolling down the sand dunes in Hemsby, or taking the Fish and Chip Moby Dick Challenge in Weston-super-Mare. The team even reached the finals of the National Plate Knockout Competition, beating Eton on the way. And all this from a self-confessed non-player whose main coaching tip was: "The horse moves in an L shape"!

Even though Andrew's own participation in sport was not a top priority, his support of the boys in their sporting commitments was exemplary. This went way beyond taking an interest in their achievements or allowing them to miss lesson time. In support of the PE department, he produced spreadsheets that converted athletic performance into a point score, and he always provided great entertainment at sports day and athletics matches with his very humorous announcing over the PA system. Here he was in his element, calling on his considerable experience in radio. This interest grew out of a period helping at Radio West in Bristol during their first year on-air and since then he has presented many programmes on student and hospital radio. Up until the last few years, he was Head of Music and a committee member at "Choice, Radio for the Worcestershire Royal" and presented a regular Sunday night show. I'm sure his love of music, where his taste could be described as eclectic, must have been one of the factors motivating his interest in radio. Graham Hardy and he often enjoyed discussing their favourite artists in the early morning, before the staff room got busy. My enjoyment of Joni Mitchell's materials came directly from Andrew's influence, and education!

Always prepared to consider new pedagogical approaches, Andrew readily embraced new technologies and adapted his teaching accordingly. Graphical calculators, researching the Internet, spreadsheet projects in the computer room, laptop computers, or interactive whiteboards and the superb accompanying software such as *Autograph*, *GeoGebra* or *Derive*, were all embedded into his brilliant work in the classroom.

His contribution to mathematics at Camp

Hill was immense, not just in the high standards he set his classes, but also in the enormous amount of material that he produced for the department. At all levels of the curriculum: KS3, KS4 and A-level, for each of his classes he 'bashed out' on the computer: schemes, lesson notes, homework assignments, extension worksheets, review tests, examination papers – his speed of production was remarkable. For Andrew to think of an idea was to do it... typed notes on possible ways forward for the department, a summary information sheet for Open Day or a tracking spreadsheet that allowed effective year on year comparisons of cohorts. His schemes of work were, and still are exemplary, and could provide a perfect template for any school or department to follow.



When necessary he played an integral part in searching out suitable texts that not only covered the necessary ground-work, but also stimulated and stretched bright pupils. When the department decided that we needed some standardised assessments at GCSE, he had researched, reviewed and typed up suitable assessments before the rest of us had drawn breath. The fact that they are still in use to this day indicates their quality! To add to this, seeing a need, he suggested, wrote, and successfully taught a GCSE Statistics-in-two-terms syllabus to his top Y10 set, which was then successfully extended to all our Y10s. When Additional Maths became our default extension qualification he, once again, produced all of the supporting materials to accompany the course.

He seemed genetically incapable of working at anything less than 120% effort and was always taking on new commitments. As our Technology College Maths Coordinator, he facilitated primary school teacher visits, organised Saturday Master Classes, ran Primary Team Maths Challenge events and prepared a Maths Trail in our local park. The Master Classes provided another example of Andrew's network of friends and contacts. Numerous university lecturers delivered talks on a wide range of mathematical topics but the highlight was the regular visit of Colin Wright, the juggling mathematician.

When we dipped our toes into school-based teacher training with the Solihull SCITT it was no surprise that Andrew volunteered to be the Trainee Mentor. He realised the benefit of having a trainee in the department, and its importance in developing the next crop of maths teachers. This was not always an easy task, as some were better than others, but Andrew always approached his duties in the

same positive and supportive way, allowing the trainees to flourish under his care.

It is remarkable to think that he only, officially, took on the duties of Head of Department in his final few years. The fact that there were virtually no aspects in a typical Head of Department list of responsibilities which he had not already experienced practically, if not specifically, in one of the many areas of his busy professional life, made this an obvious position for him to hold. In addition to the many duties already mentioned we can add that he was a talented GCSE and A-level examiner, QCA Exam Scrutineer, South-West Midlands MEI A-level Branch Coordinator, Maths Coordinator for the secondary and junior schools involved with our joint 'Technology' College, author of the Maths section of the bid for our re-designation as a Science, Maths and Humanities College, organiser of 'Encouraging Further Maths' conferences for over 170 local pupils, and another for local teachers. He supported, through the FMSP, other schools in offering Further Maths by teaching groups of their pupils, at their school, every week. This support of Further Maths continues to be a passion in retirement too. Additional support for Further Maths came through his sessions at the annual MEI conference, where he used the 'infamous' tin cans to demonstrate a possible experiment for the Differential Equations coursework.

In his early career his love of the original and 'Next Generation' *Star Trek* series stands out in my memory, although I think that the use of the K form label being in honour of the Klingon Empire is an urban myth. Andrew's incredible memory came to the fore again when recalling lines from films and TV shows, with *Fawlty Towers* being a particular favourite of his. There

were occasions when we almost conversed in quotations from the much loved comedy show; they were happy times and provide very fond memories. More recently, it was the spoof education programme, *Look Around You* that provided his entertainment with groups at the end of term.

Of course, Andrew did try to 'escape' Camp Hill's clutches in 1994. Given his obvious abilities, his appointment to the post of Deputy Head of Mathematics at Torquay Boys' Grammar School was not unexpected. Imagine our sympathy but delight when through not being able to sell his Birmingham house, financial constraints forced him to look back to Birmingham for a job... and one at Camp Hill was available. We were so glad to have him back!

Andrew and his wife Amanda enjoy travelling both within and outside the UK. They have made many journeys to the Far East, visiting Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao and China. Diversionary visits to Australia and the USA have kept him in touch with the West too. In support of his appreciation of other cultures, and just to fill another five minutes I daresay, Andrew learned basic Thai at an evening class. He enjoyed sharing his progress with us at school and I, for one, appreciated the pleasure he took in this and other interests. We hope he rekindles his love of travelling in the next stage of his life.

As I draw this article to a close, I am left thinking of the many things I've not included! There's Andrew's unwavering support for me in my time as HOD and Deputy, the brilliant work as a timetabler, his immaculate scoring at the annual Staff v Boys cricket match, his appreciation of good food and beer, his outstanding work as a very fair but challenging union rep, the years he spent on the school's Governing body as a staff representative, the dedication of Andrew and Amanda to Camp Hill through the AFS and mock interviews; the list seems endless.

I, and many others, count ourselves lucky to have had the privilege and honour to work with Andrew. In my time at Camp Hill I have been fortunate to work with many amazing colleagues who I have spent my career looking up to; Andrew is, without doubt, one of those colleagues. We wish Andrew and Amanda a long, happy and fulfilled retirement.

■ P.A.B.



Those of you who have been taught by Mr Jackson will have benefited from his great love and enthusiasm for teaching Geography and Geology, and those of us who have worked with him appreciate his sincerity, integrity and his commitment to his work. Chris arrived at Camp Hill in the winter of 1989, walking into a staffroom very different from the one of today and beginning the next stage of his teaching career that would take up the next thirty years of his life. Think on that for a while.

He is a Northern lad born and a Southern lad bred. Born in the Lancashire town of Morecombe, his family moved to Bournemouth when he was young where he completed his primary education, before returning to complete his secondary education at Morecombe Grammar School, back in the days before comprehensivisation. He completed his teacher training at C.F. Mott College in Liverpool where he met his wife Caroline, and after working in a couple of comprehensive schools he moved to Birmingham to take up the post of teacher of Geology at Camp Hill Boys'.

Having been schooled in a grammar school, it seemed only natural that he return to a grammar school to teach. The Camp Hill School he arrived at in 1989 was in so many ways different to the school of today, but in other respects very similar as well. You only have to look at some of the school photos on these walls to see the continuity and change which has marked the school in the last thirty years, Chris has been an important part of that continuity. The arrival of the National Curriculum in 1992 and its ultimate demise in 2014, the creation of the modern GCSE and the period of confusion which marked the arrival of numerical grades in 2016, Chris has lived through it all and not batted an eyelid once. He has outlasted fifteen Education Ministers from the tolerated to the reviled and has seen the transition from grant-maintained status, to foundation schools, to specialist academies and most recently the creation of the Delphic Multi-Academy Trust.

After ten years of teaching both Geology

and Geography the new National Curriculum saw the last of the GCSE groups to take GCSE Geology, shortly after Mr Caves and Mr White studied the subject as boys here at Camp Hill themselves. This on no way diminished his fascination for and love of geology as a subject and a pass time though and his geology collection continues to be valuable in teaching the new GCSE, as well as occasionally being borrowed by the Science Department. Many boys have benefited from his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things rock over the years, particularly those who have gone on to study Geology or Earth Sciences at university.

As a young teacher at Camp Hill Chris found himself heavily involved in many of the trips of the time, including camping in a snow-laden Lake District by Red Tarn with Mr Carmen (also recently retired). Waking on a beautiful sunny winter's morning, he discovered he had partially pitched his tent on a frozen lake, but had fortunately survived the experienced unscathed. They navigated their way back down the mountain by, in part, following the sweet wrappers they had dropped on the way up.

Back in the days before risk assessments and a more relaxed approach to field trip planning he was known to take the school minibuses filled with boys on trips across the Channel to Denmark and Belgium. More recently, he had found himself returning to the continent each year for the VDI Schools trip to Frankfurt in Germany. For a select group of budding scientists and engineers it is an invaluable opportunity to develop a research project of their own and then present to a consortium of experts in Germany, with the added bonus of practising their German. Chris would admit that these trips have not done much to improve his own German, but he has nonetheless developed some lifelong friendships with colleagues on the other side of the Channel and given great opportunities to the many boys who have benefited from this trip. Other such activities that have since ceased to exist include the School's Aerospace Challenge and a number of trips to RAF bases around the country that arose from some connections Chris made with the right people at the right time.

One of Chris's greatest legacies to the school will certainly be the establishing of the lunchtime Games Club which runs twice a week. It has become a hive of activity at any time of year and has provided a place to develop the interests of hundreds of Camp Hill Boys over the years, whether they enjoy card games or are into the Warhammer style of miniature figurines and model war games. He has also shared his love and experience of military hardware with many boys who have shown an interest and his knowledge of planes, tanks and other equipment of war is unmatched by anyone I have known.

It was perhaps his interest in model railways as a young man, and the inability to continue with that hobby after his children were born, that eventually led him in to an interest in Warhammer and model making. In fact, his son is now a designer for the Warhammer magazines.

In the Geography Department Chris has been responsible for establishing some of the longest-running and most successful trips we do, including the annual Sixth Form field trip to Anglesey where many years of Geography A-level students have benefited from his knowledge and experience of the coastal landscape and processes. He also established the Year 7 trip to Villa Park each year to complement the Geography of Sport topic the boys study. Many generations of Camp Hill boys have enjoyed seeing behind the scenes, in the changing rooms and sitting in the dugout at one of the country's most successful Premier League clubs (even if they have fallen on hard times recently).

Chris will be greatly missed by both students and staff alike. He has come to be a respected member of the school faculty by many thousands of boys who passed through the doors of Room 2 over the years. They have seen the great enthusiasm he has for teaching and the very genuine care he has for the welfare and success of the boys under his tutelage. There is no doubt that Chris has left an indelible impression on many thousands of Camp Hill Boys over the years. He has impressed on them the love of learning, a love of Geography and a desire to succeed in life. Beneath the dry and self-deprecating wit, anyone who works with Chris can see his passion for teaching. He has managed to maintain not only a continued interest in his subject but also a love for teaching Camp Hill Boys right up to the very end of his career. Something that should not be taken for granted. I have seen the evidence of his love for teaching often in the frustration he expresses at lazy and ignorant boys who choose not to work and fail to learn. He sets the boys very high standards because he sets himself very high standards. A lesser teacher might simply not care as much as Chris does. Equally, he sings the praises of the diligent and studious with a poetic eloquence, bordering on the loquacious. From him I have learnt some of my favourite Jacksonian one-liners such as "velvet glove, iron fist" for boys who require a soft but firm approach to getting them back on track. And then of course there's the usual announcement which arrives a few weeks into the Autumn Term, "We have a tail end" (you'll have to work that one out for yourselves).

Chris's retirement marks another stage in the passing of a generation of teachers, the 'old guard' if you will, who have come to define Camp Hill. It is the continuity of staff

that make Camp Hill such a wonderful place to study and to work, as evidenced by the number of boys who return here to teach themselves. Whatever Chris misses about Camp Hill, we will miss him all the more. He is one of the longest serving members of the school community and is truly irreplaceable. Each of us who have worked with or been taught by him will be the poorer in his absence and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I wish him a retirement that is every bit as enriching and fulfilling as his career at Camp Hill has been, and even more so. The Camp Hill staff room will lose one of its great characters and the Geography Department will lose its very finest teacher. But, we know you he will find great satisfaction in the opportunities that lie ahead. Every plane that flies overhead will be a moment of joy and curiosity, every morning lie in will be an added satisfaction, and the holiday that begins this summer will be the last and longest holiday he will ever take. We wish him and his wife Caroline, who is also retiring this summer, the very best in the years to come as they take the opportunities afforded by the time they will have to read, travel and spend more quality time together.

■ D.J.E.

Dr Victoria Hudgson

Sadly, Victoria is leaving this year to go to the dark side, or Camp Hill Girls as some of you may know it. In thirty five years we have never had two such excellent members of staff leave the Physics Department in the same year.

Victoria arrived as a trainee and, in spite of all my efforts to train her to teach like me, she has stubbornly become an excellent teacher who genuinely cares about her pupils. She is a superb physicist, always keen to promote the greatest understanding in her students, and as an NQT she had the difficult task of being shared between this excellent school and the one next door. Her contributions to the department here have been immense and right from the start she ran the Year 7 Physics Club (a task I have managed to avoid). Her truly herculean task was to obtain and set up a muon detector on the roof of the girls' school. Many students have been excited about using this detector (worth £5,000) and want to be part of the team looking at data from similar detectors around Europe.

Victoria is keen to ensure that as many young women as possible become physicists or engineers (a difficult task in the boys' school) and I am sure she will be very successful with that ambition. Unfortunately, the girls' school gain is very much our loss, but I wish her every success in the future Victoria and hope you will come and see us very often.

■ S.G.T.

Joe White

Some teachers do a brilliant job in the background, without feeling the urge to brag about their successes. Joe White is definitely a member of this group. Although Joe has only been a teacher here for fourteen years, he first joined the school in September 1993 as a quiet, unassuming eleven-year old. Despite having been taught GCSE by Steve Tucker and A-level Physics by Stuart Davenall, he was still sufficiently excited by the subject to complete a Physics degree at Birmingham University (obtaining a first) and become a teacher.

In my thirty-five years at this school, I have had three different Heads of Department and all have been excellent, none more so than Joe. His enthusiasm and innovation are exceptional and his contributions over the years to the department have been immense. Sadly his commitments outside school meant that Joe needed to become part-time and unfortunately he was not allowed to continue as Head of Department, which is the reason I ended up taking over this role.

Although part-time for the last five years, Joe has remained a regular contributor to the Department offering a range of new practical experiments, worksheets and schemes of work and he has continued to give one to one tuition to those students who need it. Sadly, Joe is moving to Cornwall for personal reasons and not simply because Ruoshan Li is becoming the new Head of Physics.

Thank you for all your excellent teaching over the last fourteen years and our loss is a gain for Plymouth High School for Girls. I, for one, will miss your cheerful enthusiasm, your immense patience and your child-like passion for Physics. Good luck for the future.

■ S.G.T.

Deepak Verma

Deepak joined the Computing Department in September 2017, working in the Boys' school and also helping to cover maternity leave at the Girls'.

Generous with his time, Deepak has run the Chess Club through the year as well as spending his lunchtimes supervising computer rooms across both schools thus enabling the pupil to have access.

Having completed a Masters degree in International Business following his Computer Science qualification, he has been offered the opportunity to manage a commercial project in India. As a result he is leaving us for a temporary relocation to Tamil Nadu. We wish him every success in this new venture.

■ N.J.F.

Stephen Beer



Always able to make time for a friendly chat with colleagues, or offer his worldly wisdom to the lads, Stephen's relaxed charm has been a welcome addition to the Biology Department. He has exuded a genuine love for nature and environmental protection, with a particular passion for ocean conservation. He participated enthusiastically in school events, most notably dressing as a giant bee during the House Festival and embarking on a single-handed placard crusade to save the UK's honeybees. He also attended the Year 13 biology field trip, helped with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and taught games. He impressed the boys not only with his superb knowledge of ecology, but also with his expertise of all matters related to premier league and international football!

We are grateful for Stephen's commitment to preparing the sixth form biologists for the national Biology Olympiad competitions and for all the new ideas and warm advice that he has shared during his year at Camp Hill. We wish him all the best in the future!

■ C.E.B.

Obituaries

Wesley Frank Whitfield

1879 – 1918



November 1918 brought an end to the long and gruelling war. The optimism and enthusiasm with which the conflict had commenced in 1914 had long since evaporated as the nation mourned the mounting scale of casualties and despaired at the endless run of major but seemingly inconclusive battles. The final few months brought little cheer though – it was another grim year for Camp Hill: as far as I can ascertain, 34 Old Boys lost their lives in 1918.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Marshall VC lost his life in the same action as Wilfred Owen, the war poet, one week before the Armistice. E.A. (Bruin) Brown, stalwart of Old Boys' cricket and rugby, survived the hostilities only to die of influenza 12 days after the Armistice. B.N. Davies, another fine cricketer and rugby player, contemporary of the great W.W. Odell, perished late in the year, while G.R.H. Box, born in Yokohama, schoolboy rugby international, died when his plane crashed in eastern France.

There is a story attached to all 34 but I've chosen to focus upon Wesley Frank Whitfield. He was among the oldest to give his life – he was 39 when he died in Palestine in September 1918. Wesley was born in Birmingham on 16 March 1879, the son of Frank Whitfield and Mary Matilda Shoreland Faulkner. Frank was a Birmingham man who worked in the silversmith trade as a clerk. Mum was originally from London but was brought up in Somerset: quite how she met her husband-to-be in Birmingham is unknown. Wesley, the only son and the youngest of 3 children, was brought up in Sparkhill (Fulham Road) and Balsall Heath (Homer Street), familiar territory for young Camp Hill lads of the time. In due course, the family moved to Kings Heath, living at 73 Addison Road then 13 Drayton Road but, by that time, Wesley's mother had died.

Wesley attended Camp Hill between 1889 and 1894. He enjoyed a very respectable school career,

without quite reaching the heights achieved by his cousins, Lorenzo and Charles Whitfield. Wesley finished in Class III for General Work and Set II for Mathematics and in his time at school, was taught by two of the great figures in school history, W.R. Bradley, long time Second Master, and Arthur Jamson Smith, the first Headmaster. The Prize List published in 1890 reveal that he won the Form Prize for Class X for General Work: his cousins were also Prize-Winners on that List. He also played rugby, appearing for the A1 team in 1893, scoring in a win against Stratford Grammar School. One of his colleagues that day was E.H. (Teddy) Parker, a great name in the history of Camp Hill rugby.

The 1911 Census tells us that Wesley (by now, also known as Frank) was a buyer and store-keeper for a telephone engineering company, still living at home with his father and one of his sisters. There is no entry in the 1901 Census – Frank had enlisted in the Army. Records show that he enlisted in Birmingham in January 1901 and was discharged in Aldershot in September 1902. He fought with the Imperial Yeomanry, serving for 18 months in South Africa in the Boer War. At a shade under 6 feet tall, he did well to weigh under 11 stones in weight!

Shortly after 1911, Frank emigrated to Australia: he declared himself an electrical engineer. In April 1915, he married Mabel May Love in Brisbane, Queensland (although his home address was in Armidale, NSW). Within days, he had enlisted in the Australian Army and was soon embarking from Brisbane for the Middle East. Frank's prior military experience presumably counted when he was appointed Second Lieutenant and posted to the 11th Light Horse Regiment. He reached the rank of Captain in August 1918.

Frank was part of the famous Battle of Semakh on 24–25 September 1918. It is a celebrated event in Australia and its centenary attracted considerable attention. Semakh was a significant railhead and road junction to the south of Lake Tiberias. It was held by a strong garrison of Ottoman Turks, strengthened by a contingent of Germans. The garrison was under direct orders from the German Commander of Ottoman forces in Palestine, Field Marshal Liman von Sanders, to hold on to Semakh at all costs. Allenby's forces were pressing ahead towards Damascus – Sanders feared that the loss of Semakh would precipitate the collapse of the Ottoman-German forces in the Middle East.

To increase the chances of success, the Light Horse were ordered to attack before dawn. This involved a full-blooded cavalry charge against trench lines and machine guns on the perimeter and then against a heavily fortified and defended Station House. The attack was a success, largely because of the timing and the unexpected tactics – the Light Horsemen did not dismount to fight, as expected, but scythed through Ottoman defences and shocked the Turks into capitulation. Unfortunately, Frank was one of the relatively few who died in the attack (remarkably, there were only 14 Australian fatalities). Contemporary

accounts from his colleagues paint a grim picture of his death. The defenders surrendered under a white flag but then someone shot Frank as he prepared to receive the surrender. These same accounts pay glowing tributes to Frank, even though he was an Englishman and an officer!

Frank was buried in the immediate vicinity the day after the attack but was subsequently reinterred in Haifa War Cemetery. He left a widow, Mabel May, and a son, Alan. His father lived until 1936. His death was reported in the local press: the *Birmingham Daily Mail* referred to his links with Camp Hill, to his emigration and to his distinguished war record.

■ **Alistair Bulloch**

David Irwyn Thomas

1923 – 2018

In July this year I, together with five other former pupils of Camp Hill from the 'Year of 1953' (Moss Ladbroke, Tony Crump, Peter Levy, Norman Davies and John Hutton) attended the Funeral and Memorial Service in Cardiff of Mr David Irwin Thomas – 'Dai Thomas' to us. Dai taught us History and Rugby when we entered the School as timid 'Sherrins' on 7th September 1953. A master at Camp Hill from 1950 until 1960, he was a very strict disciplinarian and we all felt his influence, usually involving having our ears cuffed. We called him 'Terror Thomas'.

We went to his Funeral and Memorial Service in July as each of us separately had realised that Dai instilled in us during our time at the School far, far more than his particular subjects; he taught us standards, principles and particularly what was expected of us as we went out into the world as Old Edwardians.

Living in Great Britain in the early years after the Second World War was no picnic, and we (most if not all of the boys) came from homes in and around and to the south of Camp Hill. None of us came from affluent families: nonetheless, Dai's influence helped us all thereafter more than we ever realised at the time. During our later lives we all separately appreciated what an influence he had been to us.

At Dai's Memorial Service we were all amazed and truly taken aback at what we heard about Dai's earlier, pre-Camp Hill life, particularly during the War. Moreover, there were an estimated 80 or so of us at the Service and subsequent Reception, and it seemed that Dai (or 'Irwin', as he was known to everyone else) had also had impressive influences on all of them in so many positive ways. We knew nothing of his war experiences when we were at school, his subsequent close relationship with a German family and the inspiration he gave to those around him. His modesty, in retrospect, was incredible – we heard nothing of his war exploits when we were at school. And feel that his memory should live on with the current boys at Camp Hill now.

■ **Dr Colin Prottey** (Pupil at King Edward IV Camp Hill School, 1953 – 1960)

In addition this year's *Chronicle* carries the obituaries of two other Old Edwardians that gave a lifetime of service to the Camp Hill community. Graham Scutt and Ken Birrell were of very similar vintage, both attending the School in the 1940s. Both were lifelong volunteers, giving extraordinary amounts of their time and energy to support the activities of others. I met both Ken and Graham when I first played for Camp Hill RFC in the 1970s while still at School. I valued their close friendship and guidance as they became a huge influence on my view of the organisations that we support and the way in which we can serve them. I hope that you find a few minutes to read these obituaries and to reflect upon how men like these have played such essential parts in perpetuating all that is best in Camp Hill.

■ **Martin Crutchley**

(Pupil 1969–1976 and Governor 2001–to date)

Kenneth Peter Birrell

4 Jun 1929 – 5 Jun 2018

Ken was born in Birmingham and attended Colmore Junior and Infant School in Kings Heath before passing his 11+ exam to win a place at Camp Hill Boys, where he started in September 1940. But in November of that year, he was evacuated to Lichfield where he stayed at the Bishop's Palace.

Ken excelled in both Rugby and Cricket at Camp Hill (check out the Honours Boards) and on leaving, at the age of 17, Ken joined the Midlands Bank Trust Company where he worked until taking early retirement in 1986 at the age of 57. His two years of national service saw him in the Royal Navy. He boasted that in his two years, he served on more ships than the 34 years of combined Navy service given by his son and son-in-law.

Ken's prowess on both Rugby and Cricket fields was well known throughout the Midlands. He played flanker in a time when the role of the back row forward was evolving into the one that we recognise now. Ken was a pioneer, being one of the very first flankers in the Midlands to play in the modern way. MJK Smith, who played both Cricket and Rugby for England said of Ken, 'If he tackled you once, you made sure that you were never caught in possession again.'

Ken received numerous representative honours; Birmingham Combined Old Boys, Greater Birmingham and, most notably, North Midlands. At that time, many years before the advent of league rugby, the County Championship was the premier competition in English rugby.

Ken remained utterly loyal to Camp Hill, playing for Camp Hill Old Edwardians Rugby and Cricket Clubs. Rugby from 1945 to 1959 and cricket well into his 50s. He also played for Moseley during this time, when Moseley were one of the country's leading club, but he was always drawn back to his maroon and blue roots.

Many men, having been offered early retirement, would see that as an opportunity to slow down. Not Birrell. He became the archetypal com-

mittee man, serving numerous clubs and committees, all associated with rugby, cricket and, of course, his beloved Camp Hill.

He served as Chairman of both Camp Hill and Moseley Rugby Clubs. He was President of North Midlands Rugby and served for many years on the committees of Camp Hill and Moseley Ashfield Cricket Clubs. The roles he enjoyed most were those which allowed him direct involvement with players – he was a player at his core. Ken was the first contact that I had from Camp Hill Rugby Club when, as a School player in the 6th form, I received an invitation to play for the 'Old Boys', thus beginning a lifelong involvement.

Closer to home, Ken served as a Governor of this school for 25 years and was the irresistible driving force behind the resurrection of the Old Boys Association which has sadly faltered since he stepped down.

Ken married Penny in 1957 and so they were married for more than 60 years. Ken never learned to drive so Penny, along with a handful of dear friends, acted as his chauffeur, ferrying him to endless fixtures and meetings. Penny was extraordinarily loyal to Ken over their 60 years together and she, along with their children Martin, Scott and Tracy became faces almost as well known as Ken's. Ken and Penny had seven grandchildren: Tom, Elliott, Toby, George, Charlie, Henry and Ollie. Penny described Ken as her 'best boy'.

Ken's funeral was testament to Ken's influence and reputation in Midlands sport with dozens of players and administrators paying their respects to a man that did so much to allow them to play and enjoy sport. Ken was professional in every sense of the word except one – he never received a penny in payment for his countless hours of work for institutions that he loved.

Some years ago, Paul Bolton, well known and respected sports journalist wrote an article about Ken with the headline 'Ken Birrell, the last of a dying breed'.

■ **Martin Crutchley**

Graham Frederick Scutt BEM

2 Mar 1930 – 28 Mar 2018

Graham (Scutty) was born in Birmingham and attended King Edward VI Camp Hill School 1941–46 at the original site at Camp Hill. Scutty played his first game for Camp Hill Old Edwardians on leaving School in 1946 and was elected to the Club's committee in 1947. Thus began an unprecedented and almost certainly never to be beaten 72 years of continuous service to the club that was so close to his heart.

National Service (1948–1950) was with the Sherwood Foresters, serving mainly in Goslar patrolling the border between the British and Russian sectors of post-war Germany, a border that would soon become that between East and West Germany.

Graham played for the club until 1961, mainly as a fly half, captaining the 2nd XV for two seasons 1954–56, until injury ended his playing days

at which point he took up refereeing for the next 29 years. He served the North Midlands Society of Rugby Football Referees for many years, being Chairman of the Society 1974/75 season.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, Graham was Secretary to Camp Hill's 1st and 2nd XV's and the Club's Match Secretary through the 1970s and 80s. In 1990 he became Fixture Secretary, a vital position that he held until 2017.

Graham's empathy with rugby people was most clearly demonstrated in his relationship with visiting referees. They would be warmly greeted before the game and shown to their changing room. Immediately after the game, he would join them for a cup of tea, served from a teapot in a china cup, then spend time with them in the clubhouse, ensuring that travelling expenses were paid promptly and sharing a pint (or two) over a de-brief.

The Club recognised Graham's already extraordinary service as early as 1989 when he was elected a Life Member. Wider recognition came in recent years, thanks in great part, to the efforts of Chris Ruff, a member of Camp Hill RFC. In October 2016 he was named as Volunteer of the Year in the Pride of Birmingham Awards and in March 2017 was presented with a Torch Trophy by HRH the Earl of Wessex. These were topped however when Graham was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2017 Birthday Honours list.

Away from Rugby, Graham's career was spent mainly in sales in the confectionary business where he gained a reputation as a reliable, successful and popular professional. Graham married Margaret on 23rd October 1965 and enjoyed more than half a century of very happy married life. Graham made no secret of the value that he placed on Margaret's unswerving support. Graham's greatest pride was reserved for his children Sarah, Richard and Libby and even more so for his granddaughters Abigail, Emily, Aimee and Olivia. Both Abigail and Emily attended Camp Hill Girls.

Undoubtedly, Scutty has touched the lives of more Camp Hill players and members than anyone else – ever. He was universally liked and respected and will be missed by all who knew him and especially those who had the privilege to know him for the whole of their adult lives. A man that set standards of loyalty, integrity, dedication and commitment that most can only dream of achieving.

The President of Camp Hill RFC, School Headmaster Martin Garrod, wrote these words in a commemorative book that was presented to Graham in 2017. "At Camp Hill he is unsung, only in the sense that our blood and hearts are unsung servants; unassumingly he has worked for three quarters of a century to be an essential part of the club's life."

■ **Martin Crutchley**

School Activities

ENGINEERING

Engineering in Education Scheme

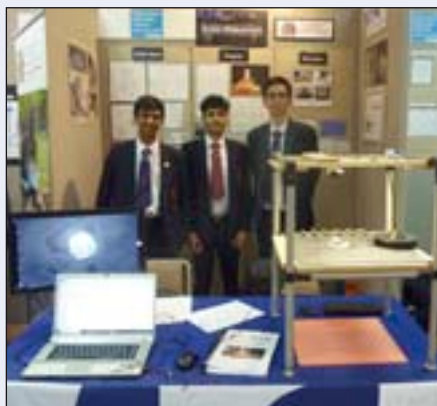
The Engineering Education Scheme (EES) is a six month project where Year 12 students work with local firms on real engineering projects. At Camp Hill, due to the high numbers of applicants, students go through an interview process, where they meet the engineers who will be working on the project.

Eaton Aerospace

After expressing interest in the Engineering Education Scheme, a group of fifteen boys travelled to RAF Cosford for the EES launch day, unsure as to whether they would actually take part in the project. Due to unforeseen delays and issues with paperwork, the teams had yet to be selected so everyone who had applied for the project attended the launch! Sitting through talks without knowing whether we would even be participating was tense, but a few weeks later the interviews were held and three students were selected for the Eaton team: Jamie John, Shrey Bohra and Hasan Khanani.

Following a slow start, we were raring to go and prove that we actually were the engineering maestros we had claimed to be at interview. We met the engineers, Craig Polly and Marcus Holmes, at Eaton's Lakeside facility and were introduced to our task: design and manufacture a new method of elbow subassembly inspection (we didn't know what that meant either). The elbow sub-assembly is a component used for to connect hoses for fluid delivery. It's used in a wide range of industries – we even managed to spot some on the International Space Station.

Our focus was on elbows as used for fuel delivery in aircraft. Once they had manufactured the part, Eaton had to measure it to ensure it was within previously set tolerances (i.e. check that it was the right size, a process known as 'inspection'). If it wasn't, catastrophic failure could ensue. They had been experiencing problems with this of late: their inspection methods at the time relied on technicians manually measuring out



the elbows, which led to varying levels of precision and accuracy. The process was also quite time-consuming and laborious – imagine having to measure dozens of them by hand. While at Eaton's facility, we were shown Eaton's current methods of inspection, and over the coming weeks, came up with ideas on how to improve the process, discussing them with the engineers.

Eventually, we settled on using image recognition software to trace the outline of the elbow from a photograph and then decided to use a computer to work out the required dimensions from this. Unfortunately, making the idea a reality proved to be very difficult – we did manage to get the computer to trace the edges on some occasions, but on other occasions, it decided to trace out the glare from the elbows as well.

In the end, we settled on a compromise: we would get the technician to identify the edges of the elbow and the computer would do the rest of the calculations and give him the required dimensions. We spent the next few months developing this computer program for this and building a workstation from which to operate it. Working during lunchtimes and

out of school, we managed to come up with a working prototype.

Our next task was to produce a technical report, documenting our work, as would be done by a real engineer. This was particularly important given our particular project: we had used a lot of code and made several important decisions with regards to our inspection method – writing the report gave us a chance to explain the thought processes behind these decisions to anyone who would develop our work in the future. This was the most tedious part of the project, but also the most important by far, and we appreciated the opportunity to gain further experience of life in industry.

Our next job was to present our work to other students from around the Midlands and a panel of engineers at a Celebration and Assessment Day, where we would also receive our certificates.

We arrived at the Celebration Day feeling nervous and tired, after a long night of last-minute preparation – the day fell in the middle of our mock exams not leaving us much time to practice. However, we actually found the day to be a respite from our school work. The panel of engineers were impressed by our project and we enjoyed looking at the work of the other students (and raiding their stalls of free company merchandise).

Looking back on the project, it is impossible to overestimate its value. We gained an understanding of the workings of industry and the role of an engineer within it, applying the core skills we learned in school and improving our communication skills. But more exciting than that was the chance to participate in a real project, which will improve the production of a component which keeps hundreds of planes in the sky. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to any budding scientists or engineers. We would also like to thank Mr Nash, Craig Polly, Marcus Holmes and Mr O'Donnell for all their help and advice throughout the project.

■ Jack Wood

Engineering in Education Scheme Rolls-Royce

In late 2017 to early 2018, the Rolls Royce EES Team gained a great deal of insight into engineering by working with real engineers, and an intern, on a professional project. We, a team consisting of Abhijit Pandit, Haroon Choudhry, Arjun Kaushal and Dominic Kwok, greatly enjoyed the experience over the course of six or seven months.

After a gruelling interview process and a trip to RAF Cosford for the EES Launch Day, where we built weird structures and wandered around a museum together, we were finally

assigned our task, mostly consisting of words we had no understanding of: Finding a solution to a problem where the measurement of the position of an actuator in a fuel-metering unit in an aircraft engine by an LVDT is incorrect. To aid us in understanding our task, we were invited to Rolls Royce's Shaftsmoor Lane Plant where despite the delays from repeatedly having to replace one of the member's safety shoes, we were given a tour of the facility and shown the fuel metering unit, which simplified the task – in fact, it was just measuring the distance a piston travelled in a water-filled cylinder. We also presented our initial ideas to our engineers and decided on the most practical, and coolest, solution to the problem: lasers.

We also scheduled weekly meetings for us



to discuss our progress with the engineers and in the month to come, frantically worked on something for our residential at Birmingham University – in essence, a few days off school to relax. Unfortunately, school was cancelled any-

way due to the snow and after departing nearly an hour later than expected, we arrived to find that we were one of the most prepared teams there, with a plan on building a model and testing our laser sensors. An eventful night, where team members slept in the wrong rooms, and another long day of testing and making, as well as discovering that we could use code to simplify our project, left us exhausted but confident as we ended the residential with a successful start and a plan for the future.

As anyone who has ever completed any sort of project knows, our planning didn't prevent the inevitable and after several setbacks involving cracked and leaking pipes, we completed our final model without any water, and decided to work on the report. Being tougher than we expected, the team

spent many hours after school producing what could only be called a masterpiece, and submitted it... to the wrong email. After a major panic, we submitted it to the right email with a collective sigh of relief. The final part of our journey was the presentation. After having our confidence boosted by presenting our ideas to a panel of professionals at Rolls Royce, who admitted that they were researching a similar solution as well, we travelled to the EES Celebration Day, where we displayed our stand and were assessed on our presentation.

The Engineering in Education Scheme was an invaluable and unforgettable engineering experience for all of us and we would like to thank Mr Nash, and Ajinkya Bhalerao, Zurna Olali, Ashley Pickin and Hamza Qureshi from Rolls Royce for giving up their own time to help us through the project, as well as the EDT for supporting the scheme.

■ **Abhijit Pandit**

SCIENCE

British Biology Olympiad

Both AS and A2 students competed in the British Biology Olympiad that took place at the end of January 2018, and we were pleased that twenty-four out of thirty-two students that took part gained awards. Five students were awarded Commended certificates; eight students gained Highly Commended certificates; four students gained Bronze Medals; while John Hayton and Mohammad Khan gained Silver Medals and five students gained Gold Medals. These were Mohammed Owais in Year 12, Jan Rudski, Firnaaz Mohideen, George Phenix and

William Blay in Year 13.

Furthermore, Firnaaz, George and William achieved a high enough score to be invited to sit the Round Two exam. William performed so well in this assessment that he was invited to join nineteen other contenders for the Final Practical Assessments which were to be held at Warwick University in April 2018. These would decide who would be part of the UK International Olympiad team. Unfortunately this clashed with his family's holiday plans.

Overall, real congratulations to to all of these students and especially to William Blay for his outstanding achievements in Biology this year.

■ **C.E.B.**

Y12 Intermediate Biology Olympiad

The Intermediate Biology Olympiad for Year 12 students took place in June 2018 and out of twenty-eight students that took part, twenty-seven gained awards. Six Commended; four Highly Commended; six Bronze Medals; seven Silver Medals and Saqlain Siddiqui, Ajay John, Seniru Witharange and Zak Mubarak gained Gold Medals.

■ **C.E.B.**

Salters Festival of Chemistry

During the Spring Term a group of Year 8 boys travelled to Birmingham University to take part in the Salters' Chemistry Challenge. The day consisted of two experiments and an interesting demonstra-



tion from Dr Ray Plevy (pictured left).

The first practical was a CSI style investigation and we had three tests to carry out; a selection of white powders, which had to be tested with water, silver nitrate and nitric acid, liquids



which had to be identified as acidic or alkaline, and a chromatography of five inks. Camp Hill's Second Team came third.

The second practical had five unknown, colourless liquids which needed to be identified. The only information given was that one was alkaline, one water, two acidic (one stronger, one weaker), and one was phenol-

phthalein. Camp Hill's First Team won this challenge, meaning each team came home with a certificate, a molecular modelling kit for themselves, and two for the School!

All in all it was a very fun and successful day out. Thanks to Mr O'Malley for organising such a great trip.

■ **Dylan Datta**

Physics Big Quiz

In Chinese tradition, three is a lucky number – something which couldn't be more true for the three Year 9 Camp Hill Quiz teams (A, B and C), all of which set off in the red minibus for the Physics Big Quiz at the University of Birmingham.

Countless hours were spent preparing with Miss Li and Doctor Hudgson, answering question after question. Three of us had even gone so far so as to read the entire GCSE textbook – whether or not we remembered half the stuff was a different story! Our teams were split as follows: Team A consisted of Joe Day, Rufus Hall, me and Peter Kippax. While Team B were Will Taylor, Muhammad Naeem, Prithu Krishnan and Ahmed Abusriwil. While finally, Team C were Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Kareem Mehanna, Connor Huss and Chanuth Willegoda.

Looking back, as we set off in the morning (all on our phones) accompanied by Dr Hudgson (Miss Li had deserted us to buy a bike, probably also boring the shop owner to death discussing the physics of it), we were in a fairly good mood. However, we weren't expecting to win much, hoping at least one team would receive a prize (we were all also in competition with each other to be the ones to win). When we got there, besides from finding out our arch rivals KES were attending (it pains any Camp Hill student to put K, E and S in that order), we entered the Great Hall.

Whilst everyone was arriving, we were challenged to a word search, here we were given a set of questions and were asked find the answers. My team (A) set to work on the tricky puzzle, struggling with some of the questions, namely "What is an old fashioned unit of energy?" The answer was calories, despite still used on food packaging to this day. Out of our three teams, team B and C were first to finish the puzzle.

Following this, we met our quiz masters for the day: Prof D Evans (who worked at the LHC and reminded us of Mr Tucker) and Dr R Smith. The day was to be divided as follows: (Round 1) Sound and Vibration, something we hadn't done in a while; (Round 2) Kinematics, which we had been doing recently and thus felt quite confident about; (Round 3) 'What am I?', with riddles about objects such as stars and planets. Then a brain break while we listened to a lecture on Nuclear Physics... lunch – brains need energy. (Round 4) asked us to name famous scientists, we were panicking about this; (Round 5) about materials, and finally, (Round 6) a specialist round on Astrophysics.

During the first round we did better than we expected, scoring 10/10, however we had chosen not to use our joker (for double points), as we hadn't done sound and vibration in while. There was a spot prize for the animal that could hear the highest pitched sound, the Greater Wax Moth, not the bat as everyone



(including us) assumed. On the second round, we (team A) decided to play our joker, thinking we would get 10/10. Alas, it was not the case as we scored a decent 9/10, which doubled to 18/20 because of the joker. The third round was not multiple-choice, and we scored 8/10. The highlight of Round 3 was the first question, which went something along the lines of "I am too small to be a star but too big to be a planet". I took a guess that it was a brown dwarf (after seeing a video about how they will be the last things left in our solar system) and it was right! Then it was time for the keynote lecture.

The lecture was about Nuclear Physics, however, most of it went over our heads. The general gist showed that nuclear fusion can happen very fast with unstable isotopes giving rise to more stable isotopes and so that fusion can occur past helium. The lecturer then showed us the experiment that they did to explain why stars can fuse past helium, which was carried out in the particle accelerator at the Birmingham University (please note you cannot find CERN's LHC at Birmingham University). Overall, the lecture was interesting and there was plenty of time to ask questions. Finally, it was time for lunch – brains do use about 20% of the body's energy.

Once we finished lunch, the hardest round yet came: Who am I? We scored 5/10, making it our worst round so far. The rounds got harder as the competition progressed and we didn't expect to get more than 5 on the next few rounds. To our surprise, we got 9/10 on the Materials round and 8/10 on the Astrophysics round, much better than the one to three we had expected (none of us knew much about Astrophysics). We didn't expect to win as we assumed there would be other students better than us, although our hopes were slightly raised by the silly answers the other teams gave when we went through the answers. A good example of this was when one team claimed that a geostationary satellite moves around the Earth (despite having stationary in the name).

Upon finishing all the rounds, the scores were tallied and the winners announced. Third place: Camp Hill C, second place: Camp Hill B, first place: Camp Hill A. A clean sweep! Not just had we beaten previous winners King Henry VIII, but also KES, KE Five Ways, KE Camp Hill Girls and KE Aston. We could only unfor-

tunately take back one prize, thus only Camp Hill 'A' received medals. Moreover, we took home a gigantic glass trophy (which we struggled to handle) for the year and a smaller glass trophy that the school could keep. The prizes were two wooden models and two Hotwires sets. Of course, Miss Li was thrilled to hear the news and generously brought the other teams wooden models similar to the ones team 'A' had won.

In retrospective, the day was a huge success! It was a day to remember by everyone (more so as we had after all beaten our arch rivals!). Thanks to Birmingham University for organising this event (and the organisers Mr M Ansar and Dr M Pavlidou) and special thanks to Miss Li and Dr Hudgson for holding the training sessions for the quiz and helping us win, in addition to the fact Dr Hudgson provided us with transport to the event. Also thanks to the excellent Physics Department at Camp Hill for giving us the help to win the competition.

■ **Kishan Sambhi**

Sixth Form Lectures and the University of Birmingham

The West Midland Chemistry Teachers' Centre (WMCTC) organise a series of lectures for Year 12 Chemists; these are hosted by the University of Birmingham Chemistry Department. Camp Hill Boys have been well represented at the lectures this year, with an average of forty students attending each event. Lecture topics have included the use of illicit drugs in sport, the science behind making fireworks, the Chemical Engineering of Crème Eggs and that all-important element: Carbon.

Those boys who have engaged with the lectures have certainly come away with some food for thought, and perhaps even something to talk about on their UCAS application! We look forward to next year's Lecture Programme, which will be available to any interested Year 13 students as well as Year 12.

■ **S.O.M.**

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) School Analyst Competition

On a cold February 2018 morning, nine Y12s travelled to sunny Wolverhampton for a day of practical Chemistry. Our three teams – Team Oxygen, Team Sulphur, and Team Selenium were quietly confident, as the school has done well in previous years.

The first experiment involved crafting a bright purple solution called Crystal Violet, and measuring how well it absorbed UV light. All teams completed the task in reasonable time. The second practical proved more challenging, with no one seeming to know how a funnel worked. The titrations to identify a mystery acid took so long that most teams started the third experiment – a thin-layer chromatography – before finishing the third. Only some quick maths from Robert Hillier enabled Team Oxygen to finish on time.



After lunch, we watched a demonstration by the University's Chemistry Department, followed by the Prize Ceremony. Despite team Sulphur's Rohan Jobanputra having ripped up their chromatography paper; he, Mollik Shamimuzzaman and Alex Lee, took the Bronze Medal, beating Team Selenium: Dominic Kwok, Dominic Furey, and Ghulam Khan – into fourth place.

Team Oxygen: Robert Hillier, Abhijit Pandit, and Alex Byrne, took first prize, each winning a £30 gift voucher and a place at the national finals at Bangor University later in the year.

And so it was that on Wednesday 20th June

2018 the winning team travelled to Bangor for the National Final of the Schools' Analyst competition. The theme of the practical challenges was marine conservation, and tasks ranged from identifying pollution found near a shipwreck, to using cyanide complexes to measure the iron content of Welsh seawater. Despite being tired from the long train journey from Birmingham, the team completed the four practicals in

under three hours – an hour faster than most of the other twenty-six teams. After lunch, we heard a very enthusiastic lecture about the chemistry of wine and ginger beer, before the judges delivered their verdict.

Out of 344 schools in the UK and Ireland, Camp Hill Boys had finished second, being narrowly beaten to the top by a team from Truro. Still, the boys each came home with a £50 gift voucher, and £2,000 for the School. We would like to thank Mr O'Malley for encouraging and accompanying us on the long journey.

■ **Alex Byrne**

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Top of the Bench Competition

Shortly after the Christmas break it was time for the annual Top of the Bench Competition. Having done very well on the qualifying test paper, David Yin (Year 11), Samyak Jain (Year 10), Peter Kippax and Seth Turner (both Year 9) travelled with Mr O'Malley to the University of Birmingham to take part in the practical side of the competition.

The boys had to work together to solve a series of problems, drawing on the Chemistry skills they have developed in school. As well as their teamwork and safety, the team were marked on the accuracy of their results.

This year's challenge involved the 'iodine



clock' reaction, where after a period of time a solution suddenly turns black. The boys had to determine the correct volumes of reactants to combine, which would cause the reaction to turn black after exactly thirty seconds. Some clever graph work ensued, followed by a few practice runs, and the boys were confident that they had it nailed.

But, with the examiner watching, an anomaly! The correct volumes were combined as planned, but it changed colour a lot sooner than expected. What had gone wrong? Had the room suddenly got a lot hotter? Had colourless solution A been mixed up with colourless solution B? Maybe it was to do with stirring?

We will never know exactly what went wrong, but needless to say the boys were disappointed. Every cloud has a silver lining though, and at least they will be well prepared for doing that practical again in Year 12 if they choose to take A-level Chemistry!

■ **S.O.M.**

West Midland Chemistry Quiz

Camp Hill Boys have held on to their title as West Midland Chemistry Quiz Champions for another year! Year 11s Tommy Ransbotyn and Kevin Mathew, along with Year 10s Miles Balderson and Hamzah Iqbal, battled their way through twelve rounds of tricky chemistry questions. The questions definitely stretched the boys; there were some devious balancing equations problems that even the spectating teachers couldn't do, as

well as questions on old-fashioned chemical names, famous chemists and anagrams.

The boys' achievement makes 2018 our 5th consecutive year as Chemistry Quiz Champions – how many more years can we hold on for?

■ **S.O.M.**



Investigating Ecton Mine

Following a long coach journey to Derby, we arrived outside Ecton Mine excited about the day ahead. Having been introduced to the kind volunteers who would be our guides for the day, we began to climb Ecton Hill learning more about the history of Ecton Mine, as well as the area surrounding it. During the walk up, we had a glimpse of the mineshafts which we would explore later on in the day. The journey was perilous, as every glance reminded me.

Once we had reached the top of the hill, we were tasked with finding four different types of ore: iron oxide, calcium carbonate, copper carbonate and lead sulphide. We all struggled with this task, however, Mr O'Malley certainly seemed to be in his comfort zone as he very quickly found all of them. Needless to say, I do not think there will be any geologists amongst us... After we had all collected samples of each of the four ores, we headed back to the main site and had our lunch. With no stores anywhere near the mine, those who were not sensible enough to pack their own lunches stood idly in the soaring heat.

After a lunch break of about forty min-

utes, we were separated into groups of three; our aim was to complete three different tasks. The first task was to test the samples we had collected earlier to identify the name of the compounds. Initially, the tests were uneventful, however, the transition metal tests yielded exciting colours and provided us with a great opportunity to learn more about the science behind the bright colours. This part in particular was helpful since transition metals form an important part of our A-level specification. The next task involved making gunpowder. Before we started, we were given the equation for making gunpowder and using this we had to work out the required mass for each ingredient. To those interested to make gunpowder you need to mix carbon, potassium nitrate and sulphur (for safety purposes I will not reveal anymore information). Later on in the afternoon, we successfully ignited the black powder.

The tour into the mine itself was by far the most intriguing and exciting part of the day, as we could now see into the shafts that we had seen in the morning. As we ventured through



the dark tunnels, we were very aware of the low ceiling, as our helmets thudded against it. Overall, this was a unique experience, from the marks left by explosives used centuries ago to the unusual rock formations. Interestingly enough, we even found the remains of a tractor that had fallen into the mine a long time ago, needless to say there was no person accompanying it (we hope).

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

■ Omar Mubark



Chemistry C₃L₆ Camp

Near the end of the summer holiday Alex and I attended the C₃L₆ Summer Camp for four days. After arriving from all over the country the twenty-five of us that received a Roentgenium (another twenty-five would come the next week) gathered at St Catharine's Porter's Lodge to be introduced to our lecturers for the camp.

The two we would get to know best were Ben Pilgrim, a chemistry lecturer at the University, and Peter Wothers, another lecturer who wrote 'Why chemical reactions happen' with James Keeler; a book I'm sure the majority of our school year has read. We also met Tim Hersey, who organised the camp and, with the two lecturers, helped decide the C₃L₆ questions.

On arrival, we introduced ourselves in one of the student areas just beneath the college,

and were given the task of physically forming molecules as each of us was an atom with atomic number the same as our month of birth. We had a promising solution, but then found out that we would need to use everyone to form a complete set of molecules; thus leading to the formation of many questionable molecules in order to use up the lithiums, berylliums and borons. It was here that we were introduced to two students that would accompany us for the camp: George, one of Latvia's representatives in the International Chemistry Olympiad, and Mohammed Khan, one of our representatives, a previous Camp Hill student.

That evening the first formal dinner was held at St Catharine's and was fantastic, and we were told students would normally attend three to four per year on special occasions. During the dinner the lecturers and students rotated around the tables in order to talk to

each of us and answer any questions we had, as well as discuss what their interests were, overall it was very enjoyable. When it concluded we were given a University textbook by Peter Wothers in a St Catharine's bag, something that was pointed out to Ben Pilgrim (a Fellow of Corpus Christi).

The Saturday started with a lecture from Peter Wothers about organic chemistry; here both lecturers took it in turns to go through synthesis questions and suggest how we should go about answering similar Olympiad questions, the whole thing expanded on our existing A-level knowledge and gave us a good method to approach future problems.

In the afternoon we had two titration practicals, where, as opposed to in school where the experiment is used to supplement theory, accuracy was paramount and marks would only be awarded if within a certain minute amount

of the true value. One of our twenty-five scored full marks in both, to the congratulations of the lecturers; I am happy to say I scored full marks in the second and my value was at least close enough in the first to score something. The day ended with our group having to dodge a wedding at the college to have pizza while watching Mohammed's choice in film, *Deadpool*.

We had another couple hours of lectures on the Sunday during which our knowledge of existing electron orbitals was expanded on. Peter made it clear that they had no fixed boundary and therefore needed to be described as clouds, unlike the textbook interpretation of fixed bubbles. He also ran through the maths behind the s, p, d and some f orbitals, which although understandable, was very hard to remember.

The next practical involved measuring conductivity as the concentration of sodium

n-dodecyl sulphate was increased (a cleaning agent), and I am afraid to say the Camp Hill students' chosen methods weren't the best. Despite that the produced graphs did match the examiners overlay, however, at least for myself, I had very few data points compared to many others. We then travelled to Corpus Christi for a fun lecture on water by Ben involving homeopathy and explosions, before being handed a Corpus bag, so not to be outdone by St Catharine's.

Afterwards the formal dinner, once again, was really well prepared; especially given the temporary kitchen used during the works on campus. We were also shown the wooden spoon (the origin of the phrase) hanging in one of their rooms, an intricately designed decoration awarded centuries ago to students in each subject who had managed to scrape by on doing the absolute bare minimum for

a degree; the one at Corpus was awarded to the mathematician their maths department is named after, something some of the professors don't exactly appreciate.

The Monday morning lecture focused on maths around the Schrodinger equation, and how it is applied to the probability of where a particle could be on a line. Despite the constant reveal of something few of us had come across we managed to keep up with Peter until twelve o'clock, where the camp came to a close and most wanted to have their book signed by the author.

A huge thanks to all the lecturers and C₃L₆ for inviting us on the camp and we will strive to meet them again through the coming Olympiad.

■ **James Mander**

MATHS

Maths Challenges

There were two major mathematical events in the Autumn Term, the Senior Team Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge.

The Senior Mathematical Challenge took place in early November 2017 and involved all mathematicians in Year 12, further mathematicians in Year 13 and the top set in Year 11. Altogether there were 63 bronze, 54 silver and 30 gold certificates from our 172 entries. John Hayton of Year 13, Robert Hillier, Haolei Wang and Amartya Maheshwari of Year 12 and, impressively, Xue Bang Chen of Year 11 qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while 30 boys qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. In the Olympiad, Haolei Wang and Amartya Maheshwari (Year 12) did well, John Hayton (Year 13) and Xue Bang Chen (Year 11) did even better, obtaining certificates of distinction. Robert Hillier (Year 12) did better still, obtaining a distinction and a medal, which places him in the top 100 in the country. This also meant that he qualified for the fearsomely difficult British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2. *(Robert decided not to take up this opportunity, so as not to divert attention from his studies.)*

In the Senior Kangaroo, Jan Rudzki, Oliver Jones, Ben Bancroft, Faraan Cheema and Vamsi Pratapa (Year 13), Daniel Cole and Alexander Byrne (Year 12) and Saksham Shah and Henry Hoare (Year 11) all did very well to achieve certificates of merit.

■ **D.J.T.**

Senior Team Maths Challenge

On the 30th November 2017, Camp Hill hosted the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge. This is a competition for teams of four, and we entered an A-Team and a secret B-Team. The A-Team consisted of John Hayton, Oliver Jones, Robert Hillier and Xue Bang Chen, while the B-Team consisted of Akaash Thao, Alex Byrne, Amartya Maheshwari, and Chaitan Mohr.

The A-Team got off to a good start in the group round, gaining full marks, with the B-Team marginally behind, only making two

mistakes. In the cross-number round, the A-Team made several small errors (such as $2 + 4 = 5$), but nevertheless managed to drop only two marks, while the B-Team remained close behind. However, in the final dreaded shuttle round, disaster struck, and both the A- and B-Teams lost a substantial portion of the marks available. This allowed KEHS to take the lead and win the competition by a single mark, meaning the A-Team finished second, while the B-Team (unofficially) came fifth. Nonetheless, it was a fun event that everyone enjoyed, and the teams can both be proud of their performances.

■ **Robert Hillier**

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The individual challenge of the Spring Term was the Intermediate Challenge.

This is also the largest, with over 300 entries, so the logistics of the morning had to be handled with military precision. This was done, and the papers sent off: when the results arrived, the boys had achieved 93 bronze certificates, 80 silvers and 83 golds.

Ten boys did extremely well, all qualifying for the three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition an impressive 68 boys, including about one-third of Year 11, qualified for one of two colours of Kangaroo, 18 of whom got Merits: in the Grey Kangaroo aimed at Year 9, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Samuel Cole, Prithu Krishnan, Viswamedha Nalabotu, Adnan Chowdhury and Ben Brown were successful, while on the Pink Kangaroo aimed at the older years, Matthew Cooke, Joseph Clark, Muaaz Ghafoor, Jaidendeep Lall, Kevin Mathew, Samyak Jain, Randika Siriwardhana, Miles Balderson, Judah Daniels, Bhuvan Mahadevaiah, David Yin and Sufiyan Ahmed did especially well.

In the Olympiads, Hemal Aggarwal, Aaron-deep Singh, Qiyuan Chen, Ross Evans, William Yang, Saksham Shah and Leon Zhang achieved Merits; Kevin Xu was awarded a Distinction; Peter Kippax and Xue Bang Chen were awarded a Distinction, a Medal, and a Prize, which puts them both in the top 50. Well done all!

■ **D.J.T.**

Y10 Maths Feast

On Friday 9th March 2018, a team of four boys consisting of Qiyuan Chen, William Yang, Ben Hobson-Taher and Matthew Cooke went to the Maths Feast, which is a team competition for Year 10s with many different schools taking part. We arrived promptly at 10 o'clock, determined to win. The first round was a challenge consisting of questions without words. Our team found this pretty easy and ended up scoring full marks. The second round also went quite well – with four lengthy questions answered, we ended up dropping only 2 marks, gaining a respectable 18 out of 20 for the round.

After a short break, the third round was a

practical round. This round was split into multiple small sections where we didn't just use maths, but we had to use our practical side as well. It started off pretty well, making and colouring nets of cubes, but the last two questions (which were about 'dice cycles') were very challenging and in

total we lost 7 marks on that round.

The final round in which we had to fill in a 'Blockbusters-style' hexagonal grid was very well done, gaining us full marks again. In the end our school ended up winning comfortably, getting a very high score of 83/92 in comparison to the

score of 61/92 for the school in second place. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and we hope that next year will be just as good.

■ **Qiyuan Chen**

Junior Team Maths Challenge

On Friday 23rd March 2018 Hemal Aggarwal, Peter Kippax, Farhan Awais and Raunaq Shah Foridi went to Aston University to take part in the annual UKMT Team Maths Challenge. There were four rounds to complete throughout the day.

The first round was the group round. For this, we had to complete ten questions between the four of us. Luckily, we got full marks. The next round was the cross-number, like a crossword, just with numbers. To make things even more difficult, we were split into pairs, and each pair could see only the down or across clues, with many answers depending on other answers. We lost a mark on this round due to a minor slip-up but overall we were still very pleased.

The next round was the shuttle. This had

four, smaller 8 minute rounds, each consisting of four questions. One pair was given the first and third questions and the other pair had the second and fourth questions; the problems were structured in such a way that the answer of one question depended on the answer of the previous question, meaning only question one could be worked out straight away. However, questions could often be simplified beforehand. To make matters worse, we would only know if our answers were correct after we had finished all four questions, meaning that there were disastrous consequences if question one was incorrect. There was also a speed bonus if we managed to complete the round in under six minutes. Despite all this, we still managed to achieve maximum marks.

The final round was the relay, our worst round by far in practice sessions. In this round we were in pairs again, and each pair would take it in turn to answer a question. We skipped

quite a few and didn't get more than two thirds of the way through. At the end we discovered we had only got 32 out of a possible 60 marks, so we were not optimistic. Then it was time for the results: **Third** – Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, **Second** – King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls, **First** – King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

This earned us a place in the National Final, which is a fantastic achievement as over 1600 teams entered nationwide, with only 88 qualifying for the National Final. All of the team should be very proud. Thank you to Mr Azam for driving us there and Mr Watkins for driving us back. Special thanks to Mrs Crockford for organising the team and running the lunch-time training sessions.

■ **Hemal Aggarwal, Peter Kippax,
Farhan Awais and Raunaq Shah Foridi**

Junior Maths Challenge National Final, London

On Monday 18th June 2018, having achieved a first place victory in the regional heat, a team consisting of Peter Kippax, Hemal Aggarwal, Raunaq Foridi and Farhan Awais set out to take on the UKMT National Finals. This was a contest between the 88 winning teams from each of the regional finals. We arrived in London in high spirits as the train journey to Euston wasn't as bad as anyone expected, only one and a half hours. Then we took the tube to Victoria, followed by a short ten minute walk to the Royal Horticultural Halls, where the finals were being held.

Before we got into the main competition we were tasked with creating a poster which, for the first time, would also count towards the competition. This year, the poster was to be on Leonhard Euler and his mathematical works, including the thirty-six officer problem, the four colour theorem and planar graphs. There were also a set of three questions which we had to answer. These included a scaled down version of the thirty-six officer problem, and rearranging a graph into a planar graph, so that no lines would cross.

Then into the main contest. The first round was the group circus. We had a series of eight hands-on problems to tackle, with five minutes to complete each of them. Questions included

rearranging number-cards into a certain order, or finding the number of paths from A to B, with given restrictions. Overall we did quite well in this round, gaining 36 points out of a possible 48.

The next round was the cross-number, which had been great success for us in the regional heat. The team was split into pairs, and one side handled the 'across' clues while the other took the 'down' clues, with each correct digit in the final grid being worth one point. Unsurprisingly, the questions were harder than in the regional heat, requiring more logical thought. By the end of the round we had only lost a single mark, after overlooking a possible answer.

Next was the shuttle round. This was split into 4 parts of increasing difficulty, each of which had 4 questions. Other than the first question, the answers could only be worked out with the answer to the previous question. However, some simplifying could be done beforehand, and there were also bonus points for doing each part quickly. We did reasonably well on this round getting 45 out of 60.

Last was the relay round. Again, we were in pairs and each pair took turns to answer a question. There were a maximum of 15 questions per pair, each worth 2 marks. We got to question 26, and had only got two wrong so we earned a respectable 48 out of 60.

Overall we were happy with our performance, but expected nothing special. We expected to finish somewhere around 35th

place. When our scorecard came round, we were elated. We had come in 5th place. This meant our team was 5th out of around 1700 teams that had entered nationally, including the likes of Eton (who we beat). Well done to the team who should all be immensely proud of themselves. Many thanks to Mr Thompson for providing some inspiration on the poster, and a massive thank you to Mrs Crockford for organising the team, running lunchtime practice sessions, organising and working out the logistics of the day and of course most importantly for the cookies afterwards. Without her none of this would have been possible.

■ **Raunaq Foridi**

Junior Maths Challenge: Summary

The Junior Maths Challenge was the challenge of the Summer Term, and once again, we were very pleased with the results. The boys were awarded 50 bronze certificates, 93 silvers, and 65 golds; three qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, and 36 for the Junior Kangaroo. In case you were wondering what a Kangaroo is, it is a competition taken by students all over Europe: the top 5,000 students (from well over a thousand schools) were invited to take part in the Junior version, and the top 25% get Merits. Twelve of our boys achieved Merits: Kacey Malik, Elliot Robbie, Raunaq Shah Foridi, Leon

Lin, Matteo Gianni, Muhammad Tamjid Islam, Tanav Kotha, Hassan Malik and Sachin Sandhu from Year 8, and Caleb Wilton, Jonah Kippax and Louis Bailey from Year 7. In the Olympiad, Hanzalah Rayaz and Adcharon Mugunthan got a Merit. Farhan Awais achieved a Distinction and a Bronze Medal, placing him in the top 210 in the country.

■ **D.J.T.**

South Area Network Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 3rd July 2018, six brave, young mathematicians endeavoured to go where no Camp Hill Boy has ever gone before: deep into the heart of the Camp Hill Girls' building, to participate in the South Area Network Team Maths Challenge. After a large amount of confusion concerning the meet-up time, the boys were glad to find that most of the team, consisting of Hemal Aggarwal, Ben Brown, Sam Cole, Peter Kippax, Aarondeep Singh and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (all in Year 9), had managed to find the hidden meet-up point.

After having been led through several winding, maze-like corridors, the team took out their mascot (a colourful die they made during a preparatory lunchtime) and proceeded with their genius strategy of getting other teams to underestimate them. In a surprising turn of events, Mr Thompson was asked to participate as part of an informal staff team, and accepted, knowing that his expertise was much needed.

With the arrival of the final school, it was

time for the competition to begin, and a set of 10 questions were given out to each team to complete. Camp Hill Boys made a good start – they finished, feeling very confident in their answers, with roughly twenty minutes still to go, so a debate on what to do to fill up the time was started. This turned out to be rather useful as it took up all the remaining time. After a quick break, and eating as many biscuits and muffins they could get away with, the team started the next round, a code-breaking round, and again finished with ages left due to incredible performance early on by Sam Cole, who managed to find a place in the ciphertext where the word 'mathematician' fit exactly.

The following round was a quick-fire question round. The team looked expectantly at Hemal Aggarwal after each question, and sure enough, within three seconds he would have the right answer! This continued for 40 short questions until the lunch break was announced.

After lunch came the final round: a relay round consisting of 5 sets of questions. The teams sat in columns, one person behind another of their team, and each person would receive one question to complete and pass on the answer to the person behind who would need it to find the answer to their question. The team whizzed through the first 4 sets, but got stuck on the final set due to a poorly written question which didn't use BIDMAS. Camp Hill Girls, being worse mathematicians who forgot that BIDMAS existed, managed to beat Camp Hill Boys on time for the first time in the competition. Although there were no deductions for incorrect answers, the scoring system was

changed part-way through the round, to take into account the order in which teams finished. The net result of this was that the girls team outscored the boys!

Finally, the time had come to see if the team had done well enough; as various scores were read out, tension began to grow. "Third place: Bishop Challoner... and second place with 200 points, only ten points behind the leading team, Camp Hill Girls." Camp Hill Boys had won with 210 points and equalised with the informal staff team! Due to the fact that the staff team aimed for perfection in the relay round, and submitted no incorrect answers, had the scoring system not been changed, the staff team would have won.

For their great work and effort throughout the day, they won 6 gold-coloured plastic medals and a trophy! Many thanks to Mr Thompson and Mrs Crockford for preparing the boys for this challenge, and accompanying them on the day.

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**

Mr Rogers

Finally, a brief word in recognition of Mr Rogers. I, and the rest of the Maths Department – and in fact the whole teaching staff – really cannot thank him enough for his incredible contribution to the Maths Department and the School over a great many years. We would all like to wish him the very best for the future.

■ **D.J.T.**

Maths Team Pictures

Key to photographs below and overleaf

- ① **Junior Team Challenge:**
Hemal Aggarwal, Peter Kippax,
Farhan Awais, Raunaq Shah Foridi
- ② **Junior Team Challenge Final:**
Hemal Aggarwal, Farhan Awais,
Peter Kippax, Raunaq Shah Foridi
- ③ **Junior Team Challenge Final:**
Raunaq Shah Foridi, Peter Kippax,
Hemal Aggarwal, Farhan Awais
- ④ **Senior Team Challenge A-Team:**
Oliver Jones, John Hayton,
Xue Bang Chen, Robert Hillier
- ⑤ **Senior Team Challenge B-Team:**
Chaitan Mohr, Akaash Thao,
Amartya Maheshwari
- ⑥ **South Area Network Team Maths Challenge:**
Peter Kippax, Hemal Aggarwal,
Aarondeep Singh, Ben Brown,
Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Sam Cole
- ⑦ **Year 10 Maths Feast:**
Matthew Cooke, William Yang,
Qiyuan Chen, Ben Hobson-Taher





GEOGRAPHY

Y10 Geography Field Trip to Carding Mill Valley

At the start of May 2018 the Year 10s headed out for the first of their GCSE Geography field trips – this one with a physical geography theme. Our river study took us to the picturesque Carding Mill Valley, a National Trust property on the eastern side of the Long Mynd in the Shropshire Hills AONB, via a short stop by the River Severn at Atcham, near Shrewsbury.

Over two days nearly ninety boys collected data on the characteristics of the river valley and the changes in the stream along its course using an array of equipment from the simple



(orange peel) to the high-tech (electronic flow-meters). Both days were blessed with sunny and warm weather that made for an enjoyable experience, and fortunately, not too many took a tumble in the stream, although some did take the chance to cool off in the water after a hot day of activity.



The National Trust visitor centre provided a base for us and the chance for boys to buy ice creams and snacks before we made our way two km up the valley to our first location. After a brief explanation of the methods by Mr Eckley the boys were under way, working in groups of six or seven in order to share the tasks out. The boys conducted themselves well and, as always, were a credit to the school and themselves. They will now write up their findings and analysis using statistical tools such as the Spearman Rank test and inter-quartile range, putting some of the techniques they've learnt in Maths to good use in processing their own fieldwork data.

As the theme of the study is all to do with flooding and its risk factors, the boys were also able to apply much of what we've been learning about in class to do with exacerbating factors and techniques to mitigate flooding. The stop at Atcham on the way there also



gave them some context to their study since the small amount of water in the Carding Mill Valley eventually joins Britain's longest river, the Severn, 20km downstream, before flowing another 200km to reach the sea near Bristol.

All told it was a very enjoyable and successful trip, and thanks goes again to the staff of the National Trust at the Carding Mill Valley for making us welcome again this year as well as several members of staff who helped out from Camp Hill Boys'.

■ D.J.E.



A-level Geography Field Trip 2018

This year's Geography A-level field trip was a significant one – being Mr Jackson's last one with the Geography Department. After many years of organising trips around the country and indeed around the world this was his final adventure before retirement. Once again we headed up to north Wales but for the first time in many



years we were able to do so in the warm sunny month of June, instead of a frozen, windswept March. The weather did not disappoint and the benefits of doing fieldwork in the summer were evident to all. Even the longer days were a bonus for the boys who were able to make



the most of the Conway Centre's grounds in the evening. As usual it was very much a working trip with long hours of fieldwork and evening sessions to keep the boys occupied. The aim being to prepare them for their new independent investigation (A-level coursework) they would be embarking on in Year 13. The first day started close to home with some urban fieldwork along the Stratford Road in Sparkbrook. I won't bore you with details of systematic sampling, census output areas and questionnaire design – but you get the idea. Later in the day, after a relaxing stop at Burger King near Oswestry we conducted a comparative study in the picturesque village of Llanrwst in the Conway Valley in north Wales.

The second day was coastal fieldwork. The lovely town of Criccieth (one of Mr Duncan's favourite holiday destinations) was where we made use of ranging poles, tape measures, quadrats and the like to calculate various patterns and processes. Earlier on the morning we also took a drive across the bay to Harlech to stroll through the spectacular sand dunes and

the most of the Conway Centre's grounds in the evening. As usual it was very much a working trip with long hours of fieldwork and evening sessions to keep the boys occupied. The aim being to prepare them for their new independent investigation (A-level coursework) they would be embarking on in Year 13. The first day started close to home with some urban fieldwork along the Stratford Road in Sparkbrook. I won't bore you with details of systematic sampling, census output areas and questionnaire design – but you get the idea. Later in the day, after a relaxing stop at Burger King near Oswestry we conducted a comparative study in the picturesque village of Llanrwst in the Conway Valley in north Wales.



along the beach, studying vegetation progression. After lunch and a bi-polar survey or two later we stopped by the ice cream shop in Criccieth for some sugar before heading back to Anglesey.

The final day began with good weather and a trip to Malltraeth saltmarshes where Mr Jackson expounded his extensive knowledge of the area that he had acquired over the years of running field trips to Anglesey. Then on to some of Europe's finest sand dunes at Aberffraw with lunch in the dunes, before making the long journey back to school. The boys conducted themselves well and made good use of the opportunity to develop their fieldwork skills in readiness for the year ahead.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Jackson for his thirty years of field trips far and wide at Camp Hill School, and mostly for his running of the A-level fieldwork for many years.

■ D.J.E.

Y11 Geography Field Trip to Stratford Road, Birmingham

In November 2017 we took our Year 11s out for the second of their GCSE Geography field trips. This time the theme was Urban Geography and we therefore stayed here in Birmingham to conduct a transect study along the length of the Stratford Road, from city centre Sparkbrook near the old site of Camp Hill School, all the way to the outer suburbs in Shirley.

The study involved a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Perhaps most



interesting and eye-opening activity for the boys was when they had to ask members of the public to answer questions for their questionnaires. The aim of this was to contrast their own impressions and views of different areas to those of people who live and work in those same areas. Often the boys found that preconceptions they had about some areas didn't always match what local people thought. The boys worked well in groups of three to five and made their own way along the Stratford Road using the

public buses, although one (who shall remain nameless) brought his mountain bike in hope of cycling up and down the transect – not on the risk assessment I'm afraid.

The boys got stuck in and most did a very good job of collecting accurate and insightful information about their study locations in Shirley, Hall Green, Sparkbrook and Sparkhill. While

the amount of open space, litter and quality of the housing fabric did noticeably change; people's perceptions of their own neighbourhoods was often more positive than the boys might have initially expected.

The opportunity to collect and process more qualitative data was also a challenge for those used to dealing with more statistical and numerical data, but the new skills and techniques they have learnt will make them more effective as fieldwork investigators – a set of skills which many will go on to use in undergraduate studies in the future. Overall the day was a great success and the boys conducted themselves well.

■ D.J.E.



Geography Trip to Lapworth Museum

In December 2017 we took our Year 12 Geographers to visit the Lapworth Museum of Geology at Birmingham University. Having undergone a £2.7 million refurbishment three years ago, it is an even more impressive place to visit and has a wide range of interactive displays and samples on show.

We began with a tour of the museum by the School's Director, Anna Chrystal, who explained the history of the museum and guided us around some of the exhibits, giving an outline of the paleogeography of our planet and how the diverse geology of Britain has been shaped by tectonic movements and continental drift over millions of years. In addition, we learned about Charles Lapworth, the University's first Professor of Geology and his research around the UK.



The museum also has an extensive collection of fossils, Cambrian bone samples and minerals of all shapes and colours – a collection to rival the major Natural History museums of Europe. We were also privileged to be allowed into the museum's archives and see some of the more valuable items that they cannot put on display to the public.

The afternoon finished with a talk from Dr Sebastien Watt from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences who shared information about his research and some of the fieldwork he and his students have been doing around the world over the last couple of years. Thank you once again to the staff of the museum for making this trip possible. [Picture left: shows Year 12 students with 'Rory' the Allosaurus]

■ D.J.E.

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Great Expectations at Derby Theatre

During the Autumn Term, Mr Jones's GCSE English groups spent a wonderful afternoon at the Derby Theatre watching Neil Bartlett's stage production of the famous Charles Dickens' novel 'Great Expectations'. The production gave a crystal-clear idea of the story, despite the fact that the Year 10s in the audience had yet to study it.

From the opening scenes of the play, everyone's attention was grabbed when the steel chairs slammed down to reveal Magwitch from the marshes and this tension was maintained throughout the play until the very final scenes, when Miss Havisham dies in the fire and Magwitch's escape is thwarted. This fast-paced production made sure that it always had the audience's attention, as there was always something happening on the stage.

Something that really stood out was the way in which the production conveyed

Dickens' central themes of: Social Class, Crime and Punishment, Love, Pride, Guilt and Betrayal. In addition, the idea of the novel's retrospective narrator, the older Pip, reflecting on past events, was cleverly handled.

The production enabled us to follow Pip's emotional journey from childhood to manhood, introducing us to his relationships with important characters like the warm and kind hearted Joe, the manipulative Miss Havisham, the complex Estella and loyal Magwitch. Dickens' underlying moral messages about life and growing up were clearly evident, but the production was also able to convey his humour too.

All in all, it was an enjoyable trip and helped us to get familiar with Dickens' famous novel. The writer, director and definitely the actors have to be thanked for putting on such a performance; one that the boys will surely not forget any time soon. Thanks should also go to the English Department who accompanied us on the trip.

■ Chetan Bijju

Macbeth

In the Summer Term 2018, most of Year 10 and some Year 9s went to see an excellent production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the Swan Theatre in Stratford.

Starring Christopher Eccleston and Nina Cusack as Lord and Lady Macbeth respectively, this atmospheric production was enough to strike fear into any theatregoer. Particularly effective as the witches were played by small children clutching dolls, which added ironically to the sense of disquiet that the production

engendered. In addition to this the production added a new role – an ever present 'caretaker' figure who stayed present at all times overseeing the events; as the actor bore a remarkable resemblance to Jack Nicholson in *The Shining* – it was particularly creepy.

Our students were, as usual well behaved and attentive during the production and we look forward to taking them to see many more productions.

■ J.L.P.

Poetry and Music Evening

On Wednesday 7th February 2018, a group of Year 7s from Camp Hill and a group of Year 6s from Colmore Juniors performed at Poetry and Music Evening. The performance was a spectacular showcase of artistry, determination and enthusiasm. Year 7 students recited their poems very well and with a lot of enthusiasm. Colmore Juniors then performed their captivating World War I inspired poems and, I think I speak for most people there, left us feeling emotional with their touching performances. Their musicians were incredible, as were the Camp Hill musicians, playing a range of pieces from the short and sweet to the long and complex and using a diversity of instruments.

As I recited some of the poetry, I can only imagine that the musicians' preparation for the performance was just as challenging and enjoyable as learning the poems. Some of us wrote our own poems and recited them, others recited one poem as a group that they had learnt off by heart. It took a lot of practice but eventually, when all our work was put together, it created a wonderful evening.

Overall, both schools showed an outstanding level of skill and eagerness and made the poetry and music evening a truly stunning performance. Thanks to the English Department for organising this event.

■ Jie Phoenix

See the Music section on page 51 for pictures of this event.

The Library

It's been a fantastic year for clubs, trips and visits from award winning authors. The Year 7 Book Club can be a little hit and miss, with some cohorts more interested than others. This year's group however were possibly the most enthusiastic group I've ever worked with. They flew through the reading list which included *The Way of the Warrior* by Chris Bradford, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle and *The*



Gates by John Connolly. There was plenty of passionate discussion about Samurai swords and the relevance of classic sci-fi to today's young readers. We celebrated the year's activities by attending a special screening of *The Avengers: Infinity War* and going on a shopping spree in Waterstones.

The Stan Lee Excelsior Award usually generates a lot of excitement when it comes to sign up time. To avoid the usual madness that accompanies a break time sign up, students had to register online at a designated day and time. There was a palpable sense of excitement in the Library in the moments before the event went live. After only two minutes of cheers, air punching and a few wails of disappointment, the places were full and we had a solid group of comics enthusiasts in the club. There were stories afterwards of dedicated parents at home sitting by the computer at the allotted time, waiting to sign up on behalf of their sons!

As Stan Lee himself would say, they are 'true believers'. We spent the spring and summer terms reading and voting for our favourites and then in June it was time to go to the awards ceremony at Trent College in Nottingham [see picture below left]. We had a fantastic day of cake eating, poster buying and quizzes. It was surprising to see so many Camp Hill boys correctly guess the references to the most obscure comic characters from the 50s. Our favourite comic, *Slam* by Pamela Ribon, didn't win but we were gracious in our defeat. We consoled ourselves by spending all our pocket money on beautifully designed movie posters supplied by Biglin Graphics. We look forward to next year's shortlist and another fantastic awards ceremony.

I got to experience my first House Festival this year, so wanted to make sure the Library had an extra special activity planned for the day. Chris Bradford, a Camp Hill favourite, came in for an afternoon of creative writing [see picture above right]. He inspired the boys to come up with fantastic opening chapters, ranging from dystopian to the hilariously surreal. Unlike our usual author events, the boys involved had lots of time with Chris to talk about his books and writing process in depth.

It's not often that Camp Hill has the opportunity to invite an Old Boy to visit who is also a world famous crime writer. Mark Billingham visited us in November and took the time to speak to students, staff and parents about his work. [Also see Mr Southworth's article below for more information and a picture.]

Many of us here in the library are huge fans of the brilliantly clever *Murder Most Unladylike* series, so we were thrilled to get the call to host the author Robin Stevens. She entertained us with her fascinating research methods for putting a



mystery storyline together. Not to mention all the adventures she had growing up on the Oxford University campus as the daughter of a college Master, which practically makes her Lyra from *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman! With a new book coming out next year, we hope to see Robin again soon.

Alwyn Hamilton's work was unknown to most of us before she came to visit in January, but her presentation on her *Rebel of the Sands* series, left us all eager to read the trilogy [see picture below]. Her early life in Canada and France, studying History of Art at Cambridge and working at an auction house all informed her writing in truly interesting ways and workshopped ideas with students in the audience to show how their own lives could similarly influence their writing. When an author leaves you wanting to read their books and write your own, you know they've done a good job.

■ A.G.



Visit: Mark Billingham

Nowadays, visits by working authors are an important, enjoyable and thought-provoking feature of education in many schools, and, in November 2017, Camp Hill was able to welcome one of its own, Mark Billingham, who for the past two decades, has been among the country's most successful crime writers. Most, though not all, of his books have featured Detective Inspector Tom Thorne, described by *The Times* as "the most interesting cop in British crime fiction". Cleverly plotted, with strong dialogue and a fair amount of violence, these novels are awash with fascinating characters and are written in a style which is both brisk and compelling. Always appearing in *Sunday Times* Best Sellers Lists, they have brought Mark many awards; two of the books were turned into a hit Sky TV series, starring David Morrissey as Thorne.



At School Mark – or "Bill" – was an irrepresible character, who could, and did, infur-

ate some of his teachers, but whose sense of humour and fun made him hugely popular amongst both his peers and also in the Staff Room. For instance, in the Lower Sixth, he created a wholly fictional boy, called, I seem to remember, "Quince", who wrote essays, which were duly marked by his conscientious though rather eccentric teacher, who was also very short sighted, thus allowing "Quince" to take part in class discussion.

Above all, "Bill" loved the stage; for seven years he was part of every school production going. Starting as Charles I in Richard Rodney Bennett's *All the King's Men*, he went on to play, among many other roles, the "Artful Dodger" in *Oliver*, a part made for him because he only had to be himself! He appeared as Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*, and played leading roles in John Dinham's *The Alchemist* and Liz Mul-lenger's *Love's Labour's Lost*. When he ran out of things to do, he also played for a season in

the Cricket 1st XI – it would be heartless of me even to suggest that this was the weakest XI the School has ever produced.

When visiting last year, Mark entertained a large group of students in the morning, before speaking informally to an audience of parents and teachers, both past and present. He talked with affection of his time at Camp Hill – how he learnt the joys of wasting his time and of how he began to realise that he might be able to make a career out of “showing off”; all this, he claimed, has allowed him to avoid ever having a “proper

job”. Hence, he became a stand-up comedian, wrote comedy sketches and appeared in TV shows with Sir Tony Robinson. And then, in a hotel in Manchester, it all changed.

Mark was attacked by thieves, who burst into his hotel room; for two hours, he was held prisoner, trussed up and his mouth taped over. He was convinced he was going to die. For the first time in his life, he felt raw terror. Thus was Mark Billingham, the crime writer, born; within weeks, he had started his first novel.

In a relaxed chat, Mark talked about his

writing, where he gets his plots from, how he makes dialogue realistic and the importance of not drowning the readers in unnecessary detail, inviting them, instead, to engage with the books by using their own imagination. There are some well-known crime writers around, Peter James for one, who could do to learn this lesson. It was, indeed, a delight to meet “Bill” again; I think I have read all seventeen of the novels – long may he continue to entertain us.

■ **M.R.S.**

Sixth Form Othello Conference

On Tuesday 28th November 2017 Years 12 and 13 set off to Stratford-upon-Avon to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for a conference on Shakespeare's *Othello*.

We were excited as a long but fulfilling day of discussions about Shakespeare awaited us. Provided with a complimentary notepad and pencil – money well spent – the day began with a talk about ‘Tragedy and Shakespeare’ delivered by Dr Nick Walton, a man with an uncanny resemblance to Hollywood icon Danny DeVito. Dr Walton informed us about the recurring themes in all of Shakespeare's tragedies (such as the fatal flaw of the protagonist and the use of dramatic irony) in an active and engaging way; his charm and charisma worthy of a Golden Globe and an Emmy.

After forty-five minutes discussing ‘Tragedy in Shakespeare’, the audience – comprised of English students and teachers from a few different schools – were split into two groups. Our group moved to another room for a dis-

cussion with Dr Anjna Chouhan. She told us about the context of *Othello*. We learnt about the knowledge in Shakespeare's time that Venice was majority Catholic and also that *Othello* was not a king, thus making *Othello* a domestic tragedy. Dr Chouhan also discussed with us the geography of London at the time and how this affected the way Shakespeare's plays were written and performed – all relevant to understanding the meaning behind the plays.

After this discussion, we had our long-awaited lunch break. McDonalds was the location of choice for many. Rumun Ark spent an outrageous ten pounds on an assortment of McDonalds' cuisine, leaving myself and everyone else questioning just how he manages to maintain his exceptional physique. Once our lunch break came to an end, we headed back to The Shakespeare Centre where there was another talk by Dr Walton, where we further discussed tragedy and then moved on to discuss some of the key differences between comedy and tragedy in Shakespeare's plays.

After a short break, Dr Anjna Chouhan, Lorna Jinks and Sarah Horner took a hands-on

approach to looking at the effect staging can have on a tragedy. They performed a number of dramatic exercises, such as repeating the same phrase to each other in different tones and with varied amounts of emotion, to convey how delivery can completely change the meaning of a line. They then handed over to the audience, as we decided how the actors should behave in a certain scene; this included their positioning on stage and the delivery of their lines.

Once this activity was over, a question and answer session took place, in which we had the opportunity to ask the Shakespeare experts about anything we were unsure of. In this session it was confirmed that Dr Nick Walton in fact has no relationship to Danny DeVito, which surprised many of us. Once all of our queries were answered, we headed back to the coach to make the journey back to school. After a fun and educational day, we were all glad to get back to school and begin to make our way home. Thank you to Mrs Parmar and Mr Hill for making the trip possible and providing us with this opportunity.

■ **Jake Tucker**

Y8 Twelfth Night Trip

On the 11th January 2018, the whole of Year 8 travelled on three coaches to the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) in Stratford-upon-Avon to see the play, *Twelfth Night*.

We arrived at the theatre at about 12:45 after a 45 minute journey, for a matinee performance. We had very good seats which were all scattered around the theatre. Very excited, we waited to see what the play would bring, but we weren't absolutely clueless about the plot, because we had briefly looked over it in our English lesson the day before. Suddenly the lights dimmed and the opening music started playing. When the first actors walked on stage we all felt a sense of excitement and anticipation. There was a sense of being brought into another world from 400 years ago.

It was great to hear some of the Shakespearean language and famous quotes that are relevant to modern society, for example: “If music be the food of love, play on”, and “Some

are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” The second quotation in particular made me think about some of our current politicians!

Adrian Edmondson stole the show as Malvolio, the butler who the other characters make fun of. For years I've loved watching him playing the punk student in ‘*The Young Ones*’ 80s TV comedy, so it was great to see him playing a completely different character: a puritan who lets his hair down and enjoys singing and dancing! He also revealed the slightly sinister side to an otherwise comedic plot. Shakespeare's plays have many layers.

When the play had finished, we visited the gift shop – a highlight of any school trip! There were many different little souvenirs we could buy ranging from catapult sharpeners to Shakespearean quotes collaged on an apron. On the journey back to school we discussed the play and congratulated ourselves that we ‘got it’. We can't wait for another trip to the RSC!

■ **Wolfgang Spyrou-Kirby**

Y9 Modern Foreign Language Business Day

On Wednesday 7th March 2018 Year 9 was treated to the annual Business Languages Day. This was held in school. The basic premise of the day was to give us an introduction to how languages could help us when considering careers, as well as some quality practical work to help us improve our German or French and in the final half of the day we were given a few talks about the different languages and dialects which are spoken by people in our school.

We started the day with the introduction to how helpful languages could be after we finish school, with old boy Stu Baker coming in to talk to us about how languages have helped him with his job, and telling us about the numerous countries where his job has taken him – travelling in (fully paid for) business class. I'd imagine free holidays have probably helped to convince some of us to pay more attention in Language lessons.



After his talk finished, we were split into groups where we were asked to create and then market a new type of cereal to be launched on either the French or German market. It was a fun exercise and allowed us to practice what

we've learned in lessons, as we all had to do nearly the whole sales pitch in the foreign language of our choice.

Finally, the day concluded with a few talks from Sixth Form students where they talked about a language they are fluent in, usually one that they've learned from their family. Overall, it was a great day, and a fun break from the regular timetable. It had shown us how important it actually is to learn a language, and has likely convinced a few of us to think about continue



learning languages after we leave education as well.

■ **George Lanham**

Languages and Journalism Day

On the 5th February, 2018, five of the Year 12 Modern Foreign language students headed over to Arden Academy to participate in a Business Languages Day. Of our five participating students, Oliver Reilly, Daniel Fawkes-Underwood and Do-Young Jun took German, Ajay John took French and Jake Holloway took both languages. The five of us arrived early, and spent some time looking around the workspace we'd be working in. It certainly was interesting, and had various teams utilising other languages such as Italian and Spanish. Unfortunately, Ajay had to join the French team, while the other Camp Hill boys comprised one of the German teams.

The day began with a talk from a sports journalist, telling us about how his penchant for football sparked an interest in languages, namely Spanish, Italian and French. The lan-



guages he learned see regular use in his daily life, as he travels and interviews various sports players, many of whom don't speak English.

After the talk, the main task for the day was revealed – each team had to construct the first page of a newspaper. The paper had to contain at least three stories, an interview and advertising, entirely in the team's foreign language. Stories would be posted at random intervals on the laptops set up around the rooms, and given out

at press conferences, which were also in a foreign language. Interviews had to be obtained from the staff, who also held the advertising rights. The teams would have to sell advertising space to the holders of the rights.

This took up the majority of the day, culminating in a presentation of the paper to a panel of judges in a side room. Because only one team presented their paper to the panel at a time, some time

was spent on a social media campaign, which included a two hundred and eighty character maximum tweet and a celebrity endorsement. The entire event was a frantic, yet fun scramble from start to finish, and definitely taught all the boys involved just how far languages go in various business setting. It was a brilliant experience that nobody regretted signing up for!

■ **Oliver Reilly**

European Language Day

So the day arrived, notices were sent out to each form across the school informing them of one of the highly anticipated events of the year: European Language Day. It was a day filled with fun activities for pupils in MFL lessons, these consisted of puzzles and language taster sessions.

At lunchtime there were the highly regarded foreign food tasting session. We had to work for our lunch though and answer a question in either French or German before being allowed in! There was lots of cheese, bread, meatballs, salami, sausage, octopus (for the adventurous!) and olives. These events were run, of course by Ms Wells, Mrs Balkham, Mr Renault and Mrs Thompson and thanks to them it was a very enjoyable day.

■ **Pierre Lee**



Film Club

This awesome club, which was initiated in 2017, has showed many films, ranging from action and adventure, to humor and thriller. This year our club was privileged enough to be able to go to the cinema to watch a new release: *Wonder Woman*. Before she was Wonder Woman she was Diana, princess of the Amazons, a trained warrior. When a pilot crashes and tells of the conflict in the outside world, she leaves home to fight the war to end all wars, leading her to discovering her full powers and true destiny. This is a spectacular DC film, in which the backstory of Wonder Woman is explained. With lots of scenes full of laughter and action, this film is all you need on a Saturday night.

When we went to watch the movie, we went to Odeon Broadway Plaza. We left the school early in the morning and started the walk to the nearby train station. Some of us read books or just chatted to friends, as the train

was late. After sitting on the train for a couple of minutes, we arrived at our stop. We hopped off and made a dash to the cinema. We arrived just in time for the start of the movie. The movie itself was a great choice and was fully funded by "IntoFilm", we only had to pay for our train tickets. We then made our way back to school, wishing that the movie was longer!

Film club is held every Tuesday. Many films have been shown including: *Guardians of the Galaxy One and Two*, *The Book Thief*, *Tarzan* and many more. You are allowed to bring your lunch in the classroom and eat whilst watching the film. The room is always full, and I think I can safely say that everyone in Film Club says that they enjoy it.

■ **Ali Masters**

MFL Assembly

Instead of having a normal assembly on 18th September, two old boys, Muhammed Khan and Sulamaan Rahim, came in and delivered a presentation about why Modern Foreign Languages are important and useful in education.

It was a well-presented and factual presentation telling us why languages are such a useful thing to have in later life. They explained about how many people across the world spoke French and German and when applying for University or a job knowing how to speak another language to at least a basic level was a very good thing to have. In addition, they also showed us how foreign languages are also integral to other seemingly unrelated subjects.

For example in English, you could study translated texts authors like Jean-Paul Satre and how being able to translate texts yourself can bring a whole new depth, as in this example Satre's relationship with his mother could be interpreted differently based on a one single word translation.

All together it was a very good presentation and convinced many people to take languages a bit more seriously in their education.

■ **Will Taylor**

CAREERS

Television, Film and Media Careers Fair

On Thursday 1st February 2018, a group of boys from Years 9 to 13 travelled to Birmingham City University in order to take part in the Television, Film and Media Careers Fair. The day started off with an insight into how diverse the roles in each sector are, and we learnt that there are a lot of jobs that are unseen and unappreciated; these include lighting, runners and stage management. In addition, we learnt that the quickest way to get into the industry was to get lots of experience in your preferred role.

We then moved into the 'marketplace' where lots of different companies were situated. Here we were allowed to roam around and were encouraged to ask questions to a range of different professionals including people from the BBC, Channel 4, Into film and Creative Media. These individuals gave us lots of information about their jobs and... handed us a lot of leaflets! Furthermore, we were lucky enough to witness how special effects were done, though we did not have time to take part ourselves.

Finally we were able to take part in two different workshops. The first discussed paths into either television, film or the media, while the second allows us a hands on experience. All the workshops were thoroughly enjoyable, especially as we got to meet professionals who had worked on *Doctor Who*. We were also lucky enough to return to school with a range of contacts and opportunities we would not have had otherwise and would like to thank Ms Buckley and Mr Hill for organising the trip.

■ **Sam Gray**

Careers Department

This was a busy year, we packed a lot in and widened our network of university and employer contacts making it a great one for our pupils in terms of face to face meetings with inspirational people. Year 13 boys benefited from the expertise of professionals in the field of recruitment, law, business and medicine during tailored interview skills training before putting their newly polished skills to the test at our mock interview evenings. As ever we owe a debt of gratitude to our marvellous interviewers who gave their time and expertise for free. We send them all a very big thank you and look forward to many coming back again!

We rang the changes in Year 12 and worked with Mrs Parmar to pilot an inaugural 'Higher Education and Careers Fair'. More than 30 representatives including Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group and new universities, national and local employers, the Apprenticeships Service, gap year projects and the National Citizen Service were on hand to offer information and advice. The event was so successful that next year we plan to run it again, bigger and better and for all pupils from Year 9 upwards.



Year 11 boys have worked through a programme of careers lessons exploring their future options, had an individual careers interview with a professional careers consultant as well as researched and applied for work experience. A total of 103 placements were under-



taken in June and July with local, national and international organisations (one lucky young man did his placement in China!) Pupils developed their employability skills in university departments, banks, engineering companies, hospitals, GP surgeries, law firms, schools to name but a few! Well done to everyone – you have built up a wealth of skills as well as tested out your career ideas. Huge thanks to every employer that gave our pupils an insight into the world of work.

Year 10 have explored the differences between jobs and functions of the private public and voluntary sector and had the opportunity to interview professionals about why they chose their particular sector and how it impacts their working life. Year 9 enthusiastically took on Enabling Enterprise's Chocolate

Challenge – a day off timetable to work in teams on product design, branding, marketing and business planning. Everyone worked really hard spurred on by chocolate treats throughout the day.

We have developed our links with the Careers and Enterprise Company and school now benefits from an Enterprise Advisor who will help us to grow our network of inspiring professionals. The CEC will support us to monitor the effectiveness of our careers programme in line with Gatsby benchmarks – the gold standard for careers education. We look forward to informing, advising, challenging and inspiring our pupils again next term!

■ **D.A.W.**

■ **K.B.**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2018

Since introducing the scheme to Camp Hill Boys it has continued to flourish with a number of new achievements to recognise this season. Firstly, its popularity amongst the students continues to grow with seventy-five Year 11 students currently working towards the completion of their Bronze Award.

It is pleasing to note that after last year's cohort completed the Bronze Award, a number of students requested to continue onto Silver. This was new ground and they were the first to attempt this since the launch of the scheme, just four years ago. Sadly only ten students undertook the expedition phase, which involved two trips to various parts of



the Shropshire hills over a period of two nights. These were self-supported with the students carrying all their own food and camping equipment. I am happy to report that a number of these students have now completed all

the requirements, and I am sure that they are eager to include their accomplishment on their UCAS applications. Perhaps some of the others will find the time to finish those last few parts?

The proudest achievement is to recognise the efforts of two students who left the school this summer to take up places at Universities. Johannes Beckett and Siddhanth Jeti both completed the Gold Award. This is the pinnacle of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and is recognised formally by an invitation to St James Palace, here they will be presented with their Certificate and Badge by Prince Edward. To achieve their awards, they had to complete five activities. Johannes Beckett volunteered for a period of twelve months supporting the school and staff by assisting the 'Tech Team' at various functions during and after school. For the

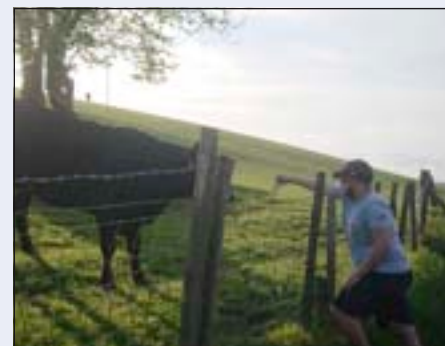


physical element of the award he concentrated on school hockey, becoming a "stalwart of the team" and a "reliable and a key defender". As part of the skills' element Johannes, practiced and improved at the trumpet, achieving a Grade *, this included him performing in a number of school bands. His expedition was taken over the four-day period in the Dark Peak area of the Peak District National Park. Luckily, he was blessed with some favourable weather making the navigation across open moorland a little easier. In addition, Gold Award students have to participate in a residential course and to satisfy this criteria Johannes volunteered to help with a conservation project in the Tyrolian Alps.

Siddhanth Jatti was the first to achieve the award. He volunteered at a Hindu Cultural Centre in Smethwick, helping to organise and deliver activities for the community. He was described as "helpful, enthusiastic and a friendly positive person", by his assessor. For the physical element of the course he undertook to learn how to sub aqua dive, joining the Sandwell BSAC. He learnt to dive in sheltered and open waters diving down to depths of 15 metres. A musician, Sid continued to hone his skills on the saxophone, performing in a number of bands in and outside of school. His expedition was across the Brecon Beacons and required a degree of fortitude as the weather was not kind and made the going tough. The residential was undertaken in Liverpool where he joined a number of others gaining understanding of research and laboratory skills. I hope that both young men enjoy their day out at the Palace and that their parents are there to watch.

Finally, I would like to recognise the support that I have received from staff and parents. This year I found it necessary to appeal to parents for help, particularly with the expe-

ditions. I received a great response and have been accompanied on a number of Bronze and Silver expeditions by several parents and past members of staff. Without the support of others, it would not be possible to deliver this important phase. I write this report having just completed another successful assessed expedition, with one more weekend to follow. Then the planning for the next group can progress in earnest. Congratulations to all those students who completed their Award this year and little nod to those who have a few remaining bits of paperwork to complete... get on with it!



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■ **K.D.** (Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Manager)

DofE Silver

Last year, a few Year 12s (current Year 13s) set out to complete the Silver DofE Award. With more dropouts than an episode of the Jeremy Kyle Show, it was obvious that not everyone was up to the task – with every passing day, it seemed that more and more of the group had given up, until we were left with only the finest, the fittest, the strongest that Year 12 had to offer.

Over the course of the year, all of the participants had – allegedly – been doing an hour of week of a skill, a physical activity, and some form of volunteering. These had to be continued over the course of several months – six months if you had done the Bronze Award, twelve if you had not – this also involved completing a short log of what you had done. Many of us were already doing these activities anyway, and the chance for us to get a formal qualification for something that would otherwise go unrecognised was unmissable.

Standing between us and those magical words on our UCAS applications, however, was a hurdle – the expedition. Three days and two nights camping in the English summer seemed to many of us like the worst way to spend a weekend; this, combined with a forecast for torrential downpours and upcoming mocks meant that the mood was glum – which naturally meant that Mr Downing was the happiest we had ever seen him.

After an extremely long coach journey during which our coach driver gave us a final glimpse of civilisation by taking us on a lap of the city, we arrived at our start point for our practice expedition. After a quick map check,



both groups started on the first day of walking. Despite a few encounters with the local wildlife, and with the help of a small journey on the minibus, both groups made it to the first campsite before dark. The next day was very much the same, with a slightly longer walk to cover throughout the day, shadowed by a member of staff who would be teaching us the map skills that we would need for our actual expedition. The final day was the conclusion to a surprisingly successful trip, with neither group getting too lost, a fact that was marred by the coach that had been hired to reunite us with the 21st century breaking down in Edgbaston. After a rescue mission from the ever magnanimous Mr Downing, we were finally able to get home, having learned many lessons that we would find useful in our assessed expedition.

The time for our assessed expedition had arrived, and with the weather being suspiciously pleasant, we were once more dropped off somewhere uncomfortably close to Wales. Unlike the practice, however, we would be getting no support from any of the staff – we had to make our own way to each meeting point on schedule, while also taking regular observations for our expedition aims. Both groups met on time at the first campsite, with the only slight hitch being the staff driving off with the fuel needed to cook with. The second day was even better – the fact that the route we had to take was almost the same as the one many of us had taken on the Bronze expedition meant that progress was swift, and there was even time for a leisurely lunch, with the warm sun and pleasant breeze meaning we were disturb-

ingly close to enjoying ourselves. The final day was possibly the best of all, if only because it meant that it was all over. In a cruel twist of fate – also known as Mr Downing – the minibuses were waiting on the other side of an incredibly steep ridge. Despite feeling as if the walk would never end, both groups gathered at the minibus at 3pm for the final time for the long drive back to school. All that is left to do now is to complete the other three activities that comprise the scheme.

All of us would like to thank Mr Carman, Mr Downing, Mrs Mitchell and Mr Taylor for giving up their weekends ensuring we all had an amazing experience.

■ **Shrey Bora**

DofE Bronze

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme is a programme that the school offers to students in Year 10 and above, consisting of four different areas needed to complete the course: skill, volunteering, physical and the two day, one-night expedition. It's such a fantastic opportunity and we were able to do interesting and exciting activities that we maybe wouldn't have been able to do otherwise, or at least not had the motivation to do.

Zac: For my skill, I did a course in scuba diving. It took place over the course of six weeks in which I would learn about the theory of scuba diving for the most part and some of the practicalities of scuba diving as well. Every Wednesday evening, I would head down to the lecture theatre and I would learn about all the necessary health and safety aspects of diving. On the poolside we would gear up and, for me at least, the first one or two practical sessions was getting a hang of how all the kit actually fits together. However, after all the theory there I had an open water dive which, in my humble opinion, makes it all worth it. I did my open water dive about five months ago so the water was absolutely freezing and it gets colder the further down you go. I did five dives over the course of a weekend and I went progressively deeper on each dive. On my final dive I went down 20m. At the end of my course and open water dive, I received the British Sub Aqua Club ocean diver qualification which allows me to dive anywhere up to 20m in depth. Thanks to this diving course, I met new people, learnt new things and made new experiences.

Sam: For my physical, I played hockey for my local team, Harborne Hockey every Tuesday for three months, I learnt how to improve my skills and tactics both on and off the pitch, especially when looking at decision-making and power. As part of the club, I played for the under 16 boys' team for the majority of my time, playing as a defender and goalkeeper,

which was a new position to me that I had been asked to try out due to a shortage of players. This allowed me to throw myself into the game and enjoy playing with different people in different positions, something which I had been apprehensive to do before, but which I know see as an enormous benefit. I also started playing for the men's fifth team at my club and this improved my fitness and technique massively, knowing that one slip up would cause me to get trampled on by six foot giants. Thanks to this great opportunity, I ended up increasing my physical capabilities and strength, as well as team work and at the end of the season went on to win U16 player of the year for my club. Overall, this experience has been one that has greatly impacted by sports life and I encourage anyone who is going to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme to throw themselves into whatever they're given because you never know what benefit you will be gain, even if it costs you a few broken teeth and toes.

Zac: For my volunteering I helped out at a Barnardos store over the course of a 3-month period. It not only helped to me gain awareness of the disadvantaged in my local community but also to gain experience working in a professional retail environment. Many of the tasks I had to perform there were quite menial and laborious but, that actually had a positive impact because it has prepared me for later life when I will have to work extremely hard to achieve highly. However, the laborious labour and professional experience weren't the only things I gained from my volunteering, I also met lots of new people ranging from staff members to fellow volunteers and even to customers. This just goes to show how enriching such volunteering can be for you as a person and your community.

Sam: The final part to the scheme is the expedition, which consists of being outside for twelve hours over two days and camping a night, all whilst being completely self-sufficient. The boys are expected to carry all their



equipment, cook their own meals and set up their own tents. In total, they will be walking about 25 kilometres, which may seem a lot, but honestly doesn't feel it. The participants go on a practice expedition over the Cannock Chase area and an assessed over the Long Mynd, both with their own difficulties as I'm sure anyone who has done it will tell you. There is also training to learn how to use the cooking stove, how to map read, how to put up a tent and how to administer first aid; all of which are essential skills which can be applied out of the expedition, and as such make it an incredibly rewarding and worthwhile experience.

In summary, we believe that the Duke of Edinburgh is an amazing experience and it should be embraced with open arms. The reasons for this are the aforementioned skills that will be developed during the expedition volunteering skill and physical aspects of the programme. The Duke of Edinburgh also allows you to make new friends and socialise with people you may not have otherwise. In addition, it stands out on a form and is one of the things employers look for when considering who to hire. Overall, this makes the Duke of Edinburgh an incredible asset here at Camp Hill.

■ **Sam Gray and Zac McGuire**

Quiz Report

In November 2017 the Schools Challenge Quiz teams made up of Seniors and Intermediates went to KES to compete in the regional round of the competition, in a competition of sixteen teams from across the Midlands. Our second team made it through to the quarter finals and the first team made it to the semi-final where they came up against a fast-buzzing KES team, however they stayed in the running through to the end. The competition was won by Shrewsbury who will go on to the National Finals.

Well done to our teams of Michael Fleetwood-Walker, Alfie Green, Tom Heppel and Peter Kippax and Hassan Hassan, Alex Byrne, Rohan Jobanputra, Sam Gray and Luke Hemmings. Year 12 and Year 13 both entered teams for the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz. In spite of being the last two teams to arrive out of forty-five and arriving somewhat flustered, the teams were soon to get into a positive quizzing rhythm – with six minds able to contribute towards each response – the wealth of knowledge shown by both teams enabled them to compete among the highest scorers. Judiciously holding back their joker rounds, both Year 13 (Camp Hill Zeta) and Year 12 (Camp Hill Eta) were in the rostrum positions by the end of eight rounds out ten. Both teams managed to hold their nerve and it was surprisingly Camp



Hill Eta who came out in second place resulting in Camp Hill Zeta winning the competition – gaining the trophy and a prize of £600 for the school. To cap it all Alex Prins' "Donald Trump" mascot also received a dishonourable mention. Well done to Alfie Green, Rohan Jobanputra, Alex Byrne, Ajay John, Ed Dempsey and Dominic Poole in the Year 12 runners up and Michael Fleetwood-Walker, Hassan Hassan, Rohan Kaya, Muhammad Ali, Victor



Kimani and Alex Prins.

This was the third win for the School in the six years that this competition has been run. It was not until March that the Lord Mayor Anne Underwood came to present us with the prize trophy and cheque in front of the whole school and relive the glorious outcome of November's events.

■ G.N.H.

HOUSE REPORTS

Beaufort

The Autumn Term was an incredibly successful term for Beaufort. We won almost all of the term events, securing a healthy lead over the other Houses as we went in to the Christmas break.

Despite not presenting a full team for one of our Senior 11-a-side football matches, we won the House Football championship. Our Junior and Intermediate football players also performed well, racking up plenty of points for the House. The Rugby championship also started well; our Intermediate boys won all three matches against some tough opposition and our Seniors were placed third in their competition. Cross Country standards are the highlight of the school calendar for many lower school boys and this year's standards were met with undiluted enthusiasm. Beaufort scored the most points in the Cross Country standards, putting us in a good position for the final. The Cross Country final itself was tough and first place was shared between Beaufort and Seymour, however because we had scored more points in the standards, Beaufort claimed the overall Cross Country championship. Well done everybody! Also very well done to House



Captain Victor Kimani, who stepped in at the last minute to make up the number of Senior runners, despite being injured.

Alex Prins, Jake Holloway, Victor Kimani and Dom Poole were our Senior Quiz team this year. Unfortunately the round on 'post-Boora era pseudo-ethics' proved to be a bridge too far for our emotional Seniors, and we didn't place as highly as we would have liked.

Badminton was also a tough event for Beaufort, where we placed fourth overall against some serious opposition. House

Basketball, however, was a major success for Beaufort. Across the three age groups we only lost one of our nine matches, scoring a whopping 16 championship points. Second place was Howard, who only scored 8 points overall. This excellent result pushed Beaufort into the lead in the overall House championship. Well done to Rohan Ram for organising the Senior team.

We have also enjoyed the pent-annual House Festival event this term. A huge amount of time and effort went in to organising the event and making sure that all boys were able to take part in something. The day saw a lot of superb costumes, some of them in House colours, and a jolly good time was had by all.

The Spring Term continued the sizzling glory-fest for the Beaufort boys. We entered the term in a strong position and immediately started building up on that. Kicking off with the Intermediate Quiz and House Chess, we were quick to pick up points by winning the Inters Quiz and coming second to Tudor in Chess. Then came the Swimming competition. All four houses did reasonably well in the standards, making the gala before half term even more exciting. Some excellent swims followed, with three of the four Victor Ludora being awarded to Beaufort boys! Congratulations

to Darius Maleki-Tooserkani, Joe Day and Henry Belai for their impressive accomplishments. Needless to say that we won the House Swimming competition, securing yet more points for the House.

The Rugby championship was brought to a close in the Spring term, with the completion of the Year 7, Year 8, and Senior 7s tournaments. While not winning any of these three categories, Beaufort gave the other houses a lesson in consistency, finishing second in each group. Our solid second place results from this term's Rugby combined with our Inters' first place finish, and the Seniors third place finish, combined to win us the overall Rugby championship. Excellent work!

At the end of the Spring Term we enjoyed the Hockey and Music competitions. The Hockey was a great spectacle; in the Senior section Seymour were the favourites and they won all three of their matches, but not without some strong resistance from the Beaufort boys. House Captain Victor Kimani, supported by fellow Year 13s Craig Stewart, Vamsi Pratapa and Alex Prins, smashed Tudor and Howard to pieces, literally and metaphorically, and managed to hold favourites Seymour off for only a 2-0 defeat. Goalkeeper Alex 'prefect' Prins made some incredible saves, leaving Mr Watkins wondering why Alex hadn't been a part of the school Hockey team. Along with the Intermediate team's solid effort, leading to one win, one loss and one draw, Beaufort shared second

place with Seymour. Howard claimed the top spot.

House Music brought a nice close to the term's House activity. Sam Gray, Connor Huss and Daniel Robinson delivered some great performances for the Junior section, while Senior Matthew Perrett earned top marks for his solo performance. Ryan Cheung, Craig Stewart and Jon Langan's rendition of Oh When the Saints was also an experience that happened. Well done to all of the boys, your effort is always appreciated.

The Summer Term was one of mixed success for Beaufort, where we came fourth in the Tennis and Table Tennis events overall. The Cricket competition came with a few surprises; our Year 8 team, who won last year, lost all of their matches to come fourth. Our confident Year 7 team shared second place with Seymour and Howard, watching Tudor clinch a rare victory. The Intermediate Cricket competition was closely matched, with Seymour and Tudor sharing first place and Beaufort and Howard sharing second. Inclement weather and the need to finish before study leave meant that Senior Cricket was an indoor 10-over event this year. Beaufort finished second to Seymour in the Senior section, and shared third place with Howard overall.

So as we approached Sports Day, the final event on the House calendar, the standings were still very close. Seymour were Beaufort's closest threat to victory and there were times

during Sports Day when 'new boy' Mr Burgess' yellow team were ahead of Beaufort on the Athletics score sheet. The Beaufort boys gave some excellent performances on Sports Day: Richard



Amoshe, Joe Day and Chude Ndozi were all awarded Victor Ludorum awards – well done! Other highlights include Rumun Ark finishing first in the Senior 400m race, Tom Heppel winning the 800m and Kareem Mehanna sharing the Triple Jump win with Emery Uzoma of Howard. An extra-special mention is due to Joe Day, who set a new Year 9 High Jump record. Next year he will have to try and beat the Year 10 record! All scores counted, Beaufort won the Athletics competition and with that, we convincingly won the House Championship for the second time in three years. Excellent!

Well done to all of the boys who have taken part or gone to support the House in an event this year.

■ **S.O.M.**

[Pictured above: Dylan Rogers with the Athletics Cup]

Howard

As the new academic year began, the House Championship started with excitement over the House Festival early in October 2017; having been the previous winners of the event Howard were eager to repeat history. With Great Spirit and even better costumes we were ultimately victorious meaning Howard will retain the House Festival trophy for an entire decade, a fantastic achievement and start to the year.

The boys pressed on during the Autumn Term with significant wins by both the Senior Rugby team led ably by Sid Sharma and the Senior Quiz team who continuously prove to be a strong asset for the House. In addition to this an overall second place finish in both the Football and Basketball put Howard in a credible position heading into the new year.

Despite a good start to the Championship, the Spring Term saw a change of fortunes with Howard being unable to finish strongly in the Rugby despite the effort of the Senior 7's team, who comfortably won all three fixtures with strong performances from Will Lyons and Josh Hall, who each displayed a fine array of skills. House Music and Chess proved to be more difficult however the term ended positively with the hockey players finishing first overall giving

a boost of confidence to the boys.

A relentless last push in the final Summer Term saw Howard secure victory in the Tennis despite the cancellation of the Seniors tournament. Emphatic victories by Aryan Singh, Milan Dawson, Sam Morris and Luke Hemmings were a pleasing sight to behold. Athletics is one of the biggest activities in the House Championship as so many boys participate. Although the title eluded us this year, we won the Relays Cup and should be proud for battling in whatever way we could, whether for Standards or during Sports Day. Many individuals performed outstandingly with Kamil Khan and Milan Dawson both winning the Victor Ludorum for their respective age groups. In addition to this, strong performances by the likes of Matthew Haddon and Josh Hall (who each achieved first place finishes) showed the strength of the Howard unit.

Upon reflection the Howard cohort should be proud of what we have achieved this year regardless of how the House Championship finally ended, and should eagerly look onto next year with high hopes. With hard work alongside the same amount of passion and drive it's only a matter of time before the Championship Shield is once again lifted by the boys in blue.

■ **Kamil Khan**

Seymour

Seymour once again started the year having been close to winning the previous year's Championship, but this has been the case for five years. However, for the first time in five years, the start of the year was also focused on the third House Festival celebrating the one hundred and tenth Anniversary of the house system and we knew we had done well in the previous House Festival in 2012. Knowing that the House Festival would have a rather large impact on the 2017/18 Championship, it was crucial to get a good start and to a certain extent, it was a good start, Seymour came second in the final House Festival standings, following further second places in the football and cross-country events. Highlights include the Seymour senior cross-country side having seven out of eight runners in the top fifteen. Daniel Higgins' individual win in the senior final also cemented a solid start.

Despite a good start to the year by the chaps in gold, the Beaufort boys had won six of the first eight competitions to give themselves a good lead. However, Seymour kept themselves within contention through solid performances including a three-way tie for first in the House Quiz. Seymour then won the music competition, propped up by a cracking

performance by the string quartet in the junior ensemble. But despite a valiant effort around Easter (fast becoming a tradition in Seymour!), the bar was set just a little too high by Beaufort and Seymour once again missed out on a House Championship.

Finally, a thank you to the six Year 13s who were marvellous (you know who you are) before and during the Festival. I would also like to thank Mr Watkins for his contributions and tireless dedication over the past seven years in his work as House Master, including an incredible amount of work on two House Festivals which as I found out this year, is no mean feat. Good luck to Mr Burgess and the new House Captain for this year.

■ **Tom Perry**

Tudor

As the year began, the Green Machine took to its marks, ready to battle its way to the top. Could the determination and commitment of the house, or the fresh blood of the Year Sevens, leave the other houses behind? Regardless of the scores, we ran the race and gave it our all.

The year started with the House Football Competition. The Seniors and Juniors both won their sections in the five-a-side, but it wasn't enough to secure an overall victory. This seemed to put the House under the weather somewhat, but then came the House Festival, giving new energy to the house and sending us to take on a wide range of events, including winning the Table Football.

The Badminton players went forth, doing well to come second, led by some very capable players. The Green Machine then went on to take the chess event, with players choosing to stay after school at the coldest part of the year. Our top swimmers represented us well in the Swimming Gala, with particular mention going to Abdur Sharif, who was placed highly in the Victor Ludorum, resulting in us coming second, before holding onto the Table Tennis trophy for the third year in a row. In the Tennis event, Karthik Bharadawaj and Aaryan Deshpande did well to put us in second, as did the cricketers, with special mention to Sanjay Suresh and Ajay Shingadia. In Music, special mention goes to Joe Thompson, Faraan Cheema and Judah Daniels, helping to gain second in that.

Overall, many members of Tudor have shown a strong commitment and great effort with people standing up to be counted. Unfortunately, we have been let down by our standards. I urge everyone to give their all next year, as with a firm foundation, we can rise to the top and win. The scoreline does not reflect the hard work and determination that is put in every year, by many, to make the Green Machine what it is today.

■ **Daniel Cole**

House Festival

On the 11th October 2017, Camp Hill Boys held its third House Festival, having had the tradition start back in 2008. Following months of preparation by students and staff alike, it came to be a memorable time for everyone. The day not only offered the students a chance to abandon their uniforms, but also to appreciate a day off timetable, during which time they could engage in the broad range of activities on offer.

The event itself started with a whole school assembly, allowing everyone to review some of the fancy costumes some of the boys-and teachers-were suited up in. The hall was an impressive sea of red, blue, gold and green. We then proceeded to assemblies within our own houses. Due to the fact that we were not only provided with a chance to participate in certain activities, but also to pick up some extra House points in the process, the Housemasters decided to use this opportunity with their house to deliver some "inspirational" speeches, in an attempt to increase their Houses' chance of winning the Championship that year. Once everything was sorted, the day truly began.

While some decided to sit back and play Fifa in the extravagance of room 6, others chose to excite themselves by running across

the sports hall to a series of beeps. Other pupils were given the opportunity to partake in sports events like rowing, or some chose to practise their French with Mrs Balkham. Another interesting event was robotics, where students would have their own robot traverse through an obstacle course at the flick of a switch. There was most certainly something for everyone, with activities ranging from the arts to curricular events; no one could say that they had nothing to do. Even when your own event had concluded, there was always another event to spectate.

The day ended, and while the four Houses all had their fair share of the excitement, it was Howard who were the ones to rack up the most points on the day. Each House celebrated a win in one of the sections – Arts, Curricular, Recreational and Sport. There were huge roars from the blue quadrant of the hall when Howard were announced as the overall winners. Regardless, the day turned out to be full of enjoyment and excitement, featuring a healthy mix of vibrant colours and entertaining activities (over 40 to choose from), coupled with an edge of a sense of competition and rivalry between the Houses. It will surely be a day to remember for all who took part. We are already anticipating the next one!

■ **Aadam Waheed**



Domestic Trips

Conway, North Wales Year 8 Residential Trip, 2018

So, where do we start? It was such an outstanding residential that we can only scratch the surface of its fun. Set in a beautiful location, with amazing food, great rooms and of course, our lovely teachers, without whom we wouldn't have been able to go on this trip in the first place.

We started our journey on a three-and-a-half-hour coach ride through half of England and all of Wales. It wasn't as bad as it sounds but we were very bored by the end of the journey. After 43 games of Exploding Kittens and poker we stopped off at a beautiful glacial lake called Cwm Idwal. After this pit stop we finished the final part of our journey and got off the bus. We were immediately astounded by how vast the building was and how much it resembled a prison with its barred windows and barren whitewashed walls. We were told which rooms we were in and who with and excitedly brought all of our bags upstairs to our rooms. Thankfully, I was only on the first floor so not too many stairs, unlike the people on the fourth floor, who got a pretty big workout on their way up.

Then the activities started. The first group of activities were puzzles and challenges that had to be done in a team to help us get to know each other better. Even though we were all exhausted after a long and tiring journey, we still, for some reason, decided to stay up until one hour past midnight, which I do not suggest for future years as this made us feel like zombies for the rest of the week.

The next morning we woke up to a lovely breakfast which prepared us well for the upcoming three hours of activities, the first of which was high ropes for our group. This consisted of three different obstacles. The third

obstacle was the scariest. This was a leap of faith. It was about fifteen metres in the air and once you climbed up the tree you had to stand on this very small platform, about half a meter long and as wide as the tree. From that standing position, you had to jump onto a monkey bar suspended in the air. Seems easy until you are up there with trembling knees struggling to take a step, never mind jump. Thankfully, all of our climbing activities were with harnesses on and everything was looked after by the experienced staff meaning that it was not dangerous at all.

After a filling lunch our second activity was canoeing. This activity was supposed to be pretty dry (ironically), however because of strong winds going one way and the current going the other, it made the Menai Strait very turbulent, meaning that we all got soaked. After that many of us decided to go for a swim but because of our waterproofs had elastic bands on the edges they all filled up with air and made us look like beach balls bouncing around in the waves. After a long, well-needed shower and dinner we had a choice of what to do. The main sources of entertainment were either a three-hour shower, an old movie, or you could play football or cricket outside. There was also orienteering which was run by Mr Garrod and cards and board games in the hall. Strangely, we all went to bed quite early as we all learned our lesson from the night before.

Wednesday was the day that we went on our main adventures to Aber Falls and then to the legendary Caernarfon Castle. Half of the year went to Aber Falls first and the other went to the Castle. The Falls were a sight to behold, with the heavy rain pounding on your backs as we made our way up. It was all worth it



as we were awestruck by the sheer power of the waterfall, the water gushing down with an immense force. As we were learning about the geography of the site, our eyes kept snapping back to the waterfall, much to the dismay of Mr Eckley.

Then, with the biology team, we tried to brave the rushing waters and see the amphibious species in their natural habitat. The constant falling of my companions into the water was incredibly funny until I – much to the humour of my friends – fell in, I am still having nightmares to this day. It is no laughing matter, unless it happens to other people, then it is funny. Battered and soaked, we returned to the sanctuary of the coach and headed to Caernarfon.

Caernarfon Castle is rich with history but, to be truthful, I have forgotten most of it! I





remember being astounded as I entered the ever looming gates of the Castle. The Castle offered a wide range of historical facts as we were led by an expert tour guide, who answered every question without even batting an eye. The day was a highlight of the trip and I could say wholeheartedly that the day was a success, and we all came back knowing something, perhaps that Wales has a lovely, rich history or the sun just doesn't like us. When we got back to the Centre, we had some delicious food in our bellies, and a run around. I can't vouch for everyone, but I passed out before my

head touched the pillow that night.

The following day was another activity day, and my final activity was mountain biking. There is no greater feeling then rushing down a mountain with the wind blowing in your face. The mountain biking was open to everybody from veterans to new starters, with instructors helping beginners and a more advanced course available for the more experienced cyclist. After dinner there was an unforgettable moment in the trip – the awards ceremony. Where the teachers brought some chocolate for people who went above and beyond for all

sorts of reasons. For example, I got an award for falling into the river three times consecutively, and I am proud of it. As it dawned on us, this was the last time we will be sleeping in our dorms.

On Friday, we enjoyed our last meal in Conway, and made our way back onto the coach – and much like the trip – the three and a half hours went like dust in the wind. Finally, Year 8 would like to thank our teachers, especially Mr Watkins, without whom, this trip wouldn't be possible.

■ **Paul Kelly and Hasan Syed**

Y9 Visit the Imperial War Museum

July 2018

The end of the academic year, 2017–18 saw a group of 60 boys travel to London to experience the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. The boys had been studying the Holocaust in History during the Summer Term and this was a consolidation of this study to experience testimony and artefacts of the period.

It was an early start in order to arrive at 10am for a tight schedule for the day. The boys split into two groups so that they could fit everything in, albeit, in a different order. Each group, in turns, took part in an introductory session with a member of the Education Team at the museum. Here, the focus was on what questions we might want to ask whilst going round the exhibition and to focus on a particular artefact which aroused interest. The boys then attended the exhibition itself, which takes a chronological theme showing Jewish life in Europe before the Nazis then the descent through discrimination and persecution to genocide. Following a feedback session where the boys brought back their findings for discussion, the boys could then look round the museum, with particular interest being shown

in the First World War, Peace and Security and Witnesses to War galleries and, of course, the souvenir shops.

Although this was a serious and sobering day with the boys showing extreme empathy and respect for all victims, it was also a chance to enjoy a day out in London. The boys were also being prepared, unawares, of what GCSE History entails! Thanks to all the staff involved: Mr Hill, Mr Rudd and Mr Jackson (his swan song!).

■ **I.M.C.**

A group of Year 9 pupils set out from Camp Hill at what certainly felt like a very hour, to start the long journey from Kings Heath to the Imperial War Museum, London. Everyone got into a coach, and we began our expedition. Several hours later, we arrived only around half an hour after we were due to, and split into two groups, one of which would experience the Holocaust Memorial exhibition while the other was free to roam the many other exhibitions of the Museum.

Due to our delayed arrival, the group that went through

the Holocaust Memorial exhibition first received a curtailed version of the introductory talk, which drew our attention to various objects within the exhibition and encouraged us to think about the objects and exhibits, rather than the information which we could just as easily access online. We were then given audio guides to carry with us, these had approximately minute-long sections that guided us around the key points in the exhibition. These audio-guides were, as we discovered, a near-perfect device, keeping us in respectful silence, whilst also providing both emotive and informative commentary. The exhibition itself was a harrowing and thought-provoking reminder of the Holocaust's actuality. It brought the reality of Nazi atrocities home to us in a way that





any amount of classroom discussion and study simply could not. Especially harrowing were the images of Allied forces “cleaning up”, for

want of a better word, in Bergen-Belsen. Our muted silence after leaving the exhibition is a testament to the power of its message.

After a brief lunch break, we split into smaller groups of around three or four to explore the rest of the Museum at our leisure. The Imperial War Museum boasts many different exhibitions spread across three floors, but the main attraction is the exhibition on the First World War, which takes up all of the first floor. It hosts a multitude of objects from 1914–18 and explains the many details of the “War to end all wars”. Perhaps most impressively, it includes a small, life-size example trench, which was just realistic enough to give

us a slight idea of how terrible the reality of trench warfare must have been. The Museum also had exhibitions on WWII, the Cold War, the Troubles and many other more modern conflicts, along with the gradual advancement of military technology. The hours we spent in these various areas seem a blur, but were certainly most interesting and informative.

Finally, the two halves joined back together, and we filed back into the coach, to begin the long drive back to Camp Hill. All in all, going to the Imperial War Museum was an informative, enjoyable (in parts), and harrowing (in others), experience which cannot be overpraised. Our thanks go to Ms McCulloch and the History Department for organising the trip.

■ **Connor Huss and William Pettifer**

Warwick Castle Visit

On 16th May 2018 all Year 7 embarked on their journey to visit Britain’s premier medieval attraction. Worksheets and clipboards at the ready, the students eagerly embarked on their carousel of activities which enabled them to learn more about the development of castles during the Middle Ages and their afterlife as playgrounds for the rich and curious.

Staple favourites such as the rampart walk gave us insights into how castles could be defended, as well as how they imposed their authority over the surrounding landscape. A climb of the motte – the most ancient part of the castle – gave us commanding views of the Avon valley and the chance to glimpse the Malvern Hills on the horizon.

With gimmicks galore the ‘Time Tower’ (formerly Ghost Tower and Princess Tower!) talked us through the history of the castle and the outcomes of some of its more illustrious and infamous owners. The boys wandered and wondered through the Great Hall with its splendid displays of arms and armour, taking particular interest in the firearm technology of the early modern period – yet to be employed in Fortnite.



We also enjoyed the nightmares in wax which constitutes the Kingmaker exhibition, seeking to tell the potted history of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick leading to his sad final ending in a themed gift shop. Notwithstanding the rampant commercialism, we enjoyed watching the great trebuchet launch its projectile and the impressive display of falconry on steroids. A great hit with the boys was the Horrible Histories maze, in spite of Shaheer’s best efforts, nobody was permanently lost.

As a visit it was imbued with a spirit of bonhomie with a genuine interest and excitement demonstrated by the boys, with a last activity watching the archer continually miss his target (and making

a few digs at the French), our wearied squires returned to their iron steeds for a prompt return to school. The visit inspired the work of Year 7 students in producing their project on castles and creating some fantastic models – both from cardboard and using Minecraft. We look forward to our visit again next year.

■ **G.N.H.**



Rock Climbing

Y9/Y10 Trip to St David's, July 2018

One of the smallest and least well-known trips that Camp Hill runs is the annual St David's rock-climbing trip, however, for me, it has been one of the best. The trip is open to Years 9 and 10 and happens after exams. St David's is the smallest city in the UK and is situated on the Pembrokeshire coast and is half a day's minibus ride from Kings Heath, but with the regular service station stops and a variety of tunes from Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor the trip was fun.

This year we had the good luck to have had the trip taking place during one of our summer heatwaves, helping the relaxed atmosphere and giving the opportunity of outdoor activities until late, due to the pleasant evenings. As we arrived, we first had to pitch our tents, this year in our own separate field, with a huge area to run around and play various games in. There was also a large communal and cooking marquee, where we assembled every day for food. On the first evening we went for a walk down to where our first climb would be and looked along the coast and at the sunset.

During our first morning on site, we all had breakfast in the marquee, before collecting equipment, including helmets, harnesses and climbing shoes provided by the school. We then took the short walk down to the first site and started climbing, with the five routes being run by the teachers. We all managed to



do at least three each. That afternoon we took a short walk into town to visit the cathedral and some local shops, before visiting a beach a few miles away in the evening. For the climbs on the second day, we went down a large descent to the sea before climbing up, rather than abseiling down at first as we had done on the other two days. All of the climbs were fun and everyone managed to complete some,

and the more confident climbers adapted the routes to make them more challenging. After this, we cooled off with a swim in the cove, with many people diving into the deep pools.

On our final climbing day, we went further down the coast and did four climbs there, being lowered down almost to sea level. There was also an optional fifth climb, much longer than the others for people who were up for a





challenge. Afterwards there was also a trip to a small nearby beach, where had fun in the sea and discovered crabs and jellyfish in the rock-pools. Later in the evening we visited a local village and had the option to play pool in a local bar, or climb a small hill by the harbour to watch a spectacular sunset. The trip back home the following day was just as fun with a well-deserved rest after the exhausting, but brilliant adventure.

Overall, the trip was an amazing experience which I have been lucky enough to go on twice and would highly recommend to anyone considering it in future. Many thanks go to Ms Bourne, Mr Burgess, Mr Taylor, Mr Hardy and Mr Downing, and especially Mr Bruten for his organisation and experience and of course to Mr Cookson, who is still imparting his wisdom to students after all these years!

■ **Fintan Hogan**

Wimbledon 2018

On Wednesday 4th July 2018, seven Camp Hill boys, accompanied by Mr Jones and Mr Duncan, set off for SW19 in anticipation of a day of great tennis at Wimbledon. Due to our early arrival, we were able to take in the atmosphere and see around an hour of action on the outside courts, before play was scheduled to begin at 1pm on Court 1.

The order of play on Court 1 looked extremely promising, and the matches did not disappoint. We were lucky enough to see five time champion Venus Williams first up, in a match which saw her come back from a set down to claim victory in an extremely entertaining encounter. The second match was perhaps even more exciting, and also saw the first major upset of the day, with Ekaterina Makarova holding her nerve to clinch a three set victory over second seed and Australian Open champion, Caroline Wozniacki.

In the final match of the day, we saw men's

third seed Marin Cilic in action against Guido Pella. This match may have been the least competitive, but no less impressive as the serving and baseline hitting from Cilic was unquestionably brilliant. Unfortunately, as is tradition at Wimbledon, rain brought play to a halt in the middle of the third set so we decided to make our way back to Birmingham. While we would have liked to see the whole match, we were not too disappointed as we felt it would only take a matter of minutes the next day for Cilic to seal victory. Ironically, Pella turned the match around the next day and went on to win in five sets!

Nevertheless, it was a fantastic trip, especially for those making their first visit. The skill of all the players was amazing to see and is something that is never captured fully on TV. On behalf of everyone that went on the trip, I would like to thank Mr Jones and Mr Duncan for accompanying us on what was a memorable day.

■ **Ajay John**



Y12 Vihara Trip

On the 3rd July 2018 the Year 12 Religious Studies students set out on their mission to achieve enlightenment, by visiting two Buddhist Viharas on a Tuesday afternoon. The Viharas each belonged to two different schools of Buddhism – Mahayana and Theravada; both of which we have studied during the first year of the A-level course and we were intrigued to find out how Buddhist beliefs, which originated in Asia, were implemented in Western society.

We first visited the Mahayana Vihara, which to our surprise was a fairly modern building which was intended not just for Buddhists, but also for the local community and which held regular yoga and meditation classes. While there we had an open discussion with an ordained member of Triratna Order who gave us a brief history on how this branch of Buddhism came into being. We were then given the opportunity to discuss the ethics of Buddhism, as well as ask questions about other aspects of their religious beliefs, for example,

“Do you believe in ghosts?” This discussion gave us a lot of food for thought, as it highlighted how diverse Buddhism is in terms of individual beliefs and how many more layers there are to this already complex religion.

The Theravada Vihara had a much more traditional Buddhist vibe to it, consisting of a simple room with collection of ornaments, pictures and traditional items, surrounded by an idyllic garden. We had the opportunity to participate in rituals which may be carried out by the monks who live on-site. Although we were not able to talk to them we were able to have a discussion with an ex-monk who taught us how to chant and meditate in different ways and then demonstrated what he used to do as a monk in Asia.



We gained a lot of insight into what the lifestyle of a monk is like and why they act in these ways.

We would like to thank our hosts for their hospitality and Ms Freeman and Ms Lamb for putting together this once in a lifetime trip, which has further spurred on our passion for the subject, making us look forward to studying Buddhism in more depth!

■ **Gurvinder Bhojie**

Y10 Mandir Trip

On Monday 2nd July 2018 the Year 10 Religious Studies students went on a day trip to the impressive Shri Venkateswara Mandir in Dudley to inform our study of Hindu practices at GCSE. After arriving we had an inspirational talk from our volunteer guide, Ram. He spoke to us about the significance of Hinduism in his life, and gave us some background to the temple itself. We then went to the main shrine, where we observed a Hindu priest taking part in a religious prayer and blessing ceremony. Some of us took the opportunity to receive a blessing of sugar water from the priest in order to enter into the atmosphere of the place of worship.

Then we walked around the temple grounds, visiting four other shrines, these included ones dedicated to Chiva and Ganesh. This gave us the chance to appreciate the architecture and design of the temple itself, which included hand carved stone from India. The day ended



with us having lunch on the scenic temple grounds. Overall, the day was incredibly enlightening and a very enjoyable experience.

■ **Ahmed Iqbal and Samyak Jain**



Foreign Trips

Battlefields Tour

The annual Year 10 History Tour to Picardy and Flanders was again a magnificent experience for staff and pupils alike. Leaving school in the early hours of a Friday morning, we crossed the Channel and made a fresh start exploring the Ypres Salient. The first port of call was the cemeteries at Brandhoek to the west of Ypres to familiarise ourselves with the style of the Western Front Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, to pay our respects to two old boys of Camp Hill just eighteen graves apart in the corner of a foreign field. We moved on to dine at the Hooze Crater Museum and were pleased to explore their new reintropations of German and British trenches before visiting the beautiful British Cemetery across the road, resplendent in the early summer sunshine. A quick visit into Ypres to the Menin Gate finished our first day, Mr Bulloch was particularly pleased to encounter an American Scots Pipers' Band who let rip with some ballads from the auld country. We settled into the hotel and enjoyed our first evening meal and could enjoy games and relaxation on the terrace.

An early start and a hearty breakfast prepared us for day two on the Somme. It amazes me how many parts of the battlefield we could visit in the space of one day, as well as a trip to the Supermarché to forage for lunch. From the successes of Montauban to the disaster of the Newfoundlanders at Beaumont Hamel, it was a day to stick in the memory. It culminated in a visit to the Thiepval Memorial, the greatest monument to the British dead on the Western Front.

We returned to the Ypres Salient on day three and succeeded in avoiding the thunderstorms which could be seen in the near distance. Starting with a fascinating visit to the German trenches in Bayernwald and moving



up the Messines Ridge we visited the sombre cemeteries of Essex Farm, Langemarck and Tyne Cot, both of which were filled during the Passchendaele campaign of 1917. We also succeeded in a first time visit to the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery with its focus on being a field hospital (Casualty Clearing Station) to consider the key developments of military medicine during the First World War.

The final day was an international themed day – we visited the Vimy Ridge Memorial which commemorates Canadian sacrifice in this region fighting to gain this crucial strategic landmark overlooking the coalfields of the Douai/Lens region. This gave us a chance to explore the tunnels which were crucial to ensuring the element of surprise in the assault in April 1917. We then moved to pay respects to Australian troops who died in the futile Battle of Fromelles in 1917 as an effort to deflect attention away from the Somme. Our final coach stop prior to Calais was at Neuve Chapelle where we visited the down-at-heel Portuguese Cemetery reflecting a reluctant participation by the nation in a divisive war, this was followed by visiting the beautiful Indian Memorial next door, honouring those troops deployed from the sub-continent to fill gaps in the British



lines in 1915.

Huge thanks need to go to Parc Hotel in Carvin and Johnson's Coaches for providing us with our basic needs. The boys departed themselves with suitable decorum throughout, and had an enjoyably fraternal time, in spite of tiredness by the end. The greatest thanks go to the staff, Mr Duncan standing in at short notice to take part in the trip for the first time and Messrs Southworth and Bulloch offering their unfathomable expertise and knowledge to literally take us to parts other battlefield tours cannot reach.

■ G.N.H.



Srebrenica

On the 18th February 2018, a fairly bleary-eyed group of Camp Hill boys and Mrs Nijran were ready to take part in the trip to Bosnia, organised by the charity **Remembering Srebrenica** and the **Young Leaders in Schools Programme**. This was a first, Camp Hill had never sent a delegation on this trip. But we were not alone, with us were groups of similar sizes from Solihull College, Newport High School and George Dixon. After the early start and a couple of flights, the whole group was ready to spend the afternoon settling into their rooms in Hotel Hollywood. All that is except our exuberant mentor/guide: Rešad. He had a whole day of activities to fit in to our busy schedule.

Firstly though, before we set out to take part in the more light hearted elements of the trip, Rešad gave us a speech detailing the war and his own perspective on it. He was a soldier fighting in Sarajevo on the Bosnian side, although the trip was nominally to learn about the genocide in Srebrenica, in many ways the siege of Sarajevo was just as horrific. It is difficult describe everything that he wanted to tell us here, but we condensed it down to a couple of quotations: *"There is no cause great enough to have to give your life for..."* and *"It is no guarantee of peace to live in relative harmony for a period of time..."* Some students at Camp Hill have heard Rešad speak when he came into school and would agree that these are his (and the Charity's) main messages: remember the atrocity of Srebrenica and other similar genocides in order that we can prevent them. He stressed that getting to know your neighbours is a vital part of this, thus with greater sympathy and tolerance for our differences we can avoid the build-up of the hatred that leads horrific events like this.

On the first day the group we paid a visit to the Tunnel Museum and this gave us a



real insight into the extent of the siege that occurred at Sarajevo. Lasting 47 months, the inhabitants of Sarajevo were constantly under threat as the front line was only a couple hundred metres from their houses. The only access route and exit was from the 800m long tunnel into Bosnian territory. Soldiers like Rešad had to carry 35 kg backpacks and travel stooped over through the 1.6m high tunnel. In the event of a blockage, people would be stuck for hours on end in these conditions. The rest of the first day was spent on a brief tour of Sarajevo, of which the most notable part was the various

influences on the architecture of the city: Ottoman in the centre, then reaching outwards was the Austrian influence and the outskirts were dominated by the more modern so called socialist buildings. The highlight was the food in Sarajevo, the town's specialty being pies with various fillings.

Day two was primarily about experiencing Sarajevo and learning about the history of the country. We first drove uphill to see the different places of worship: a Mosque, a Synagogue, and a Church. The proximity of the places was striking and to see how all these religions were living harmoniously together was amazing. However, this was in stark contrast to the other part of Sarajevo. It was as if this part of Sarajevo was still living in the war that took place twenty-three years ago, with abandoned buildings scattered along the desolate streets. Afterwards, we visited the City Hall of Sarajevo, otherwise known as Vijećnica. We learnt that the building's library was burnt down in 1992 due to Serbian shelling during the siege of Sarajevo. The majority of the books, unfortunately could not be salvaged. The building took eighteen years to be fully repaired and reconstructed, with the interior of the building being renovated in the style of its original design. It was amazing to see how parts of the art had been mended, matching the high quality handcrafted original, compared other parts which remained untouched from one hundred and eighty eight years ago.

Our final visit of the day was to the War Childhood Museum. This was the most moving experience of the trip so far. Within the Museum, were a collection of objects that had belonged to the children in Sarajevo who were there during the siege. These objects served as reminders of what they went through during the war in Bosnia. Alongside these objects were short summaries, which told of their horrific experience. For example, a blue bunny was donated to the museum by a war child. Alongside it was its story: *"I don't remember my brother. He was only a little bit older than me. They took him from my mother's arms and killed him. We fled from our home without a chance to lock the door behind us. Then we lived in a refugee camp. This blue bunny was the only thing that brought me joy. Its colour and smile brightened the gloomiest days. I donated the rest of my toys, keeping only my bunny."* Meliha, 1991, Visegrad.



There were countless other memories, just like this one, each one with a special meaning. It was here that we realised just how devastating the war had been to the people of Bosnia. In addition to these objects, there was a video, which featured the grown up children discussing their experiences – showing what a major impact the war had had and how they had felt. We ended the day with the journey back to our hotel. However, the mood of the group was completely different compared to the morning. All of us were in a state of shock after learning about what the people of Bosnia had to endure.

Day three was the day in which the entire trip would coalesce as we visited Srebrenica. It was a long bus journey from Sarajevo, three hours, giving us time to ponder over what we would be faced with. The mundaneness of snowy hills littered with trees was suddenly replaced by the arrival at the site. None of us knew what to expect. Arriving at the museum, just metres from the abandoned Dutch base, to which refugees flocked in hope of safety, we surveyed the surroundings. It had an atmosphere of eerie normality. The small field could have been one on the outskirts of Birmingham. The road down which we walked, the same road that the Serbian forces took when advancing on unarmed refugees, could have been any road in any country.

We sat in the museum where we first listened to Hasan Hasanovic, a survivor who lost his twin brother and father, talk about the mounting tensions from a Bosnian perspective. He chillingly told us of how he and his friends made the best of their time in a besieged Sarajevo. He told us how they so wanted to believe they were kids in a normal city and how they would regularly play football together. He told us the story of one such game. He and his friends were playing when younger children asked to use the pitch, and in the spirit of camaraderie, under such shared horrific circumstances they sat to take a break. A grenade fell from the sky and Hasan was knocked out, only waking to find that he was the only survivor. Experiences such as these are missed by simply reading about events, the detail and humanity is lost in broad statistics so commonly cited that those uninvolved become desensitised.

We then watched a documentary revealing further horrific stories, recorded by Serbian officials; six muslim men were captured and

bound, led into a secluded field and lined up and murdered. Of the six, two were to remain alive for the sole purpose of moving the bodies before themselves being shot. We then heard from a Srebrenica mother Fatila, who had lost her son and her husband as they sought refuge in Srebrenica. Their remains were undiscovered until over a decade later, she herself had not known about the manner of their deaths either. She spoke emotionally about her personal strife and grief, and explained that many

other mothers, wives and sisters had died without knowing what had happened or where the remains of their families were. She shared with us her reason for returning to the site of the atrocity that claimed her family: to enhance and enrich her daughter's life and to keep the memory of this recent genocide intact.

Finally, before returning to Sarajevo, we visited the mass grave for the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, where every known victim was named in a list of over six thousand

names. It was truly moving to see parts of the list including over twenty members of the same family; eradicated from existence. On the coach journey back we were lost in thought, not knowing what to say or how to react. What we agreed on was to take the opportunity to make small changes in the way we behave and interact with others to prevent any larger rifts forming within our wider society.

■ **Rohan Aggarwal, Salim Ahmed and Danny Blyth**

International Olympiad for Astronomy and Astrophysics

In Spring of last year (2017), I decided that I wanted to take the AS Physics Challenge, an offshoot of the British Physics Olympiad, in order to push myself further. However, I had no idea that this Challenge would feed into the International Olympiad for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), or even that the IOAA existed, until I first saw the paper.

The IOAA is the newest international Olympiad, it began in 2007. In the 10 years of growth, it has reached about 45 countries, and remains one of the fastest growing Olympiads. The competition is split into a 50% theory, 25% data analysis and 25% observation and, unusually for an Olympiad; it takes place in November/December, as opposed to July/August. This year, the IOAA was in Thailand for its tenth anniversary, and was in November 2017. These timings meant the IOAA sat in the university term, and so the committee made the decision to select from Year 12 students, resulting in this selection from the AS Physics Challenge.

Our school produced a number of top grades in the AS Challenge, including an impressive 32/50 for Oliver Jones, placing him in the top 10. However, as only one student from each school was allowed to the selection camp, I was the only one allowed to progress further. The IOAA selection camp took place in the Easter holidays, in tandem with the IPhO selection camp. We had to get ourselves up to speed in astrophysics beforehand, and were then given three days of intense sessions, made bearable by being punctuated with small breaks, with free food. After three days, I fought through a caffeine addiction brought on by the free Pepsi, to complete short theory and data analysis papers, before returning home.

To my complete surprise, given I'd taught myself everything I knew about astrophysics and astronomy in the two weeks preceding the camp, I was selected. What followed was several months of hard, all consuming work. Alongside three training camps, I had a huge amount of self-teaching and memorisation to

do, and it wouldn't have been possible without my teachers waiving homeworks, and letting me skip lessons to work on these tasks. In the end, I had a (hopefully) working knowledge on cosmology, stellar evolution, the night sky, and everything in between.

So, after 7 months of work, I left school at lunchtime, and travelled to Heathrow for my flight to Thailand. Once arriving, we were split from our mentors, got to meet our guide, Meow, and got our first views of the accommodation. The IOAA was hosted in Phuket (pronounced Boo-Ket), a tourist city in southern Thailand, and so the hotel complex was luxurious. Being in four-star accommodation is always nice, especially when someone else is paying! The swimming pools were a lovely touch, given that, even in November, Thailand was hot, and those swimming pools were a perfect place to meet other teams.

From the moment we arrived, we began a hectic week of activities. It began with an opening ceremony which was being presided over by a Thai princess. This meant that, before the opening ceremony, we had to pass through metal detectors, and be taught the correct etiquette, resulting in the first of many early awakenings. After enjoying some free time in the complex, we were thrown straight into the data analysis exam the next morning. This exam was the first time I'd done a four-hour exam under such conditions, and so I was nervous, but managed to work my way through both questions in the time set.

Data analysis in the IOAA is quite different from school. There aren't any marks available for finding medians, ranges or means. Instead, it focuses on manipulating data into a usable fashion. To give an example, the first question in the data analysis was on Cepheid variables. These are stars that oscillate in brightness, and their intrinsic brightness can be linked to the period of oscillation. In this question we were given measurements for the distance to some of these stars, along with their peak brightness at earth, and their period of oscillation. Our task was to take this data, derive our own period-brightness relation, and then use this to find the distance to the Large Magellanic cloud.

Over the next few days, we had a chance to relax. This came partially in the form of an excursion, where we got to see a dolphin show,

and enjoy the Phuket Botanical Gardens. However, the time I most enjoyed was the free time at the hotel, where people were finally adjusting to jet lag, so everyone was conscious at the same time. This meant that I finally got to meet so many of the teams in the pool, while playing football or playing cards.

The next day, we had our theory exam, which promised to test us in every way possible. With questions on some very weird parts of astronomy, I had to try and work out whether a great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn could be responsible for the star of Bethlehem, and where in the sky it would have appeared. In another question, I had to work out where I was on the earth from some astronomical data of Rigel. For me, the exam went a bit wrong, as I spent 90 of my 300 minutes of question 11, and managed to score a dismal 7/50 on it, so I came out of the exam feeling nervous.

The next day, we had the daytime observation exam. A full 25% of each IOAA is on observation, and so the Thai had planned two possible nights for observing the night sky. Unfortunately, they were both raining, and so the entire observation part came down to 7 questions, in the daytime observation. This daytime observation was a exam new to this Olympiad, and was based on tasks such as identifying planets, and setting a telescope correctly. I felt that I'd done alright in this exam, but as I had little to compare it to, I wasn't fully sure. Amusingly, due to the format of the test, only one person could do it at a time, and, by some quirk of statistics, I was the first person to attempt it. This meant that afterwards, when we were moved into another isolated location, I had five minutes to eat as much food as possible, before other people started trickling in.

With all formal exams finished, we had a few days of rest. On the first day, we had a team competition, with the teams made up of students from different countries. This was a chance for us to once again mingle with other teams. This competition demanded a huge amount of teamwork, as we were working to a harsh time limit, and the pressure essentially destroyed the language barrier, as we conversed in any way we could. This was then followed up by a culture night, where we got to see our mentors again, for the first time since the opening ceremony. Then, on the last day

before the closing ceremony, we had another full day excursion, with more sightseeing. We also had the chance to go into a few tourist shops, and the Americans introduced me to the taste of durian.

So, after a week in Thailand, we reached the closing ceremony. With no royal host this time, we were able to get up a bit later. The ceremony was an exciting affair, with a final chance to get photos, and say good luck to the other teams. In

the end, our team got three bronze medals and a silver medal, with me getting bronze. With a now cheery team, we spent an afternoon in Phuket before flying home to Heathrow. From receiving the medal, to a chemistry reception in the Goldsmith's Hall, about 32 hours later, I took off the medal once, at airport security.

And so, my seven months of work came to an end. I'd gone from not knowing the IOAA exists, to coming 39th in the world. I'd like to

thank my Physics Department, for helping me take the exams, and the Dr Hudgeson for giving me so much freedom in the months of September and October to study for the competition. I would recommend that anyone who gets an opportunity to go on an Olympiad takes it. Having been on two, I can confirm that they're all unique competitions, made different by those who attend them.

■ **John Hayton**

Model UN Conference

In early March 2018, Alfie Green, Ibrahim Ezzeldin and Navaneeth Natarajan of Year 12 and Matthew Blaney and Rohan Kaya of Year 13 left for New York to attend the 3-day FWWMUN Conference (Future We Want Model United Nations) at the United Nations. The conference involved each student participating in debates in individual committees, while representing a randomly selected country, and proposing different resolutions to solve crises, thus replicating the United Nations. We were fortunate to receive a scholarship from FWWMUN and gain free accommodation for the majority of our stay in New York. This trip was also in part funded by the AFS, which we are incredibly grateful for.

On Friday 9th March, after a long and delayed flight, we registered at the conference and checked into our hotel and attended the opening ceremony where we were welcomed to the conference and listened to guest speakers. This took place in the Grand Ballroom of one of the Hilton Hotels in New York, in order to fit all 2700 people in! In this case, we were very fortunate to have two guest speakers: their Excellencies the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Norway to the UN, the latter of whom is also the current President of UNICEF. The conference was focused on the UN's current targets: Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, these are targets set in order to try to help and encourage countries to develop. The SDGs are focused on a variety of things, such as access to food, water, justice and education as well as equality, infrastructure and the environment.

On Saturday, having received our UN security passes in the morning, we proceeded to go to the rooms each of our committees were

meeting in. For Alfie (Vietnam) and Kaya (Poland) in the Economic and Financial Council. The debate was on the topic of Access to Clean Water and Sanitation (Sustainable Development Goal 6). The discussion went through several different issues, such as water pollution, the role of foreign investment and the need for countries to work together. While the thoroughness of the discussion was helpful in terms of ensuring issues were effectively dealt with, it meant that we had to rush the resolution process and didn't have time for making amendments. Three resolutions were submitted in the end, including two by Kaya and Alfie. In a committee with around 130 voting nations, Slovakia's was failed comfortably and Vietnam's (Alfie's) was narrowly defeated 70 votes to 60, but Poland's (Kaya's) was passed with an overwhelming majority.

Ibrahim was in the Social and Humanitarian Committee representing Turkey on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. His country's position left him at odds with most of his committee due to his country's concern over giving away a lot of political ground to the Kurds – most other countries shared an opposing opinion. Unfortunately, he was unable to defeat the resolution which was passed, due to the overwhelming support for it in the committee despite its rather extreme propositions, although he managed to rally some moderate countries against it.

Matt was in the Disarmament and International Security Council – and was tasked with representing Switzerland on the issue of Nuclear Disarmament. His resolution created a Nuclear Powers Summit Organisation to meet

regularly, to be attended by all nuclear states including India, Pakistan and Israel, it included provision for the denuclearisation of North Korea and further talks for peace between North and South, and it surreptitiously furthered Swiss banking and tax evasion. Still, this went unnoticed by most and he got it passed with an overwhelming majority.



Nav was in the Security Council – the most senior of all the councils being simulated and also the one where the delegates tended to have more experience, with some having done about twenty conferences to our two to five. It was made up of the fifteen current member states and debated two topics: North Korea and the threat of mines to International Peace and Security. Paired with a delegate from Germany, Nav represented Sweden: a country with aims to enable peaceful negotiation and deliver humanitarian aid. The sessions were full of interesting debate and resulted in two resolutions being passed – one on each topic – both of which Nav supported.

On Sunday, after the final committee sessions finished, we attended the closing ceremony where His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the UN spoke. As always at Model UN conferences, awards were given out for participation in the debate based on how accurate to your country's views you were and how well you helped the debate develop. We managed to win two of these awards, a somewhat impressive achievement considering there were five of us and over 2700 people there in total, especially as both of ours came in the same 350-person committee: EcoFin. These were an 'Honourable Mention' for Alfie and a 'Best Delegation' awarded to Kaya and his partner.

When the committee sessions were not on, we spent our time sightseeing around New York, visiting the Empire State Building and Central Park, taking a ferry around the Statue of Liberty and even checking out Trump Tower! On the whole, this was an incredibly valuable and enjoyable experience for all of us who went, and we would like to thank the AFS for the bursary they gave us, and Mr Garrod for letting us have time off school.

■ **Ibrahim Ezzeldin and Alfie Green**



German Exchange 2017

It was early in the morning on Wednesday 27th September 2017 when the people who were going to go on the German exchange met at the airport. Everyone was very excited to see Germany, most of us for the first time. We got through security quickly and soon boarded our plane. An hour and a half later, the plane had landed in Frankfurt's airport. The sun was shining as we walked through the airport and to the train station. The journey on the train took about half an hour and then we proceeded to walk the short way from the train station to the school. I was a bit nervous because, as we were in Germany, we were expected to speak German to our exchange partners!

For the people who had only learnt German for a year this was quite a struggle and it was tempting to just let the Germans speak English, as they were so keen to do. However, we were under strict orders from Frau Wells to not let them speak English!

We spent the first night with all our host families doing lots of different activities. The next morning, we met at the school ready for our first day out. It was a trip into the city, to see the Town Hall and then, possibly the most exciting thing of the day, go to the zoo. There were all sorts of exotic creatures that many of us had never seen before such as camels, giraffes and flamingos! Whilst we were in the city, however, some of us went on the largest



escalator in Europe!

After the zoo, we caught the train back to the school, where the Germans were waiting for us, and then went back to our exchange partners' houses for the rest of the night. The following morning we were due to go to Saalburg, a Roman-German fortress. We spent most of the day there, having a guided tour and exploring it. The tour guide led us around by marching and showed us all of the things like barracks and sleeping places for the soldiers. Then we were ready for the interactive part. We were shown how to shoot a bow and arrow and throw a spear, with games such as killing an imaginary boar! We returned to the school and went home with our exchange partners, ready for a weekend with the host family. A large group of us went bowling that afternoon and there were plans of laser tag and visiting

the city over the weekend.

After a great two days with our host families, we were ready for our final full day in Frankfurt. We met in the morning after attending some of the lessons to go to the Palmengarten. This was a sort of botanical gardens in Frankfurt. We were shown around by a tour guide and she taught us about some of the plants. At the end of the tour, we were taught about how chocolate was made and even got to make some ourselves!

The following morning, we met at the station with our luggage, said goodbye to our partners and left to head back to England. All together the 2017 German exchange was a thoroughly enjoyable trip that I would recommend to anyone who enjoys immersing themselves in a new culture!

■ Will Taylor

German Homestay 2018

On Wednesday the 14th of March 2018, forty kids, with whom we only spoken online, arrived at school weary faced and eyes half closed. This of course being our German Homestay students. Once sighted, many of our students shouted that the German students were almost giants, towering over us, especially the girls! Next came the ominous pairing. It almost felt like an age until we were paired up and I, although seeing a picture of my partner, had absolutely no idea who I was paired with. Finally we were able to chauffeur the Germans to our home as of course, we were all tired.

The next day we took our students to our first lesson which, in our case, was Maths. The Germans didn't really seem to understand what was going on, but a lucky few got a chair in our rather cramped classroom! After this, they went to the city centre, to see all the sights that Birmingham has to offer.

On Friday, we left our partners in front of the Careers' Room so that they could leave to see more interesting sights in Coventry, mainly



a museum and a cathedral. They seem to have liked it! After school, we both went home and took turns playing some FPS games before showering and going to bed.

At the weekend, we took our partner to Delta Force Paintballing site which consisted of Bo Han, Niranjana, Aryan Singh and me with our partners. With 2000 paintballs to share around and upgraded M16 guns, we all had a

blast. The only bad thing was the snowy and muddy weather, making out shoes and socks drenched and we had to go back in a car which was quite smelly.

On the last full day, my partner went off to Warwick Castle before coming back to school and having a relaxed dinner at our house, it felt so weird that we were leaving each other so soon, after having such a great time. On

Tuesday we sent the Germans off home and went back to lessons. September may seem a long time away, but before we know it, we'll be off to Frankfurt to visit them!

When I first heard of the German exchange trip, I was very intrigued. Firstly, I actually didn't know how an exchange worked at all! I signed

up, and not long after, got my exchange partner's details. His name was Marko Simunovic, and like me, loves video games and sleeping until late. I spent the following few weeks planning out what we would do as this is very important. Finally, we got to meet in person after only having a short talk over WhatsApp

a few days earlier. Although he was more than one year older than me, we found many similarities between us, namely chess, FPS games and swimming. Overall I found the exchange very fun and interesting and I cannot wait until I go to Germany in September.

■ **Tingyi Lu**

VDI 2018: Frankfurt

Just after the Summer half-term break, on Thursday 7th June 2018, nine Year 10 scientists: Andrew Lim, Giovanni Trevisan, Joe Thompson, Noah Lloyd, Fintan Hogan, Josh Malhi, Miles Balderson, Rajkaran Tiwana and Max Amarilli made the trip to Frankfurt, Germany to showcase our experiments to the VDI Forum in the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences; this is a trip that has been running for many years.

Our trip started with delay at Birmingham Airport due to a storm in Frankfurt, but eventually after a one hour flight we finally arrived in Frankfurt, albeit four hours later than expected as it was just 'one of those days'. However, after a ride on the extremely efficient German public transport to Enkheim station, we all met with our host families for an evening meal and a settled night's sleep.

The next day, we travelled to the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences to present our projects along with many other German school groups. In the past couple of months we had carefully carried out interesting Physics and Biology experiments in groups, with the assistance of Mr Tucker and Dr Lavery. Our work was presented by each of the three groups to a panel of German scientists and



engineers, as well as an additional audience of German schoolchildren. It was a good challenge to try to speak and present in a way a German audience could understand, and we even attempted to answer questions directed in German.

The day itself was a great experience. It was very interesting to see the German school groups' projects and how could be applied in the future. For example, we saw other presentations on a broad range of topics: from clean diesel to ocean plastics and renewable energy. In addition, around the University, there were little stalls set up which were demonstrating some intriguing experiments that involved some complex physics and biology. After all the presentations had finished, and everyone had eaten, we moved into the largest lecture theatre and watched a few larger presentations and experiments conducted by students or staff from the University.

On the Saturday, we were able to see the rest of Frankfurt with our host families. This involved, for many of us, a trip to the City Centre and the Altstadt, an area that was rebuilt after the damage of World War II. Another 'must see' in the city was the famous 'Mainhattan' Skyline, one of the few European skylines able to match that of well-known American cities such as New

York and Chicago; this was best viewed from the top of the Helena Tower, with the viewing platform 200m above street level.

On Sunday, our last day in Germany, our flight left with only a minor fifty minute delay to land in England in the late afternoon. It was certainly a great experience for everyone involved and one that we will talk about for many years. The experience of giving a presentation in a foreign language to native speakers in their home country will certainly showcase our skills when we make our own future University applications.

We would like to thank the teachers for all of their hard work that went into helping our presentations and making this an enjoyable experience. Melanie Stanek, a German assistant who came to CHB for this academic school year until the end of May to work in the MFL Department, who was of great help to all of the groups involved. This year was especially poignant for Mr Jackson, who retired at the end of the school year, after participating since the trip's inception in 2004. The time and effort put in by Mrs Thomson and Mr Jackson was extremely worthwhile and really shows their commitment.

■ **Andrew Lim, Noah Lloyd and Giovanni Trevisan**



Y9 Trip to Paris

Day 1: Having to wake up early for school is usually bad enough, but when it's Mrs Balkham that has set the time constraint, it'd be almost certain death if you were late. So, as it was, most of the boys

turned up on time, and at 07:15 on a dreary Thursday morning, Year 9 was ready to leave England behind for the mildly warmer pastures of France.

After a scenic hour long detour through Kings Heath, our driver Paul found the right road, and we began our trek to Dover. The plan

was simple: have a decent journey, make a few stops along the way, maybe belt out some classic ABBA with Mrs Balkham, and, importantly, don't be late! But naturally, with British traffic being British traffic, we had some minor problems. One of the more memorable ones was at Dover, where after another scenic detour, we

arrived at the port only to just miss our planned ferry. The teachers then tried telling us that it was blessing in disguise: "Sure, we may have missed our ferry, but at least we're all still alive! That's the real take-away here, right guys?"

So approximately four hours later than we were supposed to, we eventually did meet our host families in France. After we got the basic "Bonjour", "Oui" and "Comment ça va?" out of the way, most boys started to falter. But at that time of night, that was inevitable. At about midnight we got to bed, raring to get to know France better and excited about our tour of Paris the next day.

Day 2: The first day of our stay in Paris began early, the majority of us waking up at around 07:00. Nevertheless, we were pretty well-rested and full of energy, looking forward to our first activity of the day, a cooking session. After some confusion as to where exactly we were heading, Mr Rudd saved us by directing us the right way. In no time, we were inside getting our aprons on and preparing to bake a small cake. Personally, I have very little cooking experience, and did not really know what to expect of it. However, it actually was a very enjoyable activity and has made me and the other boys more interested in cookery.

Our next activity was one that we really found beneficial and informative – a trip to the Père Lachaise Cemetery. It was most definitely a memorable experience. Well-known people such as Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison and Frédéric Chopin are buried in the cemetery and we learned a lot from this visit. After eating our lunch outside the Cemetery, we headed off to our next adventure, the Bateaux Mouches river cruise. Fortunately, we were blessed with pleasant weather and our river cruise was lovely. We got plenty of opportunities to take pictures and had a good time waving to bewildered onlookers.

Our final activity of the day was our visit to Montparnasse, the second largest building in Paris after the Eiffel tower. Strangely enough, the Montparnasse tower seemed much larger than the Eiffel tower to many of us. After getting our tickets and taking the rapid elevator journey to the top floor, we looked out of the windows, and it really was a stunning view. We were really high up! However, that wasn't even the highest level, as there were steps to an open roof top. We all had a great time sending static shocks to each other up there. At 7:30pm, we returned to our host families for dinner after a day that was full of action and excitement, all

in good time to spend a good few hours on our phones before going to sleep, as we did not have to wake up early the next day.

Day 3: After our first full day in Paris, some of us, me included, had a well-received lie-in due to our close proximity to the Palace of Versailles – our first destination of the day. After waking up to bright sunlight (which continued to greet us throughout the day) and after a light breakfast, the Camp Hillians met together to walk to the Palace. Even before we entered, the dazzling architecture of the building astonished us. After checking in and being mobbed by a group of men selling Eiffel Tower keyrings, we stepped inside the Palace itself to explore the inside. The interior was jaw-dropping. With detailed ceiling frescos and intricate marble walls and paintings in every room, it did not disappoint. Some of us then proceeded to go to the gift shop to buy a souvenir or two. After a quick gift shop visit, we all met up to go outside to the Palace Gardens to eat our lunch, provided by our host families, and then wandered around the gardens. These amazed us as much as the interior of the Palace had, and, to some, were better than the Palace itself! The stunning views, coupled with the background classical music made them a great experience – and provided another photo opportunity. I thought that this visit was the main highlight of the trip for me and many other boys felt the same.



We then proceeded to get on the coach, in order to go to our second destination of the day – Velizy Deux shopping centre. After a thirty-minute journey complete with some tunes from Omar's playlist, we got off the coach and were left to explore the shopping centre. We first shopped in Auchan, a French supermarket, in our separate groups, hoping to find some unique French food that we couldn't get at home. A short while later, we stepped into the main attraction: Velizy Deux. After going clothes shopping and having a quick bite to eat, we went back to the coach to get back early to our host families for the next day. Sadly, this was not the case for me and my partner, as we got held back at supermarket security for ten minutes, after being accused of theft due





above us that the ride was up and running. What a waste of an hour that had been! However, a ride on the Ratatouille Adventure seemed to console us as we met up in the main square to sign in with the teachers before entering the main park.

After that, a three minute walk (or even run for some of us as we wanted to

to the fact that we were running back to our coach with our supermarket shopping in hand. I don't think that my partner and I would have gotten back without the legend that be, Kishan, who alerted the teachers to our predicament, who, of course, sorted it all out. We ate dinner with our host families and went to sleep after an eventful day, extremely eager to wake up for the last attraction of the trip: Disneyland Paris!

Day 4: As yet another peaceful, but keenly anticipated day began for the brave Camp Hill students, the Brétigny group coach was full of loud snores, though a strange selection of Indian music, picked out by Karthik Chinnaswamy, still blared at the back of our bus. Everyone was amazed by the sight of the Walt Disney Studios Park and immediately decided to take a few pictures (again!). We were able to go round in small groups, but then had a big disappointment as, when waiting in the queue it was announced that 'Crushes Coaster' was not working. We left the queue only to hear thirty seconds later the announcement screech

get past the long queues), we were at Disneyland Park! The rides ranged from Hyperspace Mountain (my personal favourite) to Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril. But getting on the rides in the first place was a hassle as half an hour was spent searching for the rides on the map! (Poor map skills there boys). Several hours and a few rides later we trekked our way back to the meeting point, voices going and pumped with adrenaline; we hadn't stopped till we tackled every single ride that interested us. I don't know what was the best highlight – England winning their match against Panama, or Reo screaming loudly even before the ride had begun (which got us stares from those waiting in the queue, thanks Reo). My group didn't watch the Parade, but carried on enjoying the rides, because the queues were then a bit shorter. A stop at the Pizza Outpost saw us eat a good meal which satisfied the hunger that had become a burning issue for some, like Rajun Brring and Armaan Ali! However, to try and fit in one more ride before we had to leave, we

sprinted towards the Big Thunder Mountain for one last time before slowly, and tiredly, walking towards the meeting point. The day was long, interesting and full of action. Thirty minutes later Karthik, Muhammad and I were picked up for our last evening with our host family.

Day 5: As the city of Paris woke up for another day, Year 9 woke up to their last day in France. It was painful to leave, but we all knew that our French vocabulary was rapidly running out; as much as most of the boys tried, you can't just reply with "Oui" to everything the host family asks you. We had done some great things on the trip, exploring Versailles Palace, being rewarded for the torturous queues at Disney by some amazing rides, viewing Paris from every imaginable angle, and, most surprisingly, we had sat through a total of three musicals! Although our trip did have some changes to the original itinerary, such as the cancellation of the trip to the catacombs, and, much to our disappointment, the closing of the Mad Hatter's Teacups at Disney (!), everything worked really well. We wouldn't have changed a single thing.

Of course, we have to conclude with special thanks to those who helped out. Thanks go to all the teachers who actually thought accompanying Year 9 on an international school trip wouldn't be a hassle, to Mrs Balkham for organising the trip and breaking her back doing the admin work, and especially to our drivers Paul and Kevin, who had to escort what is undeniably the loudest year on record (that's a fact), and still say that they'd love to do it again next year. It was an amazing trip; let's hope we get another year group holiday again soon!

■ **Ali Elsherbiny, Yusuf Khalid, Zayd Khan and George Lanham**

Y7 Trip to France

On the Thursday before the May 2018 half-term, we embarked on our school trip to Paris. Despite an early start, everybody was really pumped for the adventure, and couldn't wait to go to France! We all loaded our bags onto the coach, and waited with excitement to leave on such an amazing experience. We pulled out of the car park, and, whilst waving goodbye to our tearful families, we began our trip to France! The journey took longer than expected, but there were no major hold ups with traffic, so we were fine. We arrived at the Eurotunnel slightly later than anticipated, and so missed our slot, but this gave us an opportunity to take a break and stretch our legs. We then hopped on the next available train and kept our eyes out for the dolphins, as Mr Renault had instructed. It was clear Mr Renault had seen many of these on his underground travels. The Channel Tunnel took less time than the students had anticipated, and soon we were in France, on dry land! We



then were on the second half of our journey, and were soon meeting our host families.

They all lived at least twenty minutes from the 'rendezvous' car park where we were to meet



each day, and everyone was amazingly nice.

The next day, we couldn't wait for the day ahead. When we got on the bus you could feel the incredible excitement in the air. In Paris, our first stop was the Tour Montparnasse, standing at a staggering 689 ft. tall, offering outstanding views of the city from all directions, despite the slight fog. There were even binoculars, but we were disappointed when we realised we had to pay to actually see anything through them. We then went on an amazing boat tour down the Seine, with great views, and as we cruised down the river at a leisurely pace most of our group took photos. The boat ride let us see many tall and famous buildings from the water, like the Eiffel Tower. We were all hot and sweaty, so we stopped for lunch in a park, here

cheeky pigeons attempted to steal food from just about everyone – including the teachers! Just a short distance away was the Paris Natural History Museum. It offered multiple floors of taxidermy animals and skeletons, and was an intriguing place to explore. This gave the group a chance to get away from the sweltering heat of the French sun, and going back outside was rather a shock to the senses after spending quite some time inside a shady, air-conditioned building.

The Paris Zoo was our next attraction, and unlike the animals we were allowed to roam around freely. There was a colourful array of tropical birds and reptiles, but the real stars, based on our year's views, were the jaguars. A lot of time was spent indoors in the reptile house and the visitor's centre, which were the only places truly in the shade. However, like me, a lot of people were interested in the animals as well, reading all of the small information signs on the enclosure walls. After a good time in the zoo, it was time to leave Paris, and head home. I know I, for one, slept like a log after our day's activities.

The next day was our host family day, and they let us enjoy the wonderful French weather, with



most people spending the majority of the day in the sun and practising their language skills. Some people got a swimming pool, but Harry, Neil and I got a table football set in the cellar, which was just as good, if not better. This day served as rest for the day ahead, when we would be going to Asterix Theme Park, for many the highlight of the trip.

Our day for Asterix dawned, and we were soon on our way. We could see the rollercoasters from a mile off, and the bus nearly erupted into chaos as we pulled into the car park. Nobody was prepared to wait another single second, and as we left our bags and raced off into the park, everyone within the section was very nearly crushed by a wave of eleven and twelve year-olds, mostly rushing for the biggest, fastest rides they could see. We had to check back three times throughout the day,





and a surprising number of people checked back with giant plushies, ranging from unicorns to space hoppers (much to the coach driver's delight). Some of the most popular rides included a huge wooden rollercoaster called Zeus and an incredibly fast one, Oziris.

We went on the log flume and some smaller coasters as well, but our year generally stayed on the scariest ride they could get their hands on. I think most people managed to keep their baguettes down! It was a thrilling day and it was over far too soon for us all.

This was sadly our last night in France, and we said our solemn goodbyes and thanks to the host families in the morning. Everyone was a little glum about leaving, but we were ushered onto the bus and left swiftly via the Eurotunnel. This time we weren't late, but passport check in took a long time. Again, we kept our eyes out for sea creatures, but didn't have any luck in finding them. We were soon driving off the train and back onto English soil. From there, the journey progressed, albeit slowly, and we were eventually back to greet our families. We unloaded our baggage, and slowly dispersed and said our goodbyes. The holiday was over.

This trip was amazing, and we all had a fantastic time in Paris. Seeing France first-hand was incredibly worthwhile, and a valued experience to all. I think just about everybody who went on this trip would recommend it, as it is definitely worth it. Fun, excitement, adventures, and a great opportunity to practise our French. Ooh la la!

■ **Louis George Bailey**

Ski Trip 2018

As the school day drew to a close on Friday 16th February 2018, our group of 41 boys congregated outside and boarded the cosy coach waiting for us. Armed with an array of snacks and our matching hoodies, we were prepared to endure the long twenty-four hour coach journey through France, Switzerland and Germany before arriving at our destination: St Anton, Austria. Having arrived on Saturday afternoon, we begun settling in by getting our luggage to our rooms and having some time to relax. Soon after we had fitted our boots and skis and eaten a hot meal, most of us were ready to get some sleep, in order to be well rested for our first day on the slopes.

With the help of Mr Burgess' Spotify playlist, we all managed to get up in time for breakfast on Sunday morning and organised ourselves surprisingly well to leave the hotel at near enough the time we had planned. We were met on the first day with luscious sun-

shine and thick powdery snow; ideal skiing conditions. Fortunately for us, these remained for the majority of the week, making for a brilliant trip during which we had optimal opportunity to enjoy ourselves as well as improve our skiing technique. Based on experience, we were split into four different groups each led by one of the four interesting Slovenian instructors who never failed to entertain us. Having eaten a delicious dinner at the hotel, we partook in a quiz that the staff had kindly prepared for us.

Monday began with another early start, much to the delight of all the boys. We returned to the same location to consolidate some

of the skills and techniques that we had been working on. We stopped on our way back that day to explore one of the nearby towns where we were able to browse some stores and stock up on snacks from the supermarket. When we returned, we were all quite exhausted so after our evening meal we had some down time and got an early night.

Another good day of ski-



ing on Tuesday was followed by an excursion to a local swimming pool. By some kind of miracle not one boy had forgotten their swimming trunks, so everyone had an enjoyable evening; especially with Mr Burgess playing more 'Vengaboys' tunes on the coach journey back. Having watched a mediocre performance from Manchester United on the projector on Tuesday night, we were hoping Wednesday might bring more excitement than the nil-nil draw. Indeed it did; we drove to Lech in the morning, a different area within the resort,





where we explored some new slopes. In the evening we went to an ice rink where the boys displayed their ice-skating skills (or lack of, as was the case for several of us).

On Thursday we were lucky enough to go and watch the superb floodlit ski show and fireworks which occurs only once a year. Thanks to some excellent logistics planning from the staff, we were able to have a full day's skiing on Friday. It was great to see how much progress many of the boys had made by the end of the week. We showered and vacated our rooms

with military style precision, allowing us to set off at a reasonable time in the afternoon. It was difficult to suppress the slight feeling of sadness as the coach pulled away because the week had gone so quickly, and it was already somehow over.

I would like to thank all the members of staff who went on the trip for looking after us, organising the whole thing and especially for entertaining us in great spirit for the entirety



of the trip. Mr and Mrs Bourne, Mr Bruten, Mr Burgess, Mr Downing, Mr Nash, and Mr Hardy all gave up their half-term to ensure that we could enjoy an activity packed ski trip and all of us are very grateful for this.

■ **Will Lyons**

Italy 2018

On the final day of the 2017/18 school year, thirty-nine lucky boys boarded a coach and set off for the Aosta Valley in Northern Italy. The prospect of a twenty-four hour journey sounded terrifying but it was soon over and the week began. As we arrived we were awestruck by the views of the valley, surrounded by the great mountains of the Alps. Before we knew it we were on the campsite and soon became familiar with our home for the week; a semicircle of tents with plenty of grass for ball games, a volleyball court and a marquee where meals would be served. Shortly after arriving we went on a walk around the local town of Villeneuve. The walk was filled with views and ended at the village square where we treated ourselves with ice cream from the gelateria.

The following day was spent at a nearby



lake where we went canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and raft building. Everyone had a great time and many spent more time in the water than actually in their boats. Chethan Biju's balance on his paddle board was spectacular and commended by all, while Mr Rossiter disregarded all respect for his students, sending them flying into the depths of the lake. In the evening we took part in a high ropes course on the site.

The second day after arriving was spent high up in the mountains, abseiling down the side of a cliff. Some whizzed down the rope, while others slowly but steadily made their way to the safety of the ground beneath their feet. The level of confidence when it came to heights ranged throughout the boys, how-

ever this was no problem as the staff who ran the activities throughout the week were very encouraging. Those who were a little more nervous found bouldering, much nearer the ground, a more comfortable prospect! This was then followed by a scenic walk along a river as it travelled down course through the mountains.

Then came the big day that all of the boys, especially Mr Burgess, had been waiting many months for: white water rafting. The day was spent on two parts of a fast flowing river; speeding down rough, choppy waters in an eight man raft. This was by far the most exhilarating. The river was dotted with bumps and drops leading to many, very, very cold splashes of water. Chethan's balance was tested once again, with him inches away from falling overboard. Mr Rossiter's power-paddling pushed the teacher's raft with immense force, but Ms Freeman and Mr Burgess just couldn't keep up, leaving the teachers stranded on a rock as everyone else steered past.

To recover from a few action packed days, the fourth day was much more laid back. In the morning we visited the town of Aosta and browsed the many shops. The afternoon was spent at a local outdoor swimming pool, which included Jacob Matthews trying to do a front flip of a diving board. Here we relaxed by sunbathing, swimming and attempting to teach a group of Italian lads with little



English skills how to play some good old Camp Hill rugby.

The final day before leaving was again spent high in the mountains. Here we were joined by pro-rock climber, Mrs Bourne, and climbed up a mountain side and also squeezed in and out of cracks between boulders where even the bravest felt a little claustrophobic. The other half of the day was spent gorge scrambling. In this we had to wade through the upper course of a freezing cold river in which everyone lost all feeling in their toes. For tips on how to stay warm, see Mr Rudd. The final morning was spent engaged in teamwork activities and ended with a tug of war competition. To no one's surprise, Mr Rossiter's sheer strength led his team to victory. Much to our

dismay we then departed from the site, heading home.

The trip was described by many as "the best trip I've ever been on". Free time was spent in a multitude of ways: a volleyball tournament, a talent show and campfire, giant games of hot potato, visiting the local pizzeria. We would like to thank all the teachers for their commitment towards the trip: Mr Burgess and Ms Freeman, who both put in countless hours organising the trip, Mrs Bourne, who was amazingly selfless throughout – always caring for others, Mr Rossiter and Mr Rudd. These teachers ensured everyone had a great time.

■ **Jacob Matthews and
Abhinash Nirantharakumar**



Drama

Junior Drama

The Importance of Being Earnest November 2017

The choice of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as this year's junior drama production raised more than a few eyebrows. How could students from Years 7 to 9 possibly cope with the play's unfamiliar language and its nuances? Could they manage the timing required, without which some of the most famous lines in British theatre history would be ruined? Would they be able to achieve the pace necessary if their performance was not to seem laboured and stodgy? The answer was simple – yes they could! From the pensioners of the matinee performance to the large last night audience, our clientele were left thoroughly entertained and delighted by the young actors' talent.

To begin with, the omens were not good; with barely five weeks to go, we lost our lead director and one principal character, but everybody buckled down, socks were worked off and a decent show began to emerge. For this, huge credit must go to our two remaining directors, Chloe Taylor and Miles Smith, who showed unflinching calm and, through their excellent management of the performers,

ensured that the cast had a really enjoyable time – despite having to rehearse so often in sub-zero temperatures!

All the cast performed their roles well, but none more so than Simeon Humphries as Algernon Moncrieff. He slipped into the role of this charming upper class layabout with consummate ease; his timing was immaculate and his verbal torturing of poor, rather dim, Jack was one of the show's highlights. Toby Taylor seemed entirely unfazed by taking over the role of Jack at the last minute. Dominated by his intended bride, Gwendolen, and terrified by her mother, he carried off with skill Jack's transformation into a much more assertive character, successfully establishing once and for all that his name really was Earnest. The role of Dr Chasuble is demanding; blessed with a voice that commanded attention, Kishan Sambhi greatly amused the audience with his portrayal of this boring, portentous and pedantic priest.

There were equally strong performances from the ladies of the cast. Rose Turner was ideal as Jack's young ward, Cecily, a rather infuriatingly self-confident ingénue, who wrapped all the men, and her governess, Miss Prism, round her little finger. Her acting was simply a delight. She found a splendid foil in Ellen Collieran's Gwendolen, who was quite obviously already growing to be like her mother. The monumental row between Gwendolen and Cecily in Act II was another high point of the production. Ellen won the admiration of all involved in the play for the

way she struggled with a horrible throat infection throughout the rehearsal period; the fine quality of her performance was a great tribute to her determination. Perhaps the most daunting role to fill was that of the play's most famous character, Lady Bracknell. Zahra Khan rose to the challenge so very well. She developed a stentorian voice and imperious manner entirely appropriate for this ignorant, narrow-minded snob. Freya Pinnick played Miss Prism, on the surface the least formidable of the female characters. This was another convincing portrayal; the governess might be a rather bigoted scatterbrain but she baited and eventually hooked her Dr Chasuble.

It is always important for the overall impact of a play that the cameo roles are performed with confidence; the two butlers did not let us down. Merriman, was played by Zoheb Khan, with calm assurance, while Caleb Wilton made the most of his part as Lane; his "Jeeves and Wooster" moments with Algernon were very entertaining.

Behind the scenes, Alex Prins's artwork on the programmes, posters and tickets was outstanding; he also had big input into the set and was the production's "official" photographer. As always, the teachers' support was vital and much appreciated; they came to see the play in droves, and Mrs James, Ms McCulloch, Mr Downing and Mr Parkinson, together made a huge and invaluable contributions to the show's success.

■ **M.R.S.**





Senior Drama

Summer Satire





Music

Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert is the first joint concert of the year, and a chance for our youngest pupils to perform in String Orchestra and Training Wind Band. For our Year 7 musicians this was their first big school concert.

The Orchestra played first, and were well organised and well-rehearsed. The Band played at the end of the concert, and provided a rousing, lively sound to send us on our way. In between there was a wonderful variety of musical ensembles from both schools. The Brass Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble both played with enthusiasm and style.

There were a few solos, which included



Qiyuan Chen playing a fine version of Mozart's *Quintet (Allegro)* on the flute. For me the highlight of the evening was the String Quartet (Jamie Wen, William Yang, Adam Rarko and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov), who played the *Andante Cantabile* from the first String Quartet

by Tchaikovsky. This was a very fine performance, which demonstrated not only great skill, but also fine musicianship, both individually, and as an ensemble.

■ S.F.P.

Prize Giving

Towards the end of the Autumn Term, Prize Giving is an important even in the school calendar, and our ablest musicians generally perform. Before the formalities, our Saxophone Quartet (Rahul Choudhary, Faraan Cheema, Siddharth Sharma and Alfie Green) played a number of jazz 'standards', which was a popular and lively introduction to what is a fairly formal event.

The first formal musical item was a set of variations by Corelli [see right: extract of music] played by Thomas Isaac (violin) and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (cello). Accompanied by harpsichord, this was a very effective and evocative performance. Eddie Wang [pictured right] by performed the second piece on piano, which was

a virtuosic account of the *Revolutionary Prelude* by Chopin. Everyone was impressed with his technique and musicianship. For the National Anthem and School Song we were joined by the saxophone quartet, and by Johannes Beckett and George Hynes on trumpet, to support the singing.

■ S.F.P.



School Carol Service

The School Carol Service was on the last Wednesday of the Autumn Term.

The service began in candlelight with a rousing introit *Riu, Riu, Chiu*, a Spanish carol. After a procession Jas Dziedziak did very well in his solo in the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City*.

The service then proceeded with a balance

of new and well known carols, some by the choir and some sung by the congregation. The beautiful carol *In the bleak mid-winter* began with an excellent solo from Matthew Anderson (Head Chorister of Birmingham Cathedral Choir), and the choir particularly enjoyed the arrangements of *Ding Dong!* by Mack Willberg and *Joys 7* by Stephen Cleobury. We were

also pleased to have The Clarinet Ensemble with us. They contributed some atmospheric carols before the service and an effective item during the service, as well as playing in some carols. A most enjoyable evening.

The School Choir were also pleased to be invited to sing carols at The



Robin Centre, part of the All Saint's Church Complex: a 'drop in' centre for the elderly. We sang carols for about forty minutes, and those present clearly enjoyed the singing – with requests for some carols twice!

■ S.F.P.



Concert Orchestra at the Cathedral

The Camp Hill Concert Orchestra, our Senior Orchestra, was delighted to be invited to again accompany a Choral Festival organised by the Royal School of Church Music in Birmingham Cathedral. On Sunday 28th January 2018 about one hundred singers gathered for the afternoon, accompanied by so many of our orchestra that we almost ran out of stands! The Cathedral is an attractive Baroque building, and has a fine acoustic. In these surroundings the choir and orchestra sounded magnificent. The music

included the canticles *Stanford in C*, *Let all creation sing* by David Odgen, *Sanctus* by Schubert and the wonderful anthem *Greater Love* by John Ireland.

All went very well, and we were pleased to receive a very complimentary letter from the Canon Precentor, Rev. Canon Andrew Lythall. He wrote: *"The standard of music, particularly from the young people, was superb, and I have received lots of good feedback about the excellent performance. We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral again next year, if not before."*

■ S.F.P.



Y7 visit Symphony Hall to hear CBSO

In January 2018 we took the whole of Year 7 to Symphony Hall to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. This event was specially arranged by the Birmingham Music Hub, and was free of charge to all pupils in the City. The concert was called *"A Brief History of Music"* and illustrated the instruments of the orchestra and how they are used within pieces of music. The music had been specially chosen to appeal to the pupils, and a compere introduced the pieces and took us through them to show how they had developed over time.

The programme [see extract right] was chronological: it began in the seventeenth century with brass music which would have been

heard in St Mark's, Venice. It then moved through Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Mahler. It finished in the twentieth century with some Stravinsky, Shostakovich and Bingham – a piece written in 1991. This was a great opportunity: hearing a wonderful orchestra in one of the world's great concert halls, and I was pleased that many of the boys said that they really enjoyed it.

■ S.F.P.

Sunday 30 January 2018, 11.30am & 1.30pm
Friday 2 February 2018, 11am & 1pm
Birmingham City School of Music

SCHOOLS' CONCERT:
KS3: A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSIC

Michael Sadler, Conductor
Tina Robinson, Organist

TIMELINE

1612	Galilei: Sonata XII	1840	Zips are invented, in America
1616	Shakespeare dies	1902	Mahler: Symphony No. 5
1713	Vivaldi: The Four Seasons	1903	The Wright Brothers successfully fly the first ever aeroplane
1767	Josiah Priestley invents soda water – the world's first fizzy drink	1905	Cartbury invents Dairy Milk
1776	The American colonies declare independence from Britain, founding the USA	1915	Shostakovich: The Rite of Spring
1783	First animal flies in the Montgolfier balloon (not an balloon, a confused) sheep	1914-18	World War One
1784	Mozart: Gran Partita	1920	The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra gives its first ever concert
1789	The French Revolution begins 26 years of war across Europe	1927	Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5
1809	Beethoven: Eroica Symphony	1937	J.R.R. Tolkien writes The Hobbit
1804	The world's first steam train runs in South Wales	1939-45	World War Two
1815	Battle of Waterloo ends 26 years of European wars	1953	Coronation of the Queen
1824	John Cartbury opens his first chocolate shop in Birmingham	1969	Humans land on the Moon for the first time
1838	The railway from London reaches Birmingham	1989	First episode of The Simpsons
1865	Lewis Carroll writes Alice in Wonderland	1991	Bingham: Four Minute Mile
1869	Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 5	1997	Birmingham invents a new Christmas festival: Winterfest. It doesn't catch on.
1886	The world's first car makes its first journey in Germany	2006	The first ever Tweet on Twitter
		2012	Frozen released in cinemas
		2018	Birmingham school students hear a fantastic concert by the CBSO at Symphony Hall – and tell everyone they know just how awesome it was!

Poetry and Music Events

In early 2018 we once again organised our Poetry and Music events. This begins with a workshop in January for poets and musicians from a local Junior School. I ran the music session, and twelve very enthusiastic musicians from Colmore came along and rehearsed. This year the theme of the evening was 'secrets' and I had prepared for them a selection of interesting pieces which included *Summertime* by George Gershwin and the theme from *James Bond*. They were a very enthusiastic and capable group, and learned the pieces well. I was ably assisted by a small group of our own musicians.

In February the poets and musicians returned, and we ran a concert in the afternoon for pupils, and then another the follow-

ing day in the evening for parents. The pupils gain a lot of confidence and experience from this type of event, and we were pleased to see them improving each time they performed.

The concerts went very well and were enjoyed by both audience and participants.

See more pictures on the next page

■ S.F.P.





Teatime Concert

The Teatime Concert in the Spring Term is now well established, and is an opportunity for our two most junior ensembles to perform. The pupils stay at school and, as well as having a short rehearsal, are provided with a tea.

The String Orchestra, conducted by Mr R. Jones, began the evening with *Hit the road*

Jack! and then the theme from *Star Wars*. The Training Band, conducted by Mrs Butler, finished the evening with a committed performance of *Climb every mountain* (*The Sound of Music*) and then a rousing and toe-tapping version of *Tequila*. In between these bigger ensembles, there were a number of solos and smaller groups.

The Brass Ensemble did very well with their lively arrangement of *Mambo No 5*; the

Jazz Ensemble performed *Take the A Train* with a number of accomplished improvisation sections from the boys; the Guitar Ensemble, coached by Miss Palmer, gave a very neat and effective performance of *Danza*, which they also played in assembly the following day. A most enjoyable short concert.

■ S.F.P.



House Music Competition

The House Music Competition is an opportunity for some of the most talented musicians in each house to get together, organise a good programme of music, and gain credit for their house. Mr David Griffiths, until recently Head of Music at King Edward's Five Ways, was the adjudicator.

The boys met in the Hall during the afternoon to perform solos and ensembles. The Juniors were first, and we had some very good performances from Sam Gray, Joe Thompson, Kevin Xu and Han Kang. The ensembles were all well prepared, and varied. Of particular note was the Seymour ensemble, which was a full String Quartet. They had worked hard and produced a fine performance gaining them full marks.

After adjudication came the Senior category. Here there were many excellent performances, but Matthew Perrett of Beaufort was the only one to gain full marks with his fine performance of a 'Partita'. The senior ensembles demonstrated a wide variety of talent: Seymour's *Life on Mars* by David Bowie was

effective and well-rehearsed. Tudor's *Tenderly* for saxophone and piano (Faraan Cheema and Judah Daniels) was outstanding.

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. I thanked all the boys who took part, and congratulated them for making it such an enjoyable event. In the end the scoring was very close. In third equal place were Beaufort and Howard with 51 points out

of a possible 60. Second was Tudor with 53. So the winners, with an excellent 56 points, were Seymour [pictured above]. In assembly the following day we heard the String Quartet from Seymour play again, and the House Music Captain for Seymour, Thomas Isaac, came up on to stage to receive the House Music Cup.

■ S.F.P.





Senior Concert

The Senior Concert is early in the Summer Term so that pupils in Year 13 and 11 can take part before they go on their 'study leave' for public examinations. As ever this was a packed programme with music from our large and medium sized ensembles. There are too many items to mention, but highlights were the School Choir giving a spirited version of 'De battle of Jericho' and 'Chim chim cher-ee', Clarinet Ensemble's 'Liberty Bell' and the Bassoon Ensemble playing an excellent 'Waltz' by Connor Huss in Year 9. There were also fine performances by Swing Band, conducted by Primo Agnello.

As ever the leavers (Year 13) had some items of their own, which they had prepared. It was great to hear all members of the Year 13



[More Senior Concert pictures overleaf](#)

A-level group singing a neat performance of 'Goodnight Sweetheart'. All then enjoyed the duet of Miss Hawthorne and I attempting to sing the song 'Ain't no mountain high enough'!

The concert concluded with 'Crown Imperial' by Walton, and before that a most effective 'Concerto Grosso' by Vivaldi.

As always, it was a most enjoyable event,

and a fitting tribute to our excellent musicians in Year 13 for whom this was their last school concert.

■ S.F.P.





Summer Satire

In the last week of the Summer Term, we presented two nights of Senior Drama – a programme of amusing sketches, which we called ‘Summer Satire’. The event included some songs by the satirist Tom Lehrer, and one of his classics ‘*Poisoning pigeons in the park*’ – sung well by Primo Agnello and Bilal

Stiton – went down very well!

There was a small band to accompany and add music before and after sketches. This consisted of Faraan Cheema (alto saxophone), Judah Daniels (bass guitar) and Rohan Silvestro (drum kit), and they all did extremely well.

The two ‘musical interludes’ in the pro-

gramme were excellent. First, the piece ‘*Tenderly*’ was played most effectively by Faraan and Judah, and then Judah, accompanied by Rohan on Drum Kit, played his own GCSE composition, a stylish piece called ‘*Samba de Colina*’.

■ S.F.P.

Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée is an event for our Junior and Intermediate players. It is very difficult to maintain rehearsals over the term because of so many disruptions, which include school exams, trips and sporting events, but even so, we managed.

The Intermediate Orchestra began the evening with some evocative versions of film

classics 'Lord of the Rings' and 'Harry Potter'. Thereafter there were many very good smaller ensembles. Particularly notable were our Clarinet Ensemble playing 'Polovtsian Dance', Guitar Ensemble with two short pieces, and an excellent piano solo by Qiyuan Chen in Year 10. The String Orchestra and Training Band played some popular tunes with enthusiasm.

The group that brought the house down was the Wind Band, however. First, they played

'Apache' – a piece that people thought they didn't know – until they recognised it from a very well-known advert! For YMCA the saxophone section donned suitable hats – hard-hat, Indian headdress, cowboy hat – and we had the audience singing along with enthusiasm. Finally, some great Disney tunes from the band. Another enjoyable evening – and it ended exactly on time at 9 pm!

■ S.F.P.





High standards at GCSE and A-level

Pupils studying music GCSE and A-level produce work of a very high standard and this is reflected in their results. We are proud of the work that they produce, and whenever possible allow pupils to perform their compositions in concerts and school events [some sheet music examples are shown below].

We were delighted with the most positive comments from our GCSE moderator last year: *"The quality of the presentation of the work and recordings was excellent. A number of talented learners submitted extremely high standard work."*

Compositions were submitted in an interesting range of styles and genres, which suggests that learners are rightly encouraged to develop their skills in areas of music that they feel most comfortable with.

In all cases, it was pleasing to note the use of score writing software to produce a detailed musical score with all the performance directions required to enable the piece to be performed by others. This is excellent practice in terms of challenging and extending the musical understanding of high achieving musicians."

■ S.F.P.



Advertising Music at Camp Hill

We are proud of the strength of music on the Camp Hill site. Boys gain an excellent musical education from Year 7 to Year 13, and there are a vast array of musical opportunities open to them outside the classroom. We are keen to encourage musical boys to choose Camp Hill and so from time to time advertise in the local press [see sample advert – pictured right].

■ S.F.P.



**King Edward VI
Camp Hill Schools
Music Departments**

The Schools provide good resources and a wide range of performing opportunities.

Experienced and enthusiastic teaching leads to excellent results.

An outstanding music education free of charge.

Places for A-level music are available.

Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7QD
 King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys
 (0121) 444 3188 www.camphillboys.kinged.ac.uk
 King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls
 (0121) 444 2180 www.kevgh.org.uk

Birmingham Music Service

We are very proud of the many Camp Hill musicians who have passed auditions to gain places in the prestigious Birmingham Music Service Ensembles. Please refer to table below.

■ S.F.P.

Birmingham Schools' Brass Band

Johannes Beckett (Trumpet)

Yuhan Guo (Tuba)

George Hynes (Trumpet)

Birmingham Schools' Chamber Orchestra

Rohan Jobanputra (Violin)

Kevin Xu (Violin)

William Yang (Violin)

Birmingham Schools' Concert Band

Matthew Anderson (Clarinet)

Eashan Varma (Clarinet)

Birmingham Schools' Concert Brass Band

Sé Mouthaan Ward (Drum Kit)

Abhinash Nirantharakumar (Euphonium)

Yuvanash Nirantharakumar (Baritone)

Alex Simpson (Tenor Horn)

Jobe Simpson (Cornet)

Birmingham Schools' Concert Orchestra

James Devine (Violin)

Yuhan Guo (Tuba)

Rufus Hall (Violin)

Bradley Williams (Double Bass)

Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble

Joseph Thompson (Guitar)

Birmingham Schools' Guitar Sinfonia

Harvey Collett (Guitar)

Anish Najran (Guitar)

Birmingham Schools' Singers

Rufus Hall (Voice)

Birmingham Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Florian Hogler (Bassoon)

Birmingham Schools' Training Brass Band

Dan Elia (Trumpet)

Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar

Ensemble

Keshav Najran (Guitar)

Kishan Sambhi (Guitar)

Billy Villabroza (Guitar)

Birmingham Schools' Training Percussion

Ensemble

Swayam Gupta (Percussion)

Birmingham Schools' Training Wind

Orchestra

Sé Mouthaan Ward (Drum Kit)

Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra

Johannes Beckett (Trumpet)

Success in the 'Grades' of Music

Congratulations to the many boys, listed in the table below, who have worked hard preparing for the music 'grade' examinations. We were very pleased with how many were successful, and even more delighted with the high proportion that passed with 'merit' or 'distinction'.

■ S.F.P.

GRADE: 1

Jagveer Bhamra – Trombone, 1 (M)

Rajan Gill – Guitar, 1 (D)

Khalif Khan – Violin, 1 (D)

Leon Lin – Violin, 1 (M)

Dylan Mbichire – Cello, 1 (M)

Zidane Nadeem – French Horn, 1

Visawamedha Nalabotu – Guitar, 1 (M)

Swayam Sarangi – Cello, 1 (D)

Akshat Sharma – Guitar, 1 (M)

Kierandeep Singh – Violin, 1 (M)

Ishan Tewari – Violin, 1

GRADE: 2

Hakim Ahmed – Jazz Saxophone, 2 (M)

Amit Dalipa – Tuba, 2 (M)

Daniel Elia – Trumpet, 2 (D)

Daniel Hogan – Flute, 2

Niranjana Kumar – Flute, 2 (M)

Punith Premachandra – Jazz Saxophone, 2 (M)

Swayam Sarangi – Cello, 2

Prem Singh Sidhu – Tabla, 2 (M)

Billy Villabroza – Violin, 2 (D)

Aadam Waheed – Violin, 2

GRADE: 3

Hakim Ahmed – Jazz Saxophone, 3

Miles Balderson – Trombone, 3 (M)

Rajun Brring – Clarinet, 3

Zikriya Bukhari – Guitar, 3 (M)

Joel Foster – Trumpet, 3 (M)

Ben Hobson Taher – Guitar, 3 (D)

Ren Zhi Howse – Cello, 3 (M)

Jay Keenan – Clarinet, 3

Viswamedha Nalabotu – Guitar, 3 (D)

Arjun Pandit – Violin, 3 (M)

Punith Premachandra – Jazz Saxophone, 3

Elliot Robbie – Double Bass, 3 (D)

Kishan Sambhi – Guitar, 3 (M)

Krishnan Sen – Clarinet, 3 (D)

Joseph Shalabi – Guitar, 3 (M)

Billy Villabroza – Violin, 3 (D)

GRADE: 4

Ben Brown – Violin, 4

Dylan Datta – Cello, 4

Paul Gardner – Alto Saxophone, 4 (M)

Ben Hobson-Taher – Guitar, 4 (M)

Reuben Jones-Rigby – Singing, 4 (M)

Sicheng Li – Flute, 4 (M)

Tobias Little – Guitar, 4 (D)

Se Mouthaan Ward – Drum Kit, 4

KEY TO TABLE

Boy's Name – Instrument, Grade (number or name)

(M) = Merit (D) = Distinction

Name are listed alphabetically for each grade

GRADE: 4 (continued)

Keshav Najran – Guitar, 4 (D)

Udayan Nayyar – Guitar, 4 (M)

Alex Newsome – Alto Saxophone, 4

Kishan Sambhi – Guitar, 4 (M)

Billy Villabroza – Guitar, 4 (D)

Muhammad Yaaseen – Violin, 4 (M)

GRADE: 5

Joshua Birch – Tenor Horn, 5

Judah Daniels – Clarinet, 5 (D)

Jamie Devine – Violin, 5

Sam Gray – Theory of Music, 5 (M)

Swayam Gupta – Tuned Percussion, 5 (M)

Fintan Hogan – Bassoon, 5

Sicheng Li – Flute, 5

Sicheng Li – Singing, 5

Andrew Lim – Violin, 5

Anish Najran – Guitar, 5 (M)

Navaneeth Natarajan – Theory, 5

Elliot Robbie – Double Bass, 5 (D)

Alexander Simpson – Tenor Horn, 5 (M)

James Thomas – Theory of Music, 5 (M)

Eashan Varma – Piano, 5

Eashan Varma – Clarinet, 5

GRADE: 6

Jonathan Anderson – Clarinet, 6 (D)

Matthew Anderson – Clarinet, 6 (D)

Xue Bang Chen – Trumpet, 6

Joe Clark – Jazz Saxophone, 6 (M)

Sam Gray – Piano, 6 (D)

Samuel Gray – Singing, 6 (M)

Alfred Green – Saxophone, 6 (M)

Yuhan Guo – Tuba, 6 (D)

Simon Halstead – Tuned Percussion, 6 (M)

Connor Huss – Bassoon, 6 (D)

Noah Lloyd – Violin, 6 (M)

Saksham Shah – Drum Kit, 6 (D)

Randika Siriwardhana – Tuned Percussion, 6

James Thomas – Violin, 6 (M)

GRADE: 7

Primo Agnello – Clarinet, 7 (D)

Max Johnson – Trumpet, 7 (M)

GRADE: 8

Faraan Cheema – Jazz Saxophone, 8 (D)

Qiyuan Chen – Flute, 8 (D)

Madhav Ramesh – Oboe, 8

Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov – Cello, 8 (D)

GRADE: Diploma

Qiyuan Chen – Piano, Diploma (M)

Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Having lost a large cohort of experienced Year 13 players at the end of the 2016–17 season, we knew that an inevitably tough season lay ahead. A productive couple of days of pre-season and a week's worth of training put us in good stead for our first game early in September. Our opponents were Old Swinford Hospital; a side that consistently puts out a strong first fifteen. Although we started positively, the relentless pressure applied by our well drilled opposition proved too much for us and we found ourselves down by five tries at the break. Two tries from centre Kamil Khan helped tip the momentum in our favour as we settled into the second half. An exquisite solo effort from our ferocious secret weapon on the wing (AKA Jake Tucker) gave us another five points and for a moment it looked as though we might just be able to tip the scales. But alas, our defence lapsed, and another flurry of tries were conceded. Final score: 44-17.

Just three days later we faced Bablake School. Despite the determination of captain Sid Sharma, who led from the front, we came up short with just one try to show for our efforts. Surprisingly, this came from Kamil Khan. Notably, Henry Moreau-Smith of Year 11 made his first team debut, a reliable player who quickly became a key member of the team. Next, we had the misfortune of drawing the prestigious Warwick School in the national cup. Evidently, no one at that school was familiar with the word mercy as they proceeded to crush us in a demoralising 104-0 defeat.

The boys showed great heart to bounce back from this loss, continually working hard in training sessions. This made it all the more difficult losing to Wrekin College by just seven points. A positive game though all in all, with Moreau-Smith, Perry and Sharma all bagging their first try of the season. A gutting loss against KES was followed by another Foundation fixture versus Aston. This proved to be a very closely contested game. Leading by example was vice-captain Jack Wood who persistently tackled their dangerous ball carri-

ers. Great tries including two from Kamil Khan and an unbelievable score down the wing from Nick Surr gave us the lead towards the end of the second half. We somehow managed to concede in the dying moments of the match and, to our immense frustration, we could not manage to squeeze in another score to win.

This frustration must have been the impetus that we were in such desperate need of because finally we achieved a much more palatable result. It came against Lawrence Sheriff mid-way through November. The match was played to a high standard with points coming from Dylan Rogers' boot and yet another try for Kamil Khan. Perhaps the most impressive thing to take away from this fixture was the impenetrable defence, led by the invigorating presence of Rohan Ram.

I don't think that anyone would disagree that the peak of the season for this first team came the following weekend against KE Lichfield. Thanks to solid ball retention from key forwards such as Tom Woods, we were able to run in no fewer than ten tries. In addition to Sharma and Khan, who shared six, Bahawal Ali, Dylan Rogers and Will Lyons all touched down. Six conversions from Rogers helped us to an emphatic 62-12 win. We were quickly brought down to earth the following Wednesday when we came up against KE Five Ways; a side with no shortage of talented players. A disheartening loss incurred. We finished off the Autumn Term with another tight game versus Prince Henry's School, which unfortunately didn't quite go our way.

The team returned after the Christmas break with a positive attitude, eager to display our talent against Adam's Grammar School. In a similar fashion to previous matches however, our defence eventually succumbed to the superior tenacity of the opposition. This was in spite of a superb team effort finished by Khan and an admirable performance from Will Butler who carried the ball very well. Sore losses ensued at the hands of KE Stratford and Newcastle-under-Lyme. To our credit though, we kept our composure in both games and as ever we were inspired by the emphatic performance of Jack Wood. Also, Tom Perry played excellently in the latter game securing himself another two tries. As tour approached, we were ready to put the rest of the season



behind us and do ourselves proud down in Cornwall. To our dismay, the Beast from the East was burying the country in a thick blanket of snow. Given the state of the motorways, the staff had no choice but to cancel the tour; a heart-breaking decision for everyone involved in senior rugby, especially the Year 13 players who would not get the opportunity to tour

with the school again.

Despite the horribly unfortunate way in which the season ended, the players should all be proud of themselves for dealing so well with all the tough circumstances that were encountered. Li, Dempsey, Sharma, Surr, and Butler deserve particular recognition for their commitment as they did not miss a single game all

season. I would like to say a huge thank you to the coaching staff who dedicated so much of their time to helping us develop as a squad. Mr Caves, Mr Burgess, Mr Taylor and Mrs Jermaine all helped us have a more productive, enjoyable season.

■ **Will Lyons**

2nd XV Rugby

After a difficult start to the season with comprehensive losses to Bablake and KES, the 2nd XV bounced back admirably well. KE Aston was the turning point of the season. In an enthralling game, an outstanding defensive effort in the last five minutes of the game earned Camp Hill an exhilarating 32-26 victory. Matthew Haddon was outstanding in this game and took the man of the match award. This performance was backed up with a Camp Hill 'development' side beating Prince Henry's 31-24. On this occasion stand in skipper and first team regular Will Lyons claimed the man of the match award.

Without doubt the highlight of the year to date was a resounding 55-5 victory over Queen Marys. In this game everything 'clicked'. The team defended resolutely and attacked with great creativity and superb support play. Jake Tucker was outstanding and showed sheer pace to score four tries in the match. Josh Birch (2), Adam Li and Alex Millicheap also got their names on the score sheet. Dayyan Zulfiqar also scored his maiden try for the school, which is just reward for the high quality performances he put in week-in week-out this season. However, the moment of the match and for me, the



moment of the season was a try from the opposition. Queen Mary's had several injuries which meant they were down to fourteen men with only a few minutes left in the game. The giant second row Rohan Ram was called upon to play for the opposition. Rohan caught the line out five metres out and dived over the line, sparking wild celebrations from the away team, the home team and the Camp Hill first team who were watching the second half. As it turned out it was Rohan's first try ever for the school. This moment epitomised the values of rugby and it was a perfect end to a superb game.

Unfortunately, the final three games of 2017-18 ended in losses against a strong

Princethorpe side, an athletic Wolverhampton Grammar School and a powerful Adams Grammar. All of this means the 2nd XV have played eight, won three and lost five games. The 2nd XV have been a joy to work with this season, their effort and endeavour to improve week-in, week-out, deserves immense credit. Ever present Pierre Lee, Ayub Ali and Alex Baldock have played every game this year, which is not easy to do in such a busy academic term. Muhammad Ali deserves an honourable mention for not only being a stand out player in every game but for also being a terrific Captain of the side.

■ **T.J.B.**

U15 Rugby

We entered the 2017-18 season confidently, off the back of last season's success, and determined to build on last year's victories and retain the Team of the Year Award for the third year in a row with the help of our new coaches: Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor, and new Captains: myself and Seth Dockery. We started the season strongly once again, with two convincing wins over Bablake and Old Swinford Hospital before coming up against Tudor Grange in the NatWest Cup. This was a greater contest than we expected, however we came through with a 17-12 win and a place in the second round of the cup.

We continued this winning form, comfortably beating Prince Henry's, 46-7 and then annihilating KES, one of the few to beat us last year, 54-0. Tries from Yusof Elsherbiny, Dylan Rees, Fintan Hogan and four from Richard Amoshe really set the bar for the upcoming cup game against Hinckley Academy. Hinckley came flying out of the blocks, placing us under immense pressure for the first 40 minutes of the game. However we were much fitter than



the Hinckley team, and as soon as that pressure started to fall off, the Camp Hill side ran them to pieces, doubling their score in around 20 minutes to leave the final score at 42-21, putting us through to the third round of the cup.

Before facing Bromsgrove School in the third round of the NatWest Cup, the U15 side tore Aston to shreds, 46-0, placing us in good stead for the Greater Birmingham Tournament. We suffered a close defeat to Aston, however our two other wins against Bishop Vesey's and

Sheldon Heath saw us through to the final. To our dismay however, a quality show of kicking from the Five Ways fly half saw them break the stalemate and they ran out the winners in extra time, winning by one penalty kick. Our cup game against Bromsgrove was next, unfortunately, our cup dreams ended here, with a far superior, well-drilled Bromsgrove side battered us 69-12, our first loss of the season. Nonetheless, we held our heads high, enjoyed the great food at Bromsgrove and moved forward into

our next three games. And they were three great wins over Queen Mary's, Five Ways, and Princethorpe.

Next came Arden, again one of the four sides to beat us in our under-14 season. Tensions were running high, and despite our efforts we were out muscled into a 29-12 loss. In our final game before tour, we travelled to Newcastle-under-Lyme. They had only managed a squad of 12, and so we lent them three players in order to have a game, and it seemed to be a very one-sided game, with 6 of the 8 tries scored being from Camp Hill players, four tries to each team! Some top class kicking from Fintan Hogan sealed the game for us with a 26-24 win.

Then came our final rugby tour as juniors, and sadly, our final tour together as a team. The opening fixture was once again, against Cockermouth and we opened strongly, securing a 31-7 win. On the second day, our game against Hawick RFC was cancelled, leaving us stranded in Carlisle. Fortunately, England were playing France later that day and so we all prepared to watch that game, although I'm sure

we'd all rather forget it! Our final match of the season was in Lancaster against Vale of Lune RFC. These guys were a new opposition, and we didn't know what to expect. Once again, the physicality of northern rugby hit us hard, with Chethan Beju falling first with an injured shoulder, then Usmaan Nadeem with a busted nose and finally myself with bruised ribs. However we saw the game through, winning 24-0 against a tough opposition, with Louis Peters scoring his second of the season at the back of a maul to close the scoring. Not only did Louis score, but he also won the bowling on Friday.

Special thanks must go Ross Evans, once again he has put in more than his fair share of work for the team on and off the pitch, as well as scoring nine tries this season. Richard Amoshe has been our stand-out back this year, being comfortable on the ball in attack, and solid in defense. He was also our greatest try scorer, taking 18 of all our tries this year. And not only that, but he is the only player to have played every game of junior rugby over the last four years, from Bablake in Year 7, to Vale of Lune in Year 10. Tarun Sangha, Max Amarilli and Alex Simpson

are definitely the unsung heroes of the team, putting in immense effort on and off the ball without much appreciation. Alex got his first try ever for the school against Cockermouth with an epic dive for the line. Scrum half Dylan Rees has been brilliant all year, improving his passing, and also scoring some sniping runs round the breakdown. Fintan Hogan and Theo Kenny have been more than adequate replacement half-backs when needed and Yusof Elsherbiny and Jonathan Anderson have been solid in the forward pack, making some great breaks. Seth Dockery worked hard off the ball in the second row and as captain when required, impressing all round.

Finally Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor: the whole team would like to thank you. Not only have you helped us develop as players and a team, but Mr Taylor, you also taught us about the off-side line! We all really appreciate the time and effort you have put into us and we look forward to working with you throughout senior rugby.

■ **Luke Hemmings**

U14 Rugby

I think it's safe to say our season didn't get off to the best of starts. In fact a better way to describe it is: I think ours started in one of the worst ways possible. Five losses out of our first five games against Bablake, Old Swinford, Prince Henry's, KES and King Henry VIII, I must admit was not the start we had hoped for. Looking on the bright side of things though, during those first five games we did put in some quality performances against some of the toughest opposition we were going to face throughout the entire season. Teams like Bablake and Old Swinford are both extremely talented sides, with some dangerous big runners, who we have not been able to break down in the past.

Our start to the season also helps to compliment and show the improvement that we made across the span of the whole season as under the watchful eyes and expert coaching of Mr Duncan and Mrs Bourne we managed to put together a rather impressive end to the season. As our team started to gel we managed to put both Aston and Southam Schools to the sword with some massive breakout wins, in which we scored at least 40 points.

Whilst these were both impressive games where we showed a lot of skill, I think our highlight of the season came on Saturday 25th November 2017. On a particularly cold winter's morning we made our way out onto the pitch to face what has been our biggest challenge of every single season so far as a team – Five Ways. With both strong forwards and fast, skilled backs they have always been able to smash through our defence and skilfully unpick it making them near impossible to defend. Even with all this stacked against us we



managed to beat Five Ways 24-17 in an incredibly close affair in which Joe Day, Sam Satodia, Pranav Juloori and Ibrahim Shariff all scored tries with two conversions by myself. Another high point of our season was the Greater Birmingham Tournament in which we came equal first with two other teams but unfortunately finished third on tries scored.

You can't talk about our rugby season without talking about the **Junior Tour**

[see picture below]. With it being our first tour as a team none of us really knew what to expect but I'm sure none of us expected it to be as action-packed yet relaxing as it was. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and I believe the ratio of rugby to relaxation was just right. In the end we played only two matches rather than three due to the wintry weather (snow lying on a 4G pitch!). We recorded a 31-5 victory against Cockermouth School and a tight loss of 24-34



against Vale of Lune RFC. But the rugby was only half the story of the tour as many of the boys enjoyed day trips going bowling, to laser quest and free time in the pool or exploring the area of Carlisle around the hotel.

There were some stand-out figures such as the top try scorer and best back Joe Day, the thunderous Simeon Humphries, the commanding figure of Will Taylor at scrum half, the

hardworking most-improved player Reuben Robin and the formidable presence of Alex Newsome. There were two people in the team that were ever present in Kareem Mehanna and best forward George Lanham who both put in some great shifts week-in, week-out.

To wrap it up, I would like to thank the whole team for a thoroughly enjoyable season as Captain and would like to thank Mr Duncan

and Mrs Bourne for giving up their time after school for training and on Saturday mornings for our games. Their expertise certainly helped all of us develop our rugby skills as individuals and as a team so we thank you and wish your team next year good luck.

■ **Sam Morris**

U13 Rugby

After a winless season in Year 7, the U13 team had high hopes for the new season. However, in the first two games we continued in our old fashion, losing both of them, 30-5 to Bablake and 50-10 to Old Swinford Hospital. This showed we had much room for improvement in later games. In the next game we showed this and drew with King Henry's 20-20 in a tight game. We then improved even further in the next game beating our rivals KES 35-5, giving us a motivational boost by bettering our record from last season. Our next game was against Aston our rivals yet again. This was another tight game, which either team could've won, ending up in a 25-25 draw.

We won our next two games in a row. Beating Southam 20-15 and Queen Mary's Walsall 50-35. However, we lost our next three games 35-20 to Five Ways, 20-15 to Pricethorpe and 20-10 to Arden. Leaving us on five losses, three wins and two draws for the season so far. The next two games were extremely out of the ordinary beating Kings Norton 60-15 and Newcastle 60-5. Giving us a total of twenty-four



tries over the two games. However, this try-scoring spree ended in the next game losing 30-0 to KE Stratford, who were the only team to restrict us from scoring all season.

Next was the Greater Birmingham Tournament consisting of three group games and one final game depending on where we finished in the group. In the group, we drew 10-10 with Aston, lost to Bishop Vesey 10-5 and beat KE Sheldon 15-5. This meant we played KES in the final game, in which we beat them 30-0. This meant we finished fifth overall. In addition, I

believe this can be seen as a successful season compared to our winless one the year before.

We would all like Mr Jones for being the head coach for the season, during which we learnt a lot of valuable tips and tricks for the years ahead. Furthermore, we would like to thank Mr Taylor and Mrs Jermaine for their help at training over the year during the games period and after school. We would also like to thank Ross Evans and Jonathan Anderson, who came to our after-school sessions to help.

■ **Vernon Kenworthy**

U12 Rugby

The 2018-19 season for the U12s has been a mixed bag of successes and losses with some really positive indications of the progress they've made this year, but also a lot of areas to work on in the coming year. At times experience has been their Achilles heel when playing against other teams with a healthy quorum of regular club players and often with considerable experience from previous schools. Early losses to Aston, KES and King Henry VIII were often tough to face but the boys remained positive and resolute in the face of adversity.

A similar trend continued until Christmas, with fixtures against Bishop Vesey, Fairfax and Old Swinford cancelled due to frozen or waterlogged pitches. The winter was not a kind one last year. Finally in February the boys scored a decisive win against Newcastle School and then went on to beat Kings Norton Boys' after losing to them earlier in the term.

The season ended with the Greater Birmingham Tournament over at KES. After a slow start and two close losses against Five Ways and Aston they got themselves a draw against



Kings Norton Boys, only to then suffer losses to KES, Bishop Vesey and Fairfax, who took the top three spots in the Tournament; Camp Hill limping in joint 6th place. The Tournament was one of missed opportunities as the boys made good ground with the ball but often got bogged down in the last 10 metres, often making it so close to the line but not quite touching the whitewash.

There have been some notable performances from several players this term though. While I can't name everyone Philipp Krone

and Arnav Nailwal stood out in the forwards and in the backs the kicking boot of Hamish McGee has proven a valuable defensive tool, along with some effective running by Arthur Breakwell and Jibraan Rashid. As the boys develop as a team and get more experience on the pitch the gap between them and their more experienced peers from other schools will begin to close and I am confident that next year will see a real improvement in their performance.

■ **D.J.E.**

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

The 1st XI have endured a very mixed season in terms of results and the weather. The first four matches of the season were washed out without a ball being bowled. When the team did finally make it out onto the grass, we were blown away by a very strong Birmingham Metropolitan College. Unfortunately results didn't improve as we lost consecutive matches against KE Five Ways and Queen Mary's.

Salah Khan and Owais Akram have formed a solid opening partnership with the bat throughout the season. Salah in particular impressed against Queen Mary's despatching the ball to all parts, only to fall four runs short of his century. Owais has also impressed with the ball alongside Adam Ahmed and Sam Cullen. Our stand out bowler has been Rakeeb Khan, who has bowled some superb spells of off-spin and arguably deserved more wickets than the statistics show. Matt Allely and Abbas Mirza have shared the wicket keeping duties throughout the year and have done so admirably.

The most prestigious match against the MCC [see team picture lower right] was the highlight of the season. With the MCC batting first and declaring on 213-4, the 1st XI knew it would be a tough chase. At 116-6 the prospect of a win



was out of the question, so the boys opted to play for a draw. This is what they got finishing on 150-9 at the end of the game. The team thoroughly deserved to share the spoils which was just reward for the effort and commitment they have shown towards training throughout the year.

I would like to thank the older boys who are leaving us this year. They have been incredible servants to school cricket and I would like to wish them all the best for the future. In particular I would like to praise Salah Khan for captaining the side exceptionally well this year. As for the Year 11s and 12s there is a huge amount of potential. This is matched with some excellent Year 10s coming into



senior cricket, so I fully believe the future is bright for cricket at the school.

■ T.J.B.

U15 Cricket

After a disappointing U14 season, the team was desperate to return to the heights of Year 7 and 8. It was clear that change was needed and one of these was transforming Ammar 'Boom Boom' Malik into an opening batsman. This change proved fruitful as it gave us a headstart in each innings, shown by Ammar's strike rate this season being in excess of 220.

After rainy start, the team were eager to get the season started against Rockwood. After choosing to bowl first, quick wickets from Abhinash Nirantharakumar and Haseeb Arif put us in control but poor boundary work and monstrosous hitting from their number 5 got them to 119-5 after 16 overs with Abhinash and Haseeb both picking up two and wicketkeeper-turned-bowler Amar Jandu taking a solitary scalp. After an inspiring team-talk from Mr Burgess, the top order batted resolutely with Arif, Malik and Ibraheem Mohammed all getting scores of 20+ but quick wickets took it to the last over. However Aditya Bajpai (15*) managed a cool head to guide us home with two balls and four wickets to spare in true Camp Hill fashion.

Keen to start a winning run, we headed into our only Saturday game of the season, at home to Princethorpe. After choosing to bat first, we produced an excellent batting dis-

2nd XI Cricket – Team Picture



play reaching 148-6, Sanjay Suresh top scoring with 40 with support from Nirantharakumar (31), Heppel (24) and Malik (16 off 7). Jay Gallagher and Dhruv Trehan took a wicket apiece for the opposition as we reached our highest team total for over a year. Princethorpe were then skittled for 102 with Maninder Kallay, Adil Sandhu, Malik and Jandu taking a wicket each and Abhinash finishing with 4-2-9-2.

However, this winning streak quickly turned into a losing streak as we faced our toughest opponents of the year, KE Aston and Stratford. Against Aston, despite not taking a single wicket in the first innings, we battled hard with the bat chasing a mammoth 182. However, wickets at key intervals and deadly death bowling restricted us to 160-5 (Nirantharakumar 30, Arif 41* and Heppel 14). Next up was Stratford,

where we endured a walloping by 53 runs despite being in control of the majority of the first innings where we had restricted them to 78-2 off 15, Nirantharakumar and Mohammed tacking a scalp each. Poor bowling, however, resulted in conceding 48 runs off the last 5 for the one wicket. In reply, we never really got started as we were bowled out for 73, losing our last 7 wickets for just 28 runs.

Hoping to bounce back, we faced Holte in the cup quarter-final. After restricting the opposition to 65 (Abhinash 4-24 off 3, Dhruv 2-12 and Ibraheem and Sanjay one each), we easily chased it down with Ibraheem finishing with 33*, winning by 8 wickets. Due an RS trip, the team facing our next opponents (Queen Mary's) was significantly weakened, shown by us limping to 76 all out, helped by 49 by Mohammed. However when he was gone, we quickly lost 4 wickets for 5 runs, leaving QMGS a total which was easily chased. Our final match of the season was the cup semi-final against defending-champions Aston. Poor shot selection meant that we could only reach 129-6 (Arif 23 and Nirantharakumar 17). A resolute opening stand saw them home in 12 overs but despite this, the scoreline did not reflect our efforts against a superior side.

Leading wicket taker this year was Abhinash Nirantharakumar with 11 and leading



run scorer was Ibraheem Mohammed with 123 runs. Special mentions must also go to Aaryan Deshpande, Ali Kazi, Prithvi Karthik, Josh Malhi, Taran Mack, Jaimin Chauhan, Luke Hemmings, Imad Zaffar and Salim Miah who have all put in a shift for the team at some point. Nonetheless, this season and our past three at Camp Hill have been full of debuts, promise and improvements and I look forward to playing with a lot of the team in the future. We may not have won every single game (or at all) but we all had fun trying our hardest and maybe one

day we'll beat Five Ways.

On behalf of the team, many thanks must go to Mr Burgess who offered his support and cricket know-how to us and always put up with our inconsistent fielding. They must also go to Mr Tranter, Mr Southall, Mr Duncan, Mr Jones, Mr Bruten, Mrs Bourne, Mr Azam and Mr Watkins who have all helped us to become better cricketers over the years. Without all this help, we would never have achieved what we have achieved as a team.

■ **Haseeb Arif**

U14 Cricket

The first game of the season featured Camp Hill playing KE Stratford away.

The game didn't start well, with Camp Hill losing the toss and batting first to find that their top order were sent back to the pavilion early. The middle order showed some resilience, but soon a flurry of wickets, and some good Stratford bowling had Camp Hill bowled out for a dismal 42 runs. On the bowling side, Camp Hill had very little to defend, but showed great ability despite their batting display. An excellent bowling display from Subhan Ahmed, with figures of 2-7 and Adnan Chowdhury, 1-6, gave Camp Hill some hope, but soon Stratford completed the chase to win the game by 5 wickets.

Next, Camp Hill hosted KE Aston with hopes of victory after last game's defeat. The game began with Camp Hill being put into bat first and openers Ahmed and Chowdhury both showing some skill in the powerplay to take Camp Hill to 39-1 after 7 overs. Joe Day top scored with 16 and they ended with a score of 93-5. Next, Camp Hill came to bowl and were looking to restrict the visitors early on. Aston looked slow from the start and helpful figures of 2-8 and 2-7 from Ahmed and Chowdhury respectively, helped to halt their innings. However, a superb hat-trick from Joe Day finished it off perfectly to help Joe end up with top figures of 3-7 and win the game by 34 runs.

Another fixture arrived, and Camp Hill



were away at Queen Mary's looking to build off a win against them last season. Camp Hill won the toss and bowled first to realise this was to be their most challenging game so far. Despite top figures from Humair Hussain of 1-9 off 3 overs, Queen Mary's scored a total of 135 in 20 overs, a difficult yet doable chase. Now we came into bat, and things looked hopeful from the start. Openers, Humair Hussain and Subhan Ahmed created a wonderful opening stand of 74 runs for no wicket after 10 overs. However, a flurry of quick wickets and a batting collapse turned the match around for the worst. Camp Hill bowled out for 118, a loss by 17 runs. Subhan Ahmed top scored with a magnificent 57, with a helpful innings of 22

from Humair Hussain as well.

Now arrived a cup fixture for the Willis Trophy against Hodge Hill. Camp Hill opted to bowl and found themselves immediately under pressure with the opposition's top order seeming threatening. However, after a breakthrough some marvellous bowling from Subhan Ahmed rendered the entire middle and tail end useless. With 7 ducks in the innings, Hodge Hill were bowled out for 83, Ahmed ending up with great figures of 5-27 from 4 overs. Camp Hill's batting could easily be their downfall, and when the early wicket dropped, things seemed tense. However, a resilient knock from Ahmed and Day, coupled with some inaccurate bowling found Camp Hill soaring to a win by 8 wickets.

Next came Camp Hill travelling away to face Princethorpe following a miserly defeat last season. Again, Camp Hill were put in to bat and openers Chowdhury and Ahmed enforced an opening stand of 54 after 9 overs. Soon however, wickets fell to leave Camp Hill stranded at 104-6 after 20 overs. Captain Adnan Chowdhury top scored with 26 runs, with a spritely middle order flurry of 25 runs from Humza Irfan helping the scoreboard greatly. Camp Hill came to bowl and found that Princethorpe had some class in their top order. A great combined effort by the opposition's top three found Camp Hill cruising to a loss by 9 wickets with the only wicket coming by Ahmed's 1-14 from 4 overs. A big loss, but a great effort nevertheless.

The following game hosted KE Sheldon Heath and Camp Hill were looking for a comeback. Camp Hill bowled first and had the oppo-

sition under pressure very early on. Despite some resistance from their No.4 batsman, top figures of 4-11 from Joe Day sealed the innings for a meagre 74 runs. Camp Hill came to bat and had lost a couple of early wickets, but a top class knock of 42 runs off 28 balls from Humair Hussain sealed the game for the hosts for a comfortable win by 4 wickets for Camp Hill.

The final game of the season was, quite fittingly, the final of the Willis Trophy Tournament. Camp Hill were set to face rivals Washwood Heath and had their sights set on victory. Camp Hill went in to bat first and a positive partnership ensued. However, the breakthrough came for the opposition and slowed the run rate greatly. However, Camp Hill fought back strongly to get to a solid total of 126-4. Adnan Chowdhury top scored with a splendid innings of 63 runs, and Hussain helped with a sharp 25

as well. Now, on to the bowling. A solid start saw two of the top order batsman off, however in the middle overs the opposition batsman found great comfort in some of the Camp Hill bowlers. By the time the breakthrough arrived, it was too late. Washwood Heath soared to a victory by 6 wickets. Chowdhury had the top figures of 4-8 off 4 overs.

Overall, a promising season for the Under 14s with its fair share of wins and losses. The team would like to express their gratitude to Mrs Bourne who coached the team through the season, giving up her own time after school for the team's benefit. Also, Mr Warrillow who had helped the team train and prepare for games well. Ultimately, an enjoyable and fun season of cricket.

■ **Adnan Chowdhury**

U13 Cricket

The highly successful Camp Hill U13 cricket season began with a home fixture against Queen Mary's in which Camp Hill opened the batting. Yuvanash Nirantharakumar and Ajay Shingadia went out to the middle where Yuvanash opened the account. They ended up putting on 96, giving a hint of what was to come from the opening duo in the future. The team finished on 126-3 with Ajay top scoring with 53 before being retired. The Camp Hill bowlers then bowled well, restricting Queen Mary's to just 75-7 from the full 20 overs. The best figures belonged to Humza Rana and Asadullah Khan both with 4-1 from 2 overs. The opening match went extremely well, but the team knew there was still a lot of room for improvement.

The next match against Lawrence Sheriff saw a magnificent innings from Ajay once again. This time however it was an unbeaten century, featuring a whopping 17 boundaries, 5 of which were sixes off just 59 balls. The innings came to a close on 168-4. The Camp Hill bowlers then held their own, with the Lawrence Sheriff batsmen making just 79-6. The top scorer was extras bowled by Camp Hill with those totalling 38, again showing despite the victory there was much to work on.

In the next match Camp Hill bowled first and Princethorpe made just 74-7, 31 of which were extras. Will Mackie bowled season best figures of 3-4 from 2 overs. The Camp Hill response was slow as the batting order had been drastically changed but Camp Hill still easily won by 5 wickets. Next was Camp Hill's biggest total yet, putting on 208 for the loss of just 3 wickets. The top scorers were Ajay with his second century (100 off 35 balls!) and Yuvanash with 45. The Aston reply was just 72-7. The next match against King Henry VIII was the closest match yet. Despite the fact Ajay was missing, Camp Hill put on an excellent score of 157-5 Yuvanash and Mohammed Roheel both with great contri-

butions. King Henry's batsmen then made 94 before being bowled out. Next was a 15 over match versus the University School which Camp Hill won by 70 runs. Following this was our first cup fixture, against Washwood Heath in another 15 over match. Camp Hill made a great score of 149-6, the top scorer being Yuvanash with 28. Camp Hill then bowled extremely well, giving away just 2 extras, a great improvement on earlier in the season. The Washwood Heath total was just 31-9.

The Amiss Cup semi-final was next in what turned out to be the closest match of the season. Fairfax batted first, making a modest 114. The best bowling figures were 2-25 from Yuvanash. The team believed they could chase down the score however it turned out to be much more difficult than they imagined. Yuvanash and Ajay opened making 46 before Yuvanash was dismissed LBW. The team then lost a quick succession of wickets before it fell to Tanav Kotha and Madiyan Basit, who managed to steer the team home and book a place in the final.

Camp Hill faced Five Ways in the final and Camp Hill opened once again with Ajay and Yuvanash who quickly put on 97 for the first wicket thanks to some question-

able running. Yuvanash was then predictably run out, however Camp Hill continued to score quickly finishing on 174-5. Ajay top scored with 87 off 46 balls. The Camp Hill bowling started extremely well, with the Five Ways opener being caught by wicketkeeper Jobe Simpson on his third ball from Yuvanash. Five Ways continued to score, albeit slowly until Jobe stumped the Five Ways danger man off some smart bowling from Ajay. The final wickets fell quickly and Camp Hill had done it! They had won the Dennis Amiss Cup [see picture below] and finished the season unbeaten, a feat achieved by few teams.

Well done to all the squad on a fine season. Birmingham Schools Champions for the second year.

■ **Jobe Simpson**



U12 Cricket

The season kicked off with an unlucky start after losing by one wicket to our rivals Five Ways. The team played extremely well and were unfortunate to lose out. The standout performer was Eesa Nadeem, who gained his first five wicket haul of the season. Our next match against KE Stratford was a rather comfortable win for Camp Hill with Rayyen Khan scoring 22 not out. KE Stratford were set 80 to win, but were bowled out for just 48 runs, securing Camp Hill their first victory of the season.

We went into the third match against KE Aston looking to build on our last performance. Aston won the toss and chose to bat first but a brilliant bowling performance from Rayyen Khan kept Aston down to 56 runs. After the loss of a few early wickets Camp Hill recovered mainly thanks to Eesa Nadeem who scored a very mature 35 not out, meaning Camp Hill won by 6 wickets.

Our cup journey started against Hodge Hill where we bowled first. Hodge Hill's opening batsmen were quickly dismissed resulting in them scoring 63 off a shortened 16 overs. Our opening batsmen took the attack to Hodge Hill's bowlers. Ali Ibrahim scored an enterprising 23 not out taking Camp Hill into the next round of the cup. We then moved on to play Princethorpe looking to make it four consecu-



tive wins. Eesa Nadeem and Rayyen Khan registered 5 wickets between them keeping Princethorpe down to 68 runs. A Camp Hill collapse followed, due to a great performance from the Princethorpe bowlers, resulting in our second loss of the season. In the next round of the cup we met a Lordswood side on a rather tricky wicket. Nevertheless, we kept Lordswood down to 41 and a brilliant batting performance from Rayyen Khan, scoring 22 off 9 balls (not out), sealed our place in the semi-final.

Camp Hill then played King Henry VIII at their playing fields on an early Saturday morning. Having lost the toss, we were asked to bowl first. A fantastic opening stand saw King Henry VIII score a mighty 160 off their 20 overs. We showed plenty of fight with the bat, but unfortunately we fell short by 55 runs. Stand out performances came from Ismael Feraz 34

not out and Rayyen Khan scoring 22. We then went into, what was the most important game of the season against Edon in the semi-final of the cup. A few key players were missing but we did not let this deter us. Edon bowled first and kept Camp Hill's score down to 89. Edon's influential batsman was dismissed quickly and Camp Hill looked in the driving seat until one of Edon's batsman played a match winning innings. Unfortunately for Camp Hill we lost by 6 wickets.

This was a great first season from the boys and we did extremely well to get to the semi-final of the cup. We are very grateful and thankful to Mr Burgess for making this possible. He has helped us improve as individuals and as a team throughout the year. Hopefully there is more success for Camp Hill in the future.

■ **Eesa Nadeem**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

The 1st XI hockey team did not get off to the best of starts, suffering a 4-2 loss to Newcastle-under-Lyme School in the first game of the season, however, the scoreline did not reflect the efforts of the new-look team. The team continued to put in high effort but not reap the rewards they deserved, falling to a run of 4 consecutive losses. However, the team bounced back with a comfortable 3-0 win against Bablake, where the high efforts of the team paid dividends to the team's success. Following a heavy loss to Queen Mary's, the team managed to piece together consecutive 2-2 draws against Bishop Vesey and Aston.

The team ended the season well with a good run of results of two wins and a draw in the final five matches of the year. This run began with a closely contested 3-2 win against KE Stratford. This was followed by a highly entertaining 3-3 draw with Solihull, where the team fought well to come back from a 2 goal deficit to get a well-earned result. The year ended with a brilliant 5-0 win against KE Stratford which showed a visible improvement from the team and gave the boys the finish



they deserved.

These wins truly reflect the manner in which the boys went about their hockey and despite the record of the season, the boys ended it with their spirits as high as they stayed throughout the year. With Dan Higgins (Captain), Sam Western (Vice-Captain), Craig Stewart, Johannes Beckett, Isara Mahalekam and Victor Kimani making their last contributions to the school hockey, it is now left to the goal scorers of Alex Byrne and Luqmaan

Rashid, the solid goal keeping of Dhyan Naik, defending of Pranav Thatipamula and Kes-hav Vaitha, and the endless running of Albert Chang to take continue the momentum into next season. The team would like to thank Mr Watkins for his expert coaching and commitment to the team and dedication to constantly helping the boys improve.

■ **Dhyan Naik**

2nd XI Hockey

Thirteen was certainly an unlucky number of games for the 2nd XI to have played in the 2017–18 season. Despite a bad start to the season, with losses of 5-0, 8-0 and 7-0, the team approached every game with determination and good humour, enthusiastically led by captain Sunil Patel. There was a tangible increase in quality of play throughout the season, both for individual players, and in the team's coherence.

Though a game was never won by the 2nd XI, the margin of defeat did drop over time, and the players were rewarded with a 0-0 draw (the first and only clean sheet of the season), and a 2-2 draw. The score lines of the matches definitely didn't reflect the effort put in by the whole team and despite a disappointing lack of wins, their spirit and enthusiasm



never wavered.

Thanks to the Year 13s Vamsi Pratapa, Matt Sherwood and Tom Mansfield for their commitment to the team, and to Captain Sunil

Patel for his efforts in both organising and motivating the players.

■ **Rohan Jobanputra**

U15 Hockey

The 2017–18 season has been a very productive time for the U15 hockey squad with a total of five wins, one draw and five losses, a major improvement on the last season. Throughout the year, the side have shown a strong defensive prowess, often disrupting the opposition's attack much to their annoyance. The determination of the team has never wavered and their skill and control has grown with every game played.

The best match of the season was played against KE Aston, a team who we had drawn and lost to the year before. The team showed a promising start, dominating possession and keeping it in the opposition's half for most of the match, however a lapse in the defence left the score 1-1. The team came tantalisingly close to winning in their match against KE Stratford, however it was not to be, with the opposition scoring an equaliser and winning goal in the last minute. The first win for the team came after the Christmas holiday's against Old Swinford Hospital, beating the side 8-1 – a well-deserved victory that the side had been waiting for.



Easily the hardest game the team played was their second match against KE Five Ways, where both goal-keeper Tom Heppel and ex-captain Humraj Bansal were unavailable to play, leaving the side with no substitutes to use. The side battled well, with the end score being 3ish-1, a respectable loss against a superior side.

The team finished the season strongly on the Junior Tour to Carlisle, winning all three of their matches and racking up an impressive 12 goals without conceding one. These final

matches really showcased how far the team had come as a whole, battling hard in the harsh conditions that they were faced with and never giving up until the very end. Special thanks must go to coach Mr Watkins for his help and compassion when staring defeat in the face and questionable driving, as well as Mr Hardy, who stepped in to take the team on tour when Mr Watkins was unavailable.

■ **Sam Gray**

U14 Hockey

This season has been an extremely eventful one for the Year 9s. Being our first season we were unaware of what to expect and for most, even how to play hockey. During our games lessons, Mr Taylor went right through the basics of hockey, teaching us all about the various names for the hockey stick (sometimes it was a racquet, on other occasions it was a bat and even once in a while it was a cue). He went on to teach the team all about spatial awareness, positioning and other key aspects of game play. Come rain- or sometimes even snow, the squad were always training hard in preparation for a match.



Within no time the team were ready for their first game against Aston, which was a close 2-0 loss. However the squad held their heads high, and went on to play against Old Swinford where they achieved a 4-4 draw which was the season's top score. Unfortunately when it came to playing Five Ways, the team seemed to lose all hope resulting in a loss.

The team really needed a boost after another loss to Queen Mary's, but luckily Mr Burgess came to the rescue during training sessions and games lessons; so the team were ready to go forth for the season's final match versus Old Swinford. Captain Humza Irfan gave

the squad a final pep talk about how they were destined to win. As if in immediate response to those inspirational words of teamwork, friendship and victory, it started to hail; so heavily in fact that players were hiding behind the goal. The game got off to a flying start with 2 goals scored by Humza Irfan and one from Roheel Anwar. But could they maintain their lead? Could they re-write history? Could they win their final match of the season? No, the team lost 4-3. Not only that but it looked as though Peter Kippax had lost more than a few of his bones, after being hit in the ribs by the ball twice and once in the face.

Overall the U14s had a brilliant first season with all players improving phenomenally. Special mentions go to Peter Kippax, Humza Irfan, Yongmin Ju and Viswamedha Nalabotu for a consistently high standard of gameplay and to Marzan Ahmed for doing a brilliant job in goal. The team are extremely grateful for the extent to which Mr Taylor coached the team – whether that be in training, matches or on the bus. The team look forward to improving next season and developing their play to a higher standard.

■ **Humza Irfan**

Athletics and Cross Country

Athletics

The Summer Term started with three weeks of persistent rain and ended with two months' heatwave. Fortunately the day of the Senior Foundation match in April provided a two-hour window of sunshine allowing us to help christen the brand new athletics facility that KES share with the University (and also our fancy new kit). The infield was flooded, but the track and jump areas were fine.

Johannes Beckett, Dan Hill and Dan Higgins marshalled the troops and we had the luxury not only of a full team, but the athletics swansong for the Year 13 athletes. Hamza

Qureshi put his body on the line, literally, in dipping at the finish of his race. Unfortunately for him it meant rolling the last few metres and scraping his legs dramatically in the process! Well done to all the senior athletes and thank you for your work these past seven years.

We followed this up with strong showings at both Intermediate and Junior Foundation matches. We currently have some talented boys in the school and one highlight was Joe Day clearing 1.64m in the high jump. Ross Evans, Richard Amoshe and Yusof Elsherbiny in Year 10. Omaree Johnson, Jack Johnson and Ali Iqbal in Year 9. Toby Ajayi, Tamjid Islam and Sam Ankrah in Year 8. Chude Ndozi, Arnav Nailwal and Jack O'Brien in Year 7. These amongst many have competed well this term.

The annual match at the Norman Green we host was blessed with sunshine and a full quota of eight teams. The Year 9 squad won

and the Year 10 were second. Always a great occasion and well supported by parents. In the English Schools Track and Field Cup both squads qualified for the regional finals. Credit again to the boys as the matches fell during exams, Ramadan, D of E, etc, etc.

The season ended with our own Sports Day on a field that by then was more brown than green! Chude Ndozi, Milan Dawson, Joe Day, Omaree Johnson, Richard Amoshe and Kamil Khan were the Ludorum winners. Beaufort stormed to the Athletics Championship and Dylan Rogers wore a proud smile when collecting the trophy. Joe set a new high jump record and as the juniors now race over 300m not 400m, there were also records for Jonah Kippax, Samay Patel, Joe and Ross Evans. So in the end a fine summer and one in which the athletes from CHB performed brilliantly.

■ **M.W.D.**



Badminton

The stand-out success of the badminton season was the progress of our U14 squad who reached the National Finals for only the second time in our history. The players were Adarsh Palanikumar, Zak Malik, Pranav Juloori and Pranoy Nishanth.

Having breezed through the first round, defeating KES along the way, we were placed in a pool with two other schools at the City

Finals with each match consisting of five ties, two of them singles and three doubles. We negotiated the pool fairly easily, defeating both Small Heath and Bartley Green 5-0 and without conceding many individual points. We then had to wait nearly two hours before the afternoon session. Here we would oppose two more schools for the right to progress to the next round. Against Handsworth we again registered a 5-0 success, although the standard was higher than previously. Bishop Vesey had also beaten Handsworth and so our match

against them was the day's final. Vesey had a highly ranked number one seed who had impressed throughout the day. Adarsh raised his game and secured the first win. Pranav and Pranoy won their doubles before Zak won his own singles. Vesey did pull one back in the fourth tie, but we held our nerve in the fifth to win 4-1 overall. So Camp Hill were duly awarded gold medals for being the top team out of the 10 entries. This meant we moved on to the Regional Finals.

At the Midlands Regionals we were placed

in a pool with three other schools. Against Queen Mary's after a few close games we emerged winners 4-1. The next match posed a stiffer challenge in the form of Hereford Cathedral School. We won the two singles ties but lost the first two doubles games. So 2-2 with one to play. Thankfully our nerve held in a 15-6 win to take the match 3-2 overall. Our third group match was the most comfortable, although we did drop one of the doubles games in beating William Brookes 4-1. Winning our group placed us in to the final where we played Clayton High School from Staffordshire. Each of the five ties was keenly contested. Adarsh and Zak both won their singles, the Prans lost their doubles. So 2-1 to Camp Hill with two to play. Adarsh and Pranav fell behind early in their game but composed play enabled them to come back to win 15-12. Zak and Pranoy also struggled early before their class proved the better and they won 15-11. Camp Hill therefore won the final 4-1 and hence qualified for the National Finals as one of the top nine teams in the country. This is only the second time we have reached this stage, the last being in 2010.

The Finals were held in late April at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes. An early start was in order but the air of excitement and anticipation (and Pranoy's whittering) meant we were soon there. The nine teams were placed in three groups, we were with Bedford and Silverdale Schools. The standard was going to be far higher than we had previously seen, but early nerves settled as both



[Above] Badminton Regional Finals

Adarsh and Zak won their singles matches. We then lost two of the doubles before Zak and Pranoy secured victory. Silverdale were too strong and we lost 1-4, Zak again registering a singles victory. This placed us second in the group and meant that we would compete for 4th/5th/6th place in the afternoon. By now our former coach and supremo Mike Russell had arrived from North Yorkshire and he leant some tactical genius to proceedings. We beat Chulmsleigh 3-2 and then in another tight contest we edged Bolton 3-2. So 4th place overall was our prize, an incredible achievement by the foursome. They just missed out on a medal but surpassed everyone's expectations.

This has been Camp Hill's most successful badminton season and with the boys all being in KS3 we hope they can go on to challenge again at the top level over the next two years. Huge congratulations to the players and



[Above] Badminton National Finals KS3 2018



[Above] Badminton City Finals

thanks to Mike Russell for all his coaching over so many years.

■ **M.W.D.**

[Refer to the Tennis section for the formal Badminton Team picture](#)

Basketball

U14 Basketball

This year's U14 basketball team featured Subhan Ahmed, Joe Day, Ali Elsherbiny, Zach Hobson-Taher, Ali Iqbal, Jack Johnson (c), Omaree Johnson, Sam Morris, Mustafa Shoukat, Omar Ismail, Ashraf Imthiyaz, Emery Uzoma, Ayman Husian and Rufus Hall. The team started the season strongly, with a tournament which we did quite well in, winning all of our matches. This was particularly pleasing considering it was the start of the season and we had only had a few training sessions beforehand.

After the tournament our first league match we played was Yardleys School. We performed well in this match and pulled off a 43-27 victory with top scorers being Sam Morris, Joe Day and Jack Johnson getting 8 points each with Mustafa Shoukat close behind with 6. The next game the team played Wheelers Lane, who had proved to be a good team in the past. However, this was not the case this time with the final score being 69-6 to us. This game consisted of some very well worked baskets and good play by the team. Top scorer was



Jack Johnson with 12 and Omaree, Rufus and Joe with 10. This game was pretty one-sided and Ashraf was there, so we won easily. The next game was a similar story with Bishop Challoner and the final score being 44-16 to

Camp Hill. Top scorer was Joe Day with 10 with Jack Johnson and Sam Morris with 8 each. Yet again Ashraf was there so we won. The next game against Starbank was cancelled because they couldn't attend, so we won that one by

forfeit. The next match the team played was the best of the season. This was the game against Kings Heath. The team played some very competitive basketball that evening, and the team took a lot away from that match. Kings Heath had a very strong side with two tall twins and one small guy who was swishing 3-pointers with ease. However, the team did fight back and that night we played out of our skin. But besides the fouls and the countless shots we took it wasn't enough to win this time and the score finished at 34-39 to Kings Heath. But the score line did not reflect our efforts. Special mention to Sam Morris and Ashraf wasn't there so that may have affected us. The next match we were determined to win after our last defeat and worked hard for the 49-21 win we got over Aston Manor. Top Scorers were Omaree and Mustafa with 10 each. We also went on to win our next game against Thomas Aquinas with a 32-29 win. This was a very close match in which the team worked hard throughout it and deserved the result they got. Omaree was top scorer with 10 points.

We then attended a tournament, which consisted of four 10-minute matches. We won 3 of the 4 matches we played, winning against Yardleys 6-4, Ninestiles 10-8 and Shenley 12-2. However, we lost to Cardinal Wiseman 4-2 which was very close, but they overcame us. Having completed the play offs, the team was eager to see if we had made it to the next

round. As Mr Duncan approached us he gave us the news. We'd made it. However, when we saw who we were up against next the jumping stopped. Although Omar was still dancing. We were up against Kings Heath – again. One of only two teams we had ever lost to in our time playing together. However, the team did not let this put them down and were determined for revenge on the opposing team.

The starting five went onto the court looking determined. We put up a good fight against them once again and the short game seemed to last forever. But then they took a lead and we couldn't quite catch up and in the end the game ended 6-11 to Kings Heath. The team had done all they could that game and took a well-deserved rest on the top-quality chairs we were given. The team waited on the side to see if we'd done enough to get through to the third place play off. A while later, we were told that we had in fact made it through and were ready for another fight. We'd tried going for gold, we couldn't settle for silver, so we had no choice other than to battle for bronze.

The game was against another team we had previously lost to, Cardinal Wiseman. After the last result against Kings Heath the team had to win this game and we did 10-6. Shout out to the team for that tournament as we had played amazingly on that day and deserved to at least take home a medal, which we did, and the day ended with us taking a picture, a

bronze medal and some dodgy plum coloured t-shirts which had Turkish airlines written all over it home. We also missed school so that was a bonus.

And so, onto our last match, the League Play-Off Final against Turves Green. This match proved to be a challenging one with the opposition having one very strong player who scored more than half their points with the hard carry. As this was our last game we wanted to put on a good show and we did. Throughout the game each period we got better but the scoreboard was not looking in our favour. The game ended at 36-44 to them but we went out on a great performance in this match and throughout the whole season too, losing only two of our eight matches and winning the other 6. We scored a total of 307 points altogether and only 182 against us. Mr Duncan was proud of the team and the team look forward to playing again whether it be in or outside school.

Special mentions to Sam Morris, Mustafa Shoukat and Omaree Johnson for all being key players throughout the season. And Ashraf for being there. Special thanks to Mr Duncan for taking the time to coach us and taking us to matches we wouldn't have done it without him. Thanks to all of you guys that read this it took time I appreciate it.

■ **Jack Johnson**

U13 Basketball

The Year 8 boys went into their first match as a team in mid-November 2017 against Bishop Challoner. After many Monday lunchtime training sessions, the lads were confident to display their talents on the court but were unfortunate when the news came that our captain (Vernon Kenworthy) had sustained a nasty injury to the ankle and could not play for a number of upcoming matches. Sadly, after a tight encounter we ended up losing that fixture 14-11, Sam Ankrah scored the highest amount of points in the game with 6, Toby Ajayi with 3 and finally Ajay Dhaliwal with 2.

After a long wait for our second encounter, Camp Hill were superior to King Edward's Sheldon Heath and with some quick, direct and great offensive play, we came out 19-17 winners. Credit must go to Toby Ajayi who scored the winning basket in the last second of the game. Somto Achiosugu, Toby Ajayi and Sam Ankrah were our top scorers with 4 points each. On the 7th February 2018 Camp Hill faced a much stronger Jewellery Quarter side that ran out 26-15 winners. Debutants Zoheb Khan and Dawud Mustafa played well and our man of the match was Shabir Ahmed who scored 4 points. Somto Achiosugu, Toby Ajayi, Sam Ankrah, Toby Taylor and Ajay Shingadia all



scored 2 points with Madyan Basit adding a free-throw.

Our first away match of the season ended being our last one. Another closely fought match was again lost, this time to Queenbridge who won 28-24. After returning from injury Vernon Kenworthy scored 6 points along with Madyan Basit. Toby Taylor and Shabir Ahmed scored 4 points with Toby Ajayi, Sam Ankrah

and Ajay Dhaliwal all gathering 2 points.

In conclusion although results mainly did not go our way, the boys put in a lot of effort over the season scoring 69 points in 4 matches. Thanks must go to Mr Burgess for improving us as players and Mr Taylor for accompanying us to matches.

■ **Taran Dhaliwal**

Chess

A new academic year and a new teacher, Mr Verma, took on the management of the Chess Club. He was ably assisted by Chess Club veterans from the Upper Sixth, who had co-managed the club with Mr Garrod the previous year, and this ensured a smooth start to the club's activities. The club saw a marked increase in popularity and, towards the end of the year, was running almost every lunchtime. In addition to the usual suspects, large numbers of boys in younger years came along to try out chess for the first time and found it to be a highly enjoyable pastime, even a competitive sport!

First, the headline result: our teams produced one of their best ever performances in the Birmingham Schools Chess League in 2017-18, winning Division One and tying for first place (with Solihull School) in Division Two. This was a superb achievement and represented the consistent efforts of boys throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms. The teams include boys from the younger year groups right through to the Upper Sixth. We were able to field full teams in every single competition, so a very big thank you to all members of the team for your commitment!

Now for the details. In Division One, the First Team won all matches played, beating the B-team away at King Edwards School 1.5:4.5 in early November and, with a slightly reduced winning margin, the KES A-team at Camp Hill in mid-January (3.5:2.5). Overall, the team moved up from second place last year to win Division One this year. In Division Two, the Second Team improved from third place in the league last year to first place this year. Early November gave the team a decisive win



away at King Edwards School (1:11). In late November there was very close finish at Solihull, which resulted in a loss (6.5:5.5). However, January's home match against King Edward's Five Ways produced another strong win (8:4).

The Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge provided an opportunity for individual players to shine. The Megafinals, county level tournaments held in May, are a useful way for players to gain experience in competition rapidplay chess. Typically, the school is well-represented, and this year was no exception. In the Worcestershire Megafinal, held at The Kings School Worcester, Viswamedha Nalabotu placed 4th Under 14 with a score of 3.5/6 and Arjun Pandit 7th with a score of 3/6. At the Warwickshire Megafinal, held at Warwick Trident College, Prasanna Sivakumar placed 3rd in the U12 category with a score of 4.5/6. In the next category up, Hemal Aggarwal placed 10th (3/6), Aarav Duggal 15th (2/6) and Pranav Murthy 20th (1.5/6). Viswamedha (U14) and Prasanna (U12) progressed to the Midlands Gigafinal, which was held in early July at the Grace Academy in Solihull. Both faced very strong competition and played very well. Prasanna placed 12th in a field of fifty-five U12 boys, scoring 4/6, and Viswamedha placed 20th in a field of thirty-five U14 boys, scoring 3/6.

A few boys entered the various County Championships and Open Tournaments and

achieved impressive results. At Lawrence Sheriff School in July 2018, Viswamedha won the Rugby Junior Open (U18, Group B) winning all five of his matches. At the Warwickshire Junior Championships, held at Kenilworth School and Sixth Form in January 2018, Viswamedha placed joint 5th scoring 4/6 and Hemal placed joint 9th, scoring 3/6. Well done to all those who took part in individual tournaments!

House Chess also took place during the Spring term and gave many boys who do not normally play competition chess an opportunity to gain match experience. A big thank you to Mr Duncan for organising the event and ensuring its smooth running. The results are covered in the House reports.

As I now hand over the Captaincy of Chess at Camp Hill to the next generation of fine players, I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in school chess, both students and teachers, for their support in the provision of the sport at Camp Hill. A special thanks must go to Mr Verma, who enabled the continuation of the club towards the end of the academic year, especially once the exam season started. It has been a pleasure to be involved with school chess and I wish the teams continuing success in the coming year.

■ **Chris Marshall**

Football

An away fixture against Bablake School is one that features regularly on the football team fixture list, and the 1st XI, consisting of a seemingly mixed and matched squad, travelled to Coventry on a bright Wednesday afternoon. The Camp Hill team started off slow, and a slight lapse in defence put us on the back foot after several minutes. However, we soon grew into the game, and a spell of brilliance from Abbas Mirza free kick put us level at the break. In the second half we dominated the game, and were rewarded with a goal from striker Sam Cullen who volleyed the ball into the roof of the net. Camp Hill 2-1 Bablake, was the final result, and Rumun Ark was rewarded Man of the Match.

The next few games proved to be tough for Camp Hill as we lost to Priory School,



Princethorpe, and Handsworth Grammar: the scores were 3-2, 3-2, and 6-4 respectively. A poor display against Priory School

was seemingly rectified against a very tough Princethorpe opposition. Strong displays in defence from Yate, Kurji and Man-of-the-Match

Matt Allely kept us in the game, and we were 2-1 up just after half time. However, this wasn't enough, as Princethorpe managed to squeeze 2 goals past us at the death and clinch the 3 points. Our 2 goals were scored by Imad Tariq and Liam Garside. The following game against Handsworth followed a similar story, however errors in defence were our greatest flaw as we couldn't outscore the opposition. Our 4 goals were Hassan Hussein, Raj Hayer, and a clinical Garside freekick.

Due to the small fixture list available to us, the football team often play matches twice, and albeit bittersweet, we played Bablake, Handsworth and Princethorpe once again. We won our match against Bablake 4-0, with goals from Hassan (2), Abbas and Liam. However, we didn't show the same level of character against the latter teams, and lost to heavy scorelines of 6-1 twice. Likewise, we played Old Swinford Hospital twice, and both games were fuelled

with heavy challenges and tackles from the opposition. Their aggression often got the better of the Camp Hill team, and our lack of desire and, towards the end, fitness, let us down. We lost both matches, however the scorelines didn't reflect the technical ability shown by our players.

'Unlucky' is a word used by some of the players throughout our season, and the match against King Henry's epitomised just that. With an unfamiliar team due to absences, and on a pitch only big enough to play 9-a-side, we lost 5-3 to poor opposition. If King Henry's were poor, we were hoping that Prince Henry's would be of a similar or worse level. This wasn't the case, as we came into our last game of the season before tour, against a well-drilled team. However, last ditch tackles and reflex saves from Matt Allely took us into half time at 1-0, as Raj Hayer scored a 'no-look volley into the top bin' from an Abbas Mirza cross. After the break,

we let Prince Henry's into the game and they finally took their chance in the last 10 minutes with an equaliser. Fortunately for us, we still had time, and more importantly, Liam Garside. From what looked like a clearance from the half-way line, Garside managed to lob the opposition goalkeeper and find the back of the net to give Camp Hill a brilliant win to finish off the regular season.

Throughout the year, special mentions go to Abbas Mirza, Muhammed Kurji, Harry Yate, Matt Allely, Liam Garside, Raj Hayer, and Haseeb Ali for strong commitment and performances. Top scorer was Hassan Hussein who proved vital up front for us all season. Our thanks goes to Mr Speake and Mr Garrod who drove us and supported us around the Midlands and up to Manchester on tour.

■ **Rumun Ark**

Football Tour

The annual Football Tour began on Friday 16th March 2018 as 14 of the 1st XI squad drove up to Manchester, eager to have an enjoyable weekend. Due to the burden of logistics, we had to drive directly to our fixture against Lymm High School from Birmingham. We were greeted by the bitter northern cold, and a technically gifted opposition side. One of our greatest burdens was noticeably the absence of player of the season Matt Allely who missed the match due to injury. Unfortunately, the match started poorly, as our defence was split by the passing and pace of the opposition forwards, and this was the story for the rest of the game. The team showed character and desire throughout the match, but frankly Lymm were well organised and beat us convincingly. Thankfully, this

wouldn't tarnish the rest of the tour as we ended the night with a delightful team dinner, and rounds of pool.

The next morning was a memorable one, as we went on a tour to Manchester City's Stadium which Mr Garrod still affectionately called 'Maine Road' – perhaps showing his age compared to the squad. City's world-class facilities showed us why they attracted household names such as; John Stones, Raheem Sterling, and Phil Foden. As well as this, we were shown around the Manchester City Trophy Room, which despite being scarce of trophies, did boast a Premier League Trophy, and several videos of 'that Aguero goal'.

Following our tour of the Etihad, we were then taken to the Macron Stadium to watch some 'proper football'; Bolton Wanderers vs Aston Villa. With the snow falling, and several Villa fans sitting in the home end, the hope of

an away win from some of the tour party was hotly anticipated. This was not to be, as Bolton ran out 1-0 winners, much to Mr Speake's distaste. Due to match day traffic, we arrived back at the hotel rather late, but still found time to squeeze in a final team dinner where awards were presented. Hassan Hussein won the Golden Boot; Harry Yate won the Most Improved Award; and Matt Allely won Player of the Season.

The next morning, it seemed that the M6 was a hostile environment for cars, and the squad were hoping for another day in Manchester and a day off school. Again, this was not to be, and after a leisurely morning at David Lloyd Leisure Centre, we got the minibus back to school. The Football Tour was another success despite home losses, and the team look forward to another next season.

■ **Rumun Ark**

Swimming

The school swimming team only get a few galas per year, but they always make the most of them. One highlight of this year's swimming calendar was our Gala for Years 7 to 10 at St Martin's School, alongside Camp Hill Girls. Despite losing a few key swimmers to illness, Year 7s Darius, Cyrus and Vansh managed to hold Camp Hill Girls at bay, placing second out of the three teams. Cyrus Maleki-Tooserkani confirmed that he really, really likes butterfly by volunteering to swim it twice, plus a third time in the individual medley!

Year 8s George Hill, Ishan Tewari, Matteo Gianni and Adrian Iffrin also swam hard to secure a second place finish overall. Lorcan Halstead, Will Smith and Daniel Robinson of



Year 9 came up against some very stiff competition and, despite first and second place finishes from Lorcan, were beaten by both of

the opposing teams. But it was the Year 10 squad who enjoyed the greatest success at St Martins: Anil Sivakumar sailed in to first place

in the 25m butterfly, Ross Evans likewise in the individual medley, along with some excellent swims from Miles Balderson and Samyak Jain.

This year has also seen the return to school swimming of the elusive Yicheng Guo, of 8S fame. Mr O'Malley had been worried that Yicheng had retired at the end of Year 7, once he saw that the new Year 7 swimmers were rather fast. Thankfully though he was just taking a break, and Yicheng is now back as a regular swimmer. Friday night training has been as popular as ever this year. Year 7 boys Sam Nouhov, Ethan Tumbos, Vansh Pradhan and Ibrahim Afzal have all been regular attendees, along with the 8S boys, and Year 10s Anil Sivakumar and Miles Balderson. Dr Higgins, Mr Jack and Mr O'Malley have been working the boys and girls hard at Friday training, with Mr Jack

making sure they know their square numbers as well as they know their front crawl.

This year we had a very rare event where the School Hockey Captain is also the School Swimming Captain. In light of that, Dr Higgins was invited in as guest to witness her son Daniel receiving his Hockey and Swimming Colours – at least that's what she thought, but actually we had a surprise presentation! For five years swimmers from both the Boys' and Girls' School have benefited from the superb coaching skills of Dr Higgins who has freely given of her time and expertise. With this year being Dr Higgins' last year as coach, we wanted to show our sincere gratitude for all that Natalie has done. Two senior swimmers from the Girls' School, Amrit Phull and Emily Colleran, presented Dr Higgins with a symbol of our thanks.

The Senior swimmers from both schools also wished to show their gratitude to Mr Jack for all that he has done for school swimming over his long and illustrious career. 2018 saw the first presentation of the newly organised PR Jack Shield, which celebrates the winner of the annual CHB versus CHG Gala. New Captain Henry Belai collected the Shield on behalf of Camp Hill Boys this year, but for how many years can we hold on to it?

So now we look forward to next year's swimming events. Swimming Captain Henry Belai will hopefully be leading our team to victory at Galas against Bromsgrove, Warwick, St Martins and possibly others.

■ **S.O.M.**

Tennis

This has been a busy year for School Tennis teams with over 25 matches being played. Most of these have taken place during a glorious summer term that will live long in the memory. 17 of these matches have been won and one drawn, indicating the healthy state of School Tennis at present. From 6th Form to Year 7, the school is blessed with a number of talented players who not only represent the school, but are developing their Tennis in local clubs and competitions.

The Senior Team (Liam Garside, Danny Blyth, Ajay John, Chris Marshall, Madav Manoj and Rohan Sharma) have played their usual split season with three matches in the Senior Students League in the autumn term and then our traditional encounter with KES and the Glanvill Cup in the Summer. The team were unfortunate in coming up against the same strong opposition in the shape of Alcester GS, in both competitions. However, they can console themselves in the knowledge that their opponents went on to reach the National Finals. The team always seem to save their best for the annual encounter with local rivals KES and this year was no exception. After winning the fixture last year, we knew that KES would be keen for revenge. In a closely contested match, Camp Hill battled hard for a 3-3 draw. With Danny and Ajay remaining for one more year and the emergence of new and younger talent, the prospects for 2019 look promising. Sadly, 2018 marks the departure of Liam Garside from School Tennis. Liam has made a truly significant contribution to School Tennis during his time at Camp Hill, playing in 31 School Tennis matches and more impressively winning 40 out of 51 sets played.

Our U15 and U13 teams have also been busy in their respective league programmes and with more local schools entering these leagues, it has led to a busy summer term of

matches. The U15 A-team (Luke Hemmings, Karthik Bhardawaj, Aryan Deshpande, Max Shally, Imaad Zaffar, Pranav Juloori, Milan Dawson and Aryan Singh) won four of their league matches, but lost the crucial league decider to rivals KES. The highlight of the season was the hard earned 3-3 draw against Bishop Vesey. It is worth noting that Milan Dawson and Aryan Singh played in this team as Year 8s (due to the lack of U13 teams in the A-League) and they certainly acquitted themselves well, winning most of their matches. The U15 B-team (Max Shally, Karthik Bharadwaj, Imaad Zaffar, Jack Johnson, Omar Ismail, Pranav Juloori, Prithu Krishnan, Sam Morris and James Derham) had a great season, winning their league and only dropping 9 out of the 46 sets played.

There is considerable strength in depth in the Camp Hill junior teams. This is perhaps best illustrated by the 'Road to Wimbledon' Competition, held on the school courts for the first time this year. Aimed at players 14 and under, Camp Hill entered four Year 8 players: Milan Dawson, Aryan Singh, Jai Bahalkar and Sai Ponnuru. All four emerged from the group stages

to contest all Camp Hill semi-finals, before Jai as third seed produced a shock, beating second seed Aryan in the final. Jai now plays in the Midlands stage for an opportunity to play at Wimbledon.

Ironically, in a summer term which saw most of the area leagues expand with new teams participating, the U13 A-League shrunk with only ourselves and a very strong KES team contesting it. The U13 A-team (Milan Dawson, Jai Bahalkar, Sai Ponnuru, Cyrus Masser-Toosserkani and Darius Masser-Toosserkani) lost the 'winner takes all' match but gained consolation with a fine win in a friendly match against Bishop Vesey. The U13 B-team (Jai Bahalkar, Praneeth Udathu, Kierandeep Singh, Shaan Dhillon, Haroon Zaffar, Prisana Sivakumar and the Masser-Toosserkani twins) matched their U15 counterparts by winning their league, winning all six matches in the process.

Well done the Tennis players!

■ **C.M.J.**



[Above] Picture shows both Badminton and Tennis Teams

Sports Day







Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 st XV	13	2	0	11	191	467
	2 nd XV	9	3	0	6	151	299
	U16	2	0	1	1	36	39
	U15 A	15	13	0	2	515	225
	U15 B	6	3	0	3	196	123
	U14 A	15	5	0	10	283	280
	U14 B	4	3	0	1	141	93
	U13 A	14	6	2	6	360	315
	U13 B	7	4	0	3	240	175
	U13 C	3	2	0	1	115	50
	U13 D	1	1	0	0	25	10
	U12 A	14	2	0	12	70	560
	U12 B	6	0	0	6	30	225
	U12 C	5	2	0	3	95	95
	U12 D	5	1	1	3	80	100
HOCKEY	1 st XI	14	3	2	9	24	48
	2 nd XI	14	0	3	11	11	63
	U15	11	5	1	5	32	24
	U14	5	0	1	4	7	26
BADMINTON	U16	2	1	0	1	7	3
	U14	16	15	0	1	456	18
BASKETBALL	U14	7	5	0	2	306	182
	U13	4	1	0	3	69	85
FOOTBALL	1 st XI	12	3	0	9	25	52
	2 nd XI	3	0	0	3	4	18

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	15	6	3	3	3

SWIMMING	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	6	5	4	7	1

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	5	1	1	3	S. Khan 96	R. Khan 4/10
U15	7	3	0	4	I. Mohammed 49	A. Nirantharakumar 4/24
U14	8	3	0	5	A. Chowdhury 63	S. Ahmed 5/27
U13 A	9	9	0	0	A. Shingadia 106*	W. Mackie 5/27
U13 B	2	1	0	1		
U12 A	8	4	0	4	E. Nadeem 35	E. Nadeem 5/13
U12 B	2	2	0	0		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 st IV	3	0	1	2
U15 A	6	3	1	2
U15 B	5	5	0	0
U14 A	1	0	0	1
U13 A	2	1	0	1
U13 B	5	5	0	0

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 – 2018				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	10	5	7	3
BADMINTON	1	2	4	3
BASKETBALL	7	5	2	2
CHESS	3	2	1	4
CRICKET	4	4	10	7
CROSS COUNTRY	10	5	7	3
FESTIVAL	9	10.5	11	9.5
FOOTBALL	7	4	4	1
HOCKEY	4	7	4	1
MUSIC	1.5	1.5	4	3
QUIZ	3	3	3	1
RUGBY	10	6	6	3
SWIMMING	10	3	5	7
TABLE TENNIS	1	2	3	4
TENNIS	1	4	2	3
OVERALL TOTAL	81.5	64	73	54.5





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