



# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

## AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the current academic year. I would like to wish a warm welcome to our new staff and students and their parents. Camp Hill Boys is often described as a family and whilst joining a new family can sometimes be a nervous and uncertain experience I really hope that you are all experiencing the warm welcome that we are known for.

I don't feel I can write this without mentioning OFSTED. Firstly, whilst we absolutely acknowledge that we are not perfect, and that we can always improve, I think it is important to say thank you to all of you who, over the years, have supported us with both positive and developmental feedback. Your communications confirm that the vast majority of our community, for most of the time, enjoy the wonderful care and support of being part of the Camp Hill Boys family. This was backed up in the recent inspection: the OFSTED team confirmed that the school and its community are indeed exceptional in many of the things we do.

As I write we have still not received the final official report, but you will soon be able to read the report on our website, and as with all OFSTED reports, it will only be a brief outline of the many strengths that the inspectors noted. I want to pay tribute to the staff, students, parents, governors and KEVI Academy Trust colleagues who have worked so hard to help us all be the best we can be. The outcome is a fitting affirmation of the incredible work that the school does to support all of our students. My heartfelt congratulations particularly to the staff and students!

Of course, as a school we don't do things just for OFSTED. It is widely recognised that when a school focuses on the important matters of sensitive pastoral care, broad personal development, a tailored curriculum, and emotionally intelligent supportive leadership, then the rest will fall into place. I believe that it is important to reiterate that the staff and students go above and beyond on a daily basis, and OFSTED reports are just a snapshot of this everyday endeavour.

Finally, I want to say that we are definitely not resting on our laurels and we will continue to do everything we can to be the best we can be.

Meanwhile, the Governors at Camp Hill Boys are pleased to announce the appointment of Melios Michael to the position of Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum) starting in September 2024. The recruitment process was exacting and the candidate field was strong, and we are pleased to note that Melios' leadership experience was a close match with the responsibilities of the post, and that his personal value set also showed a close synergy with the values of the school and the community. Melios, who joins us from Hamstead Hall, succeeds Paul Bruten, who has served the school for 35 years, including 10 years as Deputy Headteacher, and who now looks forward to a well-earned retirement in the Devon countryside.

In our recent Prize Giving evening we were reminded by the Bailiff to never give up, and to treat failure as an opportunity to learn, to improve and to develop a real sense of resilience and self-belief. Mr Kinkhabwala reminded us all to dream big and stay true to our real ambitions, and nowhere does this reflect more than in the stunning array of enrichment that Camp Hill staff and students create. These sport, music, art, drama, clubs, societies and trips are an integral part (and not an extra) of Camp Hill Life. Already this year we have had a Physics Partners Study Day, a Biology field trip, science parents enrichment evenings, the IRIS national awards ceremony (which we won), a series of Y12 Chemistry lectures, the Senior Maths Challenge and Kangaroo, a Geography trip to

Middleton Lakes, the German homestay exchange, a theatre visit to see Lenny Henry, a Y12 RSHE workshop, more Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, the Next Generation Awards national finals, a talk from Dr Stuart Lawrence (brother of Stephen Lawrence), a Year 8 STEM workshop, various House sports competitions, a Year 9 Water Aid talk, Year 13 practice interviews, the Chamber Concert, an author visit (Hiba Noor Khan), the Lord Mayor's Mega Quiz, the Geography GIS day, the chemistry Top of the Bench competition, a senior trip to the National Museum of Computing, a trip to Worcester Cathedral, carol singing at QEH, the Birmingham climate conference, the model volcano prize winners' trip to Lapworth Museum, and the fabulous Christmas Concert.

We have also had our Open Evening, our Year 12 information evening, several parents' evenings, several AFS meetings (all parents are welcome to these), the Year 10 welcome evening, the entrance test day, several governor meetings, the Year 7 Foundation Ceremony, the new Year 7 parents social evening, flu vaccinations (for students and staff), our A-Level options evening, OFSTED and our annual Prize Giving evening.

Whilst I am here, I want to wish all our Year 13 students the best of luck with their applications for university and apprenticeship courses, and to thank all of the staff who have invested so much time and energy in supporting them with this important next step in their lives. Of course the students won't need any luck because they have prepared so well, but if a little luck will help, then I wish it for them anyway!

On 19 th October the two Camp Hill Schools hosted the national Schools Climate Assembly. We welcomed over 1000 students from across the UK to join us and listen to inspirational speakers such as Chris Packham and Hamza Yassin. Storm Babet did its best to hamper our efforts, but the irony was not lost on the assembly, as students joined together to discuss ecological issues and potential solutions to serious climate threats such as severe weather conditions. It was an inspirational event that sits neatly alongside the work that our own Eco Committee is championing with support from Miss Marston.

The end of November gave rise to another joint Camp Hill production: a performance of The Crucible, a 1953 play by American playwright Arthur Miller, and which dramatises a partially fictional story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692–93. This senior production was performed in the hall at Camp Hill Girls and was a sell out on both nights. My congratulations to all of the students and staff involved in yet another superb demonstration of Camp Hill talent (in both music and drama), and my thanks to Mr Dowling and Mr Watters for the leadership and support that they provided.

As I write the Year 11 are completing their mock exams (good luck to them as well) and we look forward to the beautiful Carol Service in All Saints Church.

My thanks to all of the amazing staff who have given huge amounts of time and energy to organise and support these events. Our staff are a wonderful, giving, selfless group of people who go above and beyond to support the students, and it is an honour and privilege to work alongside them.

I will sign off with a public thank you to Mrs Beckett for all the work she has been doing behind the scenes in the Development Office. The main objective of the Development Office is to promote and strengthen relationships with our alumni, through a series of events for 'Old Boys' of the school, such as summer barbeques, sports matches, musical events, reunion meetings and tours of the school. I am hopeful that all of our current students will stay in touch with the school after they have left, and I extend a warm welcome to all former students to engage with any of the events. We

have hosted quite a few reunion tours now where we welcomed back both former students and former staff to reminisce whilst enjoying hot soup and good company.

It's been a busy term, and it remains for me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas Holiday. I hope you all manage to enjoy some peace and happiness and some quality family time, and that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to another exciting term in January.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen

Headmaster

December 2023





## Geography

### **Middleton Visit**

Miss Marston took advantage of her contacts in the RSPB to take the two y13 geography classes to Middleton Lakes nature reserve near Tamworth for the day on 5 October. While it was branded as a day of water cycle revision and active conservation, a rumour circulated in the ranks that the RSPB was eager to have the free labour of twenty-five teenagers for a morning. Nevertheless, it was great fun and welcomed by the group as a break from revision for various university aptitude tests.

The morning was spent assisting the volunteers in removing willow shoots from a part of the reserve in order to preserve the wetland habitat. Mr. Butcher massively enjoyed himself; he very clearly delighted in making sure the group did their fair share but despite waving a number of large gardening tools about, was only rarely observed using them. However, our pile of willow after the morning's work was almost mistaken for the nearby Dost Hill.

After lunch in a bird watching hide, which surely was more enjoyable for us than for the elderly couple we shared it with, we were given a tour of the reserve. Our guide pointed out all of the wading bird species resident at Middleton, including egrets, snipes and even a duck! However, despite the reserve's proximity to Aston Villa's training ground (and plentiful anecdotal evidence from Miss Marston), Villa players proved an elusive species.

With Mr. Watkins behind the wheel, we were all very relieved to return to Kings Heath in one piece after a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable day. Thank you to the reserve for making it possible and to Miss Marston, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Watkins and Mr. Cox for driving us there.



## Biology

### **Year 13 Biology Field Trip to Somerset**

#### **Nettlecombe Court and Woodford Meanders - Monday 25th September 2023**

After a 3-hour long coach journey exemplified by the vast array of entertainment the 21st century had to offer, we emerged into the picturesque Somerset countryside putting all of our coach driver's abilities to the test as we navigated the rural 'roads' into the historic Nettlecombe Court. After a quick critique of our rooms and a brief hiatus for lunch, things got serious as we set out for our first bout of fieldwork armed only with nets, buckets, and a large fancy piece of brass (which we later found out to be a flow meter to measure river velocity). Here at the Woodford Meanders we investigated freshwater invertebrates in the pools and riffles assessing the impact that abiotic factors had on biodiversity.

After returning to the centre and pausing once again, this time for dinner, vegan chilli con carne, we got to work assembling Longworth traps to investigate the diversity of small mammals in the woods surrounding Nettlecombe Court. After this we marked woodlice as part of a mark, release, recapture exercise to be completed the following morning and I can confidently say I got covered in more 'snail varnish' than the woodlice.

We then reconvened in the Great Hall to celebrate Tianjing's birthday in style with a quick rendition of everyone's favourite song, Happy Birthday to You, before breaking into the first of the many instalments of cake that would get us through the days that followed. It was then free time which roughly translated to a search for two things – a strong 4G signal and bats – at least one of which we found after clambering up the steepest hill known to man next to the centre, which we could best describe as treacherous!

*Joe Sullivan and Wisteria Chatterjee*







## Porlock Bay - Tuesday 26th September 2023

After waking up from our first night on the site, we enjoyed a quick breakfast and made sandwiches for our lunches that we would be eating offsite that day. We had an early classroom session and were provided with information on how we would check and weigh the small mammals that we had captured in our small mammal traps the night before, in order to get a clearer picture of the environment that the mammals are in and how healthy they are. Of the 12 traps set out we were very successful finding 8 mice which were then emptied into clear bags for examination and weighing before being safely released (not without some small screams from students). We had a brief classroom session discussing and outlining our tasks for the day, and then left for the coast to conduct our fieldwork.

After a long and treacherous coach journey, we arrived at a quaint little hamlet on the rocks, and began to walk along the shores. Our first activity involved assessing the environment around us. We explored the small semi-isolated pools scattered around, made up of various different species of anemones, snails, fish and even some crabs. We filled up our buckets with water and small amounts of sand, and began to ethically collect samples of the various organisms that we could find. Using our leaflets, we were able to identify the exact species that were in our sample, which led to some surprising discoveries, such as how snails evolve for the specific reason of confusing sixth form students trying to identify them. Our next task was to compare the species of snail that live in two different environments, still pools of freshwater, and streams. We collected every snail that we could find at each location, ethically again of course, and then placed them into our tray to identify and count. This allowed us to learn more about how different species have adapted to their environment, with the snails on the two different bodies of water having a unique shape of shells that allowed them to suit their environment better.

After we completed this, we headed back towards the small village nearby and wandered around for about half an hour before the coach arrived. During this time, we enjoyed a cheeky ice cream and chips, paid 3 quid for a Fanta, and had a heated debate about which animals we could realistically beat in a fight. We made our way back to the site and enjoyed a hearty meal of roast dinner and a delightful chocolate cake, before turning our lights off to go to sleep and spending the next 4 hours on our phones.

*Numayr Habib and Eesa Nadeem*







### **Braunton Burrows - Wednesday 27th September 2023**

Today we had an early classroom session outlining the different types of stat tests we would come across in our upcoming exams. The schedule for our busy day was set out and we made the one and a half hour trip to the sand dunes at Braunton Burrows in North Devon. After a quick stop for lunch and ice cream in the rain, we started the trip with making models of sand dune succession in the sand in our respective groups.

Next we started to familiarise ourselves with the types of plants we would come across and started to identify them using special packs provided to us by the centre. This allowed us to start our investigation of changing biodiversity as the sand dunes progressed by placing a transect of 15 metres horizontally at 2 metres into the first dune all the way to 256 metres increasing the distances between sites exponentially each time. Each group measured an abiotic factor at each location such as temperature and pH of the soil and the species of plant present at a location on the horizontal transect using a point quadrat. We found a huge variety of species, especially as we went further back into the more mature dunes with a lot more shrubbery.

After trekking back to the coach and another ice cream break in the rain we headed back to Nettlecombe for Spaghetti Bolognese and a final classroom session evaluating our statistics using a Spearman's rank test before going back to our dorms to watch Newcastle knock Man City out of the Carabao Cup.

*Eesa Nadeem and Sulaiman Tahir*





## Nettlecombe Court - Thursday 28th September 2023

Upon waking up for the final time at Nettlecombe court, we set about our usual morning routine of breakfast, gathering equipment and finding necessary clothing. We arrived in the classroom at 9am for our last classroom session, consisting of a general outline of what we were aiming to do. On the last day, we set out to investigate the varying biodiversity present in two different grassland areas. After investigating the distribution, abundance and variety of different species of plants across multiple areas, we finished our time at Nettlecombe with some memorable games and group activities. An enjoyable end to an intellectually stimulating experience, led by a group of fantastic teachers and the site staff, whose enthusiasm helped us to learn about and explore ecology.

*Hassan Zahoor*

**MFL**

## German Exchange 2023

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, a group of 23 students and 2 teachers boarded an A319 bound for Frankfurt. On arrival at the airport, we went through customs, reclaimed our baggage, and boarded the S-Bahn. After a change at Konstablerwache, we boarded the U-Bahn to Enkheim, the local train station. After a 15-minute walk, we met our exchange partners on the school's playground.

On Thursday, we went up the Helaba tower, around 200 metres above the streets, then once we had all got down safely, we could go off in groups of 4 into Frankfurt. On the Friday, we went to the Blind Museum, which was a string of dark rooms, made to emulate a blind person's average day. The first room was a park, the second was a house, and the third was a bar, where we could purchase a drink for €3. Then, we went to the zoo, before boarding the train back to Enkheim. Afterwards, everybody participating in the exchange played laser tag after school, English vs. Germans with the English being carried by Luka, who scored a whopping 10000 points! At the weekend, many students and their exchange partners went to Hessen-Centre, a local shopping mall. On the Monday, we went to the Natural History Museum. We split into two groups, one with Frau Wells, and one with Frau Loghin. Each group got a guided tour, and some free time to wander round the museum and view the exhibits that our short tour couldn't cover. My favourite activities were the Blind Museum, and riding the longest escalator in Europe during some free time we had in Frankfurt.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, we boarded the plane back, after a mishap where one group got stuck in a queue right as the gate was closing.

All in all, everybody had fun improving their German, learning about German culture, and eating German food. A big thanks to Frau Wells and Frau Loghin for organising the trip.

Nikhil Gilliam





## Food Tasting for European Languages day

Hello. If you didn't know, the 26th of September was National European Languages day. This is a day about celebrating languages from all across Europe.

In Western Europe, the culinary journey takes you through a symphony of flavours. Begin in France, where the buttery goodness of croissants meets the sweet allure of brioche, enticing your taste buds with every bite. Transition to Belgium for a delightful encounter with crisp and fluffy Belgian waffles, drizzled with chocolate or adorned with fresh berries.

From Germany, the aroma of freshly baked pretzels fills the air, a perfect blend of softness inside and a golden, salty crust outside. Meanwhile, from Spain, nachos and salsa offer a lively fiesta of flavours, capturing the vibrancy of the culture. These crunchy delights paired with zesty dips create a delightful textures.

We enjoyed a savoury selection of food from Italy and explored the world of cured meats. From the robust kick of pepperoni to the richness of salami, each bite is a testament to the craftsmanship of traditional European charcuterie.

We concluded our Western European feast in the United Kingdom with poppadoms, a crispy and thin Indian-inspired treat often enjoyed with chutneys. This multicultural touch reflects the diverse culinary influences that have shaped the region.

National European Languages Day becomes an incredibly enjoyable celebration, uniting the continent through a variety of flavours that tell the stories of centuries-old traditions. So to conclude, it was an eventful day filled with excitement and laughs. Everyone enjoyed it and we all had a favourite moment. We have Mrs Wells to thank for organising this.

Many thanks for reading this,

Ayaan Ali.





## GCHQ NATIONAL LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2023

GCHQ, which is one of the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agencies, launched the National Language Competition, running all week from 6th November 2023 to 10th November 2023, done in teams of four Year 9s from schools all across the country, with the winning team having a chance to visit the GCHQ headquarters in Cheltenham. Having seen a notice for the competition, we made a team consisting of Mahdi Hussein, Aarib Mahmood, Manavv Sethuraaman and Hussain Zaman and decided to take part in this competition. There were around 2,000 teams competing last year and it was highly probable that the number was higher this year. Nonetheless, we were prepared to give it our best.

The competition opened at 7am each day and was fully accessible to everyone up until 7pm, when it was locked again. With the only time in the school day to do this being during break times, lunchtimes and MFL lessons, alongside two to three hours only before and after school in total as well, it was quite difficult to manage our time, but we were still determined to plough on with the 72 puzzles with a total of 9,875 points obtainable.

The challenges were broken down into four different levels: easy, medium, hard and extreme. Using logical thinking, grammar skills and code-breaking in a wide range of languages, the aim was to capture a 'Flag' (a string of letters, often forming a word in another language) that was hidden within the challenge. For the challenge to be fully completed and to gain extra points, we needed to translate the section of the Flag after the first four letters, which were always F, L, A, and G. For example, if the Flag to a particular puzzle was 'FLAGbuongiorno', the phrase 'buongiorno' would need to be translated, which in this case is 'good morning' in Italian. Sometimes, the translation was worked out using the clues in the Flag and wasn't necessarily a direct translation from another language.

There were many languages we were introduced to during the competition. They included numerous European languages and ones that are commonly taught in school such as French and German. There was also a mixture of languages that were spoken by many people (e.g. Mandarin Chinese and Arabic), languages less commonly spoken (e.g. Amharic) and quite a lot of made-up languages (like 'Miskvit'). These weren't the only languages we used, though. There was also binary, lip-reading, Morse code and even finger-counting in different countries!

On Monday, we got off to a slow start with just 20% of the challenges done but once we got to grips with the format of the competition, we were speeding ahead. Our most productive days were Tuesday and Wednesday as we completed all of the easy and most of the medium challenges, bringing us up to 67% with around 4,500 points. Despite the morale boost from the success of the previous days, we started to become a little weary on Thursday and our progress started to slow down, as the challenges became harder and we had homework and extracurricular activities alongside the competition. By Friday, we still had between 15% to 20% of the challenges to do, most of them being hard or extreme challenges. The competition officially ended at 5pm that day, meaning most of us didn't have time after school that day to do an extra challenge. So, we made one last push during lunchtime with countless guesses and attempts for some new challenges and finishing off the ones that took multiple days. Once we worked out the answers, we drastically clicked 'Submit' on the last challenges we had time to do, knowing that we gave it our best shot.

In the end, we completed 64 out of 72 challenges with **7,725** points, giving us a ranking of **26th** amongst thousands of teams that participated in the country. Some schools gave their students the entire week off school lessons to participate in this competition. With this in mind, we felt very proud of this result and, with the two other teams from our school too, we thoroughly enjoyed the week doing this competition and learnt a lot from it.

**Team – "Tough Handsome Angelfish": Mahdi Hussein, Aarib Mahmood, Manavv Sethuraaman, Hussain Zaman**

## Duke of Edinburgh

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition – October 2023 - Written by Krishna Nair L4**

The Duke of Edinburgh award was created to push young people (14-24) to pursue a wide range of active hobbies, meet goals, serve their communities and ultimately grow outside of the traditional classroom. Since its launch, DofE has seen an increase in participation each year which the school aids with by offering the award to students from Year 9 and above. It is a perfect opportunity for you to try something new or even hone your skills at something you are already good at, all for the added benefit of having an extra qualification to add onto your CV.

DofE Bronze is split into 3 sections; Physical, Skills and Volunteering. One of these sections requires six months of activity with the other two sections requiring three months of activity (you can choose which section you want to do for the longest period of time). However, the best section of the whole award and possibly the only reason most of us did it in the first place, is the expedition. The expedition consists of 2 days and 1 night and it is an amazing outdoor experience.

There was a lot of training for the expedition which everyone obviously loved including planning our routes, meal plans, building tents etc. It was during these many games and after-school sessions that we realised how arduous the expedition was really going to be and then the day finally arrived!

Everyone turned up promptly (actually not everyone turned up promptly or even at all) and before we set off in the minibuses, Mr.Redshaw happily placed our phones into sealed envelopes. Day 1 had everyone filled with excitement as we set off in our small groups with the hopes of reaching every checkpoint across the Lickey Hills in good time. However, that didn't seem to be the case as with many wrong turns, arguments and pure exhaustion, our six hour planned journey somehow turned into eight hours. Fortunately, all groups managed to make it to the camping site, build their tents and make their dinner (if it had survived the day).

The final day proved to be even more challenging than the first as the soreness from the day before had kicked in, along with an unexpected spell of rain. Nevertheless, the groups trudged on as their communication and resilience had massively improved from the previous day. However, the highlight of the day and the expedition overall was the pure joy we got from purposely misdirecting other groups to absolutely nowhere. The expedition finally came to a close as we wearily reached the line of minibuses alerting the groups it was the finish line.

I would just like to give a huge thanks to Mr.Brear for thoroughly organising the expedition and preparing us for it. I would also like to thank all the teachers who gave up their time for the expedition making us aware that we had in fact reached a checkpoint. Overall, the expedition was a life-changing experience I will never forget although next time, I will make sure that the route plans are detailed to every little path as we bitterly realised their importance.









## Schools Climate Assembly

On 19th October, Camp Hill hosted the annual Schools Climate Assembly (SCA), a national event seeking to empower young people to tackle the climate crisis. This year was the third ever SCA and it was the biggest, with more than 3,000 students attending from all across the country!

In the morning, everyone made their way to the main marquee (or as some would call it, “the big circus tent”), and was welcomed by members of the CHB & CHG Eco Committee. Presenting on stage was a fantastic experience and it felt rewarding considering that over the past few months leading up to the event, the Eco Committee took part in many meetings with the event organisers.

Over the course of the day, the likes of Chris Packam (conservationist, campaigner) and Hamza Yassin (wildlife cameraman, TV presenter) took to the stage and discussed ways in which young people could engage in activism and lobby for change, with the focus being on sustainability. As well as this, students also attended various workshops, some of which included: (i) planning a project to make their school more eco-friendly, (ii) learning about how the climate crisis affects different people, and (iii) designing an “eco-phone”, a carbon neutral device.

It was particularly exciting to watch the debates near the end of the event, with students putting forward reasons as to why a certain environmental-related campaign should be given greater significance over another. Eventually, it was voted that “Reducing Fossil Fuel Dependency” was the campaign that we would run with and we talked about ways to work towards this goal, such as there being more education on green energy within schools.

As the event drew to a close, we all felt that the SCA had not only provided us with invaluable knowledge, but also allowed us to become more confident climate activists. It was a memorable experience and hopefully the lessons learned will allow us to contribute positively to the environment and our wider community.

Ayan Butt - L4





English

The English Department have been busy bees this term. Ms Buckley entered twenty-five students from Camp Hill Boys into the BBC 500 Words Competition, which is open to 11 year olds. They have the chance to win some amazing prizes including being in a special World Book Day programme on the BBC and lots of books for themselves and their school, as well as having their stories illustrated by famous illustrators. The winners are drawn at the start of February.

In addition, Senior Debating is now up and running with Dr Donnelly and our Sixth Form team have got through to the next round of the English Speaking Union Mace competition.

Before he left, Mr Wilkins was able to take a group of keen Sixth Formers to visit Oxford University for a day and in October, the Department took a group of Year 8 and 9 students to see Lenny Henry introduce his new book at the Birmingham Rep theatre.

Sadly, this term however, we said goodbye to Mr Wilkins, an outstanding English teacher. We have been lucky enough though to have Ms Mitchell-Barnes support us this half term and we are looking forward to welcoming Ms Robertson to join us in January. We know she will be an excellent addition to the team.

JLP





## Maths

### Ritangle Maths challenge

The start of the year witnessed the advent of various new competitions and opportunities. One of these opportunities presented itself in the form of a maths competition known as Ritangle. Fourteen students from the boys' school and one from the girls' school decided to embark on this odyssey. The first part consisted of some intriguing mathematical questions which we breezed through over the course of nine weeks, preparing us for the final challenge. Or so we thought...

Dear reader, oh how we were wrong! The final challenge came in two halves. The first was quite a tough crossnumber, which we battled using our Python programming skills. After a sustained effort and a very lucky (educated) guess, we were victorious over the challenge and were provided with the password 'jamboree,' giving us access to our final showdown. Before facing this final boss of ours, we broke bread together, as the pizza generously provided by the maths department was finally delivered.

The final question was given on five pages, detailing a lengthy and complex process to organise teams of chess players into different games. We each worked on the problem for seven hours on the first day alone. Many brain cells were destroyed in this tussle with this beast. Our 15 warriors perilously traversed the foreign land of integer linear programming and trial and error, training day and night to master this art form. Having gained this wisdom, we reapproached the problem and, with 12 seconds left on the buzzer, were able to submit a solution.

A huge cry of victory erupted from our team members as the challenge drew to a close, and we reflected on the journey that we shared. From the countless all-nighters to the pains of remote communication, one thing was for sure: we will never be the same. As I conclude this article and we await the results of the competition to be released, a quote from Yoda comes to mind: "Do or do not. There is no try." Whether we win or not, we sure as hell did try. Kumayl Vanat and Sasan Hapuarachchi









## Music

The Autumn Term has given us lots of opportunities to celebrate everything going on musically in school: both in terms of the excellent standard of our most able musicians and the supportive inclusivity of the wider musical community developing amongst the pupils. As always, the latter half of the term takes a more festive tone!



### **Foundation Ceremony**

We started off the year with a performance by our string quartet at the Foundation Ceremony which took place at Camp Hill Girls on Wednesday October. The performers (Joel Skaria, Harley Hau, Thomas Pitfield and Rhys Jamieson) did a fantastic job of representing us to the Trust. The audience was made up of Year 7 pupils from Camp Hill Girls and KEVI Balaam Wood Academy.

### **Chamber Concert**

Our first joint event of the year in conjunction with the girls' school was the Chamber Concert which took place on Tuesday 7 November. The concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Oboe Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Senior Lower String Ensemble, String Orchestra and Training Wind Band. Particular congratulations to Amen Tomas and Joel Skaria who both sang solo items. Amen sang 'O Isis und Osiris' from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Joel sang 'Vouchsafe, O Lord' from Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*.



## **Prizegiving**

Prize Giving featured two excellent performances by two of our most senior pupils: Joel Skaria (bass) gave a further performance of Handel's 'Vouchsafe O Lord' while Caleb Wilton gave a rousing performance of Norton's *Jingo*. *As always, the ceremony concluded with a hearty rendition of the school song.*

## **The Crucible**

*The joint production of The Crucible, in conjunction with the girls' school, provided a wonderful opportunity for a young composer to try writing a score of incidental music to support the play. Congratulations to Caleb Wilton for an outstanding score, and thank you to those musicians who accompanied the production (Dylan Mbichire, Joel Skaria and Thomas Pitfield).*

## **Carols at QEH**

We were delighted to be able to continue our connection with Queen Elizabeth Hospital by singing carols there on Tuesday 5 December at the beginning of the festive season. The ten minute bus journey felt immeasurably longer due to the enthusiastic singing of some confusing choices of repertoire, including Rick Astley's *Never Gonna Give You Up* and Carley Rae Jepsen's *Call Me Maybe*. *As always, the choir sang with true dedication and vigour at the hospital itself and was a real credit to us all. We were also very grateful to Mr Palmer for his support in accompanying us. All funds raised went to the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity.*

## **Christmas Concert**

More recently, Monday 11 December marked the annual Christmas Concert in conjunction with the girls' school. We were treated to performances by the Intermediate Orchestra, Cello Ensemble, CHB Choir, Flute Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Concert Band, Intermediate Wind Band, Saxophone Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. Particular congratulations to the student-led Swing Band who gave an outstanding performance of Stevie Wonder's *Superstition*. *The programme culminated in a performance by the Concert Orchestra, in which, after having had a performance of two movements from The Nutcracker, we were fortunate enough to have our annual visit from Father Christmas during Sleigh Ride!*

## **Carol Service**

The school's annual Carol Service took place on Wednesday 20 December with CHB Choir taking on a programme of carols and Christmas favourites, including Birmingham-based composer Joubert's *Torches* and Vaughan Williams' *This is the Truth*. *We were treated to solos from Will King, Joel Skaria, Amen Tomas, Lemuel Adjei and Sunil Chand. The choir was ably accompanied by Mr Palmer on the organ together with a brass ensemble joining in for the congregational carols.*

## **Solo Performances**

We are fortunate that we have enough musicians in the school to have regular solo performances in our assemblies. This term we have been treated to some wonderful piano solos from Caleb Wilton (Y13), Yuehao Zhang (Y9), Akbar Butt (Y10), Arthur Hill (Y10), Josh King (Y9), Oskar Pineau (Y7), Ayaan Lone (Y11), Noshua Chau (Y12) and Joel Skaria (Y12). There was also an impressive flute solo by Vansh Pradhan (Y13) who played a highly demanding piece by Ian Clarke. Credit must also go to Clement Franklin (Y12) and Ben Law (Y10) who both did a fantastic job of the Last Post on the trumpet for our Remembrance Assembly.

## **Pupil Achievements**

Congratulations to the following pupils who successfully attained graded music examinations this term:

## Sport

### **Rugby 1st XV:**

It's fair to say that the season for the 1st XV so far has been unforgiving. The first match and away trip of the season to Worcester to face King's School proved yet again to be too steep a challenge, leading to our sound defeat. With the days getting shorter, injuries and dropouts increasing each game, and a loss to near and dear rivals KE Aston, it became exceedingly difficult to maintain traction. We started to creep back into old habits, and our heads began to fall.

But the team had not entirely lost hope as they faced an ultimatum. Our next showing was a "Friday Night under the Lights" against Camp Hill RFC. Encountered with harsh words and a lack of faith, we knew this was not just our platform to lose. We knew the odds were against us. Yet, in true cinematic fashion, the underdogs rose to the occasion with determination and grit. We set out to show our true colours on the big stage. And so we did. Such dedication saw us through to victory. With both wingers Chude Ndozi and Benny Thavasekaran crossing the line early on at Camp Hill RFC, we played a dominant rugby that eluded us much of this season. Our forwards led the charge notably, Henry Feeney and Aakash Ghosh, who both scored to the crowd's roar. It would be wrong to ignore the superb performances of our Vice-Captain Tommy Fakeye, who has always stepped up to the plate, and our big hitters like Jack Hogan, who seems to have boundless stamina. Performance from Lukas Mykhnenko left literal blood, sweat and tears out on the pitch and led him to an early departure from the game. Prasanna Sivakumar, Tom Dainty and Matthew Holland secured our lineouts and even won some against the head. Highlight performances from our backs including Emile Lone-Ebrahim with bone-breaking plays. The swift and accurate hands of Tom Isaac saw a clean and quick ball for the whole match. Arthur Breakwell swiftly dealt with the breakthrough runners and kicks, keeping our defensive line strong. The younger players didn't disappoint either; Malachi Powell, James Fung and Christy Baiju played exceptionally well, and Senan Brosnan gave a superb defensive display on his 1st XV debut. Matthew Dainty showed that there is still a fight left in the lower years as he put on another excellent showing. The cold and calculating right foot of man-of-the-match Hamish McGhee granted us the two conversions and two penalties, which comfortably ended the game with a 30-12 win.

Unfortunately, the run came to a grinding halt against Five Ways, where we were again soundly beaten without being able to make the score sheet yet again. With our confidence knocked, we slowly entered a frustrating spree of matches that were winnable and lost them all. There have been countless moments of frustration, disappointment and regret, yet these hold no bearing other than motivation. We hope the New Year will see us bounce back, building on our strengths and continuing to play the game we love dearly. We wish to thank Mr Burgess and the rest of the coaches for their steadfast support and the rest of the team for their commitment. The thanks must also extend to those on the sidelines, whose experiences we hope to improve this coming year.

Adnan Husayn, Year 13



### **Rugby 2nd XV:**

The season kicked off with a concerning loss to Solihull school, supposedly foreshadowing the possibility of a dreadful streak. However, we bounced back immediately with a promising win against Princethorpe, and an extremely close match against Queen Mary's (who put on 1st teamt players to get the winning edge).

The good streak continued with a dominating 55-0 win against Aston, a 10-10 draw to Fiveways and a slightly disheartening loss agains Haberdasher's Boys.

Shoutouts to stand out players Senan Brosnan, Gian Khera, Daniel Kippax and Hassan Soonsara, as well as many others throughout the season so far, and we hope to finish the second half off with more solid victories.

### **Rugby U15:**

The start of the U15's rugby season brought a farewell to Mr Norton to go and coach the considerably more physical and athletic U14s, and the welcome of Mr Burgers' rugby expertise, who we hoped would improve our 12% win rate (2 from 16) of last season. Along with the gaffer's entrance, 10 players joined the team, shaking up the roster more than ever.

We started off the season with a 33-0 win against a weakened Solihull School side, and while it may have been to their B team, a win is a win. The game showcased the potential of new players, and was seasoned with Hassan's brilliance when kicking for the posts, scoring 4 conversions from 5. Unfortunately, this was the last time we'd ever see him kick in such a manner, as he is yet to even kick far enough to reach the posts following this game. He should've taken Dawud's dad's advice and "built up those little stick legs".

Our next game, and first taste of competitive cup action, was a bitter loss to a rough North Bromsgrove side. Moving further into the spooky October season, some more scary results including a 67-5 defeat to Camp Hill RFC and 49-15 loss at Lichfield, showed signs of our year 9 selves creeping in.

But we stepped up, and have brought home 2 wins from the last three. A messy 17-12 win at home to Prince Henry's showcased Ashton and Isam's newfound ability called 'being the biggest players on the pitch', and this mutual realisation brought powerful runs and clattering tackles, motivating the rest of the team. Brilliantly coordinated scrummaging from hooker Dawud Husayn saw us win all-but-one scrum against the head, and if it weren't for the backs' butterfingers, this could easily have been a more ugly scoreline for the visiting team.

The next game was a close 2-tries-a-piece losing affair to Five Ways in subzero conditions. In the early minutes, a fierce driving maul put us 5-0 up, through scrum-half Muawiyah Abdi. Some great game management from the backs saw us head into the second half ahead. However, we were split through the middle twice, and before long the score was 14-5 in favour of Five Ways. A monstrous 1-on-1 tackle by Raees brought Five Ways' giant number 8 falling to the ground causing all kinds of damage to the environment, and Raees picked up a try of his own in the dying stages. The game ended 14-10, but showed how far we'd come since last season's thrashing and the narrow loss at the Greater Birmingham Tournament.

Most recently, a 22-19 win against KE Stratford has rounded off a relatively successful 2023. Again, not our greatest game when it came to finishing our chances, but confident carries from Ashton and Hassan, as well as a cross-field kick pass collected by Hadi saw us to the end.

With 3 wins and 7 losses, to our name, it is clear significant progress has been made, however, there is still a long way to go until Junior Tour. We have started to play more as a team, establishing structure and developing basic game management skills, and we are hopeful this will continue to pay dividends into the New Year. As always, many thanks to Mr Burgess and Mr Kenworthy for our training sessions and coaching, and we look forward to bettering our record in 2024.

Lemuel Adjei, Year 10







## Rugby U14:

The U14's started the season off with three commanding wins against Solihull School B's, Queen Mary's Grammar School School and Camp Hill RFC. We were then met with a challenging game against Prince-thorpe College where we came up short in a 20-28 loss, however we bounced back immediately, beating King Edward VI Aston 78-0 (our biggest win of the season!) At the Greater Birmingham Tournament, we placed third behind King Edward VI Five Ways and King Edward VI School. There were a few dodgy decisions given against us but if anything it encouraged us to work harder and tackle harder. On the back of the tournament, we lost 10-25 to Haberdashers' Abraham Darby. To end the calendar year on a high, our last three games were all wins against Prince Henrys' High School, Tudor Grange Academy and King Edward VI Stratford.

This season we have won 7 games and lost 3, with an incredible positive points difference of 287,.

A few standout players this year have included Barachel Ankrah (number 8 and highest point scorer this season), Seb Robotham (inside centre), Mushaf Mir (openside flanker), Alex Innocenti (blindside flanker and captain) and Daniel Lo (outside centre and most conversions.)

We hope to have a successful new year, with our rugby tour and Rosslyn Park 7's tournament on the horizon.

Seb Robotham, Year 9





### **Rugby U13:**

I think I speak for everyone involved in rugby at Camp Hill when I say that we missed rugby over the spring and summer. So coming into our second year of the sport everyone in year 8 was hyped. Larger pitches, pushing scrums and knowing the kind of team that we are playing were all being looked forward to.

We started off with a rough week against Queen Mary's. We didn't seem to be on it and we were beaten 60-0 (12 tries to 0) , and we established at the end of the game with Mr Dowling that our tackling and passing needed vast improvements before the game two days later at Camp Hill RFC.

For anyone who is unaware, Camp Hill RFC is a rugby club set up in 1893 by some of the older boys of our school. Every year the school plays the club twice, once at the beginning of the year and once at the end of it. Last year we lost the first of the fixtures but beat them in the second one. And it looked like our run against them would continue. We ultimately beat them 60-30(12 tries to 6) with [Muhammad Alderwish](#) getting 3 along with Taijuan Sonko and Kareem Berair and Rahul Sinha getting their fair share with two. But it wasn't all smiles as the game was halted prematurely as Finn O'Brien tore his groin in the late stages of the game.

On the next Saturday we faced a very strong team in Princethorpe College, but once again it wasn't to be our day as we suffered a defeat not as bad as Queen Mary's this time but still, a defeat is a defeat. The game finished 20-10 (4 tries to 2). Coming off the back of that we looked forward to two winnable games in a row being King Edwards Aston and Newcastle-Under-Lyme on the Thursday and Saturday that followed. But sadly these games were cancelled.

After this we headed off to King Edward's School for a tournament that included KES, Five Ways, Bishop, Aston, Fairfax and of course us. We ended up having a lot of tight games but we unfortunately only managed to win 1 of our 5 games finishing 5th for the second year running.

We then again faced what we thought to be a winnable game, this was due to us utterly demolishing this Haberdashers Abrahams team last year so we went in very cocky. Unfortunately for us they had clearly worked extremely hard over a year and beat us 20-10 (4 tries to 2), although it could have been more.

Finally to get this up to date we faced a strong 5 way team who had beat us twice in the KES tournament and that we drew with last year. But thanks to an incredible display from everyone we sealed another win of the season 45-20 (9 tries to 4).

Some stand out moments would have to be 2 Mohammad hat tricks, Aditya scoring but losing a shoe in the process, Kareem's feisty attitude and the CHRFC win. It has been a great season so far and I can't wait for the rest of it.

Ollie Hancock, Year 8.

### **Rugby U12:**

The Year 7's have had a great start to their Camp Hill career and hopefully it gets better and better over our next 7 years at the school. We have 55 different students that have represented Camp Hill so far this season in our year group, showing the quality of depth we have and hopefully more will join us in representing our school.

The first half of the season, especially for the 'A' team has admittedly been tough. Most of our players are new to rugby so we have a lot to learn. However, we have shown so much raw potential, we can only be on an upward trajectory. Wins against KE Aston and Fairfax has shown that we do have it in us to get over the line and win games.

There are so many people to mention who have stood out in the first few games so apologies if I miss anyone. Henry Bramhall, Harry Clemow & Max Ruffley have been fantastic for everyone as the experience in the squad, playing well themselves but also leading and teaching everyone else. This is going to be key to our success! Gotten Agbeleye, Julian Lo and Elyasa Ahmed have shown themselves to be proper athletes who could have a great future in rugby and plenty of other sports. We need so many different types of people to thrive in Rugby, and these three are going to be instrumental in our success with their athleticism and skill. We also need some muscle to flex in the squad and we certainly have that in abundance. Ihsan Ali, Jack Smith, Will King, Sarfaraz Khan, Zain Iqbal and plenty of others have shown their huge strength in tackling and running.

We have a bright future ahead of us at Camp Hill Rugby and the more people we have playing for us, the better we will be, the older we get, and I can't wait to see how we get on.

Henry Bramhall, Year 7

### **Football 1st & 2nd XI:**

The year got off to a great start as we looked to improve upon building blocks set up for us last year with a 4-3 win over rivals Handsworth Grammar including a wonderful volley from Ali J. We then looked to use this win to beat holders Arden School in the 1st round of the cup but were narrowly edged out despite a late goal from Temi to lose 2-1. Next was Old Swinford who were able to beat both 1st and 2nd XIs despite an equaliser and winner being ruled out in the last 5 minutes for the 1st XI. The 1st XI were able to register their 2nd win of the season through a convincing 3-0 win over Bablake despite cynical play from Ren Zhi Howse in the box looking to con the referee. Next was a hard test at Solihull School as we lost a really close game (We lost 6-2) while the 2nd XI captain Areeb T led them to a 9-1 thumping of the Solihull 2nd XI with almost all players scoring. There were also games for the 1st and 2nd XI against a good Alcester Grammar School. No need to talk about them...

## Basketball:

### Seniors

It has been quite a rough start to the season so far, with the team going 1-3 in our first 4 matches. Ironically, our most highlight filled match was during a loss vs Queen Mary's, with fresh faces such as Layth and Zaakir showing sparks of talent off the bench. The team was quite slow to start, making the occasional scoring run throughout the first 3 quarters. After an inspiring end of 3rd quarter speech by co-captain Chude Ndozi, the team finally clicked together and had a very respectable 4th quarter. A few of the younger years displayed their tenacity and skills on the defensive end of the court, with Vidyut, Zaakir and Layth accruing multiple steals and blocks and even forcing a Queen Mary's timeout. Unfortunately, it was too little too late and we ended up with a loss despite our efforts in the 4th quarter. Regardless of our record, I truly believe that this team has a lot of talent and the tools necessary to bring us back to a positive record next year. I look forward to what 2024 has in hold for the team.

Harley Hau, Year 13



## Juniors

The opening quarter of this 40 minute match was very back and forth nothing too fancy pretty equal but our game plan was to smother them and give them no chance of linking up with each other with a tight full court man to man marking which would help but cause problems later on with the game with our stamina as it would slow us down later on down the line. So by the time of the first quarter it was a deadlock.

Going into the 2nd quarter St Georges started to turn up the heat by being a lot more lively, more physicality and more aggression which took us by surprise. We had not experienced such physicality as in our year below (yr 9) there was not as much strength being exerted this would help St Georges closer to crunch time so at the

end of the second quarter we were down.

Quarter 3 is where we regained our lead with some very good plays from Gabriel Kalejaiye, Eesa Attif, Zaeem Islam, Hrish Narayanan, Jawaad Mohamed and Muawiyah Abdi as we started to be more coordinated being in sync with each other improving our chemistry so we came out of quarter 3 on top, but we were not over the finish line yet...

Quarter 4 is when it all went wrong our stamina was depleted from the man to man marking as I mentioned earlier everyone was exhausted but we we still had to run up and down the court continuously and out of nowhere St George's hit an impressive 3 ball as our defence was too loose around the edge of the D and then they bossed their way in the paint for an easy layup. We could only win if someone shot a 3 and pulled a foul at the same time so we went up together shot the 3 and unfortunately missed so the game ended with a score of 20-25 to St George's School so we lost.

MVP players were Muawiyh Abdi and Gabriel Kalejaiye

Muawiyah Abdi, Year 10

**Badminton:**

The foundation of a successful badminton team for a school lies in the strong teamwork and camaraderie among the players. This season demonstrates this spectacularly as each age group has achieved numerous victories against a wide range of opponents.

This was proven true in this badminton season for our U18 squad, which was nothing short of exceptional. Throughout the year, the team consistently showcased their skills and determination, emerging victorious against formidable opponents such as KES and Bromsgrove Schools. With an unwavering spirit, we secured win after win, stunning the other schools' forces with such an amazing display of strength from the unbreakable duo; Pranoi Nishanth and Ethan Tumbos.

Likewise, our U16 team exhibited the most admirable performance throughout the season. From the very start of the year, we faced tough competition from KES but one close match after another landed us a tight draw... with the win barely slipping from our grasp. Clearly not satisfied with this mediocre result, our U16 team was overjoyed as they had another opportunity to showcase their talent on court while facing KES once again in the National Badminton Schools Tournament. Although both teams showcased their agility, precision, and strategic thinking, the performance from the final game alone would prove Camp Hill enough to secure the win. However, it wouldn't be until the last shuttle fell on the floor that the winner was decided, so everyone awaited in awe as the final doubles scores played out - 1 brilliant smash from Tristan Tse 20:19, followed by 1 final drop from Jed Jimenez gave us the game at 21:19. Fortunately, Camp Hill won 4:1.

However, our U14 team faced a few difficulties throughout this season. Despite their dedication and efforts, they faced defeat twice against the overbearing KES teams. Nevertheless, this setback did not dampen their spirits, nor discourage them from giving it their all in every match, as each player managed to shock the KES team with their skillful agility and nimble footwork, especially Arjun, who exhibited immense power and exceptional skills during the rallies.

Overall, the season was full of highs and lows for all our badminton teams. The U18 squad's victories against Bromsgrove School and KES School were remarkable achievements that highlighted their skills on court. The U16 and U14 teams' ability to secure a draw and win against Kes allowed our school into Round 2 of the National Schools Tournament, showing great promise for future seasons as well. Regardless, this season's experiences will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of each player as they continue to strive in badminton.

Jingxi Bai, Year 11.

## Table Tennis:

Recently, me and a few other pupils from Year 8 and 9 participated in a Table Tennis competition hosted in University of Birmingham school. Amazingly our A team emerged triumphant and undefeated among schools like King Edward's School and Bishop Challenor. Even though our B and C teams did not come out as number one they still won several games exemplifying strong determination to perform well and win.

We then moved onto the Birmingham School's Championship. At this tournament we played 3 other highly competitive schools, but besides their talent, we came through with another flawless record, winning every single match played. We won the tournament!

Overall the teams both did wonderful, we are very proud to have represented the school and hope to win some more!

Jeffrey Wang, Year 8.





## House Sport:

### Winter House Summary

The 2023-2024 house events have kicked off with a bang with football, badminton, basketball and the Camp Hill Mile completed so far. Seymour took the honours in Year 7 & 8 football, Beaufort won the Year 9 competition, Tudor took the Year 10 title and Howard ran out senior winner. Overall, Beaufort won the overall football championship with 30 points! This year saw record participants complete the Camp Hill Mile with over 650 students taking part. Tudor took the overall Camp Hill Mile total, closely followed by Howard. Congratulations to all students who took part. A special mention to the Camp Hill Mile finalists who braved the -2 degree temperatures on a fresh Thursday afternoon. Tom Dainty again won the senior section- making it 7 years in a row! Muawiyah Abdi and Joshua King shared the intermediate title and Kingley Moss victorious in the juniors.

At the time of writing, the senior basketball competition is still to take place as well as the junior and senior badminton competitions. What we do know is that so far in the house basketball competition, each house has won a Year group competition. So it's all to play for on Wednesday afternoon to be crowned overall winners.

So there we have it, a fabulous start to the house calendar, hundreds of students have taken part in different activities all doing their bit for their house. Thank you must go to the Heads of House, house captains and other designated house roles for making sure the house system is alive and kicking. Many points still to play for in 2024.

### Mr Burgess











## Chess:

Chess at Camp Hill for the Winter Term has got off to a relatively good start. Our first Birmingham Schools League event, at KES, in the Jamboree format (everyone's least favourite..) had some successes, as our A team finished 2nd in the open and our B team not far behind just outside the podium, and our C's not too far behind. Our new set of U13's had their first experience of school chess and did well, as for some it was their first in person event. Our second event had even better results, as our A team triumphed over the West Midlands, beating our long time rivals KES 4-2. The A team consisting of Karan Kukreja, Daniel Chen, Taha Karim, Joel Skaria, Sathya Vaidyanathan and Yehia Hamed, finished 1st overall, with a clean 5/5 sweep. The B team also did well, coming in 6th place, securing their spot in the English Schools Regional Sections alongside the A team. Our U13's, with a weaker team than usual, had a less successful event, but gave a valiant fight over 5 exhausting rounds of chess. We look forward to the new year with more school tournaments and the English Schools Regionals where we will try to qualify for both national finals again.

Sathya Vaidyanathan, Year 10



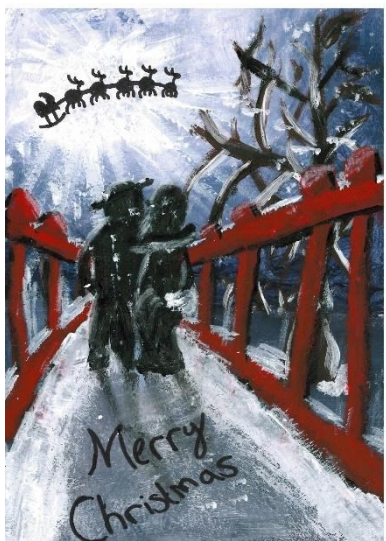


## Art

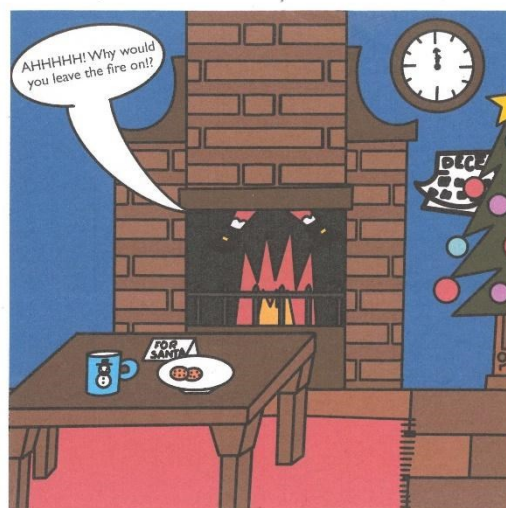
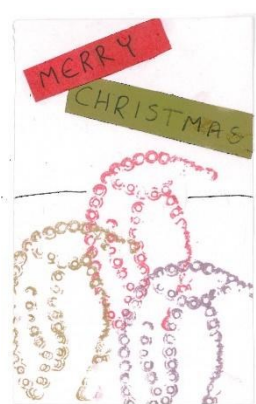
Merry Christmas from the Art department!

We hope you enjoy these wonderful Christmas card designs that were entered into our competition earlier in the term.

Winning Design by Danyal A U6







## **Howard**

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Howard gave to me:

Twelve astronauts moon-landing,  
Eleven chargers charging  
Ten runners running  
Nine basketballers dunking  
Eight handballers winning  
Seven listening skills developing  
Six health-claims debunking  
Five shuttlecocks  
Four quizzers quizzed  
Three scandals raised  
Two Ofsted loves  
And one felled sycamore tree

The Christmas Quiz here is to work out what I am talking about – have you been listening? It's been quite a term and well done to all taking part in the multitude of events and being a receptive audience in all our assemblies, enjoys the break with some PRYME recuperation.

## **Seymour**

Much like the form of Manchester City in the wake of their historic treble winning season, mighty Seymour's fortunes have wavered at the start of this term, following our first house championship victory in over a decade last summer. It was clear that we are stronger with our feet than our hands, narrowly missing out on first place in the house football competition to a well organised Beaufort outfit, who have finally settled on a new manager after their interim appointment left for pastures new in the summer. Some say the shadow of Mr O'Malley looms large over Beaufort, but a strong start in the Autumn term has proven that, with Miss Marston, Beaufort are in capable hands. Seymour's hands, however, fumbled their way to last place in the handball competition and, were it not for a strong showing from our junior pupils across the other competitions this term, one would almost have been able to write off our chances in this year's championship. Karim Berair, Dexter Guest, Rishi Mohay, Rahul Sinha and Oliver Hancock must all be commended for outstanding contributions to the house this term across rugby, football, cross country, basketball and handball. They, alongside a crop of strong year 8s, secured victory in all but house handball at their age group.

With the departure, last summer, of a committed and talented group of year 13 students, Amogh and his deputies have struggled to compete in the senior competitions. I am hopeful that the Spring term will bring renewed fortunes to Seymour's campaign, strengthening our title defence. It is yet to be seen whether this fightback will be spurred on by a resurgent effort from our year 13s, or whether the junior section of the house will continue to carry the seniors.

## House Reports

### **Beaufort**

Beaufort have had a brilliant start to the academic year! After a sad farewell to our beloved Mr Breakwell and wishing him well on his new adventure, Beaufort students have had to deal with my weekly assemblies – one field! Senior and Intermediate Handball also smashed it, with 1 st and 2 nd podium positions, meaning that Beaufort were joint overall champions with Howard. It's not just sporting success, however. Beaufort also performed dazzlingly in Mr Hill's Senior Quiz, with our teams taking 1 st and 3 rof which included 'Lessons from Barbie the Film' and another encouraged

us to think of how we can be more like the unique Beaufort cheese! Beaufort staff are now proudly wearing their badges and Harley, Eesa and Arthur have championed their year groups towards success.

Starting with Football where Y9 came 1 st and Y7 +Y10 came 2 nd , we've celebrated many triumphs in sport. Our Intermediates and Seniors celebrated 2 nd place in Rugby whilst Y7 took the win! It was a delight to pop down and enjoy the matches, witnessing the mud baths created –feeling sorry for poor Mr Burgess and his only functioning d positions out of 8 teams – quite the achievement. The Heroes were shared out (even the Eclairs) and gave our teams the sugar boost they needed to become the Heroes of Beaufort!

Well done to everyone who's been involved. We're working on creating more events for everyone, so that House Competitions continue to be inclusive for all...the suggestion of horse-riding and jousting may be slightly tricky, though, unless Mr Bowen fancies some stables being built! You have Chess, Table Tennis and Photography competitions to look forward to next half term, and even an assembly on Car Insurance as per Harish's request.

Thank you for all of your hard work, and I look forward to seeing us continue to prosper in 2024.

DGM



## Tudor

Tudor have had a great start to the year in the House Championship. Compared to last year, we have excelled in the big events such as Rugby and the Camp Hill Mile, which went heavily against us previously with them counting for more points than other events. This will hopefully stand us in good stead for the overall championship, unlike last year where we lost, even after winning the same amount of events as the overall winners!

Under the guidance and strong leadership shown by House Captain, Prasanna Sivakumar, and his Vice Captains, Harsha Thalava and Tommy Fakeye, Tudor has a new found belief and confidence that we can perform well in everything, rather than being written off! This has inspired the whole house to start taking these events more seriously and opting in rather than out!

House Swimming has had a great start, with many of our Junior Tudor members performing well in all swimming strokes, as well as putting up good fights in sports like Basketball and Handball, that are usually dominated by others.

Well done to everyone that has represented Tudor so far this year and will continue to do so over the coming months. The only way is up for the Green Machine!



## AFS NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

A big hello to all parents and carers from team AFS.

**A special big thank you to all the lovely people who have supported us hands-on and financially this year.** Only with your support are we able to support the wonderful boys and teachers at our school.



Let us introduce you to some of the AFS stars who are busy beaver away in the background.

**Jitesh** (our 23/24 chairperson), **Garima** (vice chair), **Asma** (secretary), **Louise** (pre-loved uniforms), **Jeanette** (school liaison), **Safeena** (Treasurer), **Liz** (auditor), **Ben & Rukhsana** (buying), **Jamila** (link coordinator) and let's not forget **Russell Bowen** (honorary president).



You can find out a lot more about us, what events we will be supporting and when are meetings are arranged by simply visiting the school website at: <https://www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=ASSOCIATION+OF+FRIENDS+%28AFS%29&pid=45>

A number of you wonderful parents have kindly setup standing order forms to contribute monthly. This is really, greatly appreciated as it helps us to help the school. I would like to encourage those parents that have not done so, to please support us. You can download the standing order form from the link above and hand it in to Jeanette at the school. Really simple as that! Whatever you can afford every month. **Remember – you can also contribute at no cost to yourself by purchasing your Christmas and New Year gifts through EASY FUND RAISING. More details and link on our website.**



A brief highlight of this year... as well as supporting a number of school events, we have purchased Rubik's cubes for the year 7 club, utensils for the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, replaced a basketball hoop and funded the engineering department drone project. We want to do a lot, lot more! We need your support! Feel free to come and talk to anyone of us at any time.

Our next AFS meeting will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. January 2024 at 6.30pm. Please come and join us and bring along your ideas.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous & Healthy New Year!



Best Wishes,

**ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS FOR KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS**