

# The Chronicle 2019





# KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

## Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



It was the Open Day a few days ago. I told the visitors that Camp Hill is a great school. That's always a bit frustrating, because I'm thinking, "They're thinking, 'He would say that, wouldn't he?'" But I mean it and I believe it. What makes the school great? How do the contents of this magazine tell you it's great?

► Beautiful site:

look at the photos – pitches, tennis courts, swimming pool, sports hall.

► Great facilities:

look at the photos – library, labs, new sixth form block.

► Great staff:

read about the opportunities that they have offered the boys.

► Great kids:

read about what they've been up to, how they reflect on it, what they have treasured.

I tell the visitors that our pride is in our product. If they want to understand Camp Hill, talk to the boys. And, as always, I feel it is necessary to introduce them to a few that they won't as they have now left. Read about Alex Byrne. He's the fourth boy in a row to represent the UK

in the four-person Chemistry Olympiad team. Alex returned from Paris in July clutching a Silver Medal for his pains. In each of those four years, our boy has done better than his predecessors. Alex can now boast that he is the 41<sup>st</sup> best schoolboy chemist in the world. It's a high bar for next year.

I tell the visitors about some myths. We're not all about maths and science. Look at our music. Read about it. I tell them we had two boys take A-Level music. Both went on to the Royal Academy of Music in London, one with a scholarship (having turned down a place at Oxford). I hope you've seen the orchestras and heard the notes; now read the record. Look at the art work. Read the quality of the articles the boys write. Enjoy the accounts of trips to France and Germany. Look at the drama.

Another myth, I say, is that we must sit the boys behind their desks every minute of every school day to achieve such exam results. If you read *The Chronicle* you can't believe that myth. As well as the music, art and drama, you'll read about quizzes, competitions, residential trips, field trips, overseas trips, skiing, rock-climbing, outdoor pursuits of every kind, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Engineering Education Scheme, House matches, team sports, individual sports, clubs, societies; you start to wonder if they're ever behind their desks.

Another myth is that it's all about exam results. You won't find anything about them in this magazine. That's because this magazine tells a year in the life of a school; exam results have as much to do with that as my height and shoe size have to do with a year in my own life. The boys are brilliant at collecting GCSEs and A-Levels, of course, but our job is to educate them while they're doing that. This record will tell you more about their education than a set of grades.

I tell the visitors what my Year 8's tell me in their interviews. I ask many of them what would be the first thing that they would think of if they were recommending the school to someone else; and I ask them what annoys

or frustrates them most about the school (including things I can't change). Here are some, unedited. The first ones off the heap:

Good — almost everything

Bad — movement around the school

Good — encourages socialising; range of subjects; range of ways teachers teach

Bad — nothing

Good — learn quite a lot in the lessons

Bad — students messing around

There are always more than a few that pick out the staff as one of their top positives:

— Staff really help you

— Teachers welcoming and friendly

— All the teachers, always ready to help you; breaktime and lunchtime all there to help you

— Teachers are helpful

And I loved, 'teachers are quite good (at teaching)'. The same boy had as his bad point: 'teachers make you do things.' Read *The Chronicle* to get some idea of the things teachers make the boys do.

In 2016's *Chronicle* we said goodbye to Mike Southworth after 50 years teaching here. (But he didn't actually go.) In 2018's *Chronicle*, we said goodbye to Tony Jackson after 48 years. And this year we say goodbye to Peter Jack after 48 years teaching here. (But he's not actually going.) That's another thing that makes the school great. Dedicated, long-serving, experienced, committed staff.

Sadly, you'll read about the other kind of goodbye. Mervyn Brooker was Headmaster here when I first had connections with the school when my sons arrived. What a remarkable man. After a Bolton sojourn he returned to Wolverhampton, so we used to see him here from time to time at staff functions. He was respected and admired; he is held in great affection. I shall miss him.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster



# Editorial

There is always a strong feeling of relief at the end of the summer term. Tired teachers and students pack away, mentally and physically ready to enjoy the long break. And, when you read *The Chronicle*, you can hardly be surprised why. It seems quite amazing that we manage to fit so many different events in and still have time to teach! To be honest, I feel that is what makes Camp Hill such an exciting place to be – because we do not, as Mr Garrod confirms in his introduction, just teach.

This year, as always our amazing staff ran trips to Italy, France, and Germany and to the Battlefields of France. In addition, our students seem to be international – Chemistry always manages to send its students to the most far flung of places! I must think of an English residential somewhere – maybe a grand European tour of burial sites of the Romantic poets?

Foreign visits only cover a small fraction of the activities that take place at Camp Hill. I am not convinced that Mr Palmer sleeps; as he clearly spends so many hours, training and preparing students for the numerous musical events that take place throughout the year.

Furthermore, every year we seem to run a wider range of sporting activities and events from Chess (is that a sport?) through to Water Polo, tennis and so on... We have articles from Art, the Library and this year, for the first time, articles about all the charity events our students and teachers have taken part in – including Camp Hill's Got Talent.

Mention must also go to the Modern Foreign Language Department, who run a wide range of trips and events to interest and inspire our students to learn a foreign language.

And so on... I will leave you to read on... and to be amazed once again by Camp Hill.

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

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# Leavers

## Keith Downing

Writing a fitting article for colleagues like Keith would be so much easier if they had not spent so long being integral to everything that I hold as great about Camp Hill! I know I am going to find myself apologising afterwards for all the things I have NOT written or remembered about this amazing friend.

Born and brought up in Erdington, he still lives a stone's throw from his childhood home. Having attended the local primary he passed the 11+, gaining a place at K.E. Aston. Much to the bewilderment of his parents, he declined that offer and took up a place at Marsh Hill Boys' Grammar Tech, where he had been 'lured' by the workshop facilities. I am not sure his mother ever forgave him, but those of us who have watched Keith 'at work' know that this was undoubtedly the right choice for him.

Keith tells me he was excellent in school. Of course, I do not believe him; you do not become a brilliant pastoral leader without a bit of 'poacher turned game-keeper' experience! While 'coasting' his way through secondary school he became a committed scout, and this was where his love of the outdoors really crystallized; more on this later.

Loughborough College followed school, where he studied Creative Design. While there, he continued to pursue outdoor activities and travelled widely, exploring the mountains, and pubs, of the UK.

On completing his degree, he returned to Birmingham. Not feeling able to go home, as his parents still had not forgiven him for rejecting Aston, he shared a friend's flat while he got sorted. As a sort of a 'blind date', Keith agreed to make a foursome one evening. The blind date turned out to be Carole and from that meeting their relationship blossomed. This was about 1977 or 78. They were married in 1980 with children (Claire and Michael) following in 1983 and 1985.

By this time, Keith was working at K.E. Handsworth (he started in January 1981). Once again, he immersed himself in the life of the school and he often recounts tales of athletics, cross-country and the trip he organised to Morocco. Having spent 9 years at Handsworth he decided to look elsewhere and, thankfully, took a job at Camp Hill, starting in 1989.

That was a particularly good year for new starters at Camp Hill; Keith joined at the same time as Simon Palmer, Andrew Rogers and someone else I cannot think of at the moment! Keith's 30 years of dedicated service at Camp Hill covered so many different areas that I



apologise now for the bits I forget.

Joining an already strong department, he flourished here and it was no surprise that he was appointed Head of Department in 1993. In the workshop, he was an inspiration. From Year 7 beginners to Arkwright Scholars and staff: all have made use of his vast experience and skills. Guaranteed to be patient, Keith coached the boys to analyse the problem and develop the best possible solution, in spite of their desire to get things done with the minimal input and thought. As HOD, Keith was a staunch defender of the significance of subjects like Design in a balanced curriculum, and he pushed hard to remind parents and students that the transferable skills developed in Design are incredibly valuable: something with which I wholeheartedly agree.

Many of our newer staff probably linked Keith more with his pastoral work. As a brilliant form tutor, it was no surprise that he should consider taking on a pastoral leader's role. He first applied for the Head of Y10/Y11 role in 2003. He was disappointed not to be successful and probably thought that his vision or interview had not been strong enough. Having looked through his file though, I think I have the reason he did not get the job; he could not spell the headmaster's name correctly at the top of the letter!

He was successful the next time he applied and has been a brilliant pastoral leader throughout his time in charge. I have seen many different approaches to pastoral work; Keith used his experience, knowledge and nous with superb success. Rarely did he raise his voice and he always treated the boys with dignity and fairness, while still getting across a strong message as to the characteristics required in decent young men. Many students who look back on their years under Keith's care now recognise how valuable a lesson they were receiving. I always watched on with

admiration when sitting with him in a student interview or a meeting with a parent.

Drama has always been a strength at Camp Hill and Keith played a massive role in that success throughout his time here. I'm not referring to his brilliant acting in CHAOS (I'm sorry to say that I'm not being sarcastic there; his delivery of lines as the hapless compere were superb) but rather his work behind the scenes. His contribution is best summarised by Mike Southworth's words, so I quote:

*"Keith was, for me, a crucial part of virtually every drama production. Blessed with the manual skills of a duck, I was dependent on Keith for giving shape and form to the sets I wanted. Not only did he construct some wonderful stage sets, but he was always on hand to solve almost any problem I brought to him; eg 'Keith, how do we drop a parachute with a dead body attached to it down from the balcony and it not look silly?' I will not say that he did not bat an eyelid, but he spent ages getting the scene to work (Lord of the Flies)."*

It was Keith who produced our first revolving stage for *Bugsy Malone* and *Sweeney Todd*; the barricade for *Les Mis* was brilliant, as was the beautiful kitchen range built for the 'orrible death of Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. I could go on...

Keith always worked at great speed, but it still amazed me that, for someone so involved in so many different areas of Camp Hill life, he found the time to produce the sets and take them down. This final year saw Keith at the top of his game; the trench for *Journey's End* and the medieval walls of Gloucester for *All The King's Men* were a suitable tribute to a superb craftsman. It did not always go to plan though. Phil Carman related the events during one of the nights of *Guys and Dolls*. On noticing that the scenery was about to fall onto the stage, Keith quickly rescued the situation by holding up two 12 ft by 4 ft flats for the whole of a



15-minute scene! Such dedication was rewarded with a beer afterwards I am sure.

Keith and I accompanied our first trip together in the October half-term of 1989. Since then I have had the pleasure of going on somewhere in the region of 80 residential trips with him and I cannot think of one cross word or raised voice in all that time, with either staff or students. Keith saw these extra-curricular opportunities as an integral part of an all-round education and his passion and commitment to all aspects of outdoor pursuits was key to its continuation at Camp Hill, all at a time when these opportunities were disappearing from other schools. Knowledgeable, experienced and having oodles of common sense, Keith was, and is, the perfect companion on trips.

Well, when I say perfect companion, we all have our failings. Consider this riddle: Keith has slept with more Camp Hill staff than anyone else I know, but none of them have slept with him! Those who have shared a room, or field, or hostel will know just what I'm referring to! His snoring is legendary. I'm not going to highlight the time he 'lost' the poles for one of the tents we use at St David's, only to find them some weeks later in his workshop – after we'd purchased replacements! Or the time he packed the wrong poles for the staff tent and we had to improvise with tent pegs and string. To continue by mentioning the TWICE he has forgotten the BBQ, yes TWICE, would be utterly unfair, but I do mention these because the reaction to all these 'set backs', once again, demonstrated his personality and character: there was no anger or strop – he just got on with finding a

solution to the problem at hand.

While on the topic of Outdoor Pursuits, it is obvious that I have to highlight the outstanding job Keith did as leader of the D of E programme since its reintroduction 4 years ago. Even in that short time the programme flourished, and though, every year, he commented that really he ought to limit the excessive numbers in the next session, he then looked at the list of applicants and accepted them all! Just recently, Keith was showing me how our numbers and success rate compared with other centres; he was justifiably proud of what had been achieved. That success was no accident though. It had happened BECAUSE Keith had been committed, resourceful and passionate about the merits of the programme – and had devoted hours of his time to training, assessing, organising and expeditions.

Keith took up skiing on a school trip to Zell am See in 1991. With his sporting flair (cricket excepted), it was no surprise that he took to this new activity like the proverbial duck to water. He has been an integral part of the trips ever since. Keith has managed to avoid the injuries of others but he has still had the odd scrape. There have been numerous spectacular falls – but one, in particular, stands out; it's one we often refer to when reminiscing. We'd sent the boys down on the lift at the end of a day and were skiing down to meet them at the bottom. As is often the case, the lower runs were a little thin on snow. As we approached the bottom, we stopped to regroup. Keith approached with his brand new, light grey ski jacket looking resplendent in the February

sunshine. Not realising we had stopped right at the end of the piste, he tried to ski behind us, only to find himself on a muddy bank. Skis don't work very well on mud; they stopped and he didn't. In front of numerous locals and students he picked himself up off the ground and looked dejectedly at the mud covered jacket. This is the closest I've seen Keith to losing his rag! It didn't stop us laughing though! In recent years he's organised and led the trips (although in truth he's always played a significant leadership role); this is yet another area where his experience and knowledge will be missed.

There are so many things I've missed out, particularly about Keith's life away from school. To not mention, in more detail, his 'regular' visits to the snooker club, his love of aviculture and bird watching, the infamous 'garage' at the end of his garden, all the travelling he and Carole have done together, and his love of reading autobiographical texts (particular about mountaineering) is unforgivable but, as Keith would say himself, there's probably some beer to be drunk!

I count myself as incredibly fortunate to have spent my time at Camp Hill with Keith. I will miss his company and good counsel enormously; I have learned so much from him. However, life moves on and Keith and Carole have a wonderful new chapter to look forward to. I, for one, wish them long years of happiness and good health in Devon, with the grandchildren and on their travels around the world.

■ P.A.B.

## Peter Jack

The word 'legend' is overused. But Peter Jack surely epitomises what the boys mean when they refer to a teacher as a legend.

I first met Peter many years before I joined Camp Hill. In the old days, the 11+ was marked by humans and secondary places were assigned by humans so it was all very much quicker than nowadays when it's done by computer. My son therefore knew he was coming to Camp Hill in the December of Year 6. Colmore School contacted Camp Hill and asked if the school could provide additional maths materials for him. And so, from the spring term onwards, my son made the short journey from Colmore to Camp Hill every week to have a conversation with the Head of Maths, talking about maths. We still have the neat, amusing and stimulating notes Peter used to write on my son's work. 'Inspirational' is another over-used word; it should be reserved to describe the likes of a busy teacher with many time-consuming responsibilities who gave up the best part of an hour a week to share his love for his subject with a 10-year-old to whom he



passed on that passion.

Since I've started with my personal experiences, I'll continue. Peter soon became a professional contact. He was Head of Maths at Camp Hill when I joined the King Edward's Foundation as Head of Maths at Aston. That was in the days before they invented collaboration, so all the Heads of Maths in the Foundation used to meet every year to discuss their work, to swap ideas and resources, to work together on shared problems... and to agree on some posters to be bought centrally and shared out among the schools. Peter was the convenor of that meeting, so it always happened, everyone attended, it was always constructive, it was always encouraging and it always included cream cakes.

When I made the move from Aston to Camp Hill, I joined Peter's department. I hope all the staff at Camp Hill enjoy their department meetings as much as I enjoyed Peter's. Not only was the atmosphere always cheerful and positive; not only did the meetings always involve edibles (not necessarily supplied by Peter); but there were always stimulating maths ideas and problems, together with some new way to use to teach those ideas to the boys. It was a privilege to work in Peter's department; more importantly, it was always a pleasure.

Time for the flashback. I only came in towards the end of Peter's time at this school. My 16 years are less than a third of his time here. Peter, on the other hand, has worked at this school for more than two-thirds of his life. He was born in a caravan in Catshill, near Bromsgrove; 7 years later he moved out of that caravan and into a house a few hundred metres away. That's a long way for a Jack: Peter reckons he has 36 family members living within two miles. Naturally he stayed close to home for his education – Royal Grammar School Worcester followed by a first in maths at Birmingham University. Peter was born to teach and, thankfully, he recognised that by going straight from his degree to a PGCE at Birmingham.

Funny how things work out. His first job offer was from Five Ways, but the school wanted him to take responsibility for computing alongside his maths role and Peter decided against it even though he didn't have another job offer at the time. Five Ways's colossal loss was Camp Hill's colossal gain. Strangely, Peter was unaware that he already had links to the place – only later did he discover he had had an aunt who was the School Secretary at the original school site, who worked through all the administration that came with planning the school's move to Kings Heath but then left the school when it moved. He was also unaware that three of his cousins came to the school.

That's the back story; let's get on to the real narrative. What are the stand-out themes of his career at the school? He did everything; he was successful in everything; he was the very nicest teacher and colleague; he was always utterly

reliable and wholeheartedly committed over long periods of time. Even before he started at the school he had started at the school. He was employed to begin in September 1971, but was contacted a couple of months before that to help out in the English department; so he first worked here from June that year, covering for a teacher who had to leave suddenly to go to the USA. When he joined the school, the Headmaster asked him to attend assembly in order to help manage discipline. Peter's response? He didn't miss a single assembly by choice for the next 46 years. He was asked to teach Scripture to first and second years. So he did for the couple of years when he was wanted. They asked him to teach maths for geographers in the Sixth Form. So he did for the couple of years that that was wanted (and he loved it). He was asked to do the School Inventory (now called the Asset Register), so he did. He was given the exciting task of book exchange – I've put that in for nostalgia purposes for Old Boys who read this and know what the job was. And some of us will recognise another job that will, for many years, be remembered as Peter's: for 30 years he has stood at the end of the prize winners' rows of seats and indicated, one at a time, with a small movement of the Prize Giving programme, that the winner may proceed to receive his handshake. And we must not forget that Peter has been master in charge of Ultimate Frisbee on more than one occasion (when the swimming pool has been out of commission). Also on the sports and recreation front, Peter ran the table-tennis club for ten years and the model railway society for 5 years. Let's move to some rather more substantial roles. In 1987 Peter took over from Gerry Thain as master in charge of swimming. Twice he took teams to the national relay finals in London. He only gave up the role at the end of the 2018–19 season. Peter also coached a cricket team for 12 years, three times taking them to victory in the Birmingham League.

In January 1983 he became Head of Tudor, a post he held until he became Head of Maths six years later. In 1984, after his first full year as Housemaster, Tudor won the House Championship. They repeated the feat for the last three years that he led them. Peter was assigned to Tudor from his arrival at the school, and he looked after their swimming team both before and after he was their Housemaster. Four years after Peter's arrival, under his coaching, they won the swimming gala; and they did so again every year for the next 13 until Peter moved on to his Head of Maths role.

Peter was an outstanding Head of Maths. I have illustrated his great love for the subject above, and this was one of the gifts he brought to the job. I used to enjoy sharing a new idea or delightful problem with him, because I knew he would share my excitement. If it was something for use in the classroom, he would receive your idea as a precious gift and often offer an

alternative thought in return. He believed that able boys thrived on problems, puzzles and challenges; that their interest would be piqued and their skills honed by unusual applications and imaginative uses of what they had learnt. Under him, the department entered every acronymic contest the mathematical world could offer: PEST, BUMMPS, UKJMC/JMO/IMC, UKSMC, BMO1, BMO2; not to mention European Kangaroo, Canadian IIMC, Russian TOTT, maths relays and summer schools. (I'm not going to explain them all. O normally stands for Olympiad, M for Maths, no idea what TOTT was but I know Peter was invited to go to Russia because of it and declined.) Indeed, for 7 or 8 years, Peter helped set UK Maths Challenge questions and assisted with marking the British Maths Olympiad. As a result, our boys thrived and excelled. They could not only do maths but they understood it as well. A Cambridge maths admissions tutor once commented to me, 'I would rather take a Camp Hill mathematician than one from... (he named a well-known public school) ...any day.' While Peter was in charge, there was a period of 10 years in 8 of which Camp Hill supplied either a member or a reserve for the six-person UK Maths Olympiad team. In one year we supplied two members of the team. I doubt if any school in the country had a record to match that.

When he took over the maths department there were 38 A-Level students; ten years later there were 68; by the time he stood down there were well over a hundred. For ten years, every Camp Hill girl who did Further Maths, did it at Camp Hill Boys and was taught by Peter. Peter's successor as Head of Maths maintained the ethos so firmly established; it is a testament to Peter's legacy that OFSTED sent an inspector to view our maths department a few years after Peter handed over the reins. It soon became clear this was no ordinary inspection; the purpose of this one was to see how Camp Hill came to have one of the best maths departments in the country, in order to make national recommendations.

Peter was an extraordinarily brilliant teacher. In a 1983 inspection, the inspector said 'In 15 years of inspections I'd put you in my top 3 teachers.' As well as challenging, Peter's lessons were always such fun. He seemed to have a mnemonic for everything. For years I thought these were gems he had picked up along the way and which he had never forgotten because it was just the sort of thing that charmed him. Only recently did I learn that they were his own inventions. One of them, which reminds you of how to sketch the graph of a function, even appears in a maths text book, with acknowledgement.

Peter continued to run the Maths Challenges after standing down as Head of Department. When I recall his announcements of them in assembly, I cannot escape using the word 'legend' again. For those who were

present, I need say no more. To all others I must apologise; it would take too long to explain. Most can repeat them almost verbatim, always ending with, 'Some will battle for bronze, others may settle for silver, but YOU go for gold.' Once again, they captured his sense of fun.

That sense of fun can be almost child-like. He is delighted by the boys' actions when they are amusing and without malice. The day he found the older boys throwing snowballs at the younger ones. 'Look! There are more of you than of them. All you need is organisation and leadership,' he said to the younger ones as they faced the smaller army of sixth-formers. 'Now, line up with me and when I say 'charge' we'll run at them as a body.' The boys lined up. Peter gave a cry and charged. Alone. Into a barrage of snow balls. He thought it was hilarious.

Peter was a few minutes late to the first lesson of the day, because he had just taken a House assembly. He arrived to find that his class had moved all the furniture into the playground and had arranged it into an exact replica of the actual room. As he arrived, they called to him to enter by the imaginary door. Obediently, he did so, and proceeded to teach them in the playground. It was the last lesson before Christmas, so it was a cold one.

The A-Level Exam Board provided every candidate with a formula book just for the exam; a new one every year; always on yellow paper; that was a lot of unusable scrap paper. So his form papered the room. Every surface – floor, wall, desks, teacher's table, windows – was dressed in yellow. Peter thought it marvellous.

Peter is a remarkably modest and unassuming man. He rarely speaks about all he does outside school even though his achievements there are also extraordinary. An extreme example of this reticence was on the occasion that he returned from half-term to the usual conversations about the holiday. 'Did you go anywhere, Peter?' 'Yes, Ireland.' Peter then explained where he had been in Ireland. 'That's a lot of driving, isn't it?' 'No, I shared it.' 'Who with?' 'My wife.' 'Your wife?' 'Yes – I should

have said I got married over half-term; Ireland was my honeymoon.' Needless to say, the story spread quickly; already by lunchtime the boys had bought a cake and some confetti.

When Peter was made the Head of Maths, the Deputy Headmaster said to him, 'By the way, the Head of Maths does the timetable.' So he did it for 20 years. When he started, it was done with paper and pencil, and he had to go into town to get it printed. The timetabler has enormous power; power to be sympathetic even when doing so will generate hours of work; power to spend long nights trying to be kind to part-time staff; power to take the trouble to explain often complicated reasons why he has been unable to satisfy a request; power to explain why what appears a reasonable demand to one person can lead to an unreasonable burden on another. Or he can do the opposite; he has the power to tell you to lump it. Everyone trusted Peter. They knew he would always do all he could to listen, to respond, to explain, to rearrange, to compromise, to propose solutions. Always patient. Always generous. Always kind. On at least two occasions, I know of another constraint he added into his timetable. He was aware of outstanding mathematicians in younger forms; as he wrote the timetable, he made sure that their Y8 lessons coincided with his own Y12 lessons and the following year he aligned their Y9 lessons with his Y13 lessons. That way he could have them attend his lessons where he would give them appropriate challenge.

Peter isn't really retiring. He remains on the payroll as a swimming teacher. But he considers this the end of the most significant part of his work at the school – that of maths teacher. There are some big numbers floating around in his time at Camp Hill. As he puts it, '18 years a foot soldier, 18 years a Head of Maths and 20 years a timetabler.' He should have included 32 years master in charge of swimming.

None of which tells you about what really matters in this story. Peter is a remarkable man. I have never seen him angry or impatient. All

whom he has taught remember him, which is why I know I can use the word 'legend' without fear of disagreement. Every time I am contacted by an old, Old Boy and the memories start, I move quickly on to, 'Peter Jack's still here.' Visiting professor from America, football fanzine writer from Japan, Headmaster of one of the country's top independent schools – all want to see Peter again and express their gratitude and the warmth of their memories. When I take a visitor to the staff room, I always hope Peter will be there. If he is, I know they will be warmly greeted and pleasantly engaged; they will leave the place saying what a friendly school it is. I am not the only one who would love to have his gifts as a teacher – total management of a group based entirely on respect and affection, never on fear or discomfort. A complete grasp of his subject, with an extraordinary ability to remember every anecdote, every idea, every imaginative trick that will illuminate whatever path the pupils choose to take him down. A modesty that makes every youngster in the profession feel heard and valued. Time for another overused word: I count myself truly privileged to have known and worked with Peter.

As Peter reduces his school commitment to two afternoons a week, what will fill his time? Well, the same things as have filled his time outside school for the last 48 years. At his church, he will continue as a leader of the group for those with learning difficulties which he helped start nearly 6 years ago; he will continue to work with the youth group as he has done every Wednesday evening for the last 50 years; he will continue to help lead the Sunday School as he has done for 25 years; he will continue to lead a weekly service. He and Elaine will make better use of their lifetime membership of the National Trust; there will be more time for walking and reading. And Elaine is hoping there will be more time for visiting friends and family – at least that won't involve much travelling, anyway.

■ M.J.G.





# Obituaries

## Mervyn Brooker

When Roger Dancey announced, in 1995, his appointment as Headmaster of City of London Boys' School, the vacant post of Headmaster of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys in Kings Heath, Birmingham attracted considerable interest. This was predictable because the school was recognised as one of the top state schools in the country.

A strong field was whittled down to about eight or nine candidates who were invited to Camp Hill for the first round of interviews, prior to the selection of about four for the final round. To the consternation of some at Foundation Office, the School Governors declined to proceed to the final round and appointed one of the candidates, Mervyn Brooker, as the new Headmaster of Camp Hill School. This reflected the unanimous view of the Governors that another round of interviews would be superfluous: they had identified their man and more interviews were unlikely to alter that firm view. It was a resounding endorsement of Mervyn's brief tenure at Camp Hill as Deputy Head and of his performance in the first round. It also recognised the fact that a neighbouring grammar school had Mervyn in their sights, suggesting that Camp Hill had to move smartly.

Mervyn Edward William Brooker was born in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in 1954, the son of Derek and Hazel (nee Mee) Brooker. The family moved around the country before settling in Lancashire (he regarded himself as "a naturalised Lancastrian") where Mervyn attended Lancaster RGS and Burnley Grammar School before taking his degree in Geography at Jesus College, Cambridge. While there, he won his Blue at cricket and went on to enjoy considerable success in the sport. In all, he played fifteen first-class and seven List A matches. He was particularly proud to capture the wicket of Roy Fredericks when he represented the Combined Oxford and Cambridge Universities against the West Indies: he was a medium pace, right arm bowler. Mervyn also played for Cambridgeshire and Staffordshire in the Minor Counties Championship and, much later on, for Lancashire over-50's, in addition to his successful career as a club cricketer.

Curiously, Mervyn was not initially entirely committed to teaching. After graduating and taking his postgraduate teaching year at Cambridge, he took some time out to work at Proctor and Gamble and to play for Somerset 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. This gave him time to see whether a career in cricket beckoned (it didn't) and to clarify that the world of commerce was not for him.

He joined Saffron Walden County High School and then, in 1980, moved to RGS Worcester as Head of Geography. Internal promotion saw him become Head of Lower School in 1984. He was then appointed Deputy Head at Highfields School in Wolverhampton in 1988. His first day there produced a major surprise when the town's Director of Education (also enjoying his first day in office) announced to staff that the Headteacher of many years standing had been suspended. Despite facing an exceptionally difficult situation, Mervyn "got on with the job" and "never complained to me" as a colleague, Bill Tranter, recalled. This was the hallmark of his professional career.

We came to know him at Camp Hill when he accepted the post of Deputy Head in 1992, replacing Harold Greenaway. In accepting this post, Mervyn followed Roger Dancey, Head at Camp Hill since 1985, from Worcester. At that time, under Dancey's guidance, Camp Hill was in the process of evolving from an underperforming and underfunded, yet not unsuccessful, institution into a thriving and enormously successful school, enjoying a national reputation. There were many factors involved, including taking on grant-maintained status and extending its reach for students beyond Birmingham's boundaries into areas such as Solihull and Sutton Coldfield. These provided access to significantly greater income and a larger pool of bright students. It was to Dancey's enormous credit that he took advantage of these favourable circumstances and it was Camp Hill's good fortune that he enlisted Mervyn's support to assist him.

What struck the staff almost immediately was Mervyn's enormous capacity for work. There had been rumours prior to his arrival and he proved to be even more dynamic than predicted. He was a bundle of energy, full of enthusiasm and keen to take on as much as he could. His job description was daunting yet this did not prevent him from adding to it. He was very keen to involve himself, for instance, in the Year 8 residential week which was moving from Worcestershire and Oxfordshire to Prestatyn in North Wales. Mervyn threw himself into reconnoitring the region for suitable sites and then



accompanying the visits in their early years. He approached John Dinham, Fire Officer, to ask if he might take over the role. This was not meant as a criticism of John's handling of the post but was more likely a recognition that it was a whole-school issue that sat more easily in a Deputy Head's portfolio than in that of a Departmental Head (John was Head of English). Mervyn did this in such a manner that John was not in the least offended: indeed, he was secretly quite relieved.

Mervyn became well known for his frequent use of yellow Post-It notes. Members of staff would return to their lockers to find an urgent invitation to see him about something or to hear about an initiative – things were never quite the same once emails came into vogue. When much needed pastoral reform came about in 1994, Mervyn took on Years 8 and 9, a considerable extra burden. Later on, as Head, he insisted upon meeting all Year 7 and Lower Sixth pupils on an individual basis to monitor their progress. And, on top of his leadership duties, Mervyn continued to teach Geography. As one of his former Heads of Department (Bill Tranter) commented: "It is easy to forget that he was a consummate and passionate geographer with a fine eye for detail". Another Head of Department (Keith Phipps) reflected upon Mervyn's positive support, his ability to generate resources and ideas (he could have written a book according to Keith) and his role as a team player.

He also proved to be meticulous. When

experienced members of staff were invited to apply to pass the threshold (and therefore, to qualify for a boost to their salary), the process required significant documentation. However, anyone who thought that Mervyn would nod through these applications was soon disabused. The Headmaster went through every application with the proverbial fine-tooth comb and then sat down with each applicant to verify claims made. It was a tortuous process but one which characterised his approach. Similarly, Mervyn took time to appreciate the efforts of his colleagues. He would send a handwritten note to staff after they had organised a trip out of school or put on a concert or a production, for example. This attention to detail is still recalled – one member of staff (Simon Palmer) commented that he still has a file of these letters even now (2019).

Little things came naturally to him but Mervyn was outstanding, too, in his appreciation of strategic issues. He took care to immerse himself in the sweeping changes taking place in education and understood the politics of education. He relished being involved in the Technology College Initiative which brought closer links with local schools and the surrounding community. He saw the value of initiatives such as Excellence in the Cities and the Specialist Schools Programme which led to better funding and increased opportunities for Camp Hill. It was this era that saw the school embark upon considerable investment in its facilities, most notably technology. All staff acquired laptops and numerous classrooms swapped blackboards for interactive whiteboards and all that this meant for teaching methods. It would be fair to say that Mervyn was not an expert in information technology but he listened to those around him (Mike Roden most of all) who understood its likely impact.

Mervyn had an ability to connect with the various elements of the school community. He had a strong rapport with parents through the Parents' Association and through his very visible support of extra-curricular activities and sports. Old Boys still reflect upon the ease with which he could mix with them as he made time to help reinvigorate the Old Boys' Association. His work was made rather more straightforward by the enduring relationship which he forged with the Staffroom. Mervyn was wary of the experienced teaching staff but he took the time to listen to them and, if persuaded, would concede gracefully. It helped that he was accessible – Mervyn invariably arrived well before most of his colleagues and he seldom left early – as his door was always open to staff. He was also a staunch ally of staff – many have since commented that he was quick to offer help and support in time of need. It was no surprise, therefore, when Mervyn was appointed Headmaster in 1995. He had transformed the role of Deputy Head (as Roger Dancey knew

he would), bringing to the post an impressive drive and sense of professionalism. Whether the Governors took any notice of staff opinion at the time of his promotion is a moot point but they were aware, through Staff Governors and their own contacts, that Mervyn enjoyed overwhelming support in the Staffroom. Upon becoming Headmaster, he took the decision that he would remain on first name terms with staff, at that time unknown at Camp Hill. He carried this off successfully and continued to speak as he found although perhaps he was a little too honest for his own good, some thought. But, as many have since suggested, everyone knew where they stood with Mervyn.

As a selective School, Camp Hill came to expect excellent examination results, year after year, and, during Mervyn's tenure, this became the norm. In September, Mervyn met with each Head of Department to review progress in their particular domain. This would cover examination results and relevant issues such as capitulation and staffing and would use a prior written report as the basis for discussion. In line with Mervyn's approach, these meetings were constructive and useful: he had no wish to micro-manage departments and always accepted that professionals could be trusted to do this properly. It would be fair to say that he did not place undue pressure upon middle-management nor did he appear to favour the bigger and more important departments. He supported a balanced curriculum and this meant backing for the smaller departments faced with the stream of students heading towards the sciences and mathematics, a developing feature at Camp Hill at the time.

However, Mervyn never saw the production of excellent examination results as the sole purpose of the school and placed great emphasis upon the value of extra-curricular activities. As a talented sportsman in his own right, he found it easy to offer formidable support to the Games Department to deliver this. Both John Thomas and Mark Duncan, successive Heads of the Department, are effusive in their recognition of his efforts. He brought in staff who were able and willing to support the department in taking teams, offering coaching, spending evenings and Saturday mornings umpiring or refereeing. He himself was a regular on the touchline and on the boundary ropes, enjoying seeing the students participate. One of his earliest pieces of advice to Mark Duncan upon the latter's appointment in 1996 was to never cancel a fixture if Mark was short of staff or transport – he would always stand in. Mervyn was particularly happy that, as a state school, Camp Hill fixtures would be played on Saturday mornings. This allowed him to watch school rugby in the morning before he scooted off to Molineux to see the Wolves play in the afternoon. Similarly, in the summer, he could watch a cricket match, dressed in his whites, ready to play in the afternoon for his club. He

would stroll around the boundary, talking to watching (and occasionally participating) students and parents. Mervyn was also very keen on the thriving House system at Camp Hill and would always enjoy the end of term updates of House positions even if his deadpan presentation might belie that – public speaking was not his greatest gift.

Mervyn's departure from Camp Hill at Christmas 2002 was greeted with dismay. There were no sections of the school community which did not regret his decision. He was moved, too, by the wrench – as he stood in the school foyer after the final assembly, there were tears in his eyes. However, after 10 years at Camp Hill, another challenge beckoned and no-one begrudged him the chance to serve in the better rewarded and superbly resourced public school sector.

He left behind him a school which had benefitted enormously from his stewardship. Mervyn had continued and developed the work of Roger Dancey, establishing a fine foundation taken on by his successors. When he arrived at Camp Hill, Mervyn's goals were simple. He wanted to improve the examination results, fine though they were, develop extra-curricular activities and turn out "nice young men". The Ofsted Report of 2002 provided ample evidence of his success, praising the awesome examination results, the wonderful array of activities available to the pupils and the excellence of the relations between staff and pupils. The Inspectors paid fulsome tribute to Mervyn's part in all of this, praise richly deserved. He was more than satisfied with the compliment paid – "This is as good as it gets" he wrote in his farewell school *Chronicle* article.

After leaving Camp Hill, Mervyn spent five years at Bolton School, Boys' Division, which had head-hunted him. He is fondly remembered there and is credited with laying the foundations of its later success. Mervyn was particularly keen to augment the already strong extra-curricular programme, with a focus upon strengthening the national profile of cricket and developing the role of Patterdale Hall. This reflected something seen at Camp Hill, namely the development of students outside the classroom, the refusal to concentrate upon academic work alone. The connection with Patterdale is credited with reigniting Mervyn's love of walking, something self-evident during his later retirement.

In 2008, Mervyn retired to Wolverhampton, becoming, as Bill Tranter said, the only man in the known universe to do so. But it was not a life of leisure – he involved himself in the work of the King Edward Foundation, taking on a significant workload. As its Educational Advisor, he was responsible for overseeing the establishment of the Academy at Sheldon Heath, for Headteacher Appraisal and for Primary School Liaison. Mervyn proved to be a very effective liaison between the Foundation

and primary schools (of which there were well over 100), providing materials to underpin the Familiarisation Programme aimed at children from lower income families. The rationale was to make the grammar schools more accessible to previously excluded groups, an issue which is currently at the top of the educational agenda for selective schools. He also enjoyed some part-time teaching and was a Governor at Wolverhampton Grammar School.

Mervyn found time for life beyond education. He became a season ticket holder at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and was delighted to see their promotion to the Premier League, playing attractive football. Indeed, the last match Mervyn saw at Molineux was the stunning Cup defeat of the almighty Liverpool FC just before Christmas. Of course, he returned to cricket but more as a spectator than player: he thoroughly enjoyed the Test series against India in the summer of 2018, particularly the victory at Edgbaston which he attended with a small group of friends. And, true to his nature, he had already organised this year's pilgrimage to Edgbaston to see the Test match against Australia.

Mervyn also enjoyed the Thursday evening sessions with friends at the Great Western

pub in Wolverhampton where he would drink his favourite beer – Batham's – while discussing Brexit, the composition of Nuno's midfield at Molineux or how to tune a guitar. He also became a regular on the annual visit, established by friends some twenty years ago, to Brescia. Mervyn took over much of the organisation of this trip and of reciprocal visits to Britain by Italians. And, of course, he managed to get some serious walking in, too: only last autumn, he was trekking in the Himalayas. His colleagues at Bolton had noticed his return to the hills – perhaps the rigours of the post at Camp Hill had pushed this favourite pastime to one side. At RGS Worcester, he had been instrumental, along with Jim Smith (who, incidentally described Mervyn as the "world's worst driver"), in setting up the *Tything Tramps*, a walking group which would tackle trails in the Brecon Beacons or the Lake District. The group still hold twice-yearly walking weekends and Mervyn saw fit to include the club in his *Who's Who* entry. However, Mervyn was rather less keen on pastimes closer to home. His gardening activities did not extend far beyond tending the lawn and he was even less successful as a DIY man in the house. As for the kitchen, Jim described him as "hopeless". "I'm certainly not a

new man" he admitted in an interview with the school magazine in 1992. It was good to see him at Camp Hill, too – Mervyn often turned up at the end of year parties, saying goodbye to colleagues with whom he had worked. He was always a welcome figure.

The esteem in which Mervyn was held was evident at the Memorial Service held for him at St Peter's in Wolverhampton in February 2019. The eulogies delivered to a congregation which filled the church were heartfelt and evoked special memories for all who attended. The subsequent gathering at Molineux reflected his popularity.

While he was at Cambridge, Mervyn met Brigid, a nurse, at a party in Chester. He was sufficiently taken by her to invite her to the May Ball that year, his second at Jesus. When Brigid subsequently declared that she was taking a post in Norway, Mervyn had to work very hard to persuade her to turn down that offer and, as one friend put it, ignore "the lure of all those tall, blond men". Brigid duly moved to Cambridge and the two married in 1976. Brigid, their two girls, Claire and Nicola, and three (soon to be four) lively grandchildren survive him.

■ **Alistair Bulloch**

## Sir Reginald Eyre

1924 – 2019

**S**ir Reg lived in Washwood Heath as a child and attended King Edwards Camp Hill in Birmingham from 1935 to 1942. He remembered fondly the evacuation of the school to Warwick, and snowball fights with other schools housed there. He saw war service as a Sub-Lieutenant RNVR, and then went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he read history and law. Admitted as a solicitor in 1950, he started his own practice, being senior partner from 1951 to 1991 and a consultant until



2002. In the fifties and early sixties he was associated with CHOE Cricket Club.

He was elected Member of Parliament for Birmingham Hall Green at a 1965 by-election, and represented the seat until he retired in 1987. During the Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher governments, he served as Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, Comptroller of the Household, and Junior Environment (Housing and Construction), and Trade and Transport Minister. He was also a Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party.

In 1978 he married actress (and later producer) Anne Clements, and they had a daughter, Hermione, named after actress Hermione Gingold.

From the back benches he sponsored a Bill enabling Birmingham to stage an annual city-centre motor race, objected to the planned sale of parts of British Leyland to US competitors and promoted the city's bid to stage the 1992 Olympics. He was one of the first Conservative politicians to promote inner-city regeneration and founded the Conservative backbench Urban Affairs Committee in 1974, and as Mrs Thatcher's Party Vice-Chairman launched an Urban Regeneration Initiative. In 1984 he was knighted and in 1991 was awarded the Freedom of the City of Birmingham.

Leaving the Commons in 1987, he Chaired the Birmingham Heartlands Ltd Regeneration Initiative formed by the City Council and private enterprise. He was often found after board meetings sharing a glass of wine with Labour City Council leader, Dick, later

Sir Richard, Knowles. When challenged they admitted they were comparing the relative merits of Lenin and Stalin. He negotiated with Michael Heseltine to set up Birmingham Heartlands Development Corporation to follow up the regeneration work and was Chair until it closed in 1998. He was also the first Chair of Birmingham Cable, which launched cable TV and telephony in Birmingham.

During this time he followed the progress of the school with interest and not a little pride. But as a tribute I can do no better than quote that given in the House of Commons by his son-in-law, Alex Burghart, MP: *"Reg was one of those people whom everyone automatically warmed to and everyone instinctively liked. He was very proud of his country and particularly proud of his city. He was proud of his party and proud of this place, but most of all he was terribly proud of his wonderful wife and his wonderful daughter. All of them, from country to family, had very good cause to be proud of him, too."*

I know I speak on behalf of all of the team who worked with him at Heartlands in saying, "hear hear".

■ **Jim Beeston OBE**



# Edwin Graham Osborn

Ed, as he was invariably known, was a Camp Hill man through and through. He was born in Yardley in April 1952 and attended Yardley Primary School before starting at Camp Hill in September 1963. Ed was at Camp Hill until July 1970, having stayed on to the Sixth Form. An intelligent young man and a very decent sportsman, he played cricket for his House (Seymour) and he was an adept cross-country runner but his favourite activities at School were athletics and rugby. Ed won the Intermediate Victor Ludorum in 1967, and following this, he was selected to represent the area in the Birmingham Sports. He then shared the Senior Award in 1970, helping his House to win the Athletics. Ed was House Captain that year and his enthusiasm and leadership were commended in the Annual Report on House activities.

Ed played rugby right through his school career, always as a winger, winning Junior Colours in a very successful team run by Des Wright and then Senior Colours in 1970 after a season playing for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. His impressive contributions to school sport helped earn him the status of School Prefect, a role he took very seriously.

Outside school, he played soccer on a regular basis with Norton Albion. This was a Sunday League team, made up of Camp Hill pupils, run by the very popular member of staff, Len Bowles. Ed played on the wing and proved to be particularly adept at beating his full back and getting in telling crosses.

In 1970, after his A-Levels, Ed went on to Higher Education. He was always proud to declare that he went to Oxford, only occasionally admitting that he attended Oxford Brookes College, not the esteemed university. He completed a degree in Town and Country Planning which took him on to a very successful career in Housing Associations, working for a variety of companies such as Redrow and Lovells. As those who ever received his business card would know, Ed added to his qualifications on a regular basis. Bob Perrin reckons that he has never seen so many letters on a card.

For his sins, Ed was a loyal supporter of Birmingham City Football Club. He first attended matches in the 1960's and continued to support the Blues until he passed away. Ed was a season ticket holder and steeled himself to turn up at St Andrews on a regular basis to watch his team.

He was also a big supporter of the Old Boys' Association and he would always attend the annual dinner with others from his year group. Ed was a founder member,

too, of the Old Boys group who meet every three months or so. His favourite visit was to the Severn Valley Railway, which he helped organise. He was never one to sit quietly and patiently listen to his friends' opinions – Ed was at the forefront of every discussion, seldom at a loss for something to say! His loss is keenly felt among his friends. Ed was a walker, too, enjoying getting out in the fresh air although walks would be punctuated by less healthy doses of pub air as he quaffed a pint.

Ed enjoyed his rugby. While at college, he began a long association with Camp Hill RFC. He played a few games for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the 1970's but was much happier when he started appearing regularly for the Veterans' XV under the Captaincy of Brian Trumper. Ed was never one for statistics so didn't bother to count the number of appearances or tries scored but both were formidable. It would be fair to say that Ed was never too keen on the physical side of the game – he admitted that he relied upon his centres to do the tackling for him! What he did enjoy was playing with a friendly group which happened to be very successful.

As this group started to break up in the 1990's, Ed decided to switch to Stourport RFC, rather closer to home. He fitted in well, both on the field and off. He played regularly and assisted with preparation of the pitches and behind the bar. Ed also got himself involved in the administration of the game and, through this, gained access to international tickets. And so it was that Ed and friends enjoyed long weekends in Dublin, Paris, Rome and Edinburgh to watch England play. He maintained his links with Camp Hill and was often to be seen at VP's Day in October.

A devoted family man, Ed married Jayne Abbotts in 1976: the couple had two children, Edwin and Claire. Ed doted on his three grandchildren and he and Jayne were frequent visitors to Plymouth to see Claire and family. There was nothing more important to Ed than the family Christmas, with all the trimmings. It had to be accompanied by a big tree and all the decorations: this was a time for the family to gather and enjoy time together. He enjoyed his Christmas dinner although he could happily do without the



healthy option: "green crap" was his brutal assessment.

Ed's life came to a premature end on 2 November 2018. He had had health issues but outwardly seemed to be as fit as he had ever been. The Memorial Service at Stourport Crematorium was extremely well attended and reflected his popularity. He was a lovely bloke, the life and soul of the many groups to which he belonged. Ed is, and will be, sorely missed.

■ Alistair Bulloch

# Camp Hill casualties after the Armistice

The Armistice of 11 November 1918 did not bring the end of bad news for the Camp Hill community. We know of at least five Old Boys who died after the war ended.

## Lieutenant Ernest Albert (Bruin) Brown

Lieutenant Ernest Albert (Bruin) Brown died of pneumonia on 23 November 1918. He was born in Moseley in June 1885, the son of Mary Ann (nee Shell) and Robert Brown. They came from Worcestershire and Coventry, respectively.

Through his father, Ernest was directly related to a well-known Victorian animal artist, Edwin Brown. Ernest, the fourth of five boys, attended Camp Hill between 1896 and 1900, finishing in the top class under the tuition of the legendary Arthur Jamson Smith: he must have been a bright boy. After leaving school, Ernest went into the grocery retail trade, following in his father's footsteps: he was still living with the family in Kingswood Road, Moseley, according to the 1911 census. He was a stalwart of CHOE Rugby Club, a member of the great side of 1910–11, also serving as an Honorary Secretary. The great Teddy Parker wrote very fondly of his role in the club when he looked back upon these years in the Jubilee Book of 1933, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school.

Ernest signed up at the beginning of the war, disembarking in France in July 1915. He served through the war although we have no details of this. By the time he died, he was an officer in 188 Siege Battery in the RGA: he is buried in Cambrai East Military Cemetery. In 1916, Ernest married Penelope Helen Salt – she survived him, living until 1940.

## Gunner Frederick William Henri

Gunner Frederick William Henri was born on 30 March 1890 in Birmingham. He was the only son of Maud Mary (nee Pearson) and Frederick William Henri, from Birmingham and Mansfield respectively. Dad was a coal merchant and the family was sufficiently well off to afford a servant when they lived in Erskine Street, Nechells in 1901.

Frederick attended Camp Hill between 1902 and 1904. After leaving, he worked with his father in the coal business. Before being called up in 1916, Frederick married Lilian Maud Willer in April 1915: the couple had one child, Dennis, who lived until 2003. He was called up in June 1916, joining the RGA, serving in Siege Battery 342. Frederick survived the war and was home on demobilisation

when he contracted bronchial pneumonia and died on 8 February 1919. He is buried in Yardley Cemetery in a military grave. Lilian survived him and lived until 1976.

## Lieutenant Cecil Alexander Naldrett Holden

Lieutenant Cecil Alexander Naldrett Holden was one of four brothers (three of whom attended Camp Hill) to serve in WW1. He was born on 22 March 1898 in Birmingham, the son of Jane Sophia (nee Dann) and Allen George Holden, both originally from Ireland. Allen was a former soldier who then worked as a shopwalker. In 1901, the family lived at 48 Nansen Road and in 1911, 61 Clarence Road, both Sparkhill.

Cecil attended Camp Hill between September 1909 and June 1913, having previously gone to St John's Elementary School in Solihull. His academic and sporting record at School was impressive. In the immediate aftermath of leaving CH, we do not know what happened to Cecil. He enlisted at some stage because we pick up the trail in August 1917 when he disembarked in France. Towards the end of the war, Cecil was transferred from the Leinster Regiment to the Indian Army. The London Gazette published his promotion to Lieutenant in July 1919 but Cecil was dead by that time. In a successful attack upon the fortress of Spin Baldak on the North-West Frontier (as part of the 3rd Afghan War), Cecil was killed: he was in the 1/22 Punjabis at the time. Unmarried, he died on 27 May 1919 and is commemorated on the Delhi War Memorial.

## Lieutenant Harry Clarence Jennings

Lieutenant Harry Clarence Jennings was born in Balsall Heath on 9 July 1889. Harry was the fourth child of Ellen (nee Wilde) and Clement Heeley Jennings who, in 1901, lived at 100 Mary Street, Balsall Heath. Clement was described as a jeweller, silversmith and electro plater in different sources.

Harry was at Camp Hill between 1901 and 1905, making decent academic progress. At some stage, he joined the Royal Navy: the 1911 census indicates he was an Able Seaman. His service record during the war is unknown, but he was promoted to Acting Gunner in 1915 then to Acting Lieutenant in 1916. Presumably, Harry was based somewhere in East Anglia because he married Olive Bloomfield at Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1918.

Following the war, the Royal Navy was deployed in the Baltic to protect the newly established independent Baltic states such as Estonia from Bolshevik Russia. A substantial squadron was sent in 1919, including the submarine L55 on which Harry was serving.



While in the act of engaging two Russian destroyers, L55 struck a British mine and went down with all hands. In 1928, it was raised by the Russians and the recovered crew were handed over and subsequently buried in a collective grave at Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire. Commonwealth War Graves Commission records tell us that Harry died on 4 June 1919 in Caporsky Bay, Gulf of Finland. Olive survived him: she never remarried and eventually died in Felixstowe in 1944.

## Private Thomas Bayley Smith

Private Thomas Bayley Smith was born on 29 June 1892 in Tipton. He was the son of Emma (nee Olorenshaw) and Thomas Smith, an insurance agent, who lived in Great Bridge.

Thomas, the only surviving child, attended Camp Hill between January 1905 and December 1908. He did very well on the academic side, starting in the bottom class (XIV) but making exceptional progress, ending up in Class II. Thomas did well in mathematics too: starting in Set C1, he finished in the second top Set, A2. Not many lads made such progress. In the process, he was mentioned in the two Prize Lists of 1905 when he was Second in General Work. Thomas also had the good fortune to be taught by some of the most famous characters in Camp Hill history, W.B. Ainsworth, W.R. Bradley and Arthur Jamson Smith.

After leaving school, Thomas was an articled clerk and was training to become a chartered accountant. War intervened however and he joined up. We know very little about his service but he enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry before joining the West Yorkshire Regiment, Prince of Wales' Own. Thomas survived the war but subsequently died in March 1920. Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state that he died of phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis). He is buried in Tipton Cemetery in a military grave.

■ Alistair Bulloch

# School Activities

## ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING

### 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 a gruelling and tense selection process, the engineering mentors from Eaton, Craig Polly, Marcus Holmes and Laura Cowley, selected five boys: Jai Odedra, Aadam Sümer, Milan Rochester Mohammed, Duncan Winkles and Demosthenes Georgiou to represent their company and take on the challenging Engineering and Education Scheme over the six month programme.

The team attended the launch day on the 17 October 2018 where we were given an overview of the scheme along with some team building challenges. Following our not so promising performance at the Open Day, we were determined to prove that we were as prepared and ready for this scheme as our applications made us out to be.

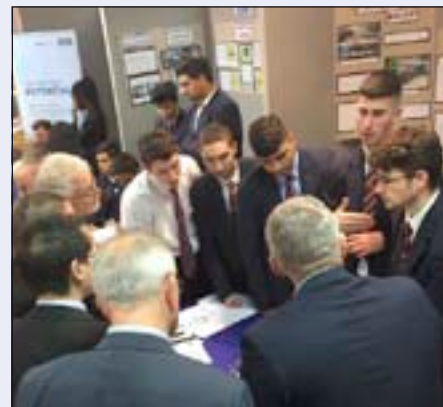
Firstly, we went for a day to the Eaton Factory at Lakeside. Here we were taken on a tour of the factory and introduced to the problem we would be solving for our project. Eaton makes various flexible hosepipe assemblies, along with various other couplings that are used for aerospace purposes. To make these, they require specific fixtures (of which there are over 500) to mould and make them correctly. The problem was, these fixtures would always end up missing around their vast factory, greatly affecting the productivity within the factory as more time would be spent looking for a fixture than actually using it. We were shown Eaton's current system for storing

fixtures and saw how it wasn't fit for purpose and was out-dated. Therefore, our task was to design a solution that would solve this problem and we aimed to save Eaton £10,000 a year in lost time.

Our initial ideas revolved around placing individual tracking devices on each fixture in the factory that would rely on GPS or Bluetooth tracking to pinpoint the live location of each fixture. We also thought about implementing an RFID zonal system that would work similarly to how store security systems work and scan fixtures in and out of specific zones around the factory, making fixtures easier to find.

The next two months were spent researching each potential solution until we became mini experts in all fields and began drawing up prototypes and comparing the advantages, disadvantages and suitability of each option. By the time our two-day residential at the University of Birmingham came around, we were ready to start constructing prototypes for our GPS and RFID solution; we had decided to abandon Bluetooth due to very high costs and low practicality.

At the University, we were provided with all the tools and professional help we needed to build and code our two working prototypes, which greatly tested the team's ability to dive into industries we had never experienced before such as constructing complex circuit boards and coding for location tracking for GPS and RFID devices. At the end of the second day we had a working RFID prototype along with a fried GPS chip due to our lack of experience in soldering tiny circuits. We managed to complete a working GPS tracking



Pictured above: Eaton assessment interview

device back at school, but discovered the accuracy given was far too poor to be implemented into our model, so we looked for viable ways to fix this. This ended up doubling the total cost of our GPS solution as well as making it less effective as RFID. After consulting with our mentors, we decided to abandon further developing our GPS solution.

Nearing the end of our project, we were tasked with producing a full technical report on our journey to our final solution, much the same as any real engineer would have to do. This gave us a chance to reflect on all of the decisions we made and the thought processes

behind each decision. This would then enable the engineers at Eaton to apply them when developing our prototype if they chose to implement our model in their factory in the future. This was the most tedious part of the project, but definitely, the most important as it was what we would be judged on.

Our final job was to present our project to a panel

of engineering experts from a variety of top companies at the final EES conference on the 2 May 2019 at Cranmore Park Solihull. This day was a chance for us to show off our hard work and compare with other schools from across the country, as well as come first (to Camp Hill Girls) in the JCB digger building competition.

Looking back on the EES, we gained an invaluable insight into the role of engineers and what it's like to make decisions under pressure. The most rewarding part is that Eaton will take our research and prototypes to implement into their factory to achieve the goal of saving time and money we had planned from the start.

We are very grateful for their experience and would like to thank our mentors: Craig Polly, Marcus Holmes and Laura Cowley for their support and guidance and especially Mr Nash for organising the whole thing and keeping us all in check!

■ Aadam Sümer





## Engineering in Education Scheme

### ► Rolls-Royce

Between late 2018 and 2019, the Rolls Royce EES Team consisting of: Vimaldev Sanger the Project Manager, Johns Noble, Julio Motta the CAD expert, Amin Cheragi the Vice Project Manager and Kashmir Gaddu, gained a great deal of insight into engineering with real engineers on a professional project. Our project was to make a pressurised oil seal for a starter motor in a Rolls Royce jet engine. We greatly enjoyed the experience over the course of the six to seven months.



To gain access to this prestigious award, we had to undertake a series of challenging interviews. This narrowed down the list of candidates from around thirty to only five. Having succeeded, we first went to a museum and took part in a series of team building activities. Whilst there we also met our supervisors from Rolls Royce. We learnt about the Engineering in Education Scheme and all the schools and companies that come together to make it happen.

Next, we went to the Rolls Royce building where we were given a tour of the facilities including the machinery and the offices where we saw a number of engineers working



on a variety of projects varying from fuel injection systems to designing a new revolutionary combustion chamber. We were given two projects to choose from, one which involved more electrical engineering and the other which involved more mechanical engineering. We chose the mechanical one to design and chose to make a pressurised oil seal.

We organised meeting times with our mentors from Rolls Royce to discuss the progress we were making and the viability of our designs. We worked frantically in conjunction with them during our residential trip to Birmingham University. Here we manufactured our design, so we had to have a complete list of tools, materials and machinery we would require before we went.

The Birmingham Workshop consisted of us spending two days in the University of Birmingham Engineering Department where we had the opportunity to build and test our prototype. At the University, we had access to a workshop which contained all the machinery required to build our prototype. We ended up making a wooden model, a 3D printed model of the housing and a working prototype made to scale.

After the workshop, we spent many hours writing up the report and testing our prototype for possible leaks and malfunctions. We were preparing for our final Celebration Day for the EES where we would present our product in front of a panel of engineers and get to look

at all the other projects in which the different schools involved took part.

On the Celebration Day, we arrived at the venue prepared and armed to the teeth with answers to any questions the engineers might throw at us. We set up our stand and showed off our project to anyone passing by who was intrigued. After presenting our project to the



panel of engineers, we breathed a sigh of relief as the most stressful part of the project was over.

This project has provided us with exceptionally valuable experience and has given us the opportunity to enhance our teamwork skills and problem-solving abilities. We have been able to talk to real engineers and understand the life of an engineer and their responsibilities better. We have had the opportunity to gain experience in completing a project from design phase to manufacture which has allowed us to gain a great deal of skills from this process which we can apply in many of my future exploits. We would like to thank our engineer mentors at Rolls Royce for helping us throughout the project, Mr Nash for arranging the scheme at school and the organisers at EDT.

■ **Vimaldev Sanger**

## Computing Competitions

### ► First Lego League

This year saw the school's first entry in the above Lego Robot Competition, winning a fetching Lego trophy for their teamwork and collaboration skills. Congratulations to the team of Year 7 boys who took part this year: S. Ahmed, M. Butt, M. Carson, S. Fisher, R. Jamieson, K. Mehta, A. Nagra, S. Raut, S. Sam and S. Selvaganapathy. Thanks also to L. Moore and the other Year 10 boys who provided expert mentoring of the group throughout.

■ **N.F.**



## ► Cyber Discovery

This is a national programme open to those in Year 10 or above that launched this year. Beginning with online challenges, participants progress through different levels of challenge until finally they are recruited to work in the world of international espionage! *[That last part may not be entirely true.]*

Two of our boys were invited to a special training course over the summer with elite pupils from across the country, where security experts were flown in from the USA to provide detailed technical training. It was so secret I didn't know they were there when I was invited as an observer. I'm not going to reveal their names here however – future national security may be at stake!

■ **N.F.**

## ► TCS Oxford Competition

Every year all pupils are offered the chance to compete in the Bebras Challenge, testing logical problem solving. The most successful pupils (those placed in the top 10% nationally) were then invited to take part in the TCS Oxford competition, which is more focused on programming skills. This is always hard to organise as there are lots of qualifying pupils across the two Camp Hill schools and we have a limited time window in which to provide each competitor with a computer and supervision.



The top competitors this year are listed below:

### Elite (Y12/Y13)

(1<sup>st</sup>) S. Shah; (2<sup>nd</sup>) E. Weaver; (3<sup>rd</sup>) J. Daniels

### Senior (Y10/Y11)

(1<sup>st</sup>) M. Cooke; (2<sup>nd</sup>) K. Sambhi

(3<sup>rd</sup>) M. Balderson, P. Kippax, D. Trehan, K. Xu

### Intermediate (Y8/Y9)

(1<sup>st</sup>) M. Awais\*; (2<sup>nd</sup>) M. Shah Foridi\*;

(3<sup>rd</sup>) P. Kelly

### Junior (Y7)

(1<sup>st</sup>) S. Raut; (2<sup>nd</sup>) K. Lau; (3<sup>rd</sup>) R. Yang

\*Having come amongst the highest in the country, the two top Y9 boys were then invited

to take part in the live final, coming fourth and tenth respectively in the country. Maybe next year we can send others to join them!

■ **N.F.**

## ► Perse Challenge Competition

This is a team programming competition. Questions could be answered in any of the main programming languages using a website called Hackerrank that automatically tests submitted code against a variety of test cases.

Each team have an hour to produce working solutions to as many programming problems as possible. Twenty-seven different CHB teams competed in round 1, with nineteen teams making it through to the final round.

### The top 3 teams were:

(1<sup>st</sup>) M. Balderson, M. Cooke

(2<sup>nd</sup>) K. Awais, A. Lim, I. Zaffar

(3<sup>rd</sup>) Q. Chen, D. Elia

Well done to all those who took part – it was challenging this year!

■ **N.F.**

## MATHEMATICS

## Maths Challenges

The autumn term saw two major mathematical events: the Senior Team Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge. The Senior Mathematical Challenge took place in early November and involved all mathematicians in Year 12, further mathematicians in Year 13 and the top set in Year 11. This year the boys achieved a total of 56 bronze, 64 silver and 38 gold certificates from our 200 entries. Top results this year came from Robert Hillier, Alex Byrne and Daniel Cole of Year 13, Xue Bang Chen and Saksham Shah of Year 12, and Kevin Xu of Year 11. These six boys all qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while a further thirty-two boys qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. In the Olympiad, Alex, Xue Bang, Saksham and Kevin did well enough to achieve certificates of merit; Robert did even better, obtaining a certificate of distinction. In the Senior Kangaroo, Dhyan Naik and Alfie Green (Year 13), Fawwaz Abdullah, Johns Noble and Leon Zhang (Year 12) and Harish Tamvada (Year 11) all did very well to achieve certificates of merit.

■ **D.J.T.**

## Senior Team Challenge

Towards the end of November, we entered the Senior Team Challenge. The day is described below by Alex Byrne.

On Wednesday 21 November 2018, the team of Robert Hillier, Xue Bang Chen, Alex Byrne, and Andrew Lee travelled to Fairfax School for the regional heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge. Having come second last year, losing to King Edwards High School, they were keen to exact their revenge.

The first round consisted of 10 longer questions for the whole group. Although 40 minutes were allotted, the team only needed 20, which left 20 minutes to look around the room looking smug. The team got all 10 correct, picking up the maximum of 60 marks.

The second round was a cross-number: like a crossword – but with numbers. Despite one slip-up by Xue Bang, who seemed to think that 11 was a single-digit number, the team again finished with ages to spare. It was at this point that our supervisor informed us that one of the KEHS girls could solve a Rubik's Cube in 30 seconds, to which Andrew promptly responded by solving one in about 15.

This intense flexing gave us a clear psychological advantage in the final round, the shuttle, which had been our downfall last year. This time, KEHS flustered, but Camp Hill put in a

flawless display, gaining full marks, and giving us an overall score of 181 out of 182.

This was enough to win the heat, and send the team to the national final in London in February. The team are grateful to Mr Thompson, for accompanying, organising, and encouraging.

■ **Alex Byrne**

## Senior Team Challenge – National Final

Winning the regional heat meant that we qualified for the national final in London. This is once again described by Alex Byrne.

On Tuesday 5 February 2019, the team of Alex Byrne, Xue Bang Chen, Robert Hillier and Andrew Lee travelled to London for the national finals of the Senior Team Maths Challenge, having won their regional heat back in November. Having completed the entire sudoku in the Metro on the train there – and not just the “easy” sudoku; the “challenging” sudoku – the team were confident of an impressive performance in the day of maths challenges ahead.

The first round was the poster round, where the team produced an A1-sized poster on different ways to approximate pi, with an emphasis on both mathematical ability and artistic creativity.

Next was the group round, ten questions for the whole group to answer. The team brushed the majority aside with ease, but

slipped up on some of the more difficult questions, gaining a respectable 51/60 mark.

After lunch was the cross-number: a grid of numbers to be filled in based on mathematical clues. This was one of our stronger rounds - although 40 minutes were allotted to complete it, only 17 minutes were required for Camp Hill to pick up full marks for their efforts.

Then came the shuttle round, which involves solving problems which are predicated on the answer to the previous question. Again Camp Hill displayed great talent, only a slight slip up near the start stopped them getting full marks, and we had to settle for 57 out of 60.

The last round was the relay round, where not only do you have to solve mathematical problems, but you then have to dash across a crowded room trying not to trip over any chairs or teachers. This round had not been our strongest in training, and the unexpected difficulty of these questions meant that the team struggled to pick up more than a third of the available marks - though luckily most other schools found this bit even harder than we did.

Once the final scores were added up, Camp Hill were placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 86 teams at the finals, equalling our best performance in recent years. The team are very grateful to Mr Thompson, for organising, accompanying, and training.

■ Alex Byrne

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

The spring term brought with it the Intermediate Challenge. This is also the largest, with almost 350 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 69 bronze certificates, 110 silvers and 91 golds.

Ten boys did extremely well, all qualifying for the three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition a massive 85 boys qualified for one of two colours of kangaroo, 25 of whom got Merits: in the Grey Kangaroo aimed at Year 9, Milan Dawson and Aaditya Sharma were successful, while on the Pink Kangaroo aimed at the older years, Miles Balderson, Ben Brown, Matthew Cooke, Ross Evans, Mu'aaz Ghafoor, Aryan Gohil, Pranav Juloori, Hani Moussa and Max Shally did particularly well. In the Olympiads, Qiyuan Chen and Kevin Xu (Year 11), Hemal Aggarwal, Aarondeep Singh and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov (Year 10), Farhan Awais, Matteo Gianni and Tanav Kotha (Year 9) all achieved Merits; Raunaq Foridi was awarded a Distinction and a Medal, an achievement which puts him in the top 100. Well done all!

■ D.J.T.

## Pi Day

This year saw the birth of yet another team competition, celebrating 'Pi Day' (if you use the American formatting for dates!) Mowahid Shahbaz describes the day.

■ D.J.T.

Mowahid Shahbaz, Judah Daniels, William Bezzant, Farhan Awais, Raphael Mahgerefteh and Heath Gamblin travelled to Five Ways for the first King Edwards Schools' Pi Day Competition on Thursday 14 March.

Our team had a wide range of abilities, with Raphael knowing pi to about 500 digits and Judah knowing pi to about 15 digits! The first round consisted of general questions about the history and digits of pi. Camp Hill Boys flew through these questions thanks to the last minute research done by Mowahid and Heath on the journey there (thanks Wikipedia!). The second round was a mathematical cross-number; the junior side gained full marks with 10 minutes to spare, however the seniors lost some marks on a what proved to be a difficult challenge.

After this it was time for the 'pi-off'; competitors had to recite pi, taking it turns, until someone got a digit wrong and was therefore eliminated. Camp Hill Boys soon eliminated all schools except from one boy from Five Ways, leaving us with three out of the last four competitors. However, it quickly became a 1-v-1 where Raphael was the last to be standing, but under intense conditions he mistakenly heard the wrong digit from the host, and eventually gave an incorrect digit after 150 digits. The final round involved difficult calculations involving pi, including expressing pi as continuous fractions. We had some strong mathematicians, so we were confident going into the standings.

Overall, Camp Hill Boys came in a strong second place beating KES by a large margin and only narrowly losing to Camp Hill Girls. Huge thanks to Dr Gadd for taking us and for his very inspiring and motivational talk at the beginning of the day.

■ Mowahid Shahbaz

## Year 10 Maths Feast

On Monday 25 March, eight young mathematicians made their way to Wolverhampton with none other than the incredible Mr Garrod himself. After a quick refuel, the journey was underway and the boys (Hemal Aggarwal, Peter Kippax, Aarondeep Singh, Ben Brown, Joe Day, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Sam Cole and Viswamedha Nalabotu) immediately got to revising maths by remembering the preparation sessions Mr Thompson had given them... for about 5 minutes, before they decided that it would be more

fun to play some general knowledge quizzes.

Once in Wolverhampton, already slightly late due to traffic, we found it harder than usual to find a decent parking space and eventually had to resort to parking uncomfortably close to the stadium of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. A gruelling walk through a tunnel of all the Wolves' achievements had to be endured before the boys could finally sit down, split into two teams and prepare for the first course of the Maths Feast.

The 'starter' seemed rather manageable for both Camp Hill teams. It was a 'Merry Go Round' round which meant that each person in a team would be given a question sheet which would get passed around the whole team so that eventually each team member had seen every question sheet. Both teams scored rather well, with a total of 58 out of 60 for the first team (Peter, Hemal, Sam and Deniz) and 50 out of 60 for the second team (Aarondeep, Ben, Joe and Viswamedha).

The main course was rather filling, comprising of a sizeable serving of comprehension: the teams were split into pairs and given information sheets concerning different algorithms you could use to find the minimum distance between two points in a network. The first team scored a perfect 21 out of 21, with the second team not far behind with 20.

Between the main and side courses came a course of real food (which was actually not that bad for a maths competition): a large number of cakes and fruit, but mostly cakes. The first team even managed a second expedition to the food table on 'ethical grounds' although no one was entirely sure what that really meant!

After the course of real food came another course of maths (the only food a true mathematician really needs!), this time the side dish. Consisting of a plate of 'higher or lower' questions, each worth a small dollop of 2 marks, this round was all too irresistible for both teams and both finished, licking their lips, with the full 20 marks.

Now came the final course, dessert. Although dessert is commonly perceived to be the sweetest course, in the Maths Feast both teams found that the relay round left quite a bitter taste in their mouths, with the teams scoring 15 (first team) and 12 (second team) from a maximum of 20. Besides surely proving that mathematics can transcend the conventional laws of gastronomy, this round also left the teams feeling on edge with regard to their position in the final scoreboard.

However, the boys did not disappoint! With the first team coming first and the second team second, Camp Hill Boys had achieved an astounding mathematical victory yet again, and were rewarded with some free stationery, the maths resources of the competition and some "I LOVE MATHS (and its applications)" badges. There was just time to pocket the scrap paper to do origami with later and have a




quick photo before it was time to head back to minibus (ignoring the looming stadium above us) and get back to school in time for the last two periods of the day (well, we couldn't miss games!).

Many thanks to Mr Thompson for his mathematical support and Mr Garrod for driving us to Wolverhampton.

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**

## Team Maths Challenge

 On Friday 29 March, the team consisting of Farhan Awais, Raunaq Shah Foridi, Amogh Shetty and Adcharon Mugunthan travelled to Aston University Engineering Academy to take part in the annual UKMT Team Maths Challenge, feeling confident about the competition ahead. Once we found our table, we were given some starter questions, of which we answered nine out of ten questions correctly. Then it was time for the competition to begin.


The first round was the group round, in which we had 45 minutes to answer ten questions. We only got one wrong. The next round was the crossnumber, also lasting 45 minutes. In this challenging round, we performed very well and only made two mistakes.

After lunch, the third round was the shuttle, consisting of four sections each containing four questions. We got through the first three sections easily, although we lost the time bonus in the third. However, in the fourth section, we got stuck on the first question. This meant we were unable to work out any of the remaining questions. We knew we could have done better in this round but we remained focused into the fourth and final round: the relay. We started this round extremely well, answering the questions quickly. As the questions went on, they became more difficult. In the end, we only answered two out of thirty questions incorrectly, leaving us in a strong position.

We waited nervously to hear the final standings. Third place: Bishop Vesey's. Second place: Camp Hill Girls. First place: Camp Hill Boys! Even after a disappointing third round, we had won, mainly because of our very strong relay round. The team is now looking forward to the National Final in June. We would like to thank Mrs Crockford for preparing us for the competition.

■ **Adcharon Mugunthan**

## Team Maths Challenge – National Final in London

 On Monday 17 June, a team consisting of Farhan Awais, Raunaq Foridi, Amogh Shetty and Adcharon Mugunthan took part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge national final. Having come first in the regional final, the team set off in high spirits for the upcoming competition.

Before the main competition, the team had to complete a poster round, with the topic of this year's poster being 'straight-edge constructions'. The team produced an intricate poster with a surplus of information. Unfortunately, information alone wasn't enough to score many points with the judges; the team left the poster without another word.


The first main round of the competition was the group circus, where teams went around eight stations, solving maths puzzles and problems. The team performed well, only losing three marks. For the next round, the team had the shuttle round: four sections each with four questions, each one leading on from the previous question. Here the team lost a few marks but managed to keep their cool. The next round was the crossnumber, a crossword puzzle with numbers instead of words. This was by far the team's strongest round, as they managed to finish early without losing a single mark.

Finally, there was the relay, where a member of the team would run to collect and deliver questions to the other half of the team. We managed to get through 20 of the 24 questions; more than most other teams seemed to complete. Eventually the results were in, and the team waited eagerly to receive their positions. Receiving the postcard, we discovered we had achieved a very respectable tenth place in the country, out of the 88 teams competing on the day, who were the best of the 8000 or so schools that had taken part in the many regional challenges.

A big thanks goes out to Mrs Crockford, who helped arrange the event and trained the team up during her own free time.

■ **Raunaq Foridi**

## Junior Maths Challenge


 The Junior Maths Challenge was the challenge of the summer term, and once again, we were very pleased with the results. The boys amassed a total of 45 bronze certificates, 71 silvers, and 96 golds; six boys qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, and an incredible 62 for the Junior Kangaroo.

Since the 'follow-on' rounds have to be sat on a particular day, the Year 8 qualifiers (unfortunately) had to give up some of their time on the Conway trip. In case you were wondering what a Kangaroo is, it is a competition taken by students all over Europe: the top 8,000 students (from well over a thousand schools) were invited to take part in the Junior version, and the top 25% get Merits. Nineteen of our boys achieved Merits: Ren Zhi Howse, Dhruv Patel, Hanzalah Rayaz, Caleb Wilton, Jonah Kippax, Pruthvi Shrikaanth, Vansh Pradhan, Amogh Shetty and Abdullah Nasim from Year 8, and Malachi Powell, Seok Hun Kang, Rhys Jamieson, Joel Skaria, Ayan Butt, Adam Bora, Sampanna Raut, Harish Yasotharan, Aditya Prasad

and Sushant Shyam from Year 7. In the Olympiad, all six of our entrants achieved a Merit. They were Samuel Nouhov and Moin Gazi from Year 8, and Karan Kukreja, Kenny Lau, Raphael Mahgerefteh and Ali Rizvi from Year 7.

■ **D.J.T.**

## South Area Network Maths Challenge

 On Thursday 4 July, a squad of six Camp Hill mathematicians, namely: Aaditya Sharma, Tanav Kotha, Farhan Awais, Milan Dawson, Elliot Robbie and Raunaq Shah Foridi (all from Year 9), took part in the South Area Network Team Maths Challenge, this year held at Swanshurst School. At 09:15, we took a taxi to the venue and on arrival came face to face with one of our main rivals – Camp Hill Girls School. With the help of a member of the Swanshurst staff, we made our way into the main hall of the Upper School. Here, we met eight other teams from the South Birmingham region.

After a quick introduction, we were ready to start the first round: a group round consisting of ten questions, each worth six marks if correct, or zero if not. The team worked quickly and efficiently in this round, and we completed the task with plenty of time to spare. We scored a perfect 60.

The second round was a paper folding round. The teams had to use 20 sheets of A4 paper to create 20 identical truncated tetrahedra. We then had to fix the shapes together using tape to create an icosahedron. The team worked together well to create the tetrahedra, however fashioning the icosahedron using tape proved difficult for us, and our final product was not quite perfect. Camp Hill Boys dropped two marks due to lack of neatness, which we could easily have avoided had we not spent too much time arguing over the idea of turning the icosahedron into a virus for extra creativity. Following this round was a short break, during which we thought it would be funny to use our icosahedron as a football, which (inevitably) resulted in its obliteration.

Next was the 'Buy an Angle' round. The teams were handed a diagram consisting only of multiple lines. The teams had to 'buy' the size of some angles in the diagram, which could be used to calculate the other angles. Each correct angle was worth one point, and each angle bought cost three points. The objective was to finish with the most points, not necessarily needing to have completed the diagram. Camp Hill Boys bought seven angles, and scored a full 38/38 in the round, leaving them with 17 points in total. The round was done brilliantly, with maximum effort being put to good use.

After lunch, we were handed a set of logic questions based on football tables, with some

values omitted. The questions were of great difficulty, demanding intense concentration, but with each answer we were heading closer to a complete solution. Our hard work paid off: not only did we score full marks in the round, but we also earned an additional two marks for good teamwork.

This was followed quickly by the final round of the day, the relay round. The team was split into two 'trios', who were sat on opposite sides of a room. Team A started off with a question, and after solving the question, a member of the team ran to a teacher on the opposite side of the room to verify the answer, and then hand team B a different question. This process then repeated. We used the strategy of having our two fastest students, Milan and Aaditya, on separate teams, to maximise efficiency. The round was extremely hectic with

students running in all directions (including a collision) and even though Team A didn't lose any marks, Team B dropped a few points due to incorrect answers. Eventually, we were beaten by time, having failed to even attempt the final four questions. However, the team were confident with their performance, in the knowledge that they had received full marks in two of the five rounds.

Then, the results were read out: in third place, with 154 points, Queensbridge; in second place, with 181 points, Camp Hill Girls; and in first place, with 202 points, Camp Hill Boys. The Boys' team won by a comfortable 21 points. Each competitor won a medal, with the school winning a glass trophy. We can now gladly call ourselves the Maths Champions of the South Birmingham Region! Thanks must go to Mr Thompson for running the lunchtime

training sessions, as well as organising the trip to and from Swanshurst.

■ **Tanav Kotha**

## Mr Jack

Finally, a word in recognition of Mr Jack. He has taught Maths at Camp Hill for many, many, (*many?*) years, and has taken on several roles during that time. The 'R' word has been mentioned occasionally over the last few years, and he has finally decided that now is the time to retire. I, and the rest of the Maths Department, really cannot thank him enough for his incredible contribution to the department and the whole school over this time. We would all like to wish him the very best for the future.

■ **D.J.T.**



### Key to Maths Picture Gallery

- ① **Maths Feast 'A' Team:** Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Peter Kippax, Hemal Aggarwal, Sam Cole
- ② **Maths Feast 'B' Team:** Vish Nalabotu, Ben Brown, Aarondeep Singh, Joe Day
- ③ **Maths Feast Winners ('A' Team):** Hemal Aggarwal, Sam Cole, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, Peter Kippax
- ④ **Maths\_Pi Day:** Farhan Awais, William Bezzant, Judah Daniels, Mowahid Shahbaz, Heath Gamblin, Raphael Mahgerefteh
- ⑤ **Maths South Area Network Team Maths Challenge:** Raunaq Shah Foridi, Aditya Sharma, Milan Dawson, Tanav Kotha, Farhan Awais, Elliot Robbie
- ⑥ **Maths STMC National Final:** Alex Byrne, Robert Hillier, Xue Bang Chen, Andrew Lee
- ⑦ **Maths STMC Regional:** Alex Byrne, Robert Hillier, Andrew Lee, Xue Bang Chen
- ⑧ **Maths TMC National Final:** Raunaq Shah Foridi, Farhan Awais, Adcharon Mugunthan, Amogh Shetty
- ⑨ **Maths South Area Network Team Maths Challenge Trophy**



## Arts Fest

On the 11 July 2019, Year 8 participated in Arts Fest, to celebrate the Arts in Camp Hill. The overall theme was retelling/presenting texts in different forms. Each student was put into a workshop. There were seven activities including drama, music, retelling fairy tales, television, cartoons and political cartoons, clay houses and pots and art. These workshops were inspired by a range of things – including paintings for drama and fairy tales for Art.

We were selected lucky enough to take part in the music workshop and within our group there were a wide range of instruments and talented (or so they say) musicians. As a group, we explored different pieces of music based on words (though they do not include any). For example, we looked at Vivaldi's Concerto first movement in E major Op. 8 'Spring' from the Four Seasons'. As well as 'In the Hall

of the Mountain King' by Edvard Grieg, (better known as the Alton Tower advert music). Interestingly, this piece of music was originally composed for the play *Peer Gynt* written by the renowned Henrik Ibsen. Finally, we studied two more pieces: 'The Lark Ascending' by Ralph Vaughan Williams and 'The Bringer of War' by Gustav Holst, which was based on 'Mars' from his seven-movement orchestral suite.

The fairly impressive group, which comprised of six violins, two cellos, four keyboards, three guitars, a trombone, a saxophone, a clarinet and a bass clarinet, as well as a fleeting performance from an over-enthusiastic Caleb Wilton on the drums played a decent, and at some points a high quality, rendition of 'Spring' and 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'. However, our 'Mars' piece failed to show any signs of any decency, accompanied with despaired sighs from Mr Palmer, as our guitarists enjoyed 40 bars of nothing.

Finally, at the end of the day, it was the

plenary session. This was an opportunity for all of Year 9 to see what the other groups had been up to. We witnessed some high quality drama especially from Tommy who was 'stabbed to death', Kien 'choking to death', Hamish and Tom Isaac 'killing' / Heath and Moin in the name of the 'No-Hat' Gang and an overall theme of death. After Oliver emptied his spit valve all over Anushtup, we were ready to perform. After a beautiful performance of Vivaldi 'Spring' from our group. The clay houses and pots from Art were of an amazing standard, but the television group failed to deliver their highly anticipated documentary on 'Camp Hill Students go missing', including the 'Sixth Form Underground Fight Club' due to ongoing 'technical issues'.

Overall, we enjoyed Arts Fest very much and we would like to thank all the teachers who took part.

■ Sam Nouhov and Ren Zhi Howse





## The Library

Using Twitter can often be a frustrating and depressing experience, but all was forgiven when it connected us with the sports journalist and author Emma John. Having posted a photo of our International Women's Day display including Emma's book *Following On*, she got in contact to say that she would love to visit the school.



We welcomed her in November 2018 and Belal Stitan did a fantastic job of interviewing her on stage in front of our Year 9 and 10 students [pictured above]. She spoke about the highs and lows of often being the only female journalist at sporting events but explained that it has brought her a wealth of opportunities she would not have had otherwise. Her time covering the London Olympics was particularly fascinating.

Not content with having one author in November, we welcomed back Chris Bradford two days after Emma's visit. Chris was his usual high energy self and got our Year 7 and 8s, and students from local schools, clamoring to get copies of his books signed and a cheeky selfie with him. The impact Chris has on our students is incredible and his books remain on our 'most borrowed' lists for months after his events. We always jump at the chance to book him whenever he is in Birmingham.

Holly Bourne has secretly been one of our most popular authors. I say secretly because students love to read her books in a corner of the library and hide it so that no one else can borrow it. I'm used to finding *Am I Normal Now?* in the quantum physics section. Her books deal with teens and mental health in a way that is empathetic without being too earnest, often hilariously silly, and most importantly eminently readable. When she agreed to visit in March 2019, we were obviously delighted. She spent the majority of her talk discussing mental health issues and suggesting ways our students could help themselves and others. She left us all feeling uplifted and eager to read more of her books.

As part of our inaugural Year 8 Arts Festival in July 2019, the library hosted a day of cartooning. Laura Howell [pictured right] of *Beano* and *Regular Show* fame taught our students the basics of drawing and storytelling with images. Mr Rudd then took this a step further by talking about the history of political cartooning and encouraging students to create their own.

As per the last few years, we have managed to run book clubs for all Years from 7 to 11. It has been great fun reading fiction from a



range of genres and shadowing both the Carnegie Book Award and the Excelsior Comic Book Award. They have introduced us to a wealth of literature and illustrated work that may have passed us by otherwise. We hope to shadow more book awards next year.

■ A.G.

## Year 9 Business Languages Day

Business Languages Day 2019 was a fun event organised for Year 9 intended to help students improve their language and marketing skills. The day began with an inspiring presentation by a former Camp Hill student. This was very interesting as we learnt a lot about countries and their different cultures.

After the presentation, all the students were split different classes to do the main activity. The task was to come up with a new brand of cereal to launch in either France or Germany. We had to come up with a box design and a name for the cereal, which we would then present to the other groups. The activity finished at midday and the groups' presentations were judged on the quality of the presentation and on the actual product. Each teacher selected a winning group from their class and these groups then presented their products in front of the whole year group. We all gathered

in the hall to see the wonderful and innovative presentations and a winner was eventually decided just before lunch.

After lunch, we all went back to our groups and learnt a bit of a couple of languages that we weren't familiar with. The first language was Chinese. A Sixth Former came in to help us learn some words and numbers in Mandarin. Soon after, another Sixth Former came in to teach us a bit of Italian, and similarly we learnt the basics of the language. For the last hour of the day, we did some fun worksheets in either French or German and included a variety of activities, one of which was to write our own tweets.

Overall, it was an amazing day for the whole year group, and special thanks to all those in the Languages Department.

■ Sajjad Moti

## 'Der Vorleser' Workshop

On the 27 February 2019, the German A-Level group were privileged enough to receive a special lesson on the historical context of our A-Level book, 'Der Vorleser' by Bernhard Schlink. This text is set in the Post-Nazi period and Dr. Helmut Schmitz, a Lecturer of German at the University of Warwick, delivered the lesson.

Helmut Schmitz was educated at the University of Cologne and Warwick and is now, along with his job as a Lecturer of German and Philosophy at the University of Warwick, also a researcher in the field of post-war and contemporary German literature, part of which covers the Nazi period and the Holocaust.

He used his expertise to explain to us the historical and political context of the book, providing in-depth and intriguing insights, in a presentation conducted in both German and English. It was a very enjoyable experience.

■ Rohan Silvestro and Sicheng Li

## Art Department

It's been another busy and packed year in the Art Department. We have been busy not only making art, but seeing, experiencing and hearing about the creative world around us. Students have again this year impressed and continue to enrich and maintain the wider curriculum within Camp Hill.

We started the year with a trip to Warwick University with GCSE and A-Level students to see and hear lectures from world renowned artist's designers and curators. The following is a piece written by Noah Lloyd.

■ **R.P.**

### Art in Action Warwick University Lectures

On Monday 12 November, sixteen boys from Years 10 to 13 took the journey to Warwick University's Arts Centre to attend a number of lectures given by internationally renowned artists and creators.

The first one was given by Luke Jarrom, an artist who produced many large scale installations that demonstrated elements of science. He had recently produced a large replica of the moon that is currently touring around the country.

The second lecture was given by Simon Norfolk, a photographer who explored the change in time through creative mediums in his images. For example, he was recently commissioned by National Geographic to represent the extent to which glaciers are shrinking, by which he used long exposure times and lines of fire against the mainly white background of a Kenyan glacier to show this.

The third and final presentation was taken by Chris Orr, a more traditional artist who introduced satire and parody into famous pieces of art such as Edward Hopper's Nighthawks as well as looking into the life of Picasso and other similar artist. Overall, the trip offered a fascinating insight into not only life at university but the different approaches of artists and how they incorporate their own interests into what they produce.

■ **Noah Lloyd**

### Art Department Events and Visits

In November the Art Department also took a trip to Birmingham University with some of our year 10 and 11 GCSE Art students. This was a trip designed to establish links between the worlds of Particle Physics and Fine Art [picture top centre].

Scientific developments have seen real-



ity dissolved into smaller and smaller invisible particles that the physicist has to make visible, a process mirrored by the artist attempting to express thoughts and emotions through the manipulation of materials. Thus suggesting that both mediums are taking the same journey from something hidden to something revealed. Our students were able to experiment with different ways of making thing visual using mark-making, simple three-dimensional materials, photography and film to explore the intriguing connections between Art and Science. Lectures from a CERN physicist Konstantinos Nikolopoulos and practical responses from the universities recent artist in residence Ian Andrews gave the students new insight into how these two seemingly different worlds have their similarities.

October saw our international trip to Berlin [see pictures below] combined with the RS, History and Languages Department. Though not



all students on the trip were studying Art, the exposure to both historical and contemporary Art was for some a first. With a rich history of Art and many world famous exhibits, 'museum

island' at the heart of the city showed students the breadth of human creativity from ancient civilisations – including the stunning Nefertiti Bust in the Neues Museum, to more recent 20<sup>th</sup> century art. The Hamberger Bahnhof, Berlin's most prominent contemporary exhibition space, showcased Agnieszka Polska whose work *The Demon's Brain*, a multichannel video installation created expressly for the exhibition, grappled with the ethical question of how individuals can assume social responsibility amid the overwhelming demands of the present moment. This was a very engaging and richly cultural trip that could not have been as successful as it was without the organisation and leadership of Ms Freeman.

With the largest solo exhibition of work in the UK, from one of my favourite British Artists Hew Locke, I was keen to take students to see his work first hand at the Ikon Gallery [group picture on the next page]. At the gallery we were treated to a guided tour of his work and insight into the motivations and context behind the work. This was in close proximity to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery where there was a Show of some of Leonardo Da Vinci's drawings and specially curated works in the one off *So Cute* exhibit by artist/curator Rachel Maclean. The students braved the cold weather on the day to squeeze in some plain air drawing and get as much out of the day as possible.

The Junior Production was a highlight for the Department in the spring term. Painting the set and getting everything ready in time could only be done with the hard work and support from some of our dedicated A-Level art students.

As the final term started, the build-up of submissions for A-Level and GCSE meant work came thick and fast. Our students have once again impressed with the quality and variety of work produced for our contribution to the South Area Network Exhibition at the BCU School of Art in the Margaret Street Studios.



Students' work was well received by the hundreds of students, parents and friends that turned out for the annual private view evening from across the network [examples pictured above]. As part of our connections with BCU, a select few students were also given the opportunity to work with course tutors from the School of Art to work in specialist workshops in photography and casting [see picture on the next page].





The end of the summer term has not been short of events and rather than winding down for the year, the Department invited in the renowned artist Ian Murphy to work with our GCSE students for a day's workshop [picture top left]. This was an insightful and inspirational day where we learnt about his specific artistic process as well the inspiration and ideas behind his work.

Finally we finished the year with the Year 8 Arts Fest where both Mrs Hodges and I were blown away by the enthusiasm and effort that students put into creating their clay 3D pieces for the day.

Congratulations to the boys for in all of the year groups for all of their hard work and creativity that they have once again been part of in another packed year for the Art Department.

■ R.P.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Camp Hills' Got Talent

In November 2018, I stood on a stage, filled with doubt and uncertainty, looking into the eyes of the Camp Hill Boys faithful, aiming to deliver the much-needed message that *Young Minds Matter Too*.

This all began after I started my You Matter Campaign in 2018 and I truly could never have imagined what was to follow. Camp Hill's Got Talent was a joint effort between Camp Hill Girls and Boys and I teamed up with Liv Grant-Bryson formulate a plan to host the event across the two schools.

As teenagers, we know that finding a solution to something as complex as mental health is one of the hardest jobs in the world and that as kids we are unqualified to undertake such a task. In addition, our goal was always to bring the two Camp Hill Schools together, as the canteen fence was as solid as it has always been. Furthermore, the school was at a particularly sad point with the tragic death of former student, Nirandeep Boora, who will always be remembered as one of the kindest people Camp Hill had ever seen. It was the bravery of his family, and particularly his sister, Hareena Boora, of Camp Hill Girls, which inspired us to promote unity and solidarity at such a sombre time.

After hours of talking, we realised the real solution lay in acceptance: a vision of an event we could all be involved in, regardless of gender, and simply have a good time. This could well have been a number of things, but

eventually the epiphany of a talent show hit us and from this moment on, we knew exactly what our goal was. A few weeks later I took to the stage to deliver, an assembly in which I explained my personal viewpoint on mental health, and my personal experiences of mental illness- this took a lot of courage. In addition, I was able to put forward my campaign vision and to sell the idea of a talent show, an idea that provoked a mixed reaction. However, we were not disheartened and over the next weeks promoted the idea left, right and centre, through social media, through announcements, posters – you name it, we did it.

Finally, the day got closer. The tickets were £3 each, and all money made was to go towards my chosen charity: Young Minds UK, a non-profit organisation. This works around the United Kingdom, with the goal of ensuring mental wellbeing for all young people. The hard work had been done and soon it would be show time.

I am so proud to say that the first Camp Hill's Got Talent was actually good! It was an afternoon to remember for all involved, and all the contestants were, in some places, controversial, even outrageous at times, but above all they were most definitely talented. It takes immense courage to be able to stand up in front of a few hundred people and to be able to perform in the way they all did.

Mr Sylvain Renault, Mr Nathan Hill, Ms Josephine Freeman and Mr Daniel Wilkins were the judging panel. These figures of supreme justice would determine the outcome of the afternoon and, ultimately, have the impossible job of crowning the most talented individual in B14.

The afternoon was filled with nuggets of sheer class, such as the appearance of the Year 7 showman Yeabsera Demise to the Year 11 Gospel Choir's unforgettable rendition of Ben E. King's 'Stand By Me', which had some of the audience in tears. The judges had a hard choice, but eventually, the time came to crown our winner. I collected the envelope from the judging panel and took to the stage for one last time. The scene was set. I slowly pulled back the intricately sealed envelope, easing the crispy paper from the envelope in slow motion. You could cut the tension with a knife. I took a deep breath, as I steadied myself: 'and the winner is...' I quickly glanced up to see the audience, silently shouting at me to hurry up. 'Jeevan Lal!' And with that, we saw the end of something really amazing.



A deserved winner of course, Jeevan's act consisted of a series of unique and iconic beatbox routines based off an audience-suggested word or phrase which was something which truly amazed everybody in attendance.

This event, in itself generated £1057.28, and we actually sold out the school hall, some-



thing, which I genuinely could never have dreamt would happen. Collectively, we raised over £2,270 for the amazing charity Young Minds UK – with both, the help of all the people at Camp Hill and respective friends. I would like to take this opportunity to express utmost appreciation to anybody who supported and contributed toward this immense effort. When I started out I was ready to settle for pennies, and when the JustGiving website started to skyrocket into the thousands I genuinely couldn't believe what was happening in front of my eyes, a truly phenomenal feeling.

On the back of Camp Hill's Got Talent, I had the opportunity to make a dream come true. My own primary school of past time, Hill West, reached out to me, as they had heard about my campaign through social media, and offered me the chance to come in and talk about issues around mental health in a light-hearted and interactive way to the children there. It was surreal being back in the place I spent so much time as a child, and seeing my past teachers—who did not seem to have changed one bit—even though I kind of had... apparently.

All in all I think one thing my campaign

illustrated is the power of social media, as I was able to go so far with it, thanks to the donation page, being available online for it to be accessed far and wide, and much of my promotion work being done through mine and others' social media, on Instagram and Snapchat. On the other hand, much of what I discussed within my campaign was how damaging social media can be in the wrong hands, and this has become clear in the last ten years. I think that if we can pioneer that balance through our own intuition and through the technological advancement of social media companies, perhaps our future in the 'technological era' can make us more interconnected than ever, as opposed to the suggestion by previous generations that we are heading down a 'dark path'.

Another aim I had, from the get-go, was to spark a conversation, among everyone within our community, which I definitely feel I did, as now the school looks to further develop the mental health support schemes it has available and we are looking to a bright future.

One important person that I have not yet mentioned was my Head of Year Mr Tom Burgess. He was the person who really made all of

it possible, by finding dates, having meetings and sharing my passion to make a difference. We really did something great, and there are not too many teachers, to my knowledge, in education who would give what he gives to open doors for students to do what makes them happy. He has been on his own personal marathon journey, which ended in him taking the grand stage at the London Marathon. A massive amount of my credit and appreciation should go to him for everything he has done for this truly amazing cause.

So, the question has been floating around the corridors all year long of 'are they gonna do it next year?' and based off the unprecedented success of this year, I am confident that we may well have created a trend in Camp Hill tradition – an annual talent show.

On a final note, it has been an absolute privilege to be able to tell this amazing story and I hope that, going forward, we are able to tell many more just the same. We learnt a lot this year and a lot has changed in our lives but one thing we know is that, at Camp Hill, Young Minds Matter Too.

■ **Omar Ismail**

## Mr Burgess Running for Charity

On a fresh late summer morning, back in 2018, whilst out on a run I decided it was time to set myself a challenge. This would be to complete 13 half and one full marathon as part of the 13.1 challenge. I'm not one for dragging things out and I'm not really a runner, so the challenge needed to be done and dusted by the end of April.

Over the course of the winter months, I covered various parts of the country. Some races had thousands of spectators, some had 'a man and his dog' (quite literally in the very rural setting of Hartlebury). This was all part of the fun (*was it?*). Some were local: Worcester, Birmingham, Gloucester, Warwick, Wolverhampton, Hartlebury and Loughborough. The others not so local: Henley-on-Thames, Cheshire, Wiltshire, Milton Keynes, Olympic Park London and Aintree Racecourse. However, all the races had their own quirks and different qualities. Some had spectacular scenery, others had road after road after road...

Over time, I got quite used to mile after mile and met many people with whom I shared many miles of conversation. When the last half marathon came in Wolverhampton in March, I was very relieved, six months of early Sunday mornings and run after run was finally over.

All of the running was to help Omar Ismail in Year 10 fundraise for Young Minds UK, who overall raised an impressive £2200.

Having done the halves, I thought it only right to finish with the London Marathon in



April. In my typically relaxed... naïve... unwisely manner, I thought I would not need to train much having done the halves. I can 100% confirm that I was wrong. It hurt, a lot. After 19 miles I was close to catching a bus to the finish line, but I gritted my teeth and got round. A memorable experience to say the least.

A huge thank you to all the parents, staff and pupils who have helped me along the way with my challenge. Whether it be listening to me, moan that my legs are sore or kindly donating money to the cause. Overall, as part of the London marathon fundraising campaign we raised over £2700 for the charity Barnardo's. For now, running wins!

■ **T.J.B.**

## 10,000 Burpee Challenge

100 burpees for a 100 days, sounds easy right? Mr Caves and Mr Burgess found out the hard way that it was far from easy. Early morning burpees, midday burpees, late night burpees, unrelenting thoughts of burpees, but we made it! The final 100 came fittingly on sports days, finishing 100 days of fun?!

What started as a competition soon became a challenge that we embraced together. Why did we do this? All to raise money for the local charity NICE (The National Institute of Conductive Education). In all, we raised over £500, thus making the burpees all worth it. Thank you to all who helped with the fundraising effort.

■ **T.J.B.**



## Schools Challenge

In November last year school teams took part in two competitions: Schools Challenge and the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz. Our first event took us to KES where our first team of Alfie Green, Sreekar Somayajula, Peter Kippax and Connor Huss got through to the semi-final only to be beaten by the eventual winners, KES.

However, a strong showing against Rugby School resulted in a third place overall. Our second team of Alex Byrne, Rohan Jobanputra, Hemal Aggarwal and Eashan Varma also performed creditably but lost out in the group phase to the eventual runners up, Shrewsbury. Would sweet revenge over KES be felt two weeks later as both teams competed in the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Quiz in the Great Hall of Birmingham University?

■ **G.N.H. and Alfie Green**

## Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Quiz

Following last year's success with the then Year 13s taking victory ahead of the Year 12s in second, we had high hopes for the title once more. Our unchanged, now Year 13, team "Eta" of: Alfie Green, Alex Byrne, Rohan Jobanputra, Ajay John, Ed Dempsey and Dom Poole were joined in the competition by the mostly Year 12 team "Theta" of: Sreekar Somayajula, John Byrne, Madhav Manoj, Bhuvan Singh, Kevin Matthew and Vignesh Venkataramaiah.

There were to be ten rounds, worth ten points each round, with a joker to be played for double points that round. At the halfway point, Camp Hill Theta were leading, having played their joker, with Camp Hill Eta only a few points back in fifth, but yet to play their joker. This followed an unexpectedly good round for Eta in history, before us having to challenge the scoring as we had wrongfully been not given a mark on the music round, which was then awarded to us.

The competition progressed, and it came to the beginning of the ninth round: sport, Eta's joker. We knew that a good showing here would make the trophy ours to lose, with our nearest rivals, Pershore College having slipped up on their joker round. Cue contributions from the whole team as we scored 9 points doubled to 18, leaving us with just 6 needed from the last round on '2018' to guarantee victory. This we achieved easily, and in fact we made 8 points, with our rivals slipping back further, to be caught on the very last question by KES, who took joint second with Pershore.

This meant we retained the trophy, which was presented to us by the Rt Hon Lord Mayor Councillor Yvonne Mosquito, and also means we have won this competition in four of the



seven years it has been held. On 25 March this year the Lord Mayor and her party came to present the trophy and prize of £500 for the school. Dr Tim Watts DL of Pertemps, the key



sponsor of the competition, give an inspiring talk to the boys who were equally impressed with his chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce in the car park. He also agreed to pay for a trophy to stay with Camp Hill in testament to our success over the years. Many thanks again to the organisers and supporters of the competition: Martin Burton MBE, Nadir Awan and Stephen Goldstein CBE DL.

■ **G.N.H. and Alfie Green**

## House Quiz

After nine lunchtimes and 18 fixtures the House Quiz Competition for 2019 ended up going down to one final question. The journey started in the autumn term where an Alex Byrne and Ajay John fuelled Seymour were able to take the honours with three wins with Howard coming in the runners up slot. In the first half of the spring term, the honours for intermediates were reversed and Beaufort and Tudor shared the honours with

two wins apiece, Miles Balderson being the standout quizzier. This narrowed the competition so that any House could still claim victory after the Junior Section.

The Junior Section started with wins for Howard and Tudor who were stronger on the specialist rounds of castles. This left the competition on a knife-edge with all four Houses within one win of each other. Contemporary art was a clear confounder of all and in a low scoring second week, it was Seymour and Howard who reasserted their dominance to ensure that the

ultimate prize would be in Golden or Cerulean hands. The last rounds had a specialist topic of J.K. Rowling, Howard decided to make matters harder for themselves by having a captain who had never read the books! However, in the first rubber, Beaufort were able to succeed against a spirited Tudor to take the third place position. It was then down to the final. Seymour got off to a strong lead after the "What F...?" round and Howard only slowly clawed back their disadvantage to leave them three points behind with just the buzzer round to go.

After 15 questions the scores were even at 30-30, it was all down to the last question. What was the year of the last General Election? Seymour buzzed in and said "2018..." Having to take the first answer given, the question was then passed over to Howard and Caleb Wilton buzzed in to say the correct answer of 2017. Winning the Junior Section left the final standings as: Tudor 3 wins, Beaufort 4 wins, Seymour 5 wins and Howard 6 wins.

■ **G.N.H. and Alfie Green**

## Junior Schools Challenge

In March eight members of Years 7 and 8 also travelled to King Edward's School to take part in the Junior Schools Challenge Competition.

Up against stiff opposition from six other teams, we took part in the knockout format competition. Struggling with the buzzers but enjoying the event were the Year 7 squad who were defeated by a team from KES who went on to win the competition. The Year 8s fared much better, however, they were bested by a team from KEHS and lost their fixture by a solitary answer to their great disappointment. The victors also made it through to the final. In play-offs after being knocked out, both sides recorded victories. Many thanks to M Renault for helping to support the students in taking part.

■ **G.N.H. and Alfie Green**



## Widening Access

In the last year a number of events have taken place to support local primary schools and to give them a flavour of Camp Hill life and hopefully have some fun!

During the autumn term, we hosted the LittleHist Quiz for the fourth year, this competition pitted twenty teams from thirteen different schools in a range of historical challenges. The prize was ultimately won by Wheelers Lane Primary School. We also visited different schools, thanks to Mrs Hodges, showing them art activities where clay modelling of houses proved a great success.

In the spring term we hosted a Widening Access Saturday School which ran for two weekends. We had over forty boys from nine different schools attending. The first week involved STEM activities and the second event was based on arts and the humanities with the building of castles and going on a dragon hunt.

Abdullah writes: *"During the Widening Access Saturday School, the children proved to be lively and fun to work with. There were a number of funny interactions, as I helped along with my fellow volunteers Kieron Taylor and Belal Stitan."*



The children were able to demonstrate their teamwork and architectural creativity as they attempted to create a free-standing marshmallow tower; armed with a plethora of marshmallow, cocktail sticks and questions, each becoming engineers for half an hour. There were many designs that stood out because of their intricacy, while others barely stood. However, the aforementioned engineers displayed the opposite of said teamwork during the 'earthquake testing' phase as they became hell-bent on challenging their competitors. After minutes of screaming, shouting, pain and heartbreak, the testing was done and the winners crowned.

During the break period, it became clear that one man left an impression on the children's hearts: Kieron Taylor stood out as a popular individual for his fashionable flattop trim and became such a mythological figure that many children demanded his signature for them to take home.

Camp Hill Boys also hosted the UKMT



Primary Maths Team Challenge in March with 18 teams of four taking part, this year seeing Monkspath win the tournament.

During the summer term, alongside the Girls' School, we hosted three taster days for primary students in Year 5 with over 100 attendees across the two schools. Here the pupils experienced what some lessons may be like and gained support to familiarise them with the entrance exam. Finally, the summer holiday saw the running of a Year 4 Summer School, with Space and the Moon Landings being a focus of the three-day event which involved a trip to Leicester to the National Space Museum. A huge thanks to all staff and Year 12 pupils without whom these activities would not be possible. Special mentions for Mrs Hundal, Mrs Hodges, Mr Ogglesby, Mr Rudd and Ms Pearcey.

■ G.N.H. and Abdullah Hussain

## Can't Cook – Will Cook Club

Mrs Hundal launched the Can't Cook Will Cook Club in January 2018. She had eight Year 10 students eager to develop their culinary skills.

Additionally, Year 12 students Matthew Dixon, Chaithanya Gowda and Ibrahim Abdullah took on some of the teaching responsibilities, patiently demonstrating how vegetables should be diced up (as opposed to how they were diced up), how a tin opener worked and how students should manage their time. They even showed students how to wash up! Furthermore, Suleman Abdullah and Ardeel Hussain used the opportunity to complete the skills part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Mrs Hundal and the Year 12 students took turns to provide recipes for the club.



Mrs Hundal: *"My favourite recipe was the Stuffed Mushroom suggested by Chaithanya. Having spent a lifetime with an irrational fear and hatred for the little fungi, I was not convinced. After all, I was a vegetarian who had worked hard to avoid all things mushroom."*

The recipe was simple. Fry some diced onions add seasoning, place mushrooms on a tray upside down, top with onions and cheese. Pop into oven. When the students took the baking trays out of the oven, the smell was appetising and the sight of the golden brown melted cheese did look appealing. After nagged by Ardeel, I realised that I had to taste the dish. I ate the whole mushroom and saw the potential to develop it further, *mmm...* maybe some diced peppers. Perhaps having a stuffed mushroom for lunch instead of a jacket potato could be an alternative lighter lunch.

■ J.K.H.



## Volunteering

In September, I took over the role as Head of Enrichment from Mr Jackson (these were big boots to fill); however, what an exciting two terms it has been.

As a school, I am always amazed at the amount of charity work and volunteering that goes on, from Swimathons, to sponsored runs, to cake sales and car washes, Camp Hill is always a hive of activity. This year, I have been working hard with the Lions Club Kings Heath and the amazing Brigitte Green to raise the profile of charity and volunteering with our Sixth Formers. Many of our Year 12s in particular give selflessly: helping in lessons, peer mentoring, helping with Open Days and the 11+ and even serving tea and coffee during the long Year 8 Parents' Evening.

In addition, many students also volunteer outside school, working in care homes and charity shops in particular. And some of students act as carers to siblings and elderly relatives. While others help in their local mosques, churches, temples and Gurdwaras. The range of activities that our students are willing to take part in never fails to amaze.

This year, has, however been particularly special. Firstly, during the spring and summer terms two successful 'Message in a Bottle' events took place. During the first event, we managed to fill five hundred bottles in twenty-five minutes – no mean achievement. Think of the potential lives that has saved.



Furthermore, six of our very special students: Musa, Yasser and Hiran from Year 13 and Uriel, Mowahid and Sai from Year 12 have undertaken voluntary work helping students after school at Wheelers Lane Secondary School. When I asked them why they wanted to help they typically said that they had attended that school and they just wanted to give back – high praise indeed. I hope many of our old boys feel the same level of attachment and nostalgia about their time here.

Ms Henson, the Head of Wheelers, has been unstinting in her praise, she wrote in a recent

email: *The boys who have supported our Year 11 this year have been brilliant. They chose to work in maths and science and the more able pupils they worked with really value their input and were often here until 6pm with them in much extended sessions! We have found the boys to be enthusiastic, polite, helpful and very giving of their time and knowledge and they are great ambassadors for your school. Our only request is that we may be able to start the scheme earlier next year and have them visit in the autumn term as well as the spring term.*

The Science Department added: *The Camp*

*Hill boys were amazing and absolute credit to the school. They developed an excellent rapport with our students and created a climate where our students were able to relate to them and built the confidence for them to apply to Camp Hill School.*

And I am sure there are many other examples of where our Student body has made a difference. In conclusion, I would just like to say a real thank you for all the hard work our students have put in, a job well done and long may it continue.

■ **J.L.P.**

## HOUSE REPORTS

### Beaufort

Still enjoying the afterglow of the previous year's glorious victory, Beaufort started the 2018–19 season on a high, winning the Intermediate Rugby Competition. Senior Rugby was also a success, with our boys finishing second to a strong Howard team.

The House Football Championship also played out well for Beaufort: the Seniors shared first place in both their 11-a-side and 5-a-side events. The Junior and Intermediate 5-a-side teams finished in second and third place respectively, leading to an overall victory for Beaufort, just one point ahead of Howard. Well done boys!

House Quiz veteran Jake Holloway came back to lead his team into what turned out to be some tough matches. Despite great efforts by Jake, Salah, Dom, Madhav and Michael James-Thomas, we had to settle for third place. The Quiz Championship will continue next term with the Junior and Intermediate sections.

It was good to see some Year 12s taking up responsibility in the Badminton Competition. Bhuvan Mahadevaiah and Nurali Rajbhai, alongside Vignesh Venkataramaiah and Jamie Wen, led Beaufort to a joint victory with Howard and Seymour. Beaufort regulars Hemal Aggarwal, Humza Irfan, Humza Rana and Mohammad Roheel all returned to take part in the Junior Leg of the Badminton Competition, this year accompanied by Jibraan Rashid of 8K and 'wild card' Safyaan Mahmood of 10M.

The House has held the Cross Country Championship title for three years and Mr O'Malley was justified in believing that we would hold on for at least one more year. All Year 7 to 10 boys take part in the Cross Country standards to earn points for their Houses, and Beaufort scored the second highest, losing only to Seymour. On the day of the Cross Country final, the Beaufort boys put in some great runs: Cyrus Maleki-Tooserkani finished first in the Junior race, closely followed by his brother Darius and then Akram El Hag and Arthur Breakwell not far behind. The Intermediates

performed exceptionally well; Peter Kippax, Joe Day, Ben Brown and Sam Ankrah all finishing in the Top 6 – excellent work! Mr O'Malley was pleased that, unlike the other Houses, Beaufort presented a full team of runners in the Senior section and Ross Evans was willing, at the last minute, to run, with no complaints. Thank you Ross. The combined efforts of the boys who ran standards and those in the final led to a decisive victory for Beaufort, allowing us to hold on to the Cross Country Championship for a fourth year.

House Basketball was less of a success for us this year. Rumun Ark did a great job of organising and leading his Senior team, and similar thanks go to Arthur Breakwell and Jibraan Rashid for their effort and performance in the Junior Competition.

After a well-earned Christmas break the Beaufort Steamroller pushed irresistibly forwards through the Spring and Summer terms, smashing the Green Machine, putting a tarnish on Mr Burgess' Golden boys, and turning the tide on Mr Hill's once great blue wave.

The spring term saw some significant victories for the Red boys: in Senior Hockey a surprise win over favourites Seymour was bolstered by a similar performance for the Intermediate Hockey team; there was an overwhelming victory for the Beaufort swimmers, and wins for the Year 8 Rugby and Intermediate Quiz teams. On top of that, respectable results in Junior Table Tennis, Senior Rugby 7s and Chess all consolidated our lead over the other Houses.

House Music presented us with stiff competition this year, despite some delightful performances from Matthew Perrett, Qiyuan Chen, Sam Gray, Connor Huss, Jibraan Rashid and Anushtup Chatterjee.

As we approached the summer term it was clear that Beaufort were certainly in contention for the House Championship, with Seymour by far our closest rival.

Senior Cricket didn't start us off as well as we had hoped and Seymour made some gain on us, securing first place for themselves. Our Junior cricketers didn't fare too well either:

the Year 7 and Year 8 teams both placed third in their groups, but luckily it wasn't Seymour's win either. Tudor celebrated the Junior victories. Fortunately our strong Intermediate team responded to the threat we were under, with significant contributions from Humair Hussain, Joe Day, Will Mackie, Sai Ponnuru and Mohammad Roheel ensuring clear victories over the other three Houses.

Seymour made up some lost ground in the Intermediate Tennis, where despite a valiant effort our Sai and Hemal were unable to hold off strong attacks from players such as Howard's Milan Dawson and Tudor's Jack Johnson. Whatever gains Seymour made in the Inters though, were lost by their Juniors. Beaufort boys Cyrus and Darius Maleki-Tooserkani swept aside all opposition in their individual and doubles events, securing a shared second place for Beaufort, behind Howard.

With our newly appointed House Captains, Michael James-Thomas and Bradley Williams, at the helm we confidently looked ahead to Sports Day. The Beaufort boys held back any remaining scraps of resistance from the other Houses, securing an overall win in the Athletics Competition and moreover in the House Championship. This year's Sports Day turned out to be very special for Beaufort, with several school records being broken by boys in red. Victor Ludorum winner Joe Day extended a long-standing Year 10 High Jump record, and Chude Ndozi broke an incredible three Year 8 records: 100m, Long Jump and Triple Jump. Very well done!

So it looks like the future remains bright for Beaufort. With our third win in four years, perhaps the Beaufort boys are reproducing that 'Golden Age' of sustained success that previous Housemaster Mr Southworth enjoyed years ago. We also wish well to newly appointed Seymour Head of House, Miss Puri, who will doubtless bring a lot of enthusiasm to the Gold team... we better watch out next year.

■ **S.O.M.**

## Howard

Tudor having seen rays of sunshine in 2017, winning both the House Championship and House Festival, the Championship forecast promised bluebells, yet frost fell at our feet. Despite this, contributions from Howardians throughout the school in the 2018–19 season are still to be commended where our determination and consistency has led to countless instances of expectation (and disappointment) throughout the past year.

Throughout the autumn, it is fair to say that Howard House has been competitive yet has no silverware to reflect the glory of our participation. The House Championship began with a 1-0 Howard victory over Tudor in Outdoor Senior Football with the previous House Captain, Kamil Khan, scoring the crucial goal and setting an example by leading the team to victory. This victory, however, was bloodied by the persistence and ambition of Beaufort who shared honours in the Outdoor Senior Competition, yet won the overall Football Championship Trophy by one point – performing to a higher standard in the younger years. This is to show the significance of the efforts of boys throughout the school, who undoubtedly performed to the best of their abilities.

The Senior Quiz, which took place in November, also saw Howard taking an early lead. Sweat dripped from the pores of Howardians within the first round as Mr G Hill, Howard Housemaster and profound history teacher, quizzed the boys on the First World War. The victory in the first round led the boys to believe that they were entrenched at the top of the competition, and as they progressed victory came flying in the form of either a bird or plane as they faced a round dedicated to Stan Lee. In great Howardian fashion, however, the boys found themselves in shoes not too dissimilar to the football boots of their House-mates, losing

to Seymour in the last round and coming second in the competition. In fact, Howard came second in pretty much all of the autumn term events. Tudor won Badminton; Seymour, Basketball; Beaufort, Cross-Country. Howard came second in all of these events. The autumn term should have seen the boys in blue lifting trophies, yet in being jacks of all trades we were master of none. Was this to change in the turn of the new year?

Well, our loss to Seymour in the Senior Quiz Competition was avenged by the Junior boys! Winning the first two rounds, the quiz came to a nail-biter in the last question against the self-proclaimed golden house whose Tungsten insides were finally revealed. In this, we celebrated our first victory of the House Championship that inspired the boys to adhere to their true callings.

We fought adamantly, with blood, tears, and mostly sweat aiding us in achieving our calling in House Rugby... where we came second. Coming second in House Rugby did not reflect our efforts, especially in the seniors. In Mr Hill's words, *"Rugby was another mild disappointment as we finished in runners-up spot to Beaufort in spite of victory in the Senior Sevens tournament with an impressive display led by the Howardian Lions of Kamil Khan, Matt Haddon, Josh Hall and, er, Will Lyons."*

House Music was an interesting experience. Special mention goes to Saqlain Siddique who achieved full marks on piano in his Senior Solo, and to the Senior Band that "turn[t] saints into the sea" with a rendition of "Mr Brightside" that saw my own vocal prowess "open up eager eyes". Despite the disappointments of the spring term, Howard was at the very least glad to collect some silverware.

Following two disappointing terms, we were keen to bounce back in the summer competitions. The summer term saw Howard holding onto our House Tennis title, where

Danny Blyth and Luke Hemmings performed exceptionally in winning eight out of their nine senior matches. Their success was followed by another outstanding performance by Manan Jasjua and Milan Dawson who won a maximum of nine out of their nine intermediate matches.

House Cricket saw the Year 7s performing well in winning two of their matches, yet losing to eventual House Cricket winners Tudor. Well done to the team for a fantastic performance and to Ayan Butt for his final ball four which saw us to victory over Beaufort.

Sports Day itself was replete with many fine performances with special mention going again to Year 9 Victor Ludorum Milan Dawson. In our own mini-competition within a competition, results fluctuated between Tudor and Howard to compete for third place. By the end of the relays we finished a creditable third and were within close proximity to Seymour who had finished second.

As ever, thank you to our departing Year 13s, a fine cohort with two House Championships to their name. Ably led by a fantastic team of senior competitors and Kamil Khan as House Captain, we wish them all the very best for the future. Josh Hall was our winner of the VB Trophy for outstanding performances for the House over the past seven years. Special mention goes to Matt Haddon, who only joined the school in Year 12 and made such a positive impact that he was our nominee for the Simon Fenn Award.

Now, as the blue sky clears, Howard looks to a new season with heightened ambition. With strength throughout our age groups the boys are both talented and competitive, and are prepared to contribute in both competing and leading their fellow Howardians to victory across the 2019–20 season.

■ **Belal Titian**

## Seymour

This year has been an eventful one to say the least. The main event has to be when close to 500 pupils were able to witness the first ever Camp Hills Got Talent (joint venture with the girls' school), organised by our very own Omar Ismail in Year 10. A spectacular event raising over £950 for the special #youmatter campaign all in aid of the charity Young Minds UK. First year, Jeevan Lal was able to bring home the first prize, with a beat boxing masterclass. I was a very proud housemaster indeed; being able to watch such a fantastic event unfold was fabulous.

Other highlights include winning the Junior Futsal, the Senior Quiz, overall Cross-Country Standards, Senior Badminton, Junior and Intermediate Basketball Competitions. Seniors Albert Chang, Alex Byrne and Abbas Mirza

deserve a huge amount of credit for contributing significantly to the Seymour House. Henry Hoare in Year 12, produced a stunning run to take the Senior Cross-Country crown.

Pranoy Nishanth (Year 8) has also shown his sporting talents as well as leadership skills in both the Badminton and Basketball Competitions. The Seymour basketballers were on fine form in their respective events, sinking many a basket, reminiscent of the Battle of Jutland. After winning the Junior section of the Basketball Championship, the Intermediate and Senior teams added some valuable victories allowing Seymour to be crowned overall winners. Abbas Mirza sunk a giant jump shot in the dying moments vs Beaufort to earn a huge 2-0 victory which sealed the Basketball Championship.

However, at times it hasn't always gone our way. A couple of third and fourth place

finishes have left the boys deflated but to the boys' credit, they have always been magnanimous in defeat. I would like to mention the seven boys who turned up on a miserable Saturday morning to take part in the Intermediate House Rugby Competition: Simeon Humphreys, Ali Iqbal, Vernon Kenworthy, Matthew Anderson, Emile Nguiesy, Jobe Simpson and Pranav Chandar. The tournament being 12-a-side in nature effectively meant that we had lost from the outset. However, the boys fought their hearts out and battled to the end. I refereed the games with a huge amount of pride for our boys!

Lets get back to the positives... A great feature of the year has been the boys who have competed and helped in a variety of ways. A number of Year 10s have produced and delivered very insightful and powerful assemblies, for example: Adam Rarko spoke passionately

about his rifle shooting talents. Omar Ismail delivered a tremendous assembly on mental health issues around the world. Adnan Chowdhury produced a very mature balanced argument about freedom of speech and more recently, Ardeel Hussain researched and spoke powerfully on the issue of human rights. House Captain, Adam Li, had more of a *laisse faire* approach when delivering messages in assemblies, however it must be said they were just as impressive! All of these fabulous assemblies have been matched by a perhaps little more generic, but equally inspiring approach by the Housemaster.

A special mention to unsung hero Ali Iqbal, who stood in as a last minute replacement in the Cross-Country finals and produced a very admirable finish. Ajay Dhaliwal also produced a glorious second lap to be the first Seymour finisher home in the Intermediate Competition.

Second, second, second. So near yet so far. This has been the common theme for the Seymour year. We have huffed and puffed, but just failed to catch the boys in red. The Seymour boys have been consistently consistent throughout the year. More often than

not, we've finished second the events we have taken part in.

In the summer term, we played some excellent cricket at Intermediate level. Subhan Ahmed and Adnan Chowdhury marshalled the troops well to help Seymour finish second in the competition. We performed very well at Senior level too, but the Year 7 and 8 competitions proved too difficult for us. Harry Yate starred for the Seniors taking eight wickets in two matches. Captian Abbas Mirza chipped in with a match winning 20\*.

In the Tennis Competition, we finished level on points with Beaufort allowing us to joint finish second. Thanks to Vansh Pradhan, Rohan Desai, Pranav Juloori and Praneeth Udatha for playing competitive and high quality tennis throughout the competition.

The finale to the year: Sports' Day. A proud day, where I witnessed the Seymour teams give their all. Even those spectating cheered the teams on, supporting the fellow members of their House. This to me was much more important than the final scores. Well done to all the lads involved helping us to, you guessed it, finish second on the day.

As the year ends, I would like to thank Adam Li for an exceptional year in the House Captain role. Your positivity and calm manner has allowed the younger boys in the House to look up to you as a fantastic role model. Thanks also to Albert Chang who has also served the House extremely well as Vice-Captain. Nikhil Gupta takes over as House Captain and Henry Moreau-Smith fills the Vice-Captain post.

It is also time for me to sign off as House Master of Seymour. As pointed out by a number of students, I could possibly have held the role for the shortest time ever. However, my role in school has changed and I'll be taking over the management of the House system, alongside the Head of PE role meaning I now become impartial.

Thank you for a thoroughly enjoyable year, it has been amazing to see, whatever their ability, lads compete for the House with so much exuberance. I would like to welcome Miss Puri as the new Seymour Head of House; I wish her all the best in the role. Thanks to all for contributing to the Gold Army. Live more, do more, Seymour.

■ **T.J.B.**

## Tudor

The new academic year provided a fresh opportunity for Tudor to improve upon our defeat in the previous Championship. The autumn term had a shaky start with a loss in the football, although the teams led by Vice Captain Jake Tucker displayed great determination. Luckily, their efforts were rewarded just before Christmas, as the badminton and basketball teams showed their talent by securing first and second place respectively.

The spring term also presented itself with its highs and lows. The hockey and rugby outcomes fell short, with the Senior section having to forfeit the rugby due to a lack of eligible players. Nonetheless, credit goes to the Year 8's and Intermediates, who won a game each, but particularly to the Year 7's who were unde-

feated, winning two games and drawing the other.

We fared better overall in the Swimming Gala, achieving a creditable second place overall amongst tough competition from the other Houses.

In addition, the inclusion of events beyond sports allowed other members of our House to showcase their talent, with the Intermediate quiz team winning all of their rounds and the chess players dedicating time outside of school hours to secure second place.

The summer term allowed the Green Machine to pick up speed, with a pleasing victory in cricket – one of the five 10-point events. Here, the whole efforts of the House was seen, with the Seniors and Intermediates winning a game each and most notably the Year 7s (led by Hasan Soonsara) and Year 8s (led by Ismaeel Feraz and Abdur Rahman Khan) winning all of

their matches.

Mr Nash's very audible shouts of "go on Tudor" brought out some more excellent performances on Sports Day, with Rahul Chauhan (Year 7) and Leon Zhang (Seniors) winning their respective Victor Ludorums and special mention going to Omaree Johnson, who set a new school record in the Year 10 100m. Unfortunately, this was not enough to overcome the starting deficit from athletics standards and Tudor finished the overall Championship in fourth place.

The final score does not reflect the vast effort put in by all the Tudor competitors and the boys can be proud of the skills, leadership and commitment that they displayed. With an improvement in overall standards contributions, attaining a podium finish for the next House Champions is well within our grasp.

■ **Leo Zhang**



# Domestic Trips

## Y13 Biology Field Trip

On Monday 8 October 2018, thirty Year 13 biology students and four staff travelled to Nettlecombe Court in Somerset. On arrival, having been given a plant identification booklet and time to explore the expansive back garden of the estate, identifying any interesting plant species that we found along the way. Following this, we calculated the differences in species density between two different areas of grass. After dinner, we learnt how to set up a 'Longworth Trap' that would be able to catch nocturnal rodents that roamed the nearby woodlands.



The second day was a full day of activities. Firstly, the traps were checked to see whether anything had been caught and, to our excitement, two of the traps contained a wood mouse each. After weighing both the rodents, they were released into the wild and we headed for a nearby rocky beach, Porlock Bay. We were given the chance to explore the beach and attempt to identify as many plant and animal species as possible. Following a lunch break, further along the shore towards a freshwater stream, we were taught how to identify different types of snails that have adapted to the tough conditions. Size and age measurements of the common top shells were taken and the evening session allowed an opportunity to carry out statistical analysis of our results.



The third day involved a trip to Braunton Burrows. Here, we learnt how sand dune eco-systems evolve and a fun activity at the start was for each group to design a model on the beach that would explain how the process works. After eating lunch (and some ice cream from a nearby ice cream parlour), we headed further into the sand dunes where we used a line transect to determine how the presence of plant species changes with increasing distance from the shore.

On the final day of the residential, we rose early in order to make the most of the remaining time on the site. The morning was spent at a nearby freshwater stream learning how to identify the species that lived there. These consisted mainly of freshwater shrimp, however one group found a bullhead fish in the stream. Boys perfected kick sampling and took abiotic measurements at the site. After designing a simple choice chamber experiment to investigate the effect of light on the movement of the animals, and we returned to Birmingham

It was a great trip, which allowed boys to spend time together in their final year at school while gaining invaluable biology knowledge and practical skills in the beautiful setting of Somerset and North Devon.

■ **Ryan Humphreys**



## Y12 Ecton Mine Visit

On the 14 July 2019, twenty-eight Year 12 students went to Ecton Mine in the Peak District. After walking up to the meeting point, we were greeted by the friendly volunteer staff and by Abdul the cat. We set off to the top of the hill to collect rock samples from the spoil heap located there, intermittently stopping to look at the mineshafts of the now disused mine. Once we had navigated the last field of sheep (and their faeces), we arrived at the site. From there we had to overturn, smash and collect the rocks we needed for chemical testing later in the afternoon.

After lunch, it was time to explore the mine, which felt like it was designed for children due to the low ceiling. It took over 50m of crouch-walking and Mr Rossiter hitting his head multiple times to reach the open area of the mine. Here we really understood the scale of the whole operation and learnt about the hardships the miners had had to face. Then it was time for some actual chemistry. We made our way outside to chemically test the samples that we had collected earlier, identifying the copper, iron and lead ions they contained. Having balanced the chemical equation, we were allowed to make the gunpowder used to blast the mine when it was operational. After mixing our powders, we waited in anticipation for the end of the day where we could light them. Some burnt bright, some fizzled and died but all filled the air with the stench of sulfur.

Thank you to the Ecton Mine staff and all the teachers, with a special thanks to Mr Rossiter for organising an educational and enjoyable trip.

■ **Sai Potluri**

## Birmingham University Big Biology Quiz

On the 29 April 2019, sixteen boys took a journey to Birmingham University for the Big Biology Quiz. The quiz consisted of five rounds, each with ten multiple-choice questions, with an additional specialist round on cancer causes and cures. The six rounds were as follows: Genes and Genomes, Plants and Animal adaptations, Evolution and the Environment, Molecules of Life, Cancer Causes and Causes and Microbiology. We also enjoyed a keynote lecture titled "What is a Superbug?"

In rounds one to three everyone did well, as all three were topics we had covered in depth at school before (thanks to the brilliant teaching of the Biology Department!); all four of us played our jokers, giving us double points on one of the rounds. After this, it was lunch, which we enjoyed out on the grass outside the Great Hall (where the event was held). Following lunch, we were given the keynote lecture,

which we found quite interesting (and helpful for the last round!). After this came the last three rounds. 'Cancer Causes and Cures' was surprisingly easy, with Team 'A' scoring nine out of ten on it. However, we found 'Molecules of Life' quite difficult, (with the exception of team 'B' who managed to score full marks on the round), as it involved proteins none of us had ever heard of!

At the end of the first three rounds, there were spot prizes available for the closest answer to a question. We won one of these spot prizes (a box of chocolates) for the question: 'How many years would it take to count the number of nerve cells in the brain?' By sheer luck, Ayman guessed the correct answer of 3000 years! At the end of the event, the results were announced: there was a tie between two Camp Hill teams and another school for third place! Therefore, a tiebreaker was required: 'How many species of insects are there?' Anxiously we all discussed the question. Team 'A' answered the question with 900,000



(the closest to the actual answer of 1.5 million), however, we were nearly robbed of our victory when the judges thought 45 million (the guess by the other school) was closer! So, having won third place, we took home an additional box of chocolates, beating all the other King Edward's Schools (old KES boy and current CHB biology teacher Mr Syed must be proud).

All in all, an enjoyable day for all of us,

similar to last year's Physics Big Quiz, and we wish next year's students the best of luck when they take part. The boys would also like to give a huge thank you to Miss Brooks for organising the day and Mr Parkinson and Mr Bruten for driving us to and from the University!

■ **Kishan Sambhi**

## Big Bang Fair

During the early hours of the school day on a Friday, we left the school building to go to the N.E.C. where the Big Bang Fair was taking place. We arrived there promptly in our minibuses and so began a day of fun science related experiments and activities. We split up into groups and rushed to see as much as we could. Listing them would be an impossible task as there were so many activities, so I will just mention some of the best ones.

One of the activities, exhibited by Royal Dutch Shell, meant that we were able to build miniature cars powered with salt water. We customised our vehicles with stickers and numbers and then put them to the test sending them to the racetracks to try to get a fast lap time, which would get our name on a board. I know that some of us got our names up there – which was great.

Another exciting, but challenging activity was dismantling and assembling a phone; with the help of the people who were supervising, we took turns to take the phone apart and put

it back together again, which was quite the challenge. In addition, at another stand we were able to test a stimulation of the Bloodhound, a supersonic land vehicle. Beside that was a model of the actual vehicle, showing the immensity of it.

At around lunchtime, we all gathered to see a live event called 'the best experiment of all time... ever' run by the Royal Institution. This informed us about the back-story to the Royal Institution and their achievement. Following this, we got to the actual experiments. We were shown a variety of fire-filled experiments done with liquid oxygen, methane and much more. After a big finale with all of the experiments put together, the show ended and we all returned to exploring the Big Bang Fair again.

Everyone enjoyed that day very much and we all returned to school just in time to catch our buses. Thanks to the teachers who took us there and back and to all of the people hosting the event. We hope that 2020's Big Bang Fair will be as amazing as this!

■ **Hun Kang**



## West Midlands Chemistry Quiz

### West Midlands Chemistry Teachers' Centre Quiz

Four boys from Years 10 and 11 travelled to the University of Birmingham to take part in the annual West Midlands Chemistry Quiz. After five consecutive victories for Camp Hill Boys, Dr Taylor had made it abundantly clear that there would be absolutely no consequences should they lose to their oldest of enemies – Camp Hill Girls.

After three rounds, eight of the nine teams sat on full marks. Then the difficulty ramped up. Sir Harry Krotto's first name and the colour of Perkin's accidental dye proved to be obstacles and left Camp Hill Boys half a point behind KES going in to the break. An inspiring team talk saw Camp Hill Boys clean sweep the final rounds to retain the title, with KES falling to a catastrophic third and Camp Hill Girls came fourth.



Overall, it was a much closer finish than in previous years, yet the boys pulled through. Congratulations to Miles Balderson, Hamzah Iqbal, Aarondeep Singh and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov on their achievement.

■ **R.A.R.**



# Salters Festival of Chemistry

On Wednesday 3 April 2019, a misty spring morning, a team consisting of Sasan Hapuarachchi, Anushtup Chatterjee, Sam Nouhov and Anthony Demitry found themselves in the Chemistry Department of the University of Birmingham ready to compete in what is known as the Salters Festival of Chemistry or Salters Chemistry Fest.

As we arrived, we were met with a warm welcome and a bar of chocolate. With the pleasantries out of the way, we were eager to find out what lay ahead of us. The day was split into three parts starting with the much-anticipated Salters Challenge, followed closely by a well-deserved lunch break in which the team would have time to recharge their batteries for the University Challenge and the day would end with a rather curious Chemical Magic show performed by Dr Ray Plevy in the lecturing theatre.

The team spent the first two hours of the day in a lab where we were assigned the task of identifying an unknown substance using a number of unspecified chemicals in a C.I.A. styled investigation using our logic, intuition and ability to perform the precise practicals needed. After nerve rattlingly completing the first practical the team headed off to a much-desired break with time spent addressing various topics of chemistry.

After lunch came the University Challenge. Shortly after returning our bags to our lockers each team returned to the lab in which they had been working in earlier. Here we were given 200ml potassium iodate, 200ml starch, 200ml sodium and 200ml distilled water, along with a stopwatch. Our task was simple: we had to mix together the chemicals in a certain ratio so that an iodine clock reaction took place as



close to one minute as possible. The only rule was that each team had to use 30ml in total for each experiment. Extra marks were awarded for presentation.

Like most teams, we started with equal amounts of each chemical, with Sam recording our results on the back of the instruction sheet; we found that the reaction took the stunningly long time of two seconds. We decided to add more water to dilute the other chemicals to therefore slow down the reaction. Here, however, we came across the other problem, the reaction had taken over 1 minute 20 seconds to react. Taking a methodical approach to the situation by varying the quantities of the potassium and the sodium we finally came across our best results yet: 57 seconds. We thought our victory was assured, however as we showed our experiment to the examiners to record our official attempt, we encountered an anomaly as we soon found that unfortunately our demonstration was 3 second short than expected compared to our previous attempt.

As the judges totalled all of the results, all

competitors enjoyed a 'Chemistry Magic' show in which we were show entertaining demonstrations of the effects of liquid nitrogen on common household objects and how water can be mystifyingly turned into wine and then milk.

Finally came the announcement of the prizes. Unfortunately, we discovered that, not only did we fail to make it in to the top three of the Salters' Challenge, but KES (our arch rival) came first place with full marks. Spirits were down as the prizes for the University Challenge announced. Here we had the pleasant surprise of coming third place, despite the fact that our result being an anomaly slightly ruining the moment for if we had managed to hold on to our 57 second record we would have won second and daresay possibly even first place.

With the day over we all came back to school just in time for the Year 8 Parents' Evening. We would all like to thank Mr O'Malley for a thoroughly enjoyable day out!

■ **Anushtup Chatterjee**  
and **Sasan Hapuarachchi**

## C3L6 Summer Camp

In June last year, chemistry students in Year 12, as well as two keen Year 10 students sat the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Certificates for this challenge follow the elements of group 11 in the periodic table (or copper, silver, gold and roentgenium for the non-chemists). A mark of over 49/60 earned candidates a Roentgenium Certificate and one of 56 places in the annual four-day Summer Camp at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. This year, two students in the Lower Sixth – Kevin Mathew and Tommy Ransbotyn – were invited to the camp.

Upon arrival in Cambridge, all the guest students made their way to St. Catherine's College to claim our room keys from the porter. Seemingly stunned by the balcony off each the room, one student got themselves locked out within five minutes of arrival.

After dropping off our suitcases, everyone gathered in the bar for introductions, which included discussing our favourite elements and explaining why. We were then treated to a formal three-course dinner, during which the Professor and former Camp Hill student Muhammed Khan rotated around the table getting to know each student. After dinner we were all given a copy of *Chemical Structure and Reactivity*, which we had the opportunity to get signed by both the authors: Dr Peter Wothers and Dr James Keeler

After breakfast on the second day, we attended a lecture by Dr Peter Wothers on functional group levels, followed by a practical on 'Environmentally-Friendly Aldol Condensation' named such as there is no solvent required. The synthesis consisted of mixing two crystalline solids together curiously forming an oil, to which sodium hydroxide is added

causing the mixture to turn solid. The product was then isolated and purified via a recrystallisation. During the experiment we performed a TLC to assess whether the reaction was complete and calculate R<sub>f</sub> values for the reactant and product. Our evening consisted of a lecture on Feynman Path Integrals and the movie *Galaxy Quest*.

The third day followed a similar format, with the lecture being on Atomic Orbitals and the Schrödinger Equation. During the lecture we were shown a program that when given the appropriate quantum numbers gave a plot of the probability distribution of the corresponding orbital. This program was used to make the laser-etched crystal cubes of the 3dxy orbital which we were given. After the lecture we were taken to the labs to finish our Aldol synthesis, we left the crystals to dry overnight, and to do two titrations on a Copper 2+ complex the



goal being to find the empirical formula (which turned out to be  $[\text{Cu}_4\text{Cl}_{10}\text{O}]_4^-$ ). Whilst in the lab we were shown a demonstration consisting of a superconductor cooled by liquid nitrogen whizzing around a mobius strip of magnets – this was used in Dr Wothers RSC Christmas Lecture and a video of it can be found on YouTube. After two days packed with Chemistry, we spend that evening punting down the River

Cam, being chemists, it was inevitable that at least one person fell in, much to the amusement of the tourists in the punts nearby.

On fourth and final day, we worked through some synthesis questions and before we said our goodbyes, Dr Wothers brought another one of his showpieces: two identical looking bars, one of which is made of magnesium and is deceptively light and the other

tungsten, which seemed impossibly heavy. As tungsten has almost the same density as gold holding that bar was the closest many of us will ever come to holding a gold bar. The camp struck a great balance between education and entertainment which made it a brilliant experience and one which I would wholeheartedly recommend.

■ **Tommy Ransbotyn**

## Chemistry: Top of the Bench Competition

Having aced a preliminary test paper, Dylan Datta, Farhaan Awais, Aaron-deep Singh and Hamzah Iqbal visited the University of Birmingham to take part in the annual Top of the Bench Competition.

After a quick game of 'Element Top Trumps' the boys felt ready for the day ahead, and found the first part of the competition (the

written paper) manageable, apart from some of the chemistry trivia which threw them off track a few times.

The practical component of the day was completed in the University's impressive Collaborative Teaching Laboratory. The boys' task was to identify an unknown substance by performing chemical reactions with hydrochloric acid and moles calculations, which they managed with ease.

After an enjoyable day the boys were

thrilled to learn that they had come first in the Regional Heat, beating K.E. Camp Hill Girls' and K.E. Five Ways amongst others.

The National Final, also held at the University of Birmingham, was a much tougher affair. The boys rose to the challenge, but unfortunately due to some technical mishaps they didn't place in the top three out of around twenty teams. Huge thanks go to Mr O'Malley for organising the trips and accompanying us.

■ **Hamzah Iqbal**

## International Trade Competition

On Wednesday 17 July 2019 Xue Bang Chen, Bhuvan Mahadevaiah, Mowahid Sharobeem, James Thomas, Leon Zhang and myself travelled to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Whitehall to take part in the final of the International Trade Competition.

The day was extremely competitive, as we were competing against all the other regional winners from across England and Scotland, but we returned to the school victorious.

The students had developed a mobile phone application, which was designed to

improve the understanding of international trade by British students. And, during the competition they demonstrated this to a panel of top economists and scientists which included

top trade envoys and a government minister in a very professional presentation.

■ **A.E.G.**



## Othello Visit

In November 2018, the Year 13 English set traipsed onto a school minibus in the pouring rain to go and see a production of *Othello* at the Warwick Arts Centre.

Despite the horrendous weather, we plodded on, with Mr Hill doing a sterling job of driving the minibus.

Fortunately the Arts Centre proved to be a place of refuge, sanctity and warmth and the production was excellent – even if some of their costume choices were... unfortunate. It certainly, at any rate, led to lots of fruitful discussions about the way we felt *Othello* should be performed!

Despite arriving back to find the gates locked and some confusion about where students would be picked up, it proved to be an excellent evening and many thanks to Mr Hill for bearing with Mrs Parmar's inability to listen to Google Maps.

■ **J.L.P.**

## Lapworth Museum

This school year (December 2018) we took our Year 12 Geographers to visit the Lapworth Museum of Geology at Birmingham University. It is a hugely impressive place to visit and has a wide range of interactive displays and samples on show.

We began with a tour by the new Education Officer, Aeron Moore, 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. 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 then had a session on identifying







rocks and understanding the rock cycle in the museum's new classroom. The day finished with a talk from Professor Tim Reston from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. He shared his research and explained what is involved in an undergraduate degree in

Geography or Geology.

Thank you once again to the staff of the museum for making this trip possible.

■ D.J.E.

## Carding Mill Valley Y10 Geography Field Trip

At the start of the summer term, the Year 10 Geography sets headed out for their river and flooding field study. Our trip took us to the picturesque Carding Mill Valley, a National Trust property on the eastern side of the Long Mynd in the Shropshire Hills, via a short stop at the River Severn at Atcham, near Shrewsbury.

Over two days nearly 90 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).

The two days sported typically English weather, fine one minute and raining the next,

but the boys got on well nonetheless and were even caught indulging in ice cream at the end of the day in spite of the weather.

On the first day the National Trust Visitor Centre initially provided a base for us before we made our way 2km up the valley to our first location. After a brief explanation of the methods by Mr Eckley and Mr Butcher, the boys were under way, working in groups of 6–7 students in order to share the tasks out.

The boys conducted themselves well and as always and were a credit to the school and themselves. The data collected will form part of their coursework. This will involve them writing up their findings and analysing the data using statistical tools such as the Spearman Rank test and inter-quartile range, putting some of the techniques they have 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 the factors increasing the risk of flooding, the boys were also able to apply much of what they have been learning about in class to do with exacerbating factors and the different techniques that can mitigate flooding. The stop at Atcham on the way there 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 the several members of staff who helped out from Camp Hill Boys' (including a cameo by recently retired geography teacher Mr Jackson). The boys were a credit to themselves and received complimentary comments from members of the public and National Trust staff.

■ D.J.E.



## Wimbledon Trip

On Monday 1 July 2019, ten Camp Hill Boys, accompanied by Mr Jones and Mr Duncan, set off for a fantastic day of world class tennis at one of the most prestigious tournaments in tennis and one of the four Grand Slams, Wimbledon.

An early start meant that we were able to arrive at Wimbledon at 11am to carry out the tradition of taking the 'Henman Hill Group Photo'. After this, we were able to take in the atmosphere and see some outstanding play on the outside courts.

Soon after, play was scheduled to begin and the first match of the day on the first day of the main draw of Wimbledon was Stan Wawrinka, the 22<sup>nd</sup> seed from Switzerland, versus Ruben Bemelmans, the unseeded player from Belgium. Stan Wawrinka was the favourite and the most likely winner of the match, and he proved us right, comfortably beating Bemelmans 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and moved into the second round of Wimbledon 2019. This was one of the lesser entertaining matches, however Wawrinka didn't disappoint us with his many scintillating one-handed backhands which were beautiful to watch. Many believe that Wawrinka has one of the best one-handed backhands in the game, and that was very visible in his game against Bemelmans.

The next match was Karolína Plíšková, the third seed from Czech Republic, versus Lin Zhu, the unseeded player from China. The first set didn't look too promising for the Chinese player, due to her not being able to handle the former World No. 1's incredible play. This resulted in Zhu losing the first set 6-2. Zhu,



however, didn't go without a fight, as she gave it her all and fought for the second set until it came to 6-6, meaning a tiebreak was needed to play. Zhu was drained after playing 12 games in this close second set and so lost the tiebreak 7-4, meaning the relieved Plíšková won and moved into the second round.

The final match of the day, and the most entertaining match, was Stefanos Tsitsipas, the seventh seed from Greece, versus Thomas Fabbiano, the unseeded player from Italy. The whole match turned out to be a tug of war between the two players with many unorthodox shots being played, such as the tweener and hot-dogs. Many scintillating shots were played such as some beautiful lobs from the Italian and some drop-volleys and diving volleys from the Greek. In the end, the Italian came out on top, sealing the match with a smashing backhand return of the Greek's powerful serve.

This turned out to be a massive upset for the tennis world, but a massive victory for Thomas.

With play finally finishing for the day, we made our way to the minibus, not even glancing at the Wimbledon shop, with its outrageous prices of £150 for a t-shirt, £25 for a can of tennis balls and many other pricey items. We relaxed at the back, with some falling fast asleep in a few moments, while Mr Jones and Mr Duncan drove us back to our school.

All in all, it was an exhilarating day, and to be able to watch some of our greatest inspirations was a dream come true. What we see on TV never captures the pure skill and raw power of the world's greatest players and so coming to Wimbledon to see them in front of our eyes was truly wonderful. Thanks should most definitely go to Mr Jones and Mr Duncan for organising such an incredible trip.

■ Pranav Gupta Juloori

## Aston Villa Trip 2019

After a three-year absence from football's top flight, one of Britain's oldest football clubs is back after their first relegation since league began in 1992. This made it an exciting time to visit the club as it prepares to be the only Birmingham team in the Premier League of English football.

The purpose of the trip, which we have been running for eight years now, is to learn

more about the changes influencing the football industry and sport in general. Globalisation and the changing geography of football in the UK and around the world, is the focus of our final topic in Year 7. As one of the founding members of the Football Association in 1863 and as a holder of the FA Cup and





European Cup, Aston Villa has a very long and prestigious history, as well as an important place in the culture and heritage of Birmingham.

Our tour of the stadium included an inside view of the new Press Room and a chance to sit in the Manager's chair, where he will face the press next season. Next a view of the home and away changing rooms, followed by a walk down the tunnel out into the stadium. Finally, a chance to relax for a moment in the heated seats of the players' dugout.

In addition, the boys also got a tour of the Managers' box where the Chairman and Owners of the Club will be sitting at home games and an inside tour of the many new restaurants and bars where players' families and fans will be able to spend their time on match day.

Overall, it was a very interesting insight into the life of the club and a chance to see what it takes to keep a business like this at the top of its game, as it employs several hundred people on that site alone.

The boys will be studying more about the club over the remaining weeks of this term. It is pleasing to note that as a group, they were as attentive and well behaved as usual, and received very positive comments from the tour guides at the end of both days.

■ D.J.E.



## Buddhist Places of Worship

On the morning of the 12 July 2019, the Year 12 Religious Studies students along with Ms Lamb, Ms McCulloch and Ms Freeman set off on the conveniently short journey to the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara, where an enthusiastic guide showed us around the building and the surrounding gardens.

Whilst there, we were shown the statue of Kuan Yin, who is the goddess of mercy and compassion, and taught her popular mantra of Om Mani Padme Hum, which is said to have numerous benefits. This was just one of many different interesting facts we came across that gave us a flavour of what Buddhism is like in practice, and that extended what we have learnt in the classroom, giving us a much broader view of what we have been studying.





We then visited the monk's accommodation, where a monk spoke to us about Buddhism more generally, testing our knowledge on main teachings and beliefs.

After leaving the Vihara, we were given a short break for lunch in the not too unfamiliar surroundings of Moseley, before we made our way to the Moseley Buddhist Centre. Here we encountered a very different approach to

Buddhism, with the focus seemingly being on the spiritual aspects. Very much in line with this, we all had a group meditation session with a member of the Order, which people seemed to either find quite relaxing, tedious or painful to the back. Our guide then explained his personal journey and experiences, from his initial inspiration to his multiple retreats and ordination. This was another interesting experience as



it allowed us to see the path for an individual following Buddhist teachings and practices, and an individual's own insight into it all.

Overall, this was a massively rewarding trip from an interest and academic point of view. It allowed us to get an extra insight into a religion that isn't as well known and hopefully will give us an extra boost going into our Year 13 studies. A huge thanks to Ms Lamb, Ms McCulloch and



Ms Freeman for their hard work in organizing this highly engaging trip, and for coming along with us and making it a great experience, and not forgetting Mr Caves, Mr O'Malley and Mr Bruten who drove us around.

■ Eesa Hussain

## Holocaust Exhibition

### Y9 Visit the Imperial War Museum

A risky time of year (10 January 2019) weather wise, saw a group of 60 boys set off to London to experience the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.



The boys had been studying the Holocaust in history during the autumn term and this was a consolidation of this study allowing them to experience testimony and artefacts from the period.

The boys split into two groups so that they could fit everything in. 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 were then given audio guides to help with information 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 the First World War, Peace and



Security and Witnesses to War galleries proving particularly popular, have lunch, and, of course, visit the souvenir shops. Many of the boys were fascinated by the First World War and Second World War galleries, preparing them for what the GCSE History entails!

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. Thanks to all the staff involved: Mr Hill, Mr Rudd and Mr Burgess.

■ I.M.C.





## Warwick Castle

On 15 May 2019, 120 intrepid Year 7s alongside their more battle-hardened staff took the Green Buses to 'England's favourite castle'. The visit took place before the great end-of-term rush and we could enjoy the features of the fortress at greater leisure than has often been the case.



Warwick, in spite of its razzamatazz, still has the ability to steer us on a journey through the development of castles in England, from Anglo-Saxon burghs through motte and bailey Norman castles to the stone fortifications of the later Plantagenets, where Warwick in terms



of structure and influence reached its apotheosis. It was also interesting to see the after-life of such fortifications, having been slighted in the Civil War. Warwick was then reimagined as a stately home under the Grenvilles and then as a medieval theme park under Merlin Entertainments.

The boys were treated to the Falconer's Quest, the UK's biggest birds of prey show in which a range of eagles, falcons, owls, hawks and kites were able to dazzle the crowds with their soaring display. Unfortunately, the great trebuchet had incurred a critical fracture in its oaken beam and unable to hurl its balls.

The boys took great pleasure in soaring themselves to the tops of Guy's and Caesar's Towers, inspiring vertigo in those choosing to look down through the grilles at the ditches and the River Avon below. The day ended with the bowman show, where the archer built up the tension towards his final arrow hitting the target, unfortunately, he missed.

A successful day had by all, which then fed into the classroom castles project and the construction project for homework, including some excellent analogue builds and digital Minecraft fabrications.

■ G.N.H.



## Conway Centre 2019

### Y8 North Wales Residential Week

We started the trip on Monday in the Sports Hall and after worrying that my bag seemed to be much smaller than all the others we stepped on the coach that would be our home for the next six hours. After constantly moaning about how our coach was stuck behind a tractor that couldn't go above ten miles an hour, we finally made it to Cwm Idwal, a picturesque lake in the Welsh mountains. Here we finally managed to eat our lunches and once we returned from the lake, we set off again on the final stretch of our journey.

After hours of moaning and torment, our coach finally dragged itself through the entrance of the Conway Centre and into the grounds. When we arrived at Conway, the first thing that struck me was the main building. I know for the teachers who had gone on this trip before they will have heard this phrase used a lot, but the building looked like a prison. We then found out our groups and dorms and made







our way into the hall. Here we were introduced into the staff and told to go to our dorms. The dorms in question were well spaced, heated and plain rooms, where we each had a bed, which we had to make ourselves. I would like to say at this point that I managed to make my bed with no struggle at all, but the people in my dorm know that was not the case. Thanks again to Cyrus, who helped me understand where the duvet cover goes. We then made our way down the stairs and back to the hall where we were assigned our first activities.

On our first night, my activity was paddle boarding on what was arguably the least wet



day in terms of weather. Of course, I got very wet, after falling in but we'll skip over that. After having a few short lessons which took us from lying down to standing, we all saw some 'questionable' performances at paddle boarding but most of us had got the hang of it after some practice. But, one man paddle boarding just isn't good enough, so we tried two on a paddle board. The other thing we learnt was how to raid other paddle boards and knock others off theirs. This however resulted in mul-



tipl events of instant karma and a face full of water.

Also, I feel I have to mention my 'accidental' nudge of our maths teacher Ms Puri who ended up in the water. Completely unintentional... well, how often am I going to get a chance to push our maths teacher into water? But that was a load of fun and a great start to our week.

After this, we came back to the dining hall. To the dismay of most of us, there was no 'pre-bed' snack, only a late-night meeting about the disciplines of breakfast option democracy and a discussion about what a gluten-free breakfast was, so at about 10 o'clock we were sent upstairs to get ready for bed. Most of the dorms managed to settle down at about 4 a.m. that night, however, by Thursday night, we were falling asleep with the lights on, which I think would have been quite hard for anyone normally.

Wednesday was our fieldwork day. My dorm kicked the day off with a game of pillow cricket, then we headed downstairs for breakfast and the trips. One half of Year 8 went to Aber Falls first, while the other half went to Caernarfon Castle. Again, one half drew a significantly shorter straw than the others did. The group that went to Aber Falls went in the pouring rain and then had their lift to Caernarfon break down, whilst the others had a dry, sheltered experience at the Castle. The weather conveniently cleared up for them in the afternoon. However, Aber Falls was an amazing sight, as it had been raining for all of the previous night and it was in full flood. Another highlight may or may not have been the biology practical – Dr White said that the invertebrates living in the river showed how clean it was, but after fifteen minutes of vigorous searching in the form of stabbing the river bed with net handles, we had found next to nothing and we were all soaked. Either way, we all came back to the Centre having had an enjoyable experience – or maybe the best experience of the day was putting on dry clothes when we got back.

There were more activities on Thursday, including mountain biking, climbing, high ropes, bush craft, via ferrata, raft building,



canoeing, kayaking and low ropes, which well and truly tired us out. A final run around outside in the evening, followed by a brief awards ceremony, saw us crawl up to our rooms and pack our bags ready for departure on Friday morning, and then collapse in our beds.

Friday saw us leave the Centre, eventually, to return back to school having thoroughly enjoyed our busy and active week. Thanks must go to all the staff at the Centre, the coach drivers and, especially, the school staff for making the week an amazing success.

■ Sam Nouhov and Caleb Wilton



## St. David's 2019

We left on a Wednesday lunchtime having packed all of the camping and climbing kit into the trailers. The journey there was around four to five hours long, but the campsite was worth the wait.

Once we arrived, we were keen to play, but alas, this was never going to be the case. Prior to our arrival, as it had been made very clear that the teachers were not going to be responsible for all of the work and so we were required to put up our own tents, and the dining marque before any free time was allowed. We then had a choice; unpack and tidy away our things in the tent or make the infinitely wiser decision and go out on the field to play touch rugby or frisbee. Guess which one we made...

Later in the day, we were taken down to the harbour and showed where we would be climbing over the next four days, before going back to the campsite where we would enjoy some of the finest cuisine any of us had ever tasted, courtesy of the teachers.

We all slept well on full stomachs and woke up early ready for our first day of climbing. After another excellent meal, consisting of either cereal or a cooked breakfast or, again, the infinitely

wiser decision, both, we congregated in the field and were given our climbing kit, which we would look after and use over the following days.

Then followed another brief period of relaxation for most – but unfortunately for a few there was quite a substantial amount of washing up to be done. Luckily, the washing up duties were on a rota and so most people only had to do it once throughout the trip, even though it was immediately evident that

some people had never even seen a sponge before, let alone some *Fairy Liquid*.

The first day of climbing was, for me, the best, as the physical challenge and the views around us were very different to anything you'd come across in Kings Heath. Each route up the wall was entirely natural and so anyone that had thought it would be easy because they'd successfully climbed a wall with massive colourful hand holds sticking out of it, was in for a surprise. Although you were completely safe at all times, looking down at the sea from tens of metres high, hanging off a rock face grasping what seemed to be barely a scratch on the wall could be quite daunting for some. However, even though many people were initially anxious, everyone did at least one climb.

Another great meal and an evening of various sporting activities later, we were off to sleep very quickly, due to the tiring day we'd had (honestly).



The next day was very similar, but with walls slightly further along the coast, which many found a bit more difficult than the day before. However, in the sweltering heat, many of us were becoming hot and tired and so we made good use of being right next to the sea and jumped in. It was a great way to relax after a tough day of climbing and almost everyone jumped off the rocks multiple times. We were dry within seconds and immediately forced to coat ourselves in sun cream again, but having

had another great day of climbing we were all happy to retire to our tents and await the heavily anticipated barbecue.

Meat eaters, vegetarians and people with any other dietary requirements were well catered for, with a delicious array of food on offer. A dessert of ice cream and fruit slices was also provided; leaving everyone ready for



another good night of sleep.

I think that most of the boys found that the third day of climbing went by quickly and with the toughest walls yet, we really had to call upon the energy boost from our 500 ml of diet coke that we were given by the teachers. After the climbing, we went to a local pub in which the top priority for most was not food or drink but recharging various phones and power banks to fuel the journey home the next day.

I found this trip extremely enjoyable, mainly due to the large amount of freedom we were given alongside a set of fun activities that were provided for us. It didn't feel like the average tedious camping trip, largely thanks to the high quality food that we were given each day and the great showering and bathroom facilities that the campsite offered.

I would strongly advise anyone considering this trip next year to take the opportunity to go and have a great time with some friends. A big thanks to Mrs Bourne, Mr Bruten, Mr Burgess, Mr Cookson, Mr Downing, Mr Hardy, Miss Orlovska and Mr Taylor for all making this trip possible.

■ Sam Morris and Will Taylor





# Foreign Trips



## Battlefields 2019

Near midnight, a platoon of Year 10 boys mobilised at Camp Hill, ready to take on the challenge that lay ahead of them. After an eight-hour journey, the boys, armed with clipboards and pens, set foot in the Brandhoek Cemeteries, our first visit of the day.

The sombre mood was immediately apparent as we observed the first of many rows upon rows of gravestones, giving us all a sense of appreciation for the sacrifice of the millions of soldiers sent to go to war in 1914. Still, with the trusty guide of Mr Bulloch, we were captivated by the stories of individual soldiers, most notably Noel Chavasse, Olympic athlete, doctor, and twice-VC recipient, and even some old Camp Hill alumni. The theme for most, if not all, the cemeteries that we visited rang with the same belief: All soldiers are equal in death.

Soon after, we visited Menin Gate, where the names of over 50,000 missing from the Ypres Salient from 1914–17 are carved into the walls. It serves as a moment of remembrance for the contribution of soldiers who were called upon from all over the Empire. We then stopped off for lunch at Hooze Crater Museum and Cemetery, looking around at the vast array of memorabilia from WW1 and the cemetery directly opposite.

For our final visit of the day, we went to the Essex Farm Cemetery, where soldier John



McCrae wrote the poem *'In Flanders Fields'*, a piece symbolic of WW1. It was also here where we learnt of the under-age volunteers who were ready to sacrifice themselves 'For King and Country', stopping at the grave of V.J. Strudwick, a 15-year-old volunteer and one of the youngest casualties of the war.

After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, which involved some of us going to the nearby bakery for pastries, we got onto the coach and headed off to our first visit of our Somme-themed day. We arrived at Montauban, where one of the few successes of the Battle of the Somme occurred for British and French forces, before heading off to Mansell Copse where we were exposed to the horrible reality of the fates of the Devonshire Regiment who all but few died on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Somme.

Soon after, we went to Lochnagar Crater, an underground explosive charge secretly planted by the British, where we marvelled at its 100ft. depth at 300ft. width, although it failed to neutralise the German forces in that area. Moving on to the village of Beaumont Hamel, we had a picnic after having visited Hawthorne Ridge, which famously detonated 10 minutes before it was supposed to, giving away the plan of attack. Today, it stands as a mass of trees and shrubs.

After taking another break, this time for ice cream



and coffee at Ulster Tower, we went to our final destination of the day: the Lutyens Memorial. Near the Ulster Tower in Thiepval and much like the Menin Gate, it stood as a monument of remembrance for the missing 75,000 British and South African soldiers who died in the Battles of the Somme from 1915–1918. Arriving back at the hotel for dinner, where we wished Arjun Sahota a happy birthday, we once again went to bed eager for the penultimate day of our trip

Our learning adventure continued on day three with a visit to the Bayernwald, a reconstructed German trench network. With the wise guidance of Mr Southworth and Mr Bul-







the war and each individual soldier's value being equal, not only those clearly illustrated by the identical Commonwealth graves but those who lie in unmarked graves or mass graves.

This was followed by a discussion on the use of chemical weapons at Vancouver Corner where a Canadian battalion were the first Empire troops to be faced with Chlorine Gas. Then we finished the day at Tyne Cot, the greatest of all the British cemeteries on the western front where about 80% of the 10,000 graves were for unknown soldiers of the Great War.

Our final day started with everyone successfully able to clear their hotel rooms and get to the coach (after another filling breakfast) in good time for a 9:00 start. We

loach, we learnt the nature of the trench network and its ability to safeguard the resident Bavarian battalions and the strategy of the British command under General 'Daddy' Plumer.

We enjoyed our lavish lunch at the 'Pool of Peace', a crater, now filled with water, formed by the use of highly explosive Ammonal which destroyed part of the Messines Ridge defences. We continued on our journey to Lijssenthoek, the site of the greatest medical facility on the Ypres Salient. Here thousands of operations were carried out between 1915 and 1919. In spite of the efforts of the hundreds of medical staff on site, it was still the final resting place of 10,000 soldiers from over 30 nations; however, it has been estimated that it would have seen over 300,000 casualties suggesting that 97% of those who received treatment survived.

From the saving of life to substantial loss of life as we headed north to identify key sites in the 1917 Third Battle of Ypres, otherwise called Passchendaele. The battle fought in desperate mud resulted in over 700,000 casualties and added greater evidence to those who argue about the senselessness of war, and British strategy in particular.

What followed was for some, the most sad-dening visit. The German Cemetery at Lange-marck, a place of sombre reflection, where many began to question what we had learnt on Day One; are all soldiers equal in death? A chilling atmosphere combined with the stark contrast between the white gravestones of the Commonwealth graves and the flat grave markers of the German Cemetery left us in solemn thought, not of the tactics of warfare or analysis of the battlefields but in thought and remembrance of the lives lost on all sides of

started the day off at the Arras Memorial where we, upon the wall of missing, found the name of Walter Tull, the first known black officer in the British Army. From there we moved on to Vimy Ridge, probably the most spectacular monument in the whole of the British Sector – a memorial to a great Canadian victory in April 1917 – here we could visit the preserved battlefield and venture into the tunnels which had been mined to move thousands of troops forward unseen to the enemy. From Canada to Australia and the mass grave at VC Corner outside Fromelles, a disaster in 1916. This was followed by the visit to the newly constituted cemetery within the village itself following the finding of an improvised mass grave in Pheasant Wood – here many of the bodies were identified using modern forensic techniques and the families could be assured of their new resting places.



The final visit was to Neuve Chapelle, where a cemetery for Portuguese soldiers sits next to the memorial to Indian soldiers who fought and died on the Western Front, and for whom there are no known graves. In beautiful surroundings we left our poppies on wooden symbols representing Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity as an offering of contemplation and unity.

From here, we departed for home, with feelings of sadness, having seen the impact of war, not only on the landscape of France and Belgium but on individual soldiers. For this, we'd like to give special thanks to Mr Bulloch for his extensive range of knowledge from the strategies and tactics employed in World War One to the individual lives of soldiers such as Walter Tull, Noel Chavasse and V.J. Strudwick. These close and personal stories of war are invaluable to us in what they teach us about the realities of World War One. Thanks are also in order for the fountain of knowledge that is Mr Southworth as well as Mr Hill for his skills in organising such a trip and taking us to places visited less often such as the Indian Memorial at Neuve Chapelle. Thanks also go to Mr Rudd and Mr Gething. The Battlefields Trip 2019 was an emotional experience at times as being confronted with the death of millions can be overwhelming. However, what we've learnt is that the sacrifices made by so many should be honoured and remembered; no matter rank, nationality or religion, we are all equal in death.

■ **Adeen Irfan and Yusuf Khalid**



# Chemistry Olympiad 2018

Over the last few years, Camp Hill has developed a habit of sending students to International Olympiads, and this year, it was my turn. The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) is the apex of school-level chemistry, open to students from all over the world.

The first IChO was held in 1968 in Czechoslovakia, and so last summer's competition was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To celebrate this occasion, the 50<sup>th</sup> IChO was joint hosted for the first time in the competition's history, by Czechia and Slovakia. Coming back to these countries after 50 years, the competition has grown, from 18 participants and three countries to 300 participants from 76. The questions have grown harder to match, with the IChO now made up of a five hour theory and five hour practical, both demanding rigorous accuracy, speed, and techniques far beyond A-Level.

My journey to the IChO began in January, with the British Chemistry Olympiad Round 1, a competition open to all school age students. However, due to Dr Taylor's excellent training sessions, the school did a little too well, and, although five Camp Hill boys qualified for Round 2, only four were allowed to take part. With Firnaaz Mohideen in the unlucky fifth place, I scraped through in fourth, along with Jan Rudzki, Will Blay and Alex Byrne. Round 2 is a three night stay in Cambridge, where the Olympiad committee put us through tough theory and practical exams, to select a team for the IChO. Miraculously, I beat a number of very capable chemists to secure a top four spot.

With our A-Levels looming closer, the team had to balance IChO preparation with other exams, which resulted in the Olympiad training being crammed into ten days split between May and July. All parts of chemistry were covered, from the quantum harmonic oscillator to DNA and organic chemistry. Additionally, in July, we were joined by two lower-sixth students (including Alex Byrne) and were taught a number of practical techniques. The July camp finished with a five hour theory mock, before we were sent home to rest study some more.

Five days later, we returned to London Stansted loaded up with souvenirs, chemistry books, and the overwhelming pressure of representing the country. On the flight over, our mentor Richard took our minds off it by teaching us a number of concealed rules games, such as *'Moon on the Spoon'*. Those games did take our minds off it, as they continued to torture us for days. Once arriving in Bratislava, we met our guide Adam, before getting our first view of the accommodation and other teams. On that first day, we had a number of hours to relax, and so met many other teams, including the Koreans, the Dutch, and the Argentinians.

The next day, we headed to the opening ceremony, in the Bratislavan Town Hall. We talked to our mentors, some of whom had already taken the two papers, and heard speeches from the Slovak Minister for Education, and the IChO President. Then, each team was presented in turn, with a chance to wave our flag and our mascot. The ceremony was held in an old, non-air-conditioned hall, on a hot summer morning, so it was a relief to change out of our suits into something cooler for the afternoon at Cerveny Kamen Castle. After an afternoon of medieval activities, we enjoyed a meal in the castle dungeons with our mentors, our last chance to talk to them before they began reviewing the papers.

The Slovaks had put together a packed schedule and, over the next few days, we had a day trip to Banska Stiavnica, a mining town, and went to an activity park, along with some more mundane tasks of a lab safety lecture and



mineral water tasting. I was lucky not to have to deal with jet lag, but other countries did not have the same luxury, and everyone was looking for titbits of information about the upcoming practical. Our mentors had a difficult couple of days, as they had to inspect our lab equipment to make sure everything was clean. Then, after travelling to Prague, they had to discuss the practical paper, and argue that it was too hard, followed by an arduous day spent translating the paper from English (the official language) to the 'Queen's English'. I learned that our simple 'conical flasks' are actually called Erlenmeyer flasks by everyone else!

And so, the day of the practical arrived. A 6am wake up was followed by a nervous breakfast, but I felt basically ready for the mammoth practical ahead of me. The practical exam is always designed to have a range of techniques, and this year was no different. We had to synthesise, extract and filter two organic products, investigate a luminol clock reaction, and identify mineral water by titration. I managed to distinguish myself in the practical for all the wrong reasons: I burnt my finger on the hotplate, snapped a pipette and spilt my staining reagent over myself and the floor. Furthermore, you had to work at high speed and with a tiny amount of lab space. I came out the labs hot and exhausted. To my amazement, I'd managed



to make every reading, but some of those data points contradicted each other, so I was nervous about the result.

After a day of rest, we had our theory exam. I was woken up at 5am, had an even more nervous breakfast, and was waiting in the exam hall by 7am. The IChO President gave a short informative speech of which, being at the back of the hall, I heard approximately two words, and then we began. This theory paper was similar to papers I had done in practice, with eight questions on all parts of chemistry. However, what was different was the huge pressure, and the environment I did it in. I went into a bit of a daze, and so don't remember a huge amount of the theory paper, but I know I was working well on the first five questions, which were inorganic and physical. Then, I had to tackle the three organic questions at the end. Organic chemistry is my weakness, and this paper was no exception, as I only answered about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the questions, and relied heavily on error carried forwards. After finishing the theory paper, we quickly boarded a train to Prague, where we would spend the remainder of the IChO.



The Czechs refused to be outdone by the Slovaks, and so made the most of the two days we had in Prague, before the closing ceremony. We spent some time in Solvayovy Lomy, a limestone quarry outside Prague. That evening, we were given a chance to decorate some gingerbread (a national speciality), and socialise with the other teams.

At this time our mentors had enjoyed a few days off and had to get back to work. First they had to examine our papers, and try to understand where we went wrong. They then went into arbitration, which is to discuss our marks with the Olympiad Committee. In any places they thought the Committee had been harsh, they would have the opportunity to argue for extra marks which they did effectively.



While our mentors were working hard, we were relaxing in Prague. On the penultimate day we had a tour of Prague, giving us a chance to enjoy some traditional Czech food. However, the best part was when we were given free time, and the guides took this in their stride. We spent one evening on the roof of a Chemistry Department in Prague with the Uruguay team. We were trying to see the lunar eclipse, but also accidentally saw a meteor, and the ISS. Another evening, the guides had decided that now the exams were over, we needed to try Czech liquors. What followed was a great evening with the Korean team, with some surprisingly good liquors, including a few homemade ones.

On the final morning, we went on another city tour with the Uruguay team. As the Uruguay guide was a Prague native, he wanted to show us what he thought was important about Prague. This meant we visited the grave of Dvořák, a famous Czech composer, and some breathtaking views from the south of the city.

The tour was capped off with an Alchemy Museum, based in an old alchemy house. The

house was special, as the basement with the alchemical equipment had only been found in 2002, after flooding had collapsed tunnels in the street outside. The rooms were found in brilliant condition, with even a detailed recipe for how to produce four elixirs. The elixir of youth has been analysed to be 20% alcohol and contains copious amounts of opium, so it's clear that it made you feel younger – at least until the next morning! To cap it all off, the entrance from the house was hidden as a secret door in a bookshelf, like something out of Scooby Doo.

However, that closing ceremony loomed ever closer, and the British team was nervous. With the mentors resolutely refusing to give us any information, we sat through a rendition of *'The Moldeau'*, and saw both Honourable Mentions and Bronze Medal winners go up. After more waiting, I went up for my Silver Medal, but the rest of the team did one better, scoring three Golds. This medal haul is the UK's best every result at the IChO, and placed the UK team joint third in the world, tied with the Czechs and the Koreans.

At this point, I would like to thank a few important people. Camp Hill is a unique learning environment, made up of dedicated teachers and inventive students. This is demonstrated in the Chemistry Department, where a team of teachers who clearly love the subject work to get the best out of their students. This support net is then used by the students, who will bounce off each other to improve themselves and others. Without the work of my teachers, or my friends and classmates, I would not have got this far, and I see no reason why I should be the last student to enjoy such success.

The International Olympiads cover a range of subjects, including some more unusual ones like linguistics and philosophy. The chance to be part of such a gathering of like minds is rare, and I would highly recommend that anyone who has this opportunity seize it, be it in an Olympiad, or in something similar, like Model UN. The work you put in is hard, but what makes these events special is not the high calibre of students, but the mix of cultures.

■ John Hayton

## Chemistry Olympiad 2019

Yep, here we go again. In the UK Chemistry Olympiad back in January 2019, Camp Hill students again did themselves proud, with another crazy number of medals. Two students, Robert Hillier and I, both came in the top 30 in the country (I was lucky enough to secure the top mark of 69, which was nice). These were incredible achievements on an especially difficult paper.

The two of us had done well enough to qualify for Round 2, which involved a short residential in Cambridge. This consisted of some brief lectures, followed by a four hour practical exam and a four hour theoretical exam. Lovely. It transpired that I had managed to perform among the top four at this residential (despite subliming most of my organic product in the practical), and as such would represent the UK at the International Chemistry Olympiad, which was to be in Paris in 2019.

Having had an intensive training week at Cambridge in the interim, the four of us (Richard, Benji, Phol and myself) disembarked from the Eurostar to Paris, which was hitting temperatures of 35°C. This turned out to be more or less the lowest temperature we would encounter on the trip! We were picked up by our amazing guide, Elsa, and then took a coach to the hotel complex. Having had our phones taken off us to stop us cheating (?) we had no choice but to spend the evening socialising and playing sports with the other teams, and we quickly met students from Finland, Hungary and New Zealand, who were all scarily good at Frisbee. The organisers facilitated more socialising by splitting the teams up for their bedrooms –

Phol and I shared a room with Jiwoo from South Korea.

The next day began with a lavish opening ceremony at the *Maison de la Chimie* featuring a talk by Jean-Pierre Sauvage, recipient of the 2016 Nobel Prize, as well as a welcome from the French Education Minister himself. After a nice lunch, Elsa took us to see the beautiful *Jardin des Tuileries*, as well as some bizarre architecture that the French love to hate. As the day grew hotter, we then had a guided tour of the thankfully air-conditioned Louvre, and although we didn't actually get to see the Mona Lisa herself (there was a 40-minute queue!) we were shown several other well-known works in the gallery, such as the famous *Venus de Milo*. **[Editor's note: the Mona Lisa is very small.]**

The following morning we were bussed out to Versailles to see the famous palace and gardens. Despite the mercury hitting 40 by the afternoon, we enjoyed a lovely picnic alongside the Grand Canal, and the tradition of stealing the other teams' mascots kicked off, with the Fins very unstealthily taking the USA's tortoise, and defending their capture by brandishing a large leek, which was itself apparently stolen from the French team. Meanwhile, we were more diplomatic, and instead learnt some traditional Polish games from their team. This was also the day that our new Prime Minister was announced, but having had our phones taken off us we were all unaware of who our own Prime Minister was until we got back to the hotel and watched the enthusiastic TV report from *Russia Today* (the only English news channel we could find) that Boris had indeed won.



Luckily we were watching alongside Albert, from the USA, who had undergone a similar experience to us a few years ago.

Finally, the day of the practical came. In the sweltering lab, which didn't have air-con but did have a lovely view of the Eiffel Tower from



the ninth floor, I undertook five hours of practical chemistry, which, being in Paris, mostly involved finding out how much of various chemicals were in a sample of wine provided for us. Unfortunately, leftover substances could not be taken home at the end. That evening, we met competitors from Taiwan, Canada and Estonia, and bonded over how much we agreed that we messed up the practical.

Before the day of the theoretical exam, we had a day off, which we spent on a boat tour of the Seine followed by a bus tour of Paris. We probably would have enjoyed these a lot more, were it not the hottest day ever recorded in Paris (45°C!). Still, we took advantage of the opportunity to do some more socialising and gift-swapping, meeting delegates from Uzbekistan, Spain, and even Syria.

The temperature remained high long into the night,, and the combination of temperature and nerves meant that I can confidently say nobody got an awful lot of sleep the night before the theoretical. The UK team however managed to get ourselves incredibly well hyped up, and sheer adrenaline turned out to be enough to get us all through the challenging five hour exam, with topics ranging from interlocking ring systems (Sauvage's speciality), through quantum conjugation, to the discovery of the element iodine.

After the exam, we had a long bus journey to the world-renowned Ecole Polytechnique, where we were reunited with our mentors and, most importantly, our phones. We then enjoyed a lovely buffet, followed by a disco. If I have learned nothing else from this experi-

ence, it is that chemists can bloody well dance. Richard's moves in particular were both outrageous and incredible.

With all the exams behind us, we were free to enjoy some of the sights in Paris with our guide, who took us to the majestic Sacré-Cœur, as well as around the picturesque streets of Montmartre. That evening, we met up with the mentors again at Trocadéro, a platform with an incredible vista of the Eiffel Tower in all its glory. They then were kind enough to buy us a drink at an insanely expensive café (€7.50 for a Coke!), before cruelly deciding to point out every mistake, we had made in the theoretical and practical exams. This was not fun. Later however, we went back to see the Tower lit up beautifully against the night sky, a sight I am sure I will never ever forget.

Following a visit to the beautiful Science Museum, the Palais de la Découverte, the next day, we sat through a very bizarre presentation, which was basically all the IChO sponsors trying (and I think it's fair to say, failing) to persuade us to work for them in the future. This was also the final day of the Tour de France, and while Dr Taylor was busy inside trying (and I think it's fair to say, succeeding) to intimidate the organisers into giving us more marks, we stood at the side of a road in town watching all the cyclists go past at terrific speed. After having a look at the still impressive Notre Dame, we did some more gift-swapping, and finally got to meet the Australian team – our greatest rivals, even though we always thrash them.

The day of the closing ceremony had arrived, and we were all sat tensely in our seats

as the medals were being read out. After what seemed like a million speeches from various organisers, dignitaries, and also some kind of acrobatics thing with a hula-hoop specialist (it made no sense to us either), the awards were read out. Phol got a High Bronze, Benji and I got Silver, and Richard got the lowest possible score to achieve a Gold Medal – a distinction that the UK has now held for two years in a row. Being ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the world, I wasn't too far off a gold myself, but given I was ranked higher than the other three Camp Hillians to have reached the UK team, I was thrilled with my performance, as was demonstrated in my enthusiasm at the rave in a nearby Science Museum which followed... it was cooler than it sounds.

We left Paris the next day with a myriad of new friends, experiences, and memories. Of course, it is very competitive to get onto the UK team in the first place, and many take 'being the best; incredibly seriously, but the Olympiad itself is so much more than that. It is about visiting places you would never otherwise have the chance to visit, meeting people you would never otherwise have the chance to meet, and uniting in a shared love of the subject, regardless of who is the best or not.

My thanks go to the Chemistry Department, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and Cambridge University for all their support. Most especially, my immense thanks go to Dr Taylor, who not being content with guiding just my efforts to the IChO, also trained the whole UK team, and accompanied us to Paris.

■ Alex Byrne

## Aosta Valley, Italy

**O**n the 19 July 2019, 32 Year 10 boys left school to begin their summer holidays in the Aosta Valley, Northern Italy. We travelled by coach and ferry for a total of 25 hours. Upon arrival, we stepped out of the coach and were hit by a beautiful wave of 34 degree heat which was a pleasant surprise for us all.

We explored our campsite, home for the next week: a small space but including our own volleyball court (which was in use constantly on a daily basis). As well as this there was a field which was used for touch rugby (congratulations to Mr Rudd for scoring the highest number of tries) and football when we had free time, as well as the marquee in which we ate every day. After settling in, we went on a short walk to the nearby town of Villeneuve, where the boys had the opportunity to buy ice cream from a gelateria (special thanks to Matteo for helping everyone to order in Italian).

Our first full day was a relaxed start. We spent the morning in the town of Aosta where we explored shops and places to eat. The shops sold souvenirs and the cafes had some interest-

ing meals such as a Nutella pizza. We spent the afternoon at a local swimming pool where we were able to take in the views, whilst cooling off, as the temperature was around 30 degrees which none of us was used to. In the evening, a group of us went to the tight rope course, where we had to complete a series of obstacles in the trees including zip wires and beams requiring skill and balance.

On the following day, we travelled into the mountains, where we saw stunning views of the Italian Alps. There we did a variety of activities; we went on a hike along the river, taking in the breath-taking scenery, and also did bouldering and abseiling. Whilst the prospect of abseiling was scarier for some than others, the instructors were very encouraging, allowing everyone to go at their own pace. Those that found abseiling more difficult were encouraged by the prospect of bouldering, much closer to the ground. However this did prove to be quite challenging for some because even though it was closer to the ground which helped mentally, it was a much more physically demanding activity which involved going in pairs and spotting each other in case someone slipped. All in all the activities proved to be challenging but



fun. In the evening, some of us went into town for pizza whilst the rest got to either relax in our tents, play volleyball or make use of the field.

The next day was spent in the mountains again, with the backdrop of a glacial waterfall, where we took part in a number of activities. Most spent the morning gorge-scrambling in





an icy glacial water. We had to slowly make our way up to the top and along the way did a few jumps into the water and slides down the rock. We also had to wade through currents of water doing a crab walk so that we didn't get carried away by the current and climbed up some slippery rocks but eventually we made it to the top where there was a waterfall, which made even the strongest swimmers apprehensive. Despite our fears, in the end the experience was amazing and was something to remember. The afternoon involved the boys climbing up a rock face, which was daunting considering we had to trust our friends enough to belay us. This was followed by an activity called the squeeze, in which we climbed in and out of cracks between and under boulders. The tight spaces made some feel a little claustrophobic, but everyone attempted part of the course. Some were harder than others, forcing some of the most flexible people into some awkward positions but there were multiple routes so we could take easier routes if needed.

Next came the most anticipated day of the week, white-water rafting. We had spent the previous evening with an instructor, being taught various commands, and were keen to get on the water. The entire day was spent in an eight-man raft speeding down a fast flowing



river with rough water. Whilst being nervous at first, all boys found the experience enjoyable. In parts we were even allowed to jump out of the raft and coast down the river, particularly funny when Mr Rudd and Mr Rossiter were seen holding hands so as not to drift apart. We had a break in between for lunch and then we went for a short walk back to our rafts to get onto some rougher waters which no-one came out of dry. When we finished we swam to shore, hauled our rafts onto land again, and headed back to camp where we all washed off ready for our evening meal.

We spent the following day at a picturesque lake, where we spent the day canoeing, kayaking, raft-building and paddle boarding. We played a number of games on the lake, with some boys preferring to spend more time in the water than in their boats. We were particularly amused to see Ibrahim, Omar, Eashan and Rohan clinging to a paddle board as they drifted across the lake. Unfortunately, our time was cut



short by an incoming thunderstorm, which built into an amazing spectacle by sundown.

On the final day, we walked into the mountains to a ruined castle and amazing views. We popped into Villeneuve once more to buy snacks for the journey home, then travelled back to the campsite where, much to our dismay, we had to prepare to depart. The trip was regarded by most as the best they have been on during their time at Camp Hill. Free time, which there was plenty of, was spent in a multitude of ways; mostly spent playing volleyball, rugby or football. We must, of course, thank all the staff who ran the trip, especially Mr Burgess and Ms Freeman for countless hours spent organizing it. Thanks in addition to Mrs Bourne, who showed great care for the boys throughout, and to Mr Rudd and Mr Rossiter. These teachers ensured that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

■ **Jack Johnson and Joe Matin**





## Y9 Trip to Paris and Rouen 2019

It was an early start (to Day 1) as we met at school at 7 o'clock, eager and ready to go. We boarded the coaches, with 9S and 9K being lucky enough to have Mrs Balkham on their coach! 9J and 9M and the three Year 12 pupils, on the other hand, seemed to have drawn the short straw as they were stuck with Mr Renault! We departed to a mass of parents waving their children goodbye; some of those present were no doubt, looking forward to the peace and quiet the absence of their children would bring.

Before long, we were on the way to Dover to catch the ferry across the Channel. On the way to Dover, we made a stop at Beaconsfield Service Station, where predictably, the boys flocked to McDonalds and, as per usual the ice cream machine was not working. We set off again and the boys chilled around and played games on their phones. Before we noticed, we were in Dover. We got off the coaches and stepped on the labyrinth that was the ferry. Some shopped, some took squad photos and some played in the children's section of the arcade.

We were soon in Calais and hit the road for Rouen. Time passed quickly and we were soon at the meeting point where the host families waited. Tired, we met our hosts, heading to their houses for a lovely evening meal and a good night's sleep before the adventure really started.

### Day 2

To start the day off, we had a tour of Rouen. We split up into three groups, each led by a Tunisian French-speaking girl, and we started with the 'Cathédrale de Rouen'. We all thought it was very interesting, mainly because of its spectacular appearance and we enjoyed going inside. After that, we had a treasure hunt, which involved answering a few questions in French about the town. Each group was given a set of clues and when we had answered all the questions, the letters spelt out the name of the crea-



tor of the town. We really enjoyed that because it was a fun way of practising a bit of French and learning about the town. Next, we ate our lunch in a small park. Other than the dog who chased everyone around wanting everyone's food, there was not much to talk about!

The food tasting was up next. We had a choice as to whether to take part or not, but most people joined in. Firstly, we tried different types of cheese. Most of us thought it was nice, except for the cheese haters of course. Afterwards, we tried some 'animals'. There was a variety of seafood such as oysters, snails and shrimps. Funnily enough, many seemed to like the snails, but the oysters did not go down too well with everyone. Finally, we had some apple juice and some chewy bread with caramel on it. This appealed and some even bought it.

After that, we had some free time to relax and buy some souvenirs to take back home, but some wasted the opportunity and bought a McDonalds. However, the 'clever' people took this as a chance to buy some local food such as pain au chocolat or macarons, using our French; the learning we had experienced from none other than Mrs Balkham had paid off.

To end the day, we all went to a 360-degree dome called 'Panorama XXL'. The theme was the Titanic and we all thought it was the best feature of the day, it was different to what we expected it to be, but we still managed to enjoy it. It involved a big dome with a picture of the Titanic all around us, and every few seconds it changed colour. We stayed there for about half an hour but, even though it was not a lot of time, we thoroughly enjoyed our experience there. In the end, Day 2 of the trip was probably one of the best days just because of the number of fun things we did and, overall, we really enjoyed it.

### Day 3

After a great day in the town of Rouen, we woke up earlier than the previous day to get going to the small seaside town of Honfleur. The trip was supposed to begin at half eight; however due to a group of us being late, we ended up leaving an hour later... After sitting in the coach for about an hour, we began to see glimpses of the beautiful and serene

town; decorated with water fountains placed every couple of metres. We knew that we were just moments away from the beach. The sun greeted us as we set foot on the sand and a lot of us began walking towards the sea, which was quite far away. Meanwhile, others began creating a football pitch on the sand for a game of Brazilian football. On the way to the shore, we saw several crabs and even a jellyfish! Most people ran away, but Somto courageously touched it with his fingers. We had thought that we would be going around Honfleur, but due to already being so late, we had to head back to Rouen for a game of bowling. We had such a great time on the beach that we did not mind not seeing the town.

We all enjoyed the game of bowling and ate delicious waffles for a very cheap price for the taste! Next, we had a short walk down the road to McDonalds (again) where we had some time to get something to eat. Many of us used this as a moment to relax and talk with our friends. Towards the end of the day, we went on a peaceful river cruise where we all were surprised to see a smaller duplicate of the Statue of Liberty. After the cruise, we had a short drive back to the meeting point to meet with our host families. We had a lovely meal and then tried to go to sleep, yet most of us were just thinking about the next day with excitement... Disneyland Paris!

### Day 4

Finally the trip we had all been waiting for, our visit to Disneyland! After grave warnings from Mrs Balkham about how we must not be late, everyone assembled by the coaches extremely early, eager to get going. Arriving at Disneyland one and a half hours late, and being stuck on a boiling coach for about three hours, everyone was eager to start moving and trying out the rides. Highlights included Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril, Big Thunder Mountain, Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, RC Racers and, the favourite, Rock'n Roller Coaster. Regrettably, Hyperspace Mountain was closed for refurbishment.

Other notable points of the day included: waiting two hours for Pirates of the Caribbean, only to be disappointed by how tame it was



and the horrified response of the students when we realised we were expected to put our bags between our legs on the rides. And the tense moment when Pranav lost his wallet... only to find it in his bag. We all marvelled over the fact that everything was ridiculously overpriced (paying 35 euros for a giant Minnie Mouse toy) and left many students virtually broke, but with a prize selection of Disneyland merchandise. Overall, this was an extremely enjoyable day and by far the most popular day on the trip. It left many of us Disneyland fans for years to come!

#### Day 5

Today was the last day and after many goodbyes and thank you's in broken French, we all set out for our journey home. Everyone woke up earlier than usual as the teachers had reminded us countless times the night before to NOT be late. However, to our surprise many were hypocritical (not naming specific staff).

At last, everyone was present and we set off. On the coach most boys were trying to catch up on sleep yet excited for their last stop at the French supermarkets. One and a half



hours of going into French shops and buying sweets and chocolate. Also, the teachers brought great benefit to the wine economy of France in this hour. When time ran out, everyone rushed to the coach and prepared for our journey on the Eurotunnel. The ride back to good old England was approximately three hours but sweets helped cover the time, and we arrived back at school at 5 o'clock before finally finding our worried-sick parents.

Thinking back on the trip, it was definitely something to treasure and an unforgettable experience. Thank you for all the teachers who helped organise such an amazing trip and special thanks to Mrs Balkham for the countless hours making all of this possible.

■ **George Hill, Niranjan Kumar, Jaward Manzoor, Bohan Qiu and Akshat Sharma**

## Y7 Trip to France

On 23 May 2019 (Day 1), I woke up at around 5 am and I was super-excited about going on my first ever trip with my new Year 7 friends. As planned, we all reached and sat on the coach by 7 am, and after saying the final goodbyes to parents, the coach did not actually start until 7:30 am – so we sat there for half an hour playing card games, talking and listening to music, which pretty much continued for the whole journey.

As it was the first day of the French trip, I was excited about the night ahead in Paris. The host family were lovely and they had a cute dog, whose name was Buncha. They served us margherita and pepperoni pizza. This made my day, as the pizza was simply amazing. It was a tiring night and everyone in the two consecutive rooms fell asleep at 10 o'clock.

#### Day 2

After a sound sleep, we woke up refreshed. We ate breakfast first and then went to see the huge and majestic Montparnasse Tower, which is 210 m tall and is made of chunks of dark marble. It was the first time I had entered a building, which was a million times taller than me (ha ha ha)! The panoramic view from the top floor was amazing and everyone enjoyed the scenery overlooking the Eiffel Tower, though it was very sad to see the burnt Notre Dame Cathedral. I remembered my mum showing me the pictures taken when I was a year old in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral. Everyone in our group felt sad looking at the plight of the historic cathedral.

However overall, this was a happy experience and it was amazing to see the people



on the ground, who simply looked like pixels. There were souvenir shops and cafes, which seemed to lure quite a lot of tourists including me. It was good to hang around with friends and teachers as we explored the wonders of the fast lift taking us to every floor.

Next, we went on the Bateau Mouche, which is a boat trip down the Seine. Many of us occupied our time photographing the sights. We had to wait for good 30 minutes for a boat but it was worth it. Humorously, as we were on a boat 'trip', Paigel nearly tripped out of the boat afterwards. While there, I took quite a lot of photos and was surprised to the number of tall buildings and beautiful bridges, as well as the nice tourists on the riverside who waved as we passed. Everyone enjoyed the long boat ride because of the cool breeze, a relief from

the scorching sun. There was a lot of space to sit and walk around on the boat. This long ride made everyone very hungry, so we had our packed lunch given to us by our host family. It felt good to eat with friends. Nearly everyone was sharing (especially Aayan Nagra) so people were smiling and this seemed to create a bigger friendship chain.

After lunch, we visited the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, surrounded by beautifully arranged flowerbeds. Mr Renault seemed jolly and decided to send Ms McCulloch, as well as the other slowcoaches at the back on a wild goose chase. The sun seemed to be at its peak and I stopped every minute for a drink. According to Mr Renault, this was normal French weather, but according to me, this was the complete opposite of Antarctica. The Museum looked



quite old and filthy from the outside, but as I stepped in it was a different world. Full of model T-Rexes, hyenas, mammoths and sharks, they all seemed so real as if they had just been stuck there.

### Day 3

After the 'try not to sleep challenge' the night before with my fellow roommates, I could not find the strength to get myself out of bed on the Saturday morning. Everyone else was fast asleep, which was surprising considering how lively my friends had been the previous night. When we finally did get up we decided to play hide and seek, which was an entertaining way of spending the morning. There were all sorts of places to hide including the extended bathroom, secret attic and even under the bed. Finally, we decided to play football outside for 15 minutes and our host family came outside to get us back to the meeting place for a visit to Vaux-le-Vicomte Château. This would be the only visit for Saturday and after spending the morning with the host family, I decided to make full use of it. I enjoyed walking around with my friends: Mekaeel and Hemsai. It was a very long wait until lunch, and I was quite disappointed because I had to walk a long way back to explore the place. The scenery was amazing. There were quite a lot of interesting things to see. My favourite part was the fountain because it splashed on everyone excluding me and we all enjoyed it. Mr Renault told us that a famous French landscape architect André le Nôtre, had

created the beautiful pattern the lawn. Overall, the day was relaxing, so I was not that tired.

### Day 4

Finally, on our last day, we went to the much-awaited Parc Asterix. Everyone knew that this would be the highlight of the trip, so we decided to spend our time fruitfully. We had to go back to the meeting place every two hours to ensure our safety. There were countless number of things to try out and it all seemed too much for me to process. I was flabbergasted. There were quite a lot



of things to explore and the park was packed with millions of people walking in different directions. Michael and I went on many thrilling roller coasters such as Osiris (three times), Tonnerre de Zeus (five times) and the La Trace du Hourra (six times). These were the best rides out of all, a thrilling experience with the big drops and the moments before it. Nobody knew which one was the scariest as they all had their own unique surprises. I spent quite a lot of money playing the carnival games. After so many attempts, I won fluffy pink pandas for my sister, which she loved so much and I gave one to my friend Michael. After a tiresome day, we went back to the host family for a sound sleep.



### Day 5

On Monday morning, we thanked the host family for the hospitality as well as food and got ready for the long journey back home. Everything went smoothly, but we reached school much later than the expected arrival time, which made our parents anxious. However, all of us wished we could have another trip like this because it was amazing. Everyone got along nicely and thanks to all the teachers for all the fun and care given to us. Altogether, it was a good experience to remember which will remain in my memory forever.

■ **Krishna Nair**

## VDI Trip to Frankfurt

13 – 16 June 2019

The trip began with an early arrival at the Lufthansa check-in desk at Birmingham. Despite it being practically night-time, everyone seemed in good humour. We quickly had our luggage taken and all proceeded to go through Birmingham Airport's highly sensitive security system.

The hour we had spare quickly disappeared and we soon found ourselves sat down in aeroplane seats, and munching on our second mid-morning snack, courtesy of the airline. Once we arrived at Frankfurt, we quickly left the airport

and moved onto our next mode of cross-city transport, which dropped us just a ten-minute walk away from our partners at Schule am Ried. This only allowed Mrs Thomson enough time to teach us three new verbs for the morning.

We met up with our host partners in the school playground, and all quickly left to go to our new family homes. For most of us that evening, we met up again back at the school and enjoyed some quality speaking practice, spaghetti ice cream, and in the cases of some, a refreshingly German school concert, which we all left feeling proudly European.

The following morning we met at the Enkheim Terminus, looking swanky in our





school uniform, or at least, so we told ourselves. As we observed about fifty children from the school stop to stare at our strange attire, it not only became apparent how silly school uniform really is, but also the amount of attention we were likely to receive that day – for better or for worse.

We arrived at the University of Applied Sciences and, after a quick selfie underneath the European flag, we entered the building to go and check out the rooms we would later be presenting in. Interestingly we were no longer the only foreign school at the event, as there was also a school from the more exotic Uzbekistan. Yet we wouldn't let this hold us back, especially as for the first time, we were having to compete in the competition: obviously, there was much at stake!

Our first group, consisting of Joe Matin, Will Taylor and Udayan Nayyar, talked about the polarisation of light, and managed to impress; providing the other two groups with a high benchmark to pass. The physical aspect of their presentation really won the audience of German schoolchildren over: as they used a rainbow slinky to prove a point – a highpoint of the presentation. Udayan also managed to battle through in the questions section, providing the panel of tough judges with some bullet-proof responses.

After a quick break and some exquisite bubbly apple juice, it was the turn of Peter Kipax, Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov and Kishan Sambhi, and again they did not fail to impress, providing the audience with an insightful demonstration of the Bernoulli Effect, and some typically Deniz-style visual animations. The final group – Suleman Abdullah, Rufus Hall and George Lanham then gave their presentation on how salt can affect seed germination. This group struggled with some tough questions about how they could extend the experiment further and struggled to pass the laser pointer without dropping it! However, all the groups felt a deep sense of accomplishment at the end.

This was followed by a tour of one of the University's workshops, where all nine of us were stood for half an hour pretending that we knew precisely what the German guide was



talking about. In the end we were forced to rely on the fluency and expertise of Suleman Abdullah, to inform us that the talk had been on the University's work on cars and their environmental impact. This of course explained the seemingly batcave-like surroundings.

As soon as we re-entered the sunshine, after leaving the underground workshop, we returned to the lecture theatre, for some exciting afternoon entertainment. We saw all kinds of things: some drama by some students on alcohol in the Native-American communities of the USA; a presentation on enzymes involving ply-wood cut-outs; and a science presentation involving large quantities of liquid nitrogen.

The end of the day was nearing, with only the brief prize-giving to commence. In the end we all came away with more than just Amazon vouchers and memory sticks: we came away with a sense of achievement; with a sense of pride; with a sense of accomplishment; and with some new phone numbers. It was around five o'clock by this point, so we were all eager to head back to meet our partners at Enkheim, ready for a weekend of some intense intercity voyaging.

The weekend for most involved a lot of German food, getting to know Frankfurt's public transport systems very well, some sightseeing and enjoying the great views of the city from a number of its vantage points. The number of festivals going on in and around Frankfurt that weekend seemed to be huge, so we were keen to take a bite of this German convivial culture.

After a packed weekend, it was time to bid farewell to our partners, and head off to the airport, everyone slightly glummer than on the way in. After waiting for a certain plane-spotter to finish up, we were ready to move, but of course not without finding time for twenty chicken nuggets and fries to be digested: by this point, the fast food thing was practically ritual.

It was great to get to experience a snippet of German life again, or for some for the first time. It's experiences such as these that you come away from not only having tried some new food, met some new people but also having formed new friendships. Especially under the current political and social climate, we cannot take experiences such as this for granted, and it is wonderful that they are still able to go ahead.

For that, we would all like to thank Oliver Fengler, for his help with the translations in our presentations; Dr Lavery, for her expert advice on the biology experiment, write up and presentation; Mr Tucker, for his guidance for the physics groups and his presence on the trip and Mrs Thomson, for organising it, for her help with our presentations, and without whom this fantastic opportunity would be unavailable to us. It really has been a great experience, watching our hard work pay off and we would encourage anyone interested to get involved in years to come.

■ **Rufus Hall**

## German Exchange 2018

We set off on 19 September 2018 to fly to Frankfurt, Germany. We met at the Lufthansa check-in desk at 06:55 to board at 09:00 in order to arrive for 12:00 (Berlin time).

Lufthansa, the biggest of all the German airlines, provided us with refreshments such as Coke and the choice between a sandwich or a cookie. Naturally, everyone chose the cookie and we were in a good mood, however tired after such an early start. A few minutes before landing, we became excited as we had spotted

land and were blown away by the sheer size of the airport and, of course, all dashed off to the toilet once we got inside.

After we were finished with customs, we had two packed trains to catch in the sweltering heat with our luggage followed by a fifteen-minute walk with the temperature still in the mid-twenties. Finally, we met up with our partners followed by an awkward drive home and evening.

The next day we woke up with spirits high, ready for the packed day ahead. We began the day with two lessons with our exchange partners attempting and failing to understand a

word that they said!

As a group, we met at our rendezvous point and walked approximately a mile to the U-Bahn, which is the German Underground. We arrived at the Main Tower (pronounced mi-an tow-er) and travelled roughly fifty-six floors up, staying at the top of the tower for twenty minutes as we were in awe of the views.

Next up, we went to the zoo. After being given half an hour of free time, we split off into groups to go and explore, but actually most people spent the bulk of their time petting goats. Finally, we went to the gift shop to buy souvenirs, but more importantly, ice creams to



cool off from the near-thirty degree heat. After a long day of travelling, we all went back to our host families. In the evening, most people travelled to the park. As soon as we arrived, everyone ran to the basket swing where we would spend the next couple of hours.

Friday was the most anticipated day of the trip, as we were about to go to a Roman Fortress. Activities were to include spear throwing and archery. With everyone at the train station we all set off for another day full of activities. On the way there a group of us decided to stretch our legs, in result we ended up doing all the Fortnite dances possible. At 09:40, we arrived at the fortress and at first glance, it looked monstrous. Initially, we had a tour around and the guide showed us the soldier's sleeping areas, Roman God's shrines and armoury. 12 o'clock was lunchtime but we all scooted it down within seconds so that we could move onto the archery and spear throwing.

Special mention goes to Toby Taylor for hitting bullseye! And Frau Thompson for managing to hit the target! However, alas, nothing could last forever so we went home to our family and collapsed into beds readying ourselves for the Host Family Weekend. The next morning most people woke up refreshed. We can't describe everyone's weekend but activities included: Laser Tag, Bowling, Go Karting, Ice Hockey, Football and many other exciting experiences. Laser Tag was the most popular experience because who doesn't like shooting their friends?!

Finally, Monday was here, the last day of activities and our last night sleeping at a foreign home. Energy was low, but excitement was high! Chocolate! We went to Palmengarten where we explored the uses of cocoa beans, immersing ourselves in the wildlife. We even tried a freshly fermented bean, which is 100% pure dark chocolate, the most bitter thing many

of us had ever tasted in our life. So after learning what it was that made chocolate we proceeded to make our own! Out of the whole group, only Jobe concocted chocolate that actually didn't taste anything like chocolate! Apart from that, for most of us, it was delicious and we felt that the treat was well deserved! When we returned some of us went shopping or some to the park and it is said that there was the biggest basket swing the area had ever seen!

Finally it was time to go back to England for 12:55 but we were not done yet! We still had to complete our new music video full of cringey fortnite dances and what better place than the airport. The full video will be out soon!

We wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in organising the trip, it truly was an amazing experience so thank you so much Mr Rudd, Mrs Wells and Mrs Thompson.

■ **Bo Han Qiu, Milan Ram and Toby Taylor**

## German Homestay 2019

On Wednesday 27 March, twenty-two German students arrived in the UK for the 2019 German Homestay. After an initial awkward time where we were paired with our partners, some things became evident: most of the Germans were about a foot taller than us, and that some of us had been given extremely out-of-date photographs!

On Thursday, we dropped off our partners, and they went to the city centre for the rest of the day. In addition, my partner Nima, enjoyed Coventry Cathedral where they spent their time on the Friday.

After school on Friday Caleb Wilton and I took our exchange partners (Leah was Caleb's Partner) to Rush Trampoline Park, where we had a lot of fun, bouncing, throwing dodgeballs at each other and pummelling each other with battering rams.

That weekend the Germans spent their time with their host families meaning that Nima could do the one thing that he'd always dreamt about: watch Aston Villa. So, on Sat-



urday afternoon, Nima, my brother, my dad, Hamish McGhee, Hamish's partner Kejara and I travelled to watch Aston Villa play Blackburn Rovers. Disappointingly, we watched a wasteful Villa scrape a 2-1 win on the day, thanks to goals from Tammy Abraham and Tyrone Mings. Following that we went to Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday, going to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

On their last day, our partners travelled to Warwick Castle and had a guided tour around. It was strange on the last night, knowing that

Nima was leaving, after such a good week.

Finally, on the Tuesday, after all the Year 8s had dropped off their partners, the German Homestay was over. Overall, even though I was still in England, I learnt a lot about German culture and their lifestyle. I would like to thank Frau Wells for organising the exchange and I am looking forward to going to Frankfurt next October.

■ **Ren Zhi Jenson Howse**



## Berlin Trip

The Berlin trip was sold to RS, History, Art and German students from Years 11 to 13 as a once in a lifetime educational experience that would allow us to immerse ourselves in a foreign culture and learn more about our respective subjects. Cynically, we all saw it as just another school trip abroad where we'd have to endure the educational aspects for the free time with our friends. However, this was no ordinary trip.

Fortunately, we were not subject to the typical twenty-hour coach trip, but instead travelled by a quick direct flight to Berlin arriving at the Meininger hotel the same day. The hotel had everything from a ball pit (used extensively by Nabeel) to free Wi-Fi, but most importantly, a pool table. It was around this pool table that we whiled away most of our free time, fighting for pride and bragging rights with spectators watching in awe as Harry 'Ronnie O'Sullivan' Yate potted black after black, fending off all challengers including the formidable Mr Parkinson.

The mornings brought sighs at the early start, but the range of food available at the breakfast buffet perked us all up. It was at this point that we realized that we were a mere stone's throw away from the Reichstag (the German Parliament) and next door to Berlin's central train station, Hauptbahnhof. This station had the beautiful German architecture we would come to appreciate throughout the trip; but most importantly, it also contained the finest and most iconic of all German restaurants... a *McDonalds*.

We commuted everywhere via over-ground and underground double decker trains and plenty of trams, enjoying the ever efficient German public transport and managing the remarkable feat of not losing anyone, despite some people's best efforts. Our destinations brought us the prospect of spending hours looking at pretentious art, wandering aimlessly through museums and memorials, but once again, this was no ordinary trip.

Visiting modern and classical art galleries or historical museums is not something we

would normally do in our free time, but on this trip, allowed freedom to see the exhibits we wanted to, we all found ourselves immersed in a world of culture and expression – from breathtaking interactive art exhibitions to stunning impressionist paintings. We lost ourselves, sometimes literally, in these places which opened our eyes up to a whole new culture. Berlin is a city that has broken free of restraint and while our visits to the Stasi Prison and Holocaust Memorials provided us with a sobering reminder of Berlin's dark past, the iconic Berlin Wall and elegant Neues Synagogue gave the impression of a city reborn.

The free time and evenings were spent exploring the vibrant city and malls, but perhaps the best memories were of the time we spent talking, joking and laughing around with friends old and new, during this brilliant, eye opening and extraordinary trip.

We would like to thank Ms Lamb, Ms McCulloch, Mr Parkinson and especially Ms Freeman for enduring five days with us, and for organizing the best Camp Hill trip, and one that we will never forget.

■ **Gurvinder Bhojie  
and Ahmed Syed**





# German Work Experience Trip

This year's work experience trip to Frankfurt was an absolute success, from the amount of German learnt by the boys, to the amount of fun we had exploring Frankfurt and even less obvious aspects of the trip such as the sweltering weather, which peaked at 38°C.

After a painless check-in experience at Birmingham Airport we began the trip confidently and after an hour and a half's flight, Mrs Wells accompanied by all seven of the Years 11 and 12 boys landed in Frankfurt, ready to immerse themselves in the German experience.

We collected our bags at the airport, and worked our way through the winding maze that is the German train system. The U7 and S9 trains took us to our meeting point with the host families; at the Schule am Ried, our exchange school in Enkheim. Then a short trip on the bus took the fortunate majority of us quickly to our host families, where introductions were made and gifts were given to those who would be kindly letting us stay with them until the 28 June.

Friday morning was occupied with visits to our employers and an opportunity to familiarise ourselves the travel arrangement we would need to undertake to our placements. We then spent the afternoon exploring the Frankfurt Altstadt, the old part of town, and the main tourist area too, guided by Mrs Wells and Frau Konietzny, the teacher from the Schule am Ried who had organised the work placements for us.

We spent the weekend with our host families before we began at the different placements; this year we had boys at an advertising agency, a primary school, a kindergarten, a hospital and the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. As you can imagine, these places all offered a very diverse range of experiences, but they all had one thing in common: the boys had to speak in German. This made the work experience a valuable opportunity



to advance our German speaking skills and to notice the more subtle quirks of the spoken language. The employers were very welcoming and ensured that we all had a pleasant time.

The placements did not take up the whole of our time in Frankfurt, and we were able to

food from all over the world, and of course the famous Frankfurt sausages. A trip to the viewing deck of the Main Tower gave us a view of the famous Frankfurt skyline and streets lined with German shops of all kinds. This allowed for some interesting purchases of German snacks or gifts for family members back home in England.

Closer to home, Bergen-Enkheim offered many fun things for us to do, such as the huge Riedbad Swimming Pool and the School Festival that took place on Thursday. Along with a quality doner shop by the station that some of the boys visited an unhealthy amount of times. Enkheim also had its very own shopping centre, the Hessen Center, in which the boys and teachers met twice during the week for Spaghettiis and catch-up chat. The first meeting was on Monday and we discussed our initial thoughts of our work experiences with both Frau Wells and Frau Thomson, but the second visit allowed us to take advantage of some school-funded impressive looking ice cream.

On the day before we were to leave Germany we met again and looked back on the week and the fun we had at our placements, the German we had learnt, as we realised that our experiences were over.

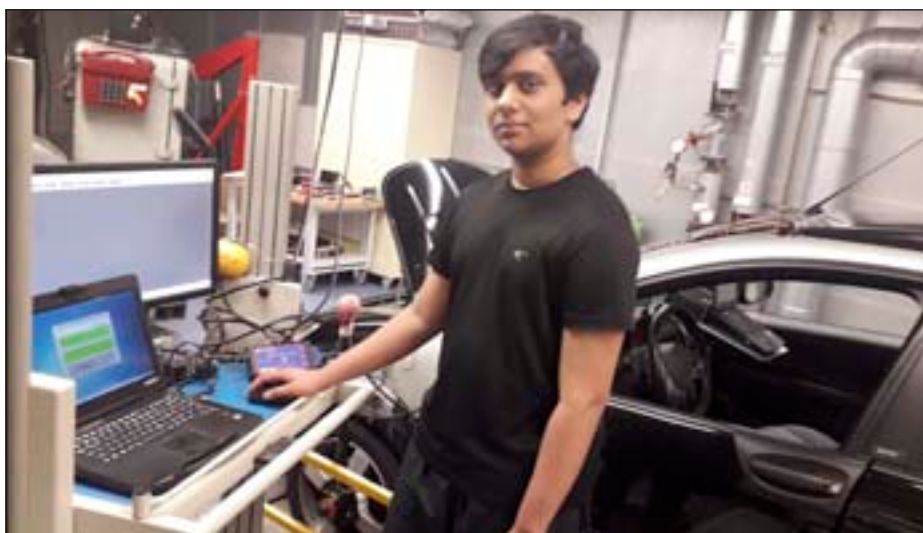
Saying goodbye to our employers and families with heavy hearts, we found our way to Enkheim Station for one last train journey to Frankfurt Airport. We landed at Birmingham Airport, tired and relieved, back in England as our trip to Germany had finally concluded.

The trip was an incredible experience for all the boys, and we would like to thank Frau Wells for organising the trip, Frau Konietzny for organising the boys' families to stay with and the work placements, as well as Frau Thomson who made the work experience visits. We had an incredible experience in Frankfurt and we would strongly recommend this trip to those looking to improve their German and find out more about the German culture.

**Rory Price, Simran Sahota  
and Rohan Silvestro**



explore the city in the afternoons. While we were there, we saw all Frankfurt had to offer, such as the Kleinmarkthalle, a market hall with





# Drama

## Senior Drama

### 'Journey's End'

**T**he year's Senior Production, staged a few weeks after the Hundredth Anniversary of the end of the Great War, was appropriately R.C.Sherriff's famous play 'Journey's End'. Set in the trenches immediately before the start of the German Spring Offensive of March 1918, the play follows the fate of a small group of British officers as they face the prospect of being attacked by an overwhelmingly larger enemy force.

Helped by some superbly accurate costumes and a very effective set designed by Mr Downing, the cast created with considerable skill the stifling tensions and varied emotions

of men staring oblivion in the face.

There were many strong performances; Belal Stitan impressed as the tortured Captain Stanhope, a young man on the edge of a breakdown, who survived thanks to large quantities of whisky; while Luqmaan Rashid was delightfully convincing as a working class officer, Trotter, whose common sense and outwardly cheery nature helped others to cope. Some soldiers, however, did not cope, as Fintan Hogan displayed so well as Officer Hibbert, whose nerves were torn to shreds, desperately trying to escape his fate on medical grounds. The role of the officer's servant, Mason, who introduced a droll humour to the piece, provided Oliver Ebenezer with a nice cameo role. In addition, Adil Ihsan was convincing as the Colonel, whose awkwardness with the men, together with his determination to please the higher command, showed why the soldiers who actually did the fighting often disliked Staff Officers. The value and critical importance of senior NCO's was clearly shown by Proshanto Chanda

as the Company Sergeant-Major. Jonathan Anderson was the officer, Hardy, who handed over his section of trench to Stanhope and his men. Although a small part, it was performed with a panache that gave the evening an excellent start.

Although it is perhaps invidious to pick out individuals for special mention from this talented cast, but Sam Gray and Ahmed Syed were simply outstanding. Sam's young officer, Raleigh, new to the trenches, naïve, keen to please, bemused by Stanhope, was wholly admirable. Osborne, because of his age, 'uncle' to his fellow officers, gave full scope for Ahmed to demonstrate his fine acting talents. It was a beautifully nuanced portrayal of a man burdened with the unenviable, but readily accepted, task of keeping Stanhope on the rails, who faced his fate with a remarkable equanimity, unsparingly giving his time to helping others come to terms with their terrifying situation.

■ M.R.S.







## Junior Drama

### 'All The Kings' Men'

This year, Junior Drama shared three evenings in April with Mr Palmer's School Choir, whose wonderful rendition of *'Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo'* is reviewed elsewhere. The second half of the evening was taken up by Richard Rodney Bennett's *'All The Kings' Men'*, a children's opera first commissioned for performance in Coventry Cathedral in 1969.

It tells the story of the siege of Gloucester, held by the small Parliamentary force of Colonel Massey, by the Royalist army of Charles I. The failure of the King to take Gloucester gave rise – so the opera insists – to the famous nursery rhyme, *'Humpty Dumpty'*.

As usual, the direction of the show was in the hands of three Sixth Formers – Belal Stitan, Oliver Ebenezer and, from the Girls' School, Sylvie Agnello. Their task was not an easy one; 50 performers to be organised and a difficult show to stage. Although they must have felt at times that they were herding cats (!), their efforts were admirable and they were rewarded by three very pleasing performances; they deserve to be warmly congratulated.

Most of the roles in the opera are cameo parts. Wilf Kane as Charles I and Paul Kelly as Colonel Massey, for instance, played their roles well, but there were three performances that demand special mention. The Queen's Ladies, led by Holly Garside, sang a love song in the style of a madrigal; their performance was simply superb. Sushant Shyam, as a Drummer

Boy, dragooned into joining the Royalist army, performed with enormous confidence; his anti-war song, which ends the show, left not a few members of the audience reaching for the tissues. Finally, the largest role in the opera was Dr Chillingworth, Charles I's pompous, self-styled military genius. Simeon Humphries, of Year 10, took the part; his powerful operatic voice, brought a professionalism and sophistication to his role, which earned him well deserved plaudits from all who heard him.

Mr Palmer directed the music and the singing; the resulting sound was most impressive. The 16-strong orchestra, from the Boys' School, was excellent – what Palmer orchestra has ever not been excellent (?) – and the cast were given great support and confidence by their delightful playing.





The costumes – some hired, others made, were appropriate and effective. We must mention Mrs James, who spent many long hours sewing the home-made costumes; her efforts were much appreciated, not least by our audiences.

The set, particularly the walls of Gloucester,

was striking; it was a fitting tribute to Mr Downing who has contributed so much to school productions over many, many years. He will be hugely missed.

It is a delight to report that there were large audiences at each performance; they seemed

to thoroughly enjoy their night at the opera and we might hope that they will spread the word – Camp Hill productions ARE always well worth seeing.

■ M.R.S.





# Music

## Chamber Concert

The first joint concert of the year is the Chamber Concert. This is the first opportunity for our new Year 7 pupils to perform in String Orchestra and Training Wind Band.

The Strings began the evening with a set of three dances called *'Let's Dance Again!'*,

arranged by Pat Legg. These were played with good intonation and neat rhythms. A varied first half then included neat Guitar Ensemble coached by Mr Rose, and an interesting composition for two bassoons by Tom Li, entitled *'Falling from a piano stool into a pile of wet lettuce'*. A highlight though was the String Quartet's fine performance of *'Waltzing Matilda'*.

In the second half we had an evocative performance of Einaudi's *'White Clouds'* played by Alexander Byrne, plus an attractive performance of *'Straighten Up and Fly Right'* (Nat King Cole) given by the Jazz Ensemble.

The enjoyable evening was brought to a close by Training Wind Band playing *'Do You*



*Want to Build a Snowman'* and *'Pirates of the Caribbean'*. These were bold and enthusiastic, and a fitting way to end the evening.

■ S.F.P.



## Singing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

On Thursday 6 December 2018, we travelled to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and sang songs and carols for the patients and visitors in the large main entrance hall. The hospital was pleased with our singing, and many stopped to listen and give money to the hospital charity. Hospital Radio was there and recorded some of the singing. They also interviewed two boys and myself. A recording of our singing was broadcast on Hospital Radio on Christmas Day!

■ S.F.P.



## School Choir sings with Midlands Hospital Choir

On Saturday 8 December 2018, members of the School Choir sang in St Faith and St Laurence Parish Church, Harborne, as part of a Charity Concert given by the Midlands Hospital Choir. This large group (about 90) gives two Christmas concerts each year and invite local musicians to join them.

The event went very well and we all had a very good time. I was delighted with the feedback of our hosts: one email proclaimed, *"You have a wonderful boys choir!"*

I am delighted to report that the Midlands Hospital Choir have invited us to sing with



them again next year, this time in their main Christmas Charity Concert in The Town Hall.

■ S.F.P.



## School Carol Service

In the last week of term, the School Carol Service is a very special event, held in All Saint's Parish Church, King's Heath. During the evening, the story of the birth of Jesus Christ is told through readings and music.

The School Choir was particularly strong this year and sang some fine arrangements.

These varied from lively *'Holly and the Ivy'* arranged by June Nixon and *'Star Carol'* by John Rutter, to more restrained carols: *'African Crib Carol'* (with the piano) and *'Silent Night'* (a capella). Particularly notable was the solo in the first verse of *'Once in Royal David's City'* by Joel Skaria (who had lost his voice just the day before!) and the solo quartet of Matthew Anderson, Matthew Skaria, Sam Gray and

Daniel Cole in the beautiful *'Coventry Carol'*. We were delighted to also have with us Clarinet Ensemble conducted by Mrs Sharon Wall who played carols before the event and also the a *'Slavonic Dance'* by Dvořák during the evening. A most enjoyable and atmospheric event to look towards the real meaning of Christmas.

■ S.F.P.



## Christmas Concert

As ever the Christmas Concert was packed with good things, most of a festive nature. The evening began with some very neat playing from Intermediate Orchestra in *'Polar Express'* and *'Night on a Bare Mountain'*. Highlights of the first half included some neat and effective pieces by the Percussion Ensemble and *'Little Donkey'* played by the Brass Ensemble.

Our School Choir was well prepared and confident, and enjoyed singing *'Bye, Bye, Blackbird'*. The gentlemen of the choir then sang a most affecting version of *'Bring Him Home'* from *'Les Miserables'*, before a rousing finish of *'Jingle Bells'* from the whole choir.

The second half was also full of musical riches: Wind Band began with some bold and stirring pieces: *'Minuet'* from the *'Music for the Royal Fireworks'*, then *'Happy'* and finally *'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas'*. We had

excellent contributions from the Wind Quintet, the Jazz Ensemble and Swing Band before finishing with Concert Orchestra. The Orchestra played pieces from *'The Capriol Suite'* by Warlock then *'The Dambusters March'*. Finally the traditional *'Sleigh Ride'* by Leroy Anderson, during which Santa came along to distribute chocolates to the audience!

■ S.F.P.







## Concert Orchestra performs in Birmingham Cathedral

The King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools Concert Orchestra, the schools' senior orchestra, was again invited to perform in Birmingham Cathedral to accompany an annual Choral Festival organised by the Royal School of Church Music. The orchestra have now helped at this event for the past five years.

Over seventy singers gathered for the afternoon, drawn from church choirs affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. The music was a balance of the old and new, with some attractive modern hymns: 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' and 'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You', as well as classical favourites such as the anthem 'How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings' from Johannes



Brahms' *'German Requiem'*. The orchestra also played movements from Peter Warlock's *'Capriol Suite'* before the service.

In the magnificent Baroque surroundings of St Philip's Cathedral, the orchestra and choir combined to make a wonderful sound.

The Cathedral were very pleased with the service and the large numbers present, and members of the congregation said afterwards how impressed they were with what had been achieved and the quality of the music.

■ S.F.P.



## Symphony Hall Visit

Early in the spring term, we took the whole of Year 7 to Symphony Hall to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. This was a concert was specially organised for Year 7 pupils in the City, and was called 'CBSO Dissected'.

The music was selected to demonstrate and illustrate the sounds of the orchestra. We first heard music from the Romantic Period, extracts from Mendelssohn's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and then 'Valse Triste' by Sibelius. They then moved on to composers who were even more daring with their use of sound, as in 'La Péri' by Dukas and the 'Chamber Symphony' by Shostakovich. A compere introduced all the pieces and guided us through what to listen



for. I was very pleased that I could see that all the pupils thoroughly enjoying the concert: they listened and watched with interest.

The final item brought us right up to date with a resounding performance of 'The Force Awakens' by John Williams. It demonstrated the excitement and impact generated by a full



Symphony Orchestra.

It was a most successful trip: an opportunity for the boys to hear a wonderful orchestra in one of the world's great concert halls. I was pleased that many of the boys told me how much they had enjoyed it.

■ S.F.P.

## All the King's Men

The big musical event at the end of the spring term was the production of the Junior Musical 'All the King's Men'. This is an Opera for young musicians written in 1969 by Richard Rodney Bennett, and tells of the siege of Gloucester by King Charles I. The event took place for three nights at the end of the penultimate week of term.

In a short time, the cast of about 50 did an excellent job. There was some spirited singing, and notable solos from Simeon Humphries, Paul Kelly, Wilf Kane and Sushant Shyam. An orchestra of sixteen players, many of whom were members of the Year 10 GCSE group, ably supported the cast.

As 'All the King's Men' is only 40 minutes,



the School Choir sang 'Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo' in the first half. This is a lively and entertaining piece, and the choir did it full justice. We had excellent soloists in Sam Gray (Narrator) and Daniel Cole and Sicheng Li (The

Lord). We were also delighted to have Noah Lloyd – with an appropriate name – as the fine soloist hero of our piece!

■ 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 for an informal concert, and gain credit for their House. Mr David Griffiths, until recently Head of Music at King Edwards Five Ways, was again the adjudicator.

The boys met in the Hall during the afternoon to perform solos and ensembles. The Juniors went first, and we had some good performances from Oliver Kiernan, Yicheng Guo and Jibraan Rashid. The winner of this category was Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, however, with a fascinating exploration of the cello in his piece 'Crack of Dawn' which gained 14 out of 15 marks. The junior ensembles were all enjoyable, and extremely varied. All consisted of two players: violin and bassoon, violin and cello, piano duet and guitar duet.

After adjudication came the Senior category. All four solos were by pianists – the first

time this had happened – Judah Daniels, Eddie Wang, Saqlain Siddiqui and Matthew Perrett. After the performances, they were adjudicated and Mr Griffiths said how impressed he was with all the playing, and gave all four boys 15/15! The senior ensembles were particularly good this year, and demonstrated thought and careful preparation. The joint winners of this section with 14/15 marks were Seymour, with a spirited version of the first movement of Bach's 'Double Violin Concerto' (Kevin Xu, Cian O'Dwyer and Eddie Wang) and Beaufort, with a well-balanced and moving performance of 'Gute Nacht' by Schubert (Sam Gray and Qiyuan Chen).

At the end of the competition, Mr David Griffiths said how much he had enjoyed the afternoon and said that he thought that the standard this year was the highest it had ever been. I would like to thank all the boys who took

part, and congratulate them on making it such an enjoyable event. In the end the scoring was very close. In fourth place was Howard with 52 marks out of a possible 60, third was Beaufort with 53, second Tudor with 55, so the winners, with an excellent 56 points, were Seymour. In assembly the House Music Captain for Seymour, Kevin Xu, came up on to stage to receive the House Music Cup.

■ S.F.P.





## Senior Concert

The Senior Concert is our main concert of the term, and we hold it early so that the Year 11 and 13 pupils can take part. This year's concert was in the Boys' School Hall, and a wealth of talent was on show.

Our senior String Quartet was on fine form, and gave an outstanding performance of the first movement of Glasunov's *'Third String Quartet'*. The Wind Quintet was similarly well prepared for their performance of a *'Prelude'* by J.S.Bach. The choir sang songs from *'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'* and there were also excellent performances by the Clarinet Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble,

Percussion Ensemble and Flute Ensemble.

Many commented in particular, however, on the excellent sound that the Concert Orchestra made that evening. They played the *'Sleeping Beauty Waltz'* by Tchaikowsky, and then Eddie Wang was the soloist in the last movement of the *'Piano Concerto'* by Mozart in C: a fine performance.

This is the evening when the Sixth Form say their 'goodbyes' and there is now a tradition to get the Heads of Music to sing a duet together. The chosen song was *'Nine to Five'* made famous by Dolly Parton, and



all enjoyed listening to the Heads of Music trying to sing the song to new words written by the Sixth Form A-Level group...!

■ S.F.P.







## Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée is the last joint concert of the school year, and an opportunity for the Junior and Intermediate pupils to show what they can do.

This year's concert featured a varied range of musical styles and groupings. Of the smaller ensembles, highlights were: Connor Huss playing an excellent bassoon solo called 'Promenade' (Walking the Dog) by Gershwin, a most stylish 'Guitar Duet' by Billy Villabroza and

Udayan Nayyar, and a very neat performance of a 'Minuet' by Haydn, played by our Junior String Quartet (Harley Hau, Joel Skaria, Thomas Pitfield and Rhys Jamieson).

At the start and end of each half, we had our main large groups: Intermediate Orchestra, String Orchestra, Training Wind Band and Wind Band. I feel that Wind Band, the last group, stole the show however, with their rousing arrangements of 'And All That Jazz' and 'The Simpsons'!

■ S.F.P.





## Goodbye to Sharon and Charles Wall

We have an excellent, hardworking group of seventeen Visiting Instrumental Teachers, and I am pleased to say, a very small turnover. This year, sadly, one of our longest serving instrumental teachers, Sharon Wall, has decided to retire. This follows the retirement of her husband Charles, who taught double bass for us a few years ago. Sharon has taught clarinet for us since the early 1980s, and over that time has been an inspira-



tion to countless Camp Hill pupils in instrumental lessons, as well as directing our very successful Clarinet Ensemble. I would like to thank Sharon for her hard work and dedication over so many years, and wish her and her husband



Charles a peaceful and enjoyable retirement. The Music Staff took Sharon and Charles out for a meal, and the boys played her a special arrangement of 'Goodbye-ee' on her last day and gave her flowers.

■ S.F.P.

## Success of PGCE Student from BCU

In the spring and summer term, we were pleased to again host a PGCE student from Birmingham City University. Terezija Stimec came to us in February, and immediately got down to



work, researching the school's policies, planning lessons and learning about the boys. She was incredibly successful and her teaching improved tremendously over the time

that she was at Camp Hill. Not only did she pass her PGCE with flying colours, she was also awarded the Jane Crawford Prize for the Best Music Trainee on the PGCE course. I was delighted to hear that she also gained a new job for September as Head of Music at Leytonstone School, London. Our best wishes go with her for continued success with her teaching.

■ S.F.P.

## Music Outside School

Many of our most able musicians also take part in a wide range of music outside school. A number perform in the excellent Music Service Ensembles. An example of this is Yusuf Ahmad performing in the Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble in Symphony Hall.

On the 25 February 2019, Judah Daniels was delighted to be asked to perform with his jazz quintet 'Outer Circle' at Symphony Hall for this year's Music for Youth Primary Proms. They played John Farnsworth's 'Spirit Monitor' as well



one of their own original compositions 'The Master'.

■ S.F.P.



## High standards in A-Level and GCSE Music

The Music Department was delighted by our A-Level results, an A\* and A, and it was wonderful to hear that both our musicians had gained a place at the Royal Academy of Music. Eddie Wang gained a place for piano, and Matthew Perrett a composition scholarship.

GCSE results were also excellent, and we were very pleased with the moderator's comments about our performances and compositions: "Performance work was extremely well prepared with a number of able Learners submitting work of a high standard. The live recording of the choral composition was a par-

ticularly impressive submission. Many of them coped very well with the challenges of some appropriately demanding chamber repertoire.

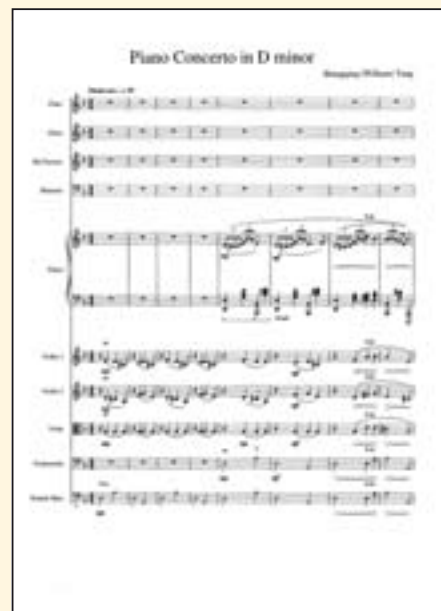
Composition work was also of a high standard from all the candidates. The development of ideas and the confident handling of orchestral forces were particularly notable points of credit in the work submitted. The use of notation software to produce detailed musical scores was also an excellent feature of the advanced musical demands being made upon the Learners."

■ S.F.P.

Four sample pages from compositions are shown at the top of the next page.







## Excellent Results in Music 'Grades'

Each term the Headmaster presented certificates in assembly to boys who had been successful in the 'grade' examinations of the Associated Board and Trinity College, London. We are delighted with the number of examinations taken at a wide variety of levels, and the very high percentage of 'Distinctions' and 'Merits'.



Of special mention are three boys in the Year 10 GCSE group [pictured above]. Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov has already achieved his Grade 8 Cello with Distinction, then this year Connor Huss gained his Grade 8 Bassoon with Distinction, and Rufus Hall his Grade 8 Violin with Distinction. Fantastic results!

■ S.F.P.

### KEY TO RESULTS LISTINGS

(shown in columns to the right)

Boy's Name, Form – Instrument, Grade (number or name)  
(M) = Merit (D) = Distinction

Name are listed alphabetically for each grade

### GRADE 1

Louis Bailey, 8S – Guitar, 1 (D)  
Idries Bharmal, 9J – Guitar, 1 (D)  
Rohan Desai, 7K – Drum Kit, 1 (D)  
Ismaeel Feraz, 8J – Violin, 1 (M)  
Clement Frankin, 7K – Trumpet, 1 (D)  
Frederick Franklin, 9S – Guitar, 1  
Kenny Lau, 7J – Violin, 1 (D)  
Taran Mack, 11M – Guitar, 1 (D)

### GRADE 2

Karthik Chinnaswamy, 10K – Tabla, 2 (D)  
Rohan Desai, 8K – Drum Kit, 2 (M)  
Matteo Gianni, 8S – Baritone, 2 (M)  
Harry Lownes, 7S – Guitar, 2 (D)  
Dylan Mbichire, 7S – Cello, 2 (D)  
Sam Nouhov, 8J – Saxophone, 2 (M)  
Sampanna Raut, 7M – Drum Kit, 2 (M)  
Harrish Satkunarajah, 10J – Guitar, 2 (M)  
Kierandeep Singh, 9M – Violin, 2

### GRADE 3

Pranav Chandar, 9J – Flute, 3  
Daniel Elia, 10J – Trumpet, 3  
Matteo Gianni, 9S – Baritone, 3 (M)  
Pranav Gupta Juloori, 9S – Flute, 3  
Aarondeep Singh Kalam, 9M – Clarinet, 3 (M)  
Zayan Khan, 7M – Singing, 3  
Niranjan Kumar, 9K – Flute, 3  
Udayan Nayyar, 9J – Jazz Saxophone, 3  
Prem Sidhu, 10X – Tabla, 3 (M)  
Matthew Jacob Skaria, 9S – Guitar, 3 (M)

### GRADE 4

Sid Bagchi, 10M – Guitar, 4 (D)  
Rajun Brring, 10K – Clarinet, 4  
Zikriya Bukhari, 10S – Guitar, 4, (D)  
Anushtup Chatterjee, 8M – Violin, 4 (D)  
Harvey Collett, 8J – Guitar, 4 (M)  
Daniel Elia, 11J – Trumpet, 4 (M)  
Harley Hau, 8S – Violin, 4 (D)  
Ben Hone, 8M – Violin, 4 (M)

### GRADE 4 – continued

Adrian Ioan Ifrim, 9S – Jazz Saxophone, 4 (M)  
Prithu Krishnan, 9K – Violin, 4  
Jaidendeep Lall, 11Z – Guitar, 4 (M)  
Cyrus Maleki-Toosserkani, 7J – Guitar, 4 (M)  
Darius Maleki-Toosserkani, 7M – Guitar, 4 (D)  
Viswamedha Nalabotu, 9J – Guitar, 4 (D)  
Oliver Smith, 7J – Trombone, 4 (M)  
Billy Andrew Villabroza, 10J – Violin, 4 (D)

### GRADE 5

Simeon Humphries, 9M – Baritone, 5 (M)  
Se Mouthaan Ward, 8S – Orchestral Percussion, 5 (D)  
Keshav Najran, 9S – Guitar, 5 (D)  
Udayan Nayyar, 9J – Guitar, 5 (D)  
Alex Newsome, 9M – Jazz Saxophone, 5 (M)  
Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, 8M – Euphonium, 5  
Eashan Varma, 11M – Theory of Music, 5  
Billy Andrew Villabroza, 9J – Guitar, 5 (D)

### GRADE 6

Judah Daniels, 11W – Clarinet, 6 (M)  
Sicheng Li, L7 – Singing, 6  
Ibraheem Mohammed, 10J – Guitar, 6 (M)  
Udayan Nayyar, 10J – Guitar, 6 (M)  
Tommy Ransbotyn, 11W – Oboe, 6  
Eashan Varma, 10M – Piano, 6

### GRADE 7

Daniel Cole, U2 – French Horn, 7 (M)  
Sam Cole, 9S – Trombone, 7 (M)  
Samuel Gray, 11K – Singing, 7 (M)  
Alfie Green, U5 – Saxophone, 7 (M)  
Kevin Mathew, 11X – Oboe, 7 (D)

### GRADE 8

Primo Agnello, U4 – Clarinet, 8 (D)  
Johannes Beckett, U7 – Trumpet, 8 (M)  
Rufus Hall, 10S – Violin, 8 (D)  
Connor Huss, 10J – Bassoon, 8 (D)

# Sport

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## Rugby

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

After a pretty difficult season the previous year, the squad was determined to make this season one to remember. The squad already contained a tremendous amount of talent but it was boosted by a number of Year 11 players, a few of whom went on to become regular 1<sup>st</sup> XV players.

The season kicked off against Bablake with what can only be described as a game for the ages. Camp Hill's four unanswered tries within the first ten minutes filled everyone with excitement; both spectators and players alike. Although it seemed we were at risk of losing our heads, with the opposition nabbing a few easy tries back just before half time. However, four tries in the second half for Kamil Khan and one for debutant Ollie Ebenezer seemed to settle the nerves and Camp Hill looked to be in the driving seat yet again. The lack of fitness and game readiness showed late on however, with Bablake running in numerous soft tries, only to break Camp Hill hearts by scoring a try in the last minute to win the match 47-45. This was a tough loss to take for the team, especially because we knew deep down that it is one that should never have gotten away from us. Despite the obvious negatives, a special mention must go to Richard Amoshe who scored two tries on debut which earned him a Man of the Match performance. Max Mulligan also deserves a mention for the solid performance he put in before unfortunately suffering a season-ending leg injury.

This first loss seemed to have destroyed the team's confidence and they lost their next four matches. Admittedly they were against tough sides such as Bromsgrove and Sandbach which were both cup games, but it was still disheartening for the team who all trained so hard every week. The training eventually paid off though and our first win of the season came against Prince Henry's. The team was definitely boosted by the return of fly-half Josh Hall and full back Matt Haddon from injury. Matt scored his first try of many to come along the course of the season while Josh contributed from the tee. Victory tasted sweet after a disappointing start to the season and it was something which

the team was determined to taste every game.

This first victory clearly spurred the team on as they went on to claim two more in a row against KE Aston and Lawrence Sheriff. While the 31-12 win against the latter was arguably one of the team's best performances of the season, it couldn't possibly compare to the 48-0 thrashing of one of our biggest rivals Aston. Matt Haddon scored what was easily the try of the season in which he appeared to beat every single player on the opposition team twice, but that's yet to be clarified. A try for consistently hard-working prop Ed Dempsey didn't go amiss, but what capped off this victory was a Man of the Match performance from Captain Will Lyons. He did score a try, but it was the heart and leadership he showed during the game, which made him deserving of the award. He displayed this kind of character throughout the whole season which regularly inspired the team, but it especially stood out in this match.

The team's glee didn't last long however as we lost 36-14 to a well-drilled Five Ways team. The torrid conditions definitely suited the heavily forward-orientated game that Five Ways played, which meant that we were facing a losing battle right from the start. It's always tough to take a loss against such a big rival, but the team fought valiantly in defeat. Kamil Khan deservedly got Man of the Match for his brace. The team quickly bounced back from this upsetting defeat though, with two victories against Princethorpe and Adams GS. Scrum-half Tommy Ransbotyn shone in these two games, scoring his first ever first team try in one and grabbing a Man of the Match award in the other. His exceptional work at getting the ball away quickly from the breakdown is sometimes taken for granted, but he definitely didn't go unnoticed in either of these games.

What followed next was a string of three defeats against KE Stratford, KES and Bishop Vesey. What frustrated the squad most about these results is that most of the points conceded were through lapses in concentration in defence or the opposition able to pounce on uncharacteristic mistakes. The toughest one to take was most definitely the grudge match against KES which sadly ended 41-26. Camp Hill were the first to score and stayed right in contention up until around ten minutes to go when KES scored a couple quick tries which





ended up with their win.

The next game against Queen Mary's was a stark contrast to the last three and even provided a well-deserved easier game for the team. The team scored 10 tries in total with both Ed Dempsey and Matt Haddon grabbing braces and Ed rightly being awarded Man of the Match as a result. Captain Will and Vice-captain Josh also chipped in with tries. Although the team may not have been facing the best opposition, we still executed our game plan with precision and it showed how far the team had come from the start of the season.

Similar to the rest of the season, this bubble of happiness was short lived and was popped soon after by what felt like a crushing 37-19 defeat to Bablake. The scoreline doesn't necessarily suggest it, but the opposition had clearly developed a lot more compared to the start of the season and it felt like a losing battle right from the start. Tries from Kamil Khan, Josh Hall and Jason Sula salvaged the team a bit but this was certainly a tough one to take.

The last game of the regular season was a one-off match against national bowl finalists Kings Worcester. They wanted a warm-up game just before their bowl final and decided we would serve as suitable cannon fodder.

The performance they got from Camp Hill certainly wasn't what they were expecting. The game was balanced on a knife edge for almost the whole seventy minutes and the standard of rugby was simply outstanding from both teams. Unfortunately, they scraped through as 33-22 winners but the main emotion of the Camp Hill players coming off the pitch was one of pride that they had been able to match a top-notch side such as Kings. Special mention must go to Adam Li who thoroughly deserved his try. He was an industrious figure in this game like he was all season and the 1<sup>st</sup> XV next season will sorely miss him and everything he contributed to the team.

The season came to an entertaining conclusion with the tour to Cornwall, with the team excited to be facing opposition situated away from the Midlands as well as looking forward to all the other little perks tour brought. The tour kicked off with a tough 41-12 loss to Richard Huish College, but I'm sure we could put this all down to the long coach journey and the confusion at the opposition team consisting of 90% shaved heads getting the better of us. The penultimate game against Devonport High School for Boys was a quite scintillating game, with the lead changing hands numerous times throughout the course of the sev-

enty minutes. With five minutes to go, the team trailed 24-20, when up stepped player of the season Kamil Khan to score a try to give Camp Hill the lead. Josh Hall coolly slotted the conversion and the team held on to win the game. It felt good to finally be the team who stole a last-minute victory, rather than be the ones on the receiving end. Henry Moreau-Smith deservedly won Man of the Match in this fixture for his relentless work in both attack and defence; he was seemingly everywhere on the pitch at once at times and this reflected his performances all season long. It was fitting that one of the best performances of the year came in the last game of the year against Withycombe RFC. Whilst not high scoring, the hard work by both teams in defence brought the excitement. We ended up coming out as 12-0 victors and the team was proud of its final performance of the season.

Special thanks go to Mr Caves, Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor who helped the squad in any way they could and I don't believe we would have had half the season if it wasn't for these coaches. From my perspective, this season was an absolute blast and I would do it all over again if I could.

■ **Oliver Ebenezer**

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

Full of endeavour, varied and entertaining are the words that sum up the 2018-19 2<sup>nd</sup> XV's season. Captain Dayyan Zulfiqar led his troops to the picturesque Princethorpe College for the first encounter of the season. A fine performance allowed for a 20-12 victory with tries coming from Jonathan Anderson, Pierre Lee and Ryan McNamee. Luke Hemming chipped in with a penalty and a conversion.

Unfortunately, the team then lost out to KES and KE Aston in good, hard fought contests. First team regular Richard Amoshe starred against KES showing his class by scoring a simple wonderful individual try showing pace and sublime agility. Oliver Ebenezer also marshalled his troops well from fly half and contributed with five points from the boot. Jonathan Anderson again found himself on the scoresheet as the lone try scorer against KE Aston in the 33-7 defeat.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV then showed excellent 'bounce-backability' in an enthralling game against Lawrence Sheriff. The game ebbed and flowed and eventually Camp Hill ran out victors, 27 points to 24. Ayub Ali, Kieron Taylor, Sala Ayub and Man of the Match Bradley Williams were the try scorers. Luke Hemmings kicked two conversions and a match-deciding penalty. A strong Lawrence Sheriff team was the last fixture of 2018 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. Camp Hill were soundly beaten on the day, but showed courage and plenty of heart against a clearly more



experienced side. Final score 43-7, Zak Ahmed the scorer for Camp Hill.

2019 didn't start too well for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV with losses coming against Adams Grammar School, KE Stratford and Bishop Vesey. However, the season finished with a bang with four consecutive victories. The first of which was a resounding win over Queen Mary's, 58-12. Ryan McNamee was outstanding in this game, scoring a hat trick and taking the Man of the Match honours. Bradley Williams also chipped in with three excellent tries himself. The next win was a hard fought 33-12 victory over a well-drilled Bablake side. Dylan Rees, Alex Simpson and Bradley Williams x2 were the try scorers on this occasion. Oliver Ebenezer pulled the strings from fly half, creating numerous opportunities for his teammates.

The final two games of the season came on the tour of Cornwall. First up was a superb

performance against Richard Huish College. A rock hard pitch allowed for an attacking brand of rugby, which suited us well. The highlight of the game was a wonderful team try starting in our own 22m. Virtually every player got their hands on the ball, allowing flanker Ayub Ali to run in unopposed under the posts.

The final game was a thrilling 36-34 win over Devonport High School for Boys. This was an U16 game and as was a fitting finale as a team. The game was exactly what school rugby should be, attacking, entertaining and full of heart. Jonathan Anderson scored two excellent tries and took the Man of the Match award. My thanks to Captain Dayyan Zulfiqar and Vice-Captain Nikhil Gupta who have lead the team exceptionally well over the course of the season.

■ **T.J.B.**

## U15 Rugby

The 2018–19 season was likely going to be the last season we had together as a full squad, so we knew there would be a lot resting on it. Most of us in the team have played with this same group since all the way back in Year 7, so heading into next season uncertain of who you're going to be playing with was definitely the grim eventuality and we knew that we had to make this season count.

We didn't start too strongly, losing to Bablake and Old Swinford soon after coming back. But even with those defeats feeling fresh, we still managed to get our act together as a team and start to win the odd match. After a flurry of tries from the backs, two groups of back to back wins came right after the Swinford match, proving to the team we were at least still semi capable at rugby after the summer break. The team was in decent form to take on the rest of the season and would've been set to tackle the rest of the season decently, but it was around this time that the injuries began rolling in.

This season was hardly a season, as it was mainly just characterised by a lack of actual players. At crucial times in the season we'd lose one player to concussion, another to a pulled muscle, and slowly the winning streak we had before began to trickle off. Around half of the starting fifteen have been injured and had to miss chunks of the season. Special mentions go to Kareem Mehana and Will Taylor, who seemed to get injured every match, exactly when the team would need them the most.

But still those of us who were left ploughed on through the remaining season. A short sting



of losses was finally ended by a terrific game against old familiar KES. It is always great to beat the rival, but coming after such a rough part of the season, it felt so much better for the team. A 24-15 win followed by a 36-10 win a match later was a great boost for everyone. We played this final match before our Carlisle tour, so it was great to leave Birmingham on a win.

The tour was great, with exciting matches and tough competition. We secured the first win against Cockermouth. A quality match thanks to the absolutely abysmal weather and being allowed to swap to whatever positions we wanted. The front row instantly began to live out their dream of being wingers. Next match was another win against Austin Friars, with much better weather and a more professional, collected game which was just as fun. Unfortunately, our season ended with a furiously competitive loss to the Vale of Lune. The lads deserve enormous credit for the passion on display for the shirt and teammates.

Special mentions at the end of the season have to go to a few people. The first one can

go to Joe Day for being our top try scorer, as he usually is, and for putting in his fair share of work throughout all the time spent with this same team. More mentions go to backs Kareem Mehana, Will Taylor and Sam Morris for helping us control, convert and transport the ball up and down the pitch day in and day out, or at least when they're not injured anyway. Some of the unsung heroes of the team are forwards like Simeon "Safe Hands" Humphries, Lorcan Halstead and Muhammad Asad who have always helped win us the ball from the opposition, protect it whenever we've got it and aren't too afraid to dive at someone in the rain and mud for their team.

The most thanks go to the coaches: Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor, who coached us whatever the weather throughout the entire season, and their commitment shows in the players. Their teaching always proved useful in whatever game we played. We all appreciate their time and dedication to the team.

■ **George Lanham**

## U14 Rugby

The U14 rugby season has been mostly a successful one, finishing with a fantastic record of 13 wins and 6 losses, and just 1 draw. The team all together scored a whopping 79 tries, with the bulk of these coming from Jobe Simpson, Shabir Ahmed, Somto Achusiogu and Samay Patel, who notched up 54 tries between them. Overall, we feel that we did well under Mr Duncan's coaching and hope we can push on further next season.

However, let us first talk about this season. It all began with a tight 22-14 win over Bablake, excellent considering we had a team that was missing many key players. After this strong start, we faced a tough second game against Old Swinford Hospital who really gave us a wake-up call, with a 49-7 drubbing. This turned out to be quite a turning point, as after this our defence improved dramatically and over the next few games we notched up six wins on the bounce. A particularly good performance was against KES, who we beat comfortably 43-10, with Raj Gahir scoring a beautiful try in the process.



This streak came to an end with a tough loss to Five Ways just after Christmas, and would spark a series of mediocre results leading up to the impending match against our counterparts, Camp Hill Rugby Club. This run up to the game with just two wins from six left us very frustrated and we felt as if we had very little chance against the formidable club side. Boy were we wrong. On the day of the game, the team were nervous until kick-off when it all seemed to fade away and once it was all over, we came away 44-17 victors. A fine win, followed by the club hosting us for lunch and

then the presentations. All in all an enjoyable morning for all players.

This performance had greatly renewed our confidence. However due to poor weather, we didn't play another fixture for a month, until a close game against Arden. However, despite a slow start with lots of missed tackles we got going and recorded a 33-27 victory just a week before tour.

Our tour to Carlisle kicked off with an emphatic 22-5 win over Cockermouth in dreadful conditions in what would be our easiest fixture on the tour. There wasn't much



time to rest after our win however, with our next game just the day after against Austin Friars where we again won, this time 22-12. This left us with one last game to play, Vale of Lune RFC who we played on our way back to Birmingham. Our final game as U14 was tight throughout and with just a few minutes left, we were defending our line with the score locked at 21-21. However just when all seemed lost, looking like we'd end with a loss, the forwards worked a fantastic turnover and the ball

was worked out to Samay Patel who went on a pacy run with Shabir Ahmed in support. Samay backed himself to make it to the line and win us our final game of the season before a fantastic tackle made him knock the ball on and have the game end in a draw. Still a fantastic game and a perfect end to our season.

All in all, I'd personally like to thank Mr. Duncan and Mrs Bourne for all their hard work coaching us throughout the season and I'd also like to thank all the players who made fantas-

tic contributions to the team and especially those who didn't miss a match. They were Emile Nguinessy, Asadullah Khan, Bench Captain Milan Ram, Vernon Kenworthy, Jobe Simpson, Shabir Ahmed, Aaditya Sharma and finally our star player Raj Gahir who scored more tries than Toby Taylor. Thank you all for the season and I look forward to playing with you again next year.

■ **Jobe Simpson**

## U13 Rugby

A game of two halves – is a statement that will be well remembered by all players that graced the 2018–19 U13 rugby team. Although the statistics may say otherwise, the team always battled hard to ensure we had a chance of success. Maybe this season was not the best that we could have wished for. It was a true learning experience, with the addition of new positions, a new coach and new players. Resilient would be the best word to describe our team. Although we did not get the success of previous teams, we certainly matched their effort and determination.

Our season kicked off with an away match at Bablake. A quick try by Chude Ndozi boosted our morale, but we were quickly defeated, with Bablake scoring an impressive 45-5 to end the match. The following games against OSH and Prince Henry were also losses by significant margins, but did not reflect the hard work we had put in.

Finally, a glimmer of hope arrived as we played King Norton. We were quick and devastating and with the raw tenacity of Ismail Rahman and Chude Ndozi, we picked up an easy win: 45-20. Two well deserved hat tricks by Ismail and Chude and all the players were elated with a deserved win.

Following the win at Kings Norton, we were in high hopes of winning our next game against our rivals: KES. We got off to a good start with three quick tries by Chude Ndozi, but KES took their chances and amassed a score of 45-15; a figure that would be a recurring theme in this season.

Games against Fairfax, Princethorpe and



Five Ways ended in the opposition's favour. However, though we lost against Queen Mary's, Walsall, we should have won. We battled hard through mud and torrential rain and despite tries from Chude, Ismail and Faiz and Jonah, it wasn't enough to see us through, with the final score being 25-30 to QM.

Games against the prestigious Adam GS and KE Stratford were also heavy losses, however, the scores did not reflect how hard we had battled to stay in those games. Our second win, however, came quite quickly against King Norton. Tries by Chude Ndozi and Ismail Rahman with newcomer Adnan Husayn shining bright amongst the experienced players. Fly-half Harley Hau should be commended for his work rate and resilience on and off the pitch.

Finally, we aimed to end the season on a high. Up came the Greater Birmingham Tournament which all players were absolutely buzzing for. Although we lost to well drilled teams such as Fairfax and Bishop Vesey, we battled hard and secured a win against KESH, with Captain Ibrahim Tahir running in two tries alongside Chude Ndozi. But then came the decider for

fourth position. The game was to be played against KE Aston, a team that had beaten us earlier in the season. However, our spirits were raised by a legendary speech by Mr Jones before the game that helped us draw against them putting us in fourth position and ending the season with smiles on our faces!

Players that should be commended for their hard work are Captain Ibrahim Tahir for his tenacity on the pitch and his organisation off it. Ismail Rahman put in a strong performance all season. While Chude Ndozi, who amassed an *incredible* 26 tries was always a key figure in games. Adnan Husayn, a newcomer made significant progress during the season and Faiz Bootwala was speedy asset on the wing. Finally, mention should go to Yijun Chen for being an all-round great player in all aspects of the game.

A massive thank you has to be given to Mr Jones, who has coached us throughout the season and to George Lanham, Joe Day and Joe Martin of Year 10 for helping at training sessions.

■ **Ibrahim Tahir**

## U12 Rugby

The 2018–19 season for the U12s has been a mixed bag of successes and losses, but overall it showed how far we have come and what we need to work on next season. At times experience has been our Achilles heel when playing against other teams with a healthy quorum of regular club players and often with considerable experience.

Early losses to Aston, KES and Southam were often tough to face, but the boys remained positive and resolute in the face of adversity. They did however manage to take





wins against Kings Norton Boys and Lichfield before the Christmas break, which boosted their confidence.

The spring term was another mixed bag with heavy losses to Old Swinford, Bishop Vesey and Five Ways, and a close win against Arden School. A close loss to Fairfax also resulted from an inexplicably shortened game (just as Camp Hill were making a comeback) and some very questionable refereeing.

The season ended with the Greater Birmingham Tournament over at KES. After a slow start and two close losses to Five Ways and Aston, worsened by the loss of star player

Karl Rodrigo, they got themselves a 15-0 win against Kings Norton Boys, only to then suffer losses to KES and Fairfax. They rounded off the tournament with a resounding win against Sheldon placing them fifth in the final tally. The tournament was one of missed opportunities, as the boys made good ground with the ball, but were often bogged down in the last 10 metres, 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, Archie McGuire, Malachi Powell and Christy Baiju stood out in

the forwards, along with Karl Rodrigo the top try scorer with a personal haul of 31 tries. At the back, the deft hands of Tommy Ransbotyn proved a valuable attacking tool, along with some effective running by Michael Carson, Ayan Butt, Mathiwas Misghina and Zinedine Zafar. As the boys develop and meld 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

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket

Typically varied British weather, exam season and a late Easter holiday meant for a very challenging season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Results haven't gone our way either.

The first game of the season saw us come second against a very strong Bablake side. Our second game of the season took place in peculiar circumstances. Having been drawn against King Henry VIII, the weather was horrendous meaning an outside game was a washout. We agreed with the opposition that rather than travel for a bowl off, we would each complete a 'bowl-off' in our own sports hall, all had to be filmed via facetime. We held our nerve and hit the stumps an impressive eight times. In reply, KH VIII could only manage three on target, meaning we were through to the semi-finals of the Birmingham U19 Cup.

This was to be an excellent game of cricket at KE Five Ways. Having been on the front foot for the majority of the game, tailing away and losing by 15 runs was a tough one to take. Captain Owais Akram bowled a rapid and hostile opening spell, which set the tone. Sam Hope who bowled a lovely spell of left arm orthodox spin ably supported Owais. The run chase saw two outstanding innings from Vignesh Venkataramaiah (35\*) and Owais Akram 49.

The penultimate game of the season was against a strong MCC side. This is always a fabulous occasion and this year did not disappoint. Having lost the toss, Camp Hill bowled first and restricted the MCC to 165-6 declared from 42 overs. Captain Owais Akram and Sanjay Suresh bowled an excellent opening spell. Spinners Raqeeb Khan and Sam Hope bowled with control and subtle variations. All bowlers played their part along with excellent support in the field, in what must be the best fielding display I have seen at Camp Hill.

In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI knew they would have around 35 overs to chase down the target or bat out for the draw. The chase was on with old boy Salah Khan smashing the ball to all



Pictures: (Top) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team (Middle) 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs MCC (Bottom) 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs Staff



parts, backed up by some lovely stroke play from Amar Jandu (30). Unfortunately, when Salah fell for an excellent 61, the wheels somewhat fell off. 90-1 turned into 145-9. Last pair of Haseeb Arif and Gurnoor Singh needed to bat out the last three overs to secure a draw. Sadly, this did not happen and we were bowled out with 10 balls to go. The MCC spinners were outstanding, taking nine wickets and ripping through our batting line up. Credit to both

sides for an excellent game of cricket.

1<sup>st</sup> XI vs Staff XI was the season finale. A superb game of cricket played out with the staff sneaking home by 3 wickets. Batting first, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV declared on 186-5, year 11 Ibraheem Mohammed scored a sublime unbeaten 101. In reply, Mohammed Azam (53) and Tom Burgess (56) put on 109 for the first wicket. Debutant Carl Butcher chipped in with a valuable 26. However, it was left to the experience of Paul

Bruten to see the staff home, finishing with an accomplished 19 not out. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI deserve huge credit for playing in such a sporting manner, which allowed for a cracking contest.

Thank you to all the 1<sup>st</sup> team squad for their commitment and efforts throughout this short season. A big thank you for Owais Akram for his excellent leadership on the field and tiresome work off the field with admin duties.

■ **T.J.B.**

## U15 Cricket

The 2019 season was a story of so near yet so far. We reached our third cup final in four years, and had our best statistical season, yet could not add to our solitary cup win.

The term got off to a slow start, only playing our first game at the end of June, against our old enemy, KE Five Ways. The lack of games evidently did not affect our ability, as we reached 110-3, Subhan Ahmed top scoring with 59 not out. This proved to be a winning total, as we restricted Five Ways to 97-7, Joe Day taking 3 wickets for 9 runs, Subhan and Muhammad Ali-Zahid both taking two. We would be meeting Five Ways again later.

Our next match was against KE Stratford, with Camp Hill batting first again, but we struggled to find our rhythm, attaining a lowly 90 for 9, Joe top scoring with 32 not out. However, this proved to be a step too far for Stratford, as our outstanding bowling attack dismissed them for only 57, with Muhammad and Karthik Chinnaswamy both taking 3 wickets, the latter ending up with the astonishing figures of 0.4 overs, 0 for 3.

Then came another local rivalry, against KE Aston. Camp Hill, as we would all summer, batted first, in what would ultimately be a one-sided affair. We reached 154-4, With Humair Hussain reaching 34 and Humza Irfan 28, but both were overshadowed by the heroic batting performance of extras, which accounted for 60 of our runs! It was clear from the outset that Aston would not reach this target, finishing on 94-5 off their 20 overs, losing by 60 runs. Five different bowlers each got one wicket, with the highlight of the innings being a fabulous slip catch from captain Joe Day.

Then came our first match in the oldest boys' cricket cup competition in the world, the Docker Shield. Our opponents were to be Fairfax in this semi-final. Camp Hill predictably batted first, finishing on 123-3, Adnan Chowdhury making a season's best 60 not out. Fairfax started strongly, reaching 67 after 11 overs and looked to be cruising to the final. Step up Karthik "Bumrah" Chinnaswamy. He dismissed both openers with his bamboozling swing bowling, turning the game in our favour and meaning we were the eventual victors, winning by 10 runs. Karthik finished with 3 wickets and Camp Hill would advance to the final. Our



opponents, KE Five Ways.

So, in what would be our fourth game in six days, we arrived at Five Ways full of confidence, as well as the added pressure that this would be Mr Warrillow's fifth attempt at winning a final. And his fifth loss.

Camp Hill yet again elected to bat, but struggled with a swinging ball and slow pitch, being marooned on 29-4. Some rearguard action from Eashan Varma and Manan Jasuja lifted the score up to 81 all out, a below par total by any means. It was always going to be challenging, and despite Joe taking 3 for 10 and some excellent fielding, we inevitably fell at the final hurdle, with Five Ways reaching the total with 5 overs to spare.

Overall, 2019 was a fantastic year for us, almost having an unbeaten season, and thanks must go to all the players, particularly Karthik, Adnan, Subhan, Humair and Muhammad. The coaching of Mr Warrillow and Mr Speake was much appreciated by the squad, as were Mr Jones and Mr Duncan for giving up their time to come and umpire for us.

Subhan was top run scorer with 98 runs and Joe was top wicket taker with 8 wickets.

■ **Joe Day**

[Lower picture, this page: U15 Cricket Final Runners-Up]

## U14 Cricket

The U14 team started the season against Lawrence Sheriff. Led by Captain Humza Rana, we lost the toss and were put into bat. The team got off to a strong start with the opening pair putting on 39 from the first 5 overs. However, pressure was quickly back on Camp Hill after a quick collapse of wickets leaving the side 43-3 after 7 overs. Luckily, good, sensible batting from Sai Pon-nuru and Jobe Simpson meant we finished on 136-5 after 20 overs, including a generous 41 extras.

Lawrence Sheriff, in reply, got off to a solid start being 28-1 after 5 overs, keeping a steady run rate throughout the match. We gifted them 40 extras and as a result, the batting side required 4 runs off the last 3 balls. Yuvanash Nirantharakumar managed to hold his nerve and restricted the home side to 135-3 after 20 overs, Camp Hill winning by 1 run.

After a positive start to the season, Camp Hill took on Broadway in The Willis Cup at home. After winning the toss, Camp Hill put Broadway into bat and wickets fell regularly with the batting side unable to put up a strong partnership. The wickets kept tumbling and the away side managed to crawl to 69 all out after 18 overs, helped by a generous 35 extras. In reply Camp Hill chased the measly target with 8 overs to spare, with Sai contributing 20 and Taran Dhaliwal chipping in with 11 runs to seal the match, with the home side winning the match by 8 wickets.

After winning 2/2 we were confident going into the match against KE Five Ways, a team which we had comfortably beaten back in previous years. However, the team were a player short and Humza's brother happily volunteered to step in, playing against his future school. Camp Hill were put in to bat and responded well, making 50 for no loss after the first 7 overs. However, after the loss of opener Humza Rana for 16, The team found no real momentum and stumbled to 86-9 after 20. Defending 86, Camp Hill were tight in the field and kept a good line, giving away minimal freebies. However, wickets were scarce and the team struggled to make significant breakthroughs, allowing the Five Ways batsmen to chase the target with 7 wickets and 2 overs to spare.

Next Camp Hill took on KES Stratford away on Saturday 6 July. Good Bowling from Madyan Basit allowed us to remove one of their openers cheaply however, Camp Hill struggled to take wickets allowing Stratford to post a respectable score of 137-2. Unfortunately, opener Humza Rana was unable to open due to a minor injury obtained during the match. In reply, Camp Hill got off to a poor start of 18-2 after 7 overs, with the target ever falling further out of reach. Strong hitting from Tanav Kotha and Mohammad Roheel gave the side some



momentum but it was too little too late as the team required 66 runs off the final five overs, with Camp Hill all out for 102 after 19 overs.

Next was the Willis Cup Semi-Final against Holte. Camp Hill managed to win the toss however the team got off to a shaky start of 19-3 after 5 overs. Luckily, Jobe Simpson and William Mackie managed to steady the innings making 21\* and 32\* respectively, driving Camp Hill towards a total of 107-3(20).

Holte never seemed confident during their chase, with Camp Hill taking the Holte openers early, putting the team in a strong position. However, Keeper Jobe Simpson took a hit to the knee a few overs into the innings, which left him out of action. Captain Mohammad Roheel stepped in to take his place behind the stumps. Only one of the Holte batsmen made it into double figures, but loose bowling from Camp Hill gifted them 48 extras and the game was much tighter than it should have been, with Camp Hill winning the game by 7 runs and progressing into the final. Thanks goes to Zoheb Khan and Pranav Murthy for stepping in due to shortage of available players.

The Camp Hill U14 team had made it into their third final in a row and hoped to get a hat-trick of gold medals. However, we knew that we were up against a tough Fairfax side

and we had to be sharp on the field. Camp Hill batted first and got off to a poor start losing a wicket of the very first ball. We managed to keep a steady run rate however, we lost wickets constantly during the middle overs and only managed 111-8 after 20 overs.

In reply the Fairfax openers took a liking to the Camp Hill bowling side, and poor fielding meant we were unable to take wickets. The Fairfax opening pair punished us for our mistakes and the Camp Hill bowlers took a battering, with the Fairfax number 1 putting on 24 in one over, with only Arnav Sudhir managing to keep a cool and take reasonable figures. Due to our mistakes, we lost that game by a minuscule 10 wickets, with the Fairfax side having 7 overs to spare.

The team would like to thank Mrs Bourne and Mr Warrillow for training the team throughout the season. We would also like to thank all the players that stepped in when we were short and all the staff that gave up their time to umpire and arrange the matches.

■ **Humza Rana and Mohammad Roheel**

[Lower picture, this page: U14 Cricket Final Runners-Up]



## U13 Cricket

The season kicked off with a great start, beating Bishop Challoner by 10 wickets in the first round of the Amiss Cup. The team played extremely well with Rayyen Khan taking 3 wickets and scoring 33 not out. Our next match against King Henry VIII was a much tougher challenge and Camp Hill were bowled out for 87. Unfortunately, King Henry's chased down Camp Hill's total and we were beaten by 6 wickets.

We went into the third match looking to advance to the semi-finals of the Amiss Cup. Holte won the toss and chose to bat first but a strong bowling performance from the whole team and a brilliant hatrick from Akshat Jakotiah kept Holte down to just 23 runs. Camp Hill openers, Ismaeel Feraz and Haider Naveed, chased down Holte's total with ease in just 5.5 overs, securing our place in the semi-final.

Looking to build on our last performance, Camp Hill were faced with a trip to our rivals KE Five Ways. Camp Hill won the toss and put Five Ways into bat first. A great opening bowling partnership from Eesa Nadeem and Rayyen saw Five Ways stumble to 19-4 and another brilliant performance with the ball from Amogh Shetty meant that Five Ways were bowled out for 69. Camp Hill chased this down in 14.2 overs, victorious in our first meeting against Five Ways this summer.

We then moved on to play Queen Mary's looking to make it three consecutive wins. Two terrific innings from Ali Ibrahim, scoring 68 off 39 balls, and Areeb Tayyab, scoring 33 off 27 balls (with a massive six) allowed Camp Hill to score 179 in our 20 overs. A good bowling performance from the team with Eesa taking 3 wickets saw Camp Hill to a comfortable win by 70 runs. Camp Hill then played KE Stratford and a good innings from Stratford's opener left Camp Hill with the task of chasing 127. Camp Hill were on track to chase this down but Stratford held their nerve



and beat Camp Hill by 27 runs.

We were then faced with reigning champions Five Ways in the semi-final of the cup. Camp Hill batted first and another score from Ali allowed Camp Hill to a grand total of 97. After 7 overs Five Ways were cruising along at 29-0 but some brilliant bowling from Amogh dismissed Five Ways best batsman. Mithul Venkatesan then took two wickets and Camp Hill were now favourites. Five Ways built another partnership but an amazing spell of bowling from Abdur-Rahmaan Khan, taking 5 wickets, secured Camp Hill's spot in the final.

Camp Hill now had to beat Aston to win the cup and we were put in to bat first. Ali

scored 32 and Eesa 21 as Camp Hill scored 125 in the 20 overs. A great bowling performance from the whole team kept Aston down to just 81 runs meaning Camp Hill were the winners of the Amiss Cup by a strong 44 run margin.

This was a great season from the boys and we did extremely well to win the cup. We are very grateful and thankful to Mr Duncan for making this possible. He has helped us improve as individuals and as a team throughout the year. Hopefully, we can defend our trophy next year.

■ **Eesa Nadeem**

[Lower picture above shows U13 Final Winners]

## U12 Cricket

The U12 cricket team have had a very encouraging first season at Camp Hill. Results have not gone our way but the development of the team has been immense, helped by an excellent Captain in Hassan Soonsara.

The highlight of the season was a very good cup run resulting in the reaching the Semi-Final of the Stacey-Jackson Cup. In an enthralling match, verses KE Aston, the U12 side unfortunately lost by four wickets. Batting first, we notched up a very respectable score of 92 off out 20 overs. Muhammad Sikander held the tail together, dominating some excellent lower order partnerships to allow us to post a very competitive score. Sikander again started with the ball, taking two key wickets in an over to swing the game back Camp Hill's way. However, a very composed innings from Aston's key



player allowed the opposition to a four-wicket victory.

Unfortunately, this season was shortened by the poor weather early in the season meaning that there were fewer matches than normal. However, we did compete against KE Stratford,

King Henry VIII, KE Aston and KE Five Ways. Although we came out on the wrong side of the scorecard, we have played some excellent cricket and the side stand in good stead going forward. Shourya Agarwal, Arjun Shoker, Amaan Ahmed, Muhammad Sikandar have excelled

with the bat throughout the season. Elliot Fernandes and Jai Varaich have bowled with good pace, which has been exciting to watch. The line and length category has definitely been dominated by Musa Ahmed, Sushant Shyam, Karan Kukreja and Adith Raghava. Despite never

keeping wicket before the season, Krishna Nair has been a revelation with the gloves. Captain Hassan Soonsara not only led the side well, but been a good all-rounder. Congratulations to Hassan on his Warwickshire Country selection, this is thoroughly deserved.

Overall, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable season. The players have improved considerably and their attitude towards training and on match days has been fantastic. Well done on a great start to your cricketing career at Camp Hill. ■ **T.J.B.**

## Hockey

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey

With the loss of numerous Year 13 players, the new first team knew that they must work doubly hard to succeed. Luckily, under the exquisite leadership of Captain Dhyana Naik, the team was able to step up to the increased demand and got off to a good start, with a 2-2 draw with Newcastle. Following on from the previous match's win, the team were keen to maintain their high, which they were luckily able to do against a strong Bishop Vesey side. A flurry of fast paced and accurate passes provided more than enough opportunities for forwards Luqmaan Rashid and Alex Byrne to coolly slot the ball into the goal for an easy 6-0 win.

Unfortunately, our winning streak (of one) was eventually broken by a powerful Five Ways side. Despite pushing hard from the start and scoring a quick first goal, the team was not able to sustain this lead. Lapses in concentration led to Five Ways winning the match 3-1. The team realised that they could not get away with playing in a relaxed manner against the stronger teams. This led to Vice Captain Keshav Vaitha taking the initiative and employing a new tactic: The Half Pitch Press.

The next match against KE Stratford was the first chance to see how the new tactic would play out. After quickly conceding two goals in the first 5 minutes and losing the match 6-1, the team was not hopeful. However, as time went on and the team could practise more and more during training, we eventually operated like a well oiled machine, brushing off the opposition with ease. After some quality matches using the new system, the team was eager to rematch Five Ways with our new found skill and chemistry.

The match started off badly, with an unfortunate short corner being drag flicked into our net. But this did not faze the team. Albert Chang took the initiative to weave in and out of the opposition players and push the ball through to Alex Byrne, who in turn struck the ball with all of his very limited power, to equalise the score at 1-1 at half time. After an inspiring talk from Mr Watkins and a stern telling off from Dhyana, the team were ready to go back out and win. With a lack of awareness at the start of the second half, the Five Ways side were able to pounce upon our passing mishaps and struck the ball goalwards. Luckily a



fantastic save from our captain kept the score level. This was just the wakeup call the team needed. Quick one-two passing in the midfield led to Luqmaan Rashid being through on goal one on one with the keeper. He sped forward, the ball fixed to the end of his stick, the defenders chasing relentlessly after him and his eyes fixed on the goal. He quickly darted from one direction to the other, as the opposition keeper charged out at him, brushing the ball past the keeper as he chased after it. The opposition goalie surely knew he was beaten, so in one final attempt to save his destroyed pride at the hands of Luqmaan, he dove at the striker; sending him (much to his team mate's amusement) hurtling through the air and hitting the ground with a crash. Although Luqmaan had to leave the pitch injured, it was all in vain, as the penalty flick was missed. The match ended 2-1 to Five Ways as they managed to squeeze a winner at the end.

The final match truly reflected just how well the team were able to work together, with all players from the defence to the attack, working together as one complete unit. Special mention must go to Keshav Vaitha, Albert Chang, Rohan Jobanputra and Humraj Bansal for controlling the midfield and seamlessly drifting past opposition players. Furthermore, recognition goes to Alex Lee for his rapid and skilful runs down the wing and Alex Byrne and Luqmaan Rashid for being up front with their nonstop running and goal scoring. Pranav Thatipamula, Ibi Ahmad, Sam Gray and Matt Page in defence acted as an impenetrable brick wall. Most importantly however, is Dhyana Naik, for his 100% commitment to his team and more importantly, the

chocolates he used to bring at the end of every match. The team thanks Mr Watkins for a fantastic season and his dedication to helping the boys constantly improve.

■ **Luqmaan Rashid**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Hockey

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Hockey Team played 13 matches in what proved to be a gruelling but enjoyable season for the boys, with the team showing great endeavour and enthusiasm.

The season started with a promising 2-1 victory over Wolverhampton Grammar School, a game in which the team combined a clinical attacking performance with a solid defensive display. Unfortunately, this was followed by four straight defeats against Old Swinford, King Edward's Stratford, King Edward's Aston and Queen Mary's. Camp Hill competed on a level par with their opponents, but goal scoring was a constant thorn in the team's side.

However, the team broke free of their shackles against Solihull School, running out 4-2 winners in a scintillating exhibition of attacking hockey, with top scorer Joe Thompson bagging a hat trick. In contrast, Camp Hill failed to score in their following four games. This was summed up by an entertaining 0-0 draw against KES, a game in which defences prevailed, despite encouraging build up play from both teams.

In our final three games of the season, the team endured narrow defeats against Old Swinford and Bablake with the team playing with pleasing coherency, only to be denied



by late goals, before ending the season with a defeat to a strong Five Ways side.

Despite the season record, the team deserve plaudits for keeping a high morale and trying hard throughout the season. Vignesh Venkatamaraiah has captained the side ably, organising the team as well as showing leadership on the pitch. Many thanks to all squad players for showing dedication to the team over the course of the season. Special mentions go to Andrew Lim, James Thomas, Abu Faiyaz, Maninder Kallay and Haseeb Arif for playing all 13 matches. The team would like to express their gratitude to Team Coach Mr Duncan who deserves immense credit for providing valuable insight into our performances, showing dedication to helping the players improve, as well as showing great commitment to the team.

■ **Maninder Kallay**



## U15 Hockey

**T**his past season was one of the best hockey seasons I have played. We have grown a lot as a team, and enjoyed it even more. As a bonus, there were moments when we looked like we were playing actual hockey. Well done guys!

This year there were some new faces as well as old ones. We had Ben Brown to help out Humza Irfan, Yongmin Ju and Han Kang in attack, and the dynamic between them allowed us to actually convert the many opportunities from last year to balls hitting the backboard. Seth Turner and Devesh Aggarwal joined myself, Mohammed-Ali Zahid and Sam Cole in midfield, with Humair Hussain and Subhan Ahmed making appearances, really strengthening and improving our play, particularly in getting the ball from a 16 to the halfway line, something we had struggled with in Year 9.

Vishwameda Nalabotu, Shubdeep Khasriya and Hemal Aggarwal were joined by William Smith in defence, the latter pair proving instrumental on tour. And of course, headed up by top quality Goalkeeper Marzan Ahmed what could ever go wrong? And, as always, the scoreline didn't usually reflect the boys' efforts. But surprisingly, there were times when we did draw this year, and quite a few wins. If this



trend continues next year, then we will be winning nearly every game!

Tour was amazing. We all really bonded as a team, and those roulette jelly sweets on the bus on the way back... That was gross. But very fun. Despite one of our games being cancelled on tour, the other two made up for it. They were both very close, and while the first was in horrific conditions, we didn't let that dampen our spirits. It was a very close match, but we did, unfortunately, just loose. The Saturday game being cancelled gave us the perfect opportunity to actually train on an astro, and it obviously worked, because we convincingly won the Sunday game in glorious sunshine.

Many thanks to all the teachers that went on tour with us, and to Mr Duncan for organising tour. Special thanks to Mr Hardy for making a return from the dead to coach us while we were up there in Carlisle. Of course, Mr Taylor deserves our thanks for being an amazing coach in Year 9, and laying the foundations for this year, helping us to know one end of the hockey cue from the other.

Most of all, the entire team is really thankful to Mr Watkins for coaching us and helping with our play this year, we really appreciate it, especially the time you gave up after school to come to matches with us. Really, really big thank you.

■ **Peter Kippax**

## U14 Hockey

**A** Year 9 hockey team was always likely to be unpredictable, as many were only taking up the sport for the first time. Aside from a few people who had played at summer camps and a handful of club players, most of the current Under-14 side still thought that the sport of hockey was played with a puck rather than a ball.

However, only illustrates how far this team has come since the start of the year, as we have suffered only three defeats all season and won over double that figure. After our first





game against Stratford, which resulted in a 1-0 defeat, we have not looked back, with victories against many other schools, including a 6-0 victory over Old Swinford Hospital.

We have had an extraordinary first year of hockey as a junior side; Mr Taylor confirming this by stating that, "You guys are the best junior team I have ever coached at this

school", leaving our spirits high. Despite being either thrashing or being thrashed – we have achieved great things overall.

The team, as it stands, is the most successful in this age group at Camp Hill, and with contributions from all regular players and prolific goal scorers to our consistently solid goalkeeper Arav, this has proved to be a well-

rounded team.

Finally, as a team, we would like to thank Mr Taylor and Mr Burgess for organizing and taking us to matches, and occasionally Mr Cookson for giving the odd motivational team talk.

■ **Jack Herbert**

## Athletics

The Easter holiday being late put extra pressure on our athletes to return at the start of term in tip-top shape. The weather conditions were not great and unfortunately, it led to some matches being cancelled or postponed. However, the events that did take place proved fruitful for Camp Hill.

Traditionally the first match is the Senior Foundation at KES. This actually fell on the first Wednesday of term and I am grateful to all the boys who competed and in particular to Josh Birch and Ross Evans for their efforts in organising and captaining the teams. It was great to see the attitude the athletes adopted in filling every event given the inevitable last minute withdrawal of some boys. For the Year 13 it was their final appearance of track and field for the school and I hope that some continue to find enjoyment from the sport.

In May, we competed in the English Schools Cup at the Norman Green Centre in Solihull. This is a great competition in which all athletes must

enter two events and there is a lot of thought as to which they are best suited to. It has to be one track and one field event per person; you can spend hours mulling over your options! The U15 team, led by the outstanding Joe Day (300m and high jump), finished runners-up and qualified for the Midlands Final. The U13 went one better and won their match, Chude Ndozi performing strongly in the triple jump and 100m. Joe and Chude continued their form throughout the summer and should be commended for their efforts in setting high standards and encouraging their teammates to do likewise.

We returned to Solihull a week later for the annual Camp Hill match. As ever, we are indebted to the CHB staff who officiate and help make the match an easier one for the seven other schools. All four age groups competed well, the honours going to the U15 who were winners in their age group.

The Midlands Finals eventually took place after two postponements. The U13 came fifth and U15 fourth. Well done to the 14 athletes in each team who competed with such enthusiasm at all times. The Year 8 athletes were the surprise package of the season as they flour-

ished in all events and competed with such enthusiasm throughout.

The Intermediate Foundation match saw the U15 on song again, winning their match whilst the U14 finished fourth. In the Junior age the U13 were second and U12 fifth. The boys will all benefit from an extended season in 2020 and I strongly encourage all the athletes to consider joining a local club where they can access athletics all year round.

My thanks to the staff who have supported the boys this term by coming to the matches. A big thank you also to the Captains: Josh, Ross, Joe, Chude, Sam Ankrah and Karl Rodrigues.

Sports Day will be covered separately in House Reports, but it can be mentioned here that six school records were broken. Faiz Bootwala ran the Y8 300m in 45.4 secs. Omaree Johnson set a new mark of 11.3 secs in the Y10 100m. Joe Day 41.1 secs in the Y10 300m. Without doubt though the stand out performances of the afternoon were from Chude Ndozi who ran the 100m in 12.0 secs and jumped 5.45m in the long jump, 11.43m in the triple jump, to set **three** new records, a remarkable achievement.

■ **M.W.D.**



## Badminton

Saturday 4 May 2019. The National Badminton Finals at Milton Keynes. The U16 squad had performed beyond expectations to reach this prestigious event for the second consecutive year. We were dealt a cruel blow the week before when our No.1 player, Adarsh Palani Kumar was selected to play for England the same weekend in a tournament in Bulgaria. A fantastic opportunity for

him (he has enjoyed more since) but a blow to our team. Zak Malik, Will Yang and Jamie Wen all stepped up a place and were joined by Anil Sivakumar who came in to replace Adarsh.

We played four schools over the course of the day and although we suffered defeat each time, so many matches went long, with a number being settled on a deciding point. On another day, we might have beaten Gosforth and Ecclesbourne. Tapton and Richard Hales were two of the strongest on show. To finish ninth in the country is a commendable

achievement.

Well done to the boys, it is encouraging that the top two seeds Adarsh and Zak will again be available next year for another tilt at the U16 competition.

■ **M.W.D.**

*Please refer to the Tennis section on page 77 for the formal Badminton Team photograph.*



# Basketball

## U15 Basketball

Off the back of an impressive prior season, the U15 basketball was confident about the upcoming challenge of a new season. We were full of hope that this year we could go one better than the previous season and win the league final after slumping to a disappointing loss at the final hurdle last year.

Starting pre-season training gave us an extra confidence boost as the overall improvement of the current squad was obvious and plentiful, especially in the case of Mustafa Shoukat, who seemingly over the summer had transformed into a completely different player; now able to effortlessly take the ball straight to the basket and score with ease. To add to this, we had the encouraging addition of the Year 9's, which gave us a much-needed boost in numbers and the addition of Toby Taylor, in particular, gave us an exciting new prospect and his improvement across the course of the season was obvious. His hard work and constant presence in training and matches allowed to rack up an impressive score tally, especially considering that he was playing a year up. The last addition that really made it a season to look forward to was the addition of our new coach, Mr Butcher. He added a new dynamic to our play in attack and defence and his innovative coaching helped us throughout the course of the season.

So, about the season. We started with a tournament consisting of four 10-minute games. Having played all four games, our expectations of a great season became a reality. We stormed past Kings Norton, Bishop Challenor and Bartley and showed that we could cope in difficult games, as we made the tough opponent of St Thomas Aquinas look a lot worse than they are, in a convincing and controlled win where we showed off our game management and ability to score at vital moments.



The rest of the season continued as we put found a rich vein of good form and won our next three games in the league. So, with a perfect record, we prepared for the semi-final of the league. It was the biggest game of our season so far and the team we were playing, Bishop Illsley, were an unknown entity to us. As it turns out there were no problem – we started quickly and from the start of the game it was clear who had won. The final score: 44-29 proving that at our best we could beat anyone.

Encouraged by this convincing win and after a long wait to find out our final opponent, St Thomas Aquinas were set to be our opponent. Having beaten them earlier in the season, the game was very much in our hands, either turn up and let our skill speak on the court or fold under pressure, similar to last year. Unfortunately, it was the latter that happened. The opposition shocked us with their pressure defence and after a shaky start, nobody took charge or played anywhere near their best. It was a crushing end to the season and an eight game winning streak.

Not wanting to dwell on negatives, I would like to tell you about the many amazing players, the first of which, Zach Hobson-Taher, is the embodiment of getting the basics right, helping him to score plenty of points throughout

the season and his important contributions to the team effort often went overlooked. Joe Day, who can jump out the gym, picked up more rebounds than I can count over the season, Mustafa Shoukat, who I mentioned earlier, often carried or shared the scoring load with myself. Omar DeLewis had the ability to bully anyone he came up against, which allowed him to chip in often with clutch baskets which often decided games and finally Emery Uzoma, who was a constant presence throughout the season, and his defensive prowess coupled with his dribbling made him a very valuable player.

To finish off this report I'd like to give out a few words of thanks. Firstly, to Mr Butcher, for coaching us throughout the season and taking away from his free time to coach us in training and matches. Secondly, to Mr Burgess, for helping Mr Butcher coach and also refereeing most of our games and if you both hadn't given up your time, many of the games would not have happened so on behalf of the team, I extend our thanks. Finally, I would like to thank and encourage the team and with the prospect of an U16 team, I am sure that we can learn from the experience of losing in the final and go one further next year.

■ Sam Morris

## U13 Basketball

2018, beckoned and it was time for a new young basketball team to fill the shoes of the new Year 9s. After a term of basketball in PE and many intensive basketball training sessions on Thursday lunchtimes, KECHB Basketball Team had their first match against Kings Heath rivals Bishop Challoner.

Having started the game badly, the boys were able to rekindle some hope and slowly narrow the 14-2 lead Challoner held by half time. By the end of the match, the boys had tried hard and we were able to amount 13 points in the last 2 quarters, but sadly lost the game 15-22.

More training sessions went by and the



team began to come together. With a match against St Georges coming up, we were confident. As we saw the away court for the first time, we realised that Harley Hau missing the coach earlier that day was not the strangest thing that would happen... Soon after walking in, we realised that everything we had learnt in training sessions would go out the window as the court was a quarter of the size of our home court. The different court proved difficult. After an influential and inspiring talk by Mr Duncan at half time, however, we were fired up but unfortunately, we were not able to close down their lead, but Mr Duncan was impressed by the

way, we had adapted to the unusual situation.

As the year ended, our final basketball match was announced. This proved to be our toughest match yet. We were to face a much stronger and talented Queensbridge side at home. In contrast to our other games, we started this match well. For the first two quarters, we were head to head with their team. We ended the first half trailing by just four. Although this seemed like a score we could have chased down, it was not. The last term and a half of training had all led up to this. We started the half by getting a basket, but it was all downhill from there. We were much more tired than our opposition who were

ruthless in the second half and eventually won the match 31-13.

Although we had a bitter ending to our season, it was great to see the boys flourish and get to know each other as a basketball team. Props go to Prasanna Sivakumar and Jibraan Rashid for playing all the matches. Jonah Kippax, Chude Ndozi and Jibraan were later selected by Mr Duncan to participate in a Y8 and Y9 Tournament where the school performed well. Finally, special thanks must go to Mr Duncan for coaching the team, standing by us and being just as passionate as the boys.

■ **Jibraan Rashid**

## Chess

This has been a quiet year for Chess, a chance to rebuild and stabilise after recent years. Mr Oggelsby took over the role of Master in Chess in October, shortly after which the school partook in the BJDCL Blitz Tournament at KES. In this tournament, teams of four play each other at Chess, but with a twist, each player only has 3 minutes to play all their moves. It was an interesting tournament, with participants having to think on the fly. Moves they would normally take minutes considering, agonising over all the consequences and whether it was the right time to sacrifice the knight, or maybe move the bishop to B3 had to be done in a fraction of that time. Some players were very quick at adapting to this format and were able to capitalise on the weaknesses of their opposition. Others struggled a little, making uncharacteristic mistakes early on, but rebounding later in the tournament. Camp Hill took six teams to the tournament, and all students represented the school well, achieving second place overall, as well as the highest placed under 13 tournament.

A second tournament took place in March where a group of eleven students travelled to KES to take part in the Blitz Lighting Chess Tournament. This time the event consisted of eleven teams, with Camp Hill entering two, one made up of KS3 students and the other consisting of our KS4 and five students. Upon arriving the boys started practicing for the intensity that was about to occur. The students fought continuously, playing two hours of concentrated chess; both the 'A' and 'B' team gave it their best. Despite their best efforts, the CHB 'A' team came in third, winning the runners up trophy and just narrowly losing to KES. The 'B' team came in an admirable eighth place.

In November, the Birmingham Chess League began. This league features a number of teams from local schools such as KES, Five Ways and Solihull, as well as schools that are a little further afield. Our Division Two team started strongly against Five Ways achieving a draw overall. Many of the matches were very



close, and our players were unlucky not to win their matches. Daniel Chen and Karan Kukreja, both of Year 7, played superbly against two Year 11's, winning in both of their matches. Mowahid Shahbaz, Year 12, also played very well, and helped to support younger members of the team. As the year progressed, they grew as a team, beating many of their opposition. They were very proud of their victory against one of the teams from KES, and ultimately were victors in their league.

Our Division 1 and U13 experienced less success last year. Their first matches were against the KES 'A' team, traditionally the toughest opponents in the league. KES's Division One team were very good, achieving a victory in all of their matches. KES's team were Year 11's, whereas the Camp Hill team were all Year 10's. As with the Division Two team a number of the matches were very close, especially the match involving Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov, where Deniz was seconds away from beating his opponent on time, but had the victory cruelly snatched away from him. The U13's, all Year 7's, were playing a team of Year 8's, and experienced a little more success, Harvey Murray winning one of his games, and Ryan Alexander winning one and drawing his second game. However, they still lost overall. The KES team were incredibly strong, but our students gained a lot from the experience. As suspected, both teams grew came back stronger in later matches, each placing second in their respective division's.

Looking forward to the coming year, the format of the league is changing as we move

to embrace the technological age by playing matches over the internet. Whilst the human element of playing opposite a real person will be lost, hopefully, it means that more matches can be played, as opposing schools will not have to travel as far, or traverse across the city during rush hour. This was a real problem this year, and resulted in a number of our fixtures being cancelled. It also seems likely we may have four teams in the league this year, and with the addition of the chess table in the quad, the interest in chess is growing once more.

This will feed into wonderfully into next term's House Chess. This year House Chess took place in January and February and it got off to a very interesting start. Beaufort thrashed Howard 6.5 points to 1.5, and Seymour thrashed Tudor. The signs were that it would be a two-way fight between Beaufort and Seymour. However, things took a surprising turn in the second round of the competition this year. Seymour continued with their winning streak, demolishing their opposition of Howard (5.5-2.5). Beaufort lost their match to Tudor (5-3). It was a narrow escape but ultimately it was a convincing win for Tudor in the end. Things were interestingly poised for the final round. Mathematically it was possible for Beaufort, Seymour and Tudor could all still win. Ultimately though it seemed that Seymour were heading for victory, Tudor and Beaufort locked in a battle for second place.

The third round began, and Seymour had the momentum. Led by Daniel Chen of Year 7,



Seymour defeated Beaufort 5.5–2.5, achieving a decisive victory, not just in the match but in the competition as well. Overall four players in Seymour won all three of their games (Daniel Chen, Qasim Bedford, Viswamedha Nalabotu and Kevin Xu) making them the star players of the tournament. In the other match Tudor defeated an improving Howard 5–3, securing second place. The final standings were Seymour with 3 victories, Tudor with 2, Beaufort with 1 and Howard with 0.

During the tournament the matches were played with skill and cunning, some matches lasting an hour, others minutes. There was a wide range of talent on display, and some very clever and inventive match play. Observing

the play over the weeks, as well as throughout the other tournaments, highlighted the skills of our Chess players in all year groups. Whilst some players have now moved on, others have returned, and new ones have joined, making the squad a very healthy one.

As we move into the new academic year and the new Chess season, it is clear that Camp Hill have the potential to present a very strong line up this year. New additions into Year 12, and a resurgence of interest from Year 13's and Year 11's are supporting the development of talent in the lower year groups, and the teams are looking at entering some national competitions later on in the term. Trials and training for the division matches are just beginning, but

first it is back to the Blitz Tournament, this time at Camp Hill, where the teams hope to build on last year's success.

Chess is organised in school by Mr Oggelsby, and there are two chess sessions a week. Monday after school is for students looking to improve their chess skills, and is run by one of our Year 13 students. Wednesday lunch-time is for players who would like to play chess socially, or against new opponents. Both sessions are run in P1. House Chess occurs in the spring term, and features eight players from each House, locked in battle until one House is the victor.

■ J.G.O.

## Football

Following a particularly average prior season, the football team looked forward to the start of this year, boasting strong additions from the Lower Sixth, and transfers from the rugby team. The squad were by Captain Rumun Ark, and had strong, consistent performances all round, most notably from player of the season Dylan Rogers.

We began the season with a trip to a strong Solihull Sixth Form side, and began our campaign with a resounding 4-2 win, with Dylan netting a debut hat trick. This performance was echoed again in our following game in which Bablake were handed a 7-0 thrashing. Goals from Hasan Akthar, Ciaran Cunningham, Jake Tucker, and another hat trick from Dylan Rogers left us brimming with confidence following two sensational performances from the whole team.

In our following three matches, we sustained our top performances and remained unbeaten with wins against Handsworth Grammar School, Princethorpe, and a draw against a tough Southam College team. The first game was won 4-3, and Shuayb Ayub deserved all the plaudits after scoring two stunning goals off the bench to win us the game. However, the match against Princethorpe will likely be written into the school history books, as it was our first ever win over a side to whom we have always lost to for a numerous amount of years. The team went 2-0 down early in the first half, and Sam Hope's resilience in goal kept the margin to just two. However, an inspired attacking performance from the young Lower Sixth players Ciaran, Hasan and Henry pulled us back into the game on either side of the halftime break. However, only one player would be able to get the winner for us and up stepped Shuayb Ayub. He continued his goal scoring form to win us the game with just 10 minutes to play. Notable defensive performances go to Jake Tucker, Harry Yate, Muhammed Kurji and Bilal Hussain who all put in strong efforts to keep the goals



Pictures above: (Top) 1<sup>st</sup> XI (Bottom) 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

conceded at two. The goal of the season was given to Abbas Mirza who struck a 'rasping thunderbolt', according to Mr Speake, from 25 yards into the top right corner in our 1-1 draw against Southam.

Unfortunately, our first loss of the season came in a cup competition against Stourbridge College who frequently play in National Cup competitions and they convincingly beat us 7-2. The rest of the season seemed to be scarred by this disappointing performance, and our form after the Christmas holidays took a turn for the worst. We lost 4 out of our 5 games, with

our win being a 5-0 win against Princethorpe's 2<sup>nd</sup> team: goals coming from Bilal, Abbas and Dylan. Our 2-1 loss against Five Ways left us with a bitter taste after we were unlucky with some decisions given against us, but a 5-0 loss to Kings Worcester was our most disappointing, highlighting the need for some more set piece training, (our physicality in the air was particularly shaky all season).

Our other losses came against Old Swinford, King Henry's and Alcester Grammar in the last

game of the season. The latter was particularly hard to take after we put in a thrilling effort as an Upper Sixth side. Imad Tariq gave a solid shift at centre half alongside myself, and Jake Tucker scored a sensational goal after a mazy run past three Alcester defenders down the left flank. Sadly, we were left with a disappointing 3-2 loss

after a shot cleared off the line was followed by an Alcester goal against the run of play.

Overall, it was a season of two halves; however, as a team, I truly believe that we had some brilliant all round and individual performances, and we were blessed to have had such strong additions. The team would like to thank

Mr Speake and Mr Garrod for their efforts in training and on matchdays with both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. I wish the new squad all the best, and hope that they build on the desire, confidence and flair that they showed throughout the season with me.

■ **Rumun Ark**

## Swimming

The Autumn term kicked off with a flurry of activity for the school swimmers, who had four galas up to the Christmas break, including the ESSA relay gala at Bluecoat School, and Captain Henry Belai did an excellent job of encouraging and organising his younger peers.

An exciting new development this year has been the school's participation in a national water polo competition. Simon Halstead and Matt Dixon have been coaching a team of boys on Friday lunchtimes, ready to take part in the ESSA U18 Water Polo Competition at the start of December. We placed fourth in our group, putting up stiff completion against the more experienced team from Bolton School.

While the summer term would turn out to be very quiet for school swimming, the spring term was full of activity. Back from the Christmas break, the Camp Hill Boys and Girls swimmers were off to St Martins School in Solihull for a match against their girls and boys from Arden School. Unfortunately some severe weather meant that it took the teams an inordinate amount of time to get over to the hosts, and the match was cut short. Some CHB boys did get a swim though, and high praise was levied at Joe Day and Lorcan Halstead for helping Mr O'Malley organise the junior boys into action.

Mr O'Malley also took two trips over to the Bromsgrove School Invitational Relays, hosted at Worcester. Our U15 and U18 teams put a solid effort in and a highlight was the U18 medley team coming seventh in the Medley Relay final, beating local rivals KES.

The U13 boys also had their turn at the



invitational relays. It was great that many of our very strong Year 8 swimmers were able to take part. Our 'A' team comprised Sam Nouhov, Anthony Demitry, Cyrus and Darius Maleki-Tooserkani. They qualified for the 'A' final in both the medley and freestyle relay events, narrowly missing out on a bronze medal in the Medley final. Our 'B' team included Ethan Tumbos, Jonah Kippax, Ibrahim Afzal and Vansh Pradhan. They also enjoyed success, qualifying for the 'B' finals in both relay events, and winning their freestyle final.

Later still in the long spring term, we hosted Bromsgrove and enjoyed our annual splash against Camp Hill Girls. Both galas were competitive, with the final scores against CHG leading to a draw overall! Well done to all who took part.

As the summer exam season approached, we bade farewell to Senior swimmers Henry Belai and Abdur Sharif, and said a temporary 'au revoir' to Year 11s Anil, Miles, Ross and Samyak, who will hopefully return to Camp Hill Swimming next year. The summer term saw an

attempt at hosting a gala against Five Ways, which sadly had to be cancelled, and a continuation of Friday afternoon training, which has proven as popular as ever.

This year there have been a good number of boys and girls who attended almost every Friday session: well done to Year 9s Alice, Santana, Anita, Siyu and Year 7s Safa, Emily, Jeya and Bahar for all being regular attendees, as well as the Year 10s Alisha and Jess, who completed the physical aspect of their Duke of Edinburgh Award with us.

Also to the boys: Friday afternoon stalwarts Adrian, Ibrahim, Matteo, George and the elusive Yicheng have all made regular appearances, alongside Year 7s Ryan Alexander and Rhys Jamieson, super-keen swimmer Sicheng Li, and the only swimmer from CHB who can tumble turn, plan a swimming set and bake a cake at the same time, Mr Samuel Nouhov. Well done to all of our regulars and we hope to see you swimming again next year.

■ **S.O.M.**

## Bromsgrove Preparatory School Relay Gala

Mon 4 March 2019

The team of eight swimmers consisted of Cyrus, Darius, Anthony, Ethan, Jonah, Ibrahim, Vansh and Sam and we travelled to Worcester listening to "liquid drum and bass" blasting out of Mr O'Malley's phone. Our aims for the day were to make the final and maybe even achieve a medal. There was an optimistic approach to the warm up and we were enthusiastic about the swimming that lay ahead.





First up was the 4 x 25m freestyle relay for which we had entered the 'A' and 'B' team. Impressive swims from all ensured the 'A' team qualifying for the 'A' final (for medals) whilst the 'Bs' qualified for the 'B' final. The finals showed improved times in both teams and the 'A's came fifth out of 16 whilst the 'B's came second in their final and tenth overall.

The Medley Relay looked even more hopeful though as most were swimming in their

prime stroke. The 'A's qualified easily for the final and so did the 'B's for the 'B' final. The 'B's swam really well with an impressive start from Ethan on the backstroke, and Jonah pushed us even further ahead on the breaststroke, with Ibrahim bravely swimming fly on the third length and Vansh battling on the freestyle to get Camp Hill a win in the 'B' final. That left the team of Sam, Darius, Anthony and Cyrus to swim their medley final. It was a tough swim

against KES, Warwick and Bromsgrove but after sprinting over four lengths, it just was not enough as Camp Hill narrowly missed third place and were fourth.

Overall, it was a great swim by all with some good results. Thank you Mr O'Malley for accompanying us and driving us there. Also to Ethan for sharing his popcorn with us.

■ **Sam Nouhov**

## Tennis

The number of schools playing Team Tennis in the local area appears to be diminishing. In recent years, neither KE Five Ways or KE Aston have been able to field teams and as a result, the task of finding fixtures has become more difficult. We have maintained our links with KES, Bishop Vesey and Solihull at Senior Level, but this year, even these matches fell victim to boys' exam commitments and the weather.

As a result, the Senior team only played on match this year. This was in the Senior Students Competition back in October, where the Camp Hill team, weakened through injury, lost to a strong Prince Henry's Evesham. Sadly, two players who have been stalwarts of school tennis since joining Camp Hill, did not have the final year that their commitment deserved. Danny Blyth and Ajay John have represented the school in 50 matches during their time here and more significantly, they won 79 out of the 110 sets of Tennis they played. We wish them both well in the future.

The impact of less schools playing competitive tennis has also been felt at U15 and U13 level. Local leagues, once made up of five or six teams have now diminished to two or three. Camp Hill still manages to field two teams at each of these age levels, but the task of finding opposition of a similar standard is becoming more difficult.

The season began on a positive note with last year's U15 and U13 'B' teams playing in the regional finals at Loughborough University in October, as a result of winning their local leagues last summer. The teams – U15:

[Pictured right]  
Formal Team Photograph for  
both Badminton and Tennis

Pranav Juloori, Luke Hemmings, Imaad Zaffar and Karthik Bharadawaj; U13: Jai Bahalkar, Prasanna Sivakumar, Praneeth Udathu and Sai Ponnuru. The U15s made it through the first round before losing to Leciester GS. The U13s fought their way through three rounds of matches before losing narrowly to Market Bosworth Academy from Leicestershire in the final.

Although deprived of matches and the services of Jai Bahalkar through injury, our U15 'A' and 'B' teams have made a success of their league programme. The 'A' team: Manan Jasuga, Milan Dawson, Aryan Singh and Pranav Juloori beat KES 4-3 in the league decider. The match being decided by a championship tie break. The 'B' team: Pranav Juloori, Praneeth Udathu, Aryan Singh, Jack Johnson, Prithu Krishnan, Kierandeep Singh and Sai Ponnuru also won their three league matches to top the league. Both teams have qualified for the regional finals in October.

Camp Hill hosted the U14 Road To Wimbledon Competition early in the summer term. Eight schools from the local area battled it out in a series of timed tie break matches. Our strength in depth at this age group showed with two all Camp Hill semi-finals. Milan Dawson edged out last year's winner Jai Bahalkar in the final to progress to the next stage.

Our U13 teams have also performed well.



The U13 'A' and 'B' teams comprised of: Darius and Cyrus Maleki-Toosserkani, Krishna Nair, Prasanna Sivakumar and Dylan McIntyre. The 'A's beat KES 'B' 4-2, a really encouraging result, given that their 'A' team has players of national standard in it. The 'B's followed the example of the U15s and won three matches to win their league, earning qualification for the regional finals.

During the summer term, the Camp Hill U15 Open Singles Tournament was held one night after school. The 16 players from Year 9 and 10 who participated are testament to the strength in depth at this age group. The format was 15 minute tie break matches, with team tennis players being seeded. There were a number of very close encounters. Jai Bahalkar upset the seeding by beating Manan Jasuga 20-14 in a closely contested final.

Well done to all Tennis players who have represented the school this year!

■ **C.M.J.**

## Water Polo

### National Bowl Champions 2019

Water Polo has always been a passion of mine and with a desire to share one of my favourite sports with the rest of the school, Simon Halstead and myself decided to re-establish the school team which was previously active ten years ago.



The first tournament saw the team face some very tough opponents including St. Bede's and St. Joseph's, St. Ambrose College and Bolton. Unfortunately, we lost all three matches, but due to our opponents' previous achievements this was expected and the boys left with their heads held high and ready to train harder than before for the next round. Special mentions go to Joe Day and Leon Zhang for great performances on the wings.

In the second round, the team travelled to Cheltenham School for the second round of the National English School Competition. However, a 3-0 defeat in the first game against a strong Warwick, suggested a tough afternoon was in the offing. Mr Burgess' genius tactical advice proved key though, with a switch in goalkeeper leading to three good results against Churches College, St Edwards and Cheltenham. Highlights included Ross Evans' first games in goal, Michael James-Thomas' dominant defending and Matt Dixon's goal scoring efforts. The excellent results meant Camp Hill placed second and qualified for the



final round with a trophy up for grabs.

Going into the final round the boys felt confident and were ready for their rematch with Warwick. On arrival, we were informed that a McDonald's was up for grabs alongside potential medals, which gave everyone a greater incentive to win. After two relatively easy games against St Paul's Cathedral and Eton, it was time for the final game against Warwick – the rematch. After a few minutes of solid defence from both sides and some great covers from Michael James Thomas, it was 1-1 by half time. But it seemed Warwick's two-hour training session the day prior was all for nothing as the last-minute goal from Matt Dixon

meant that the final whistle was blown and it was 2-1 to Camp Hill meaning we had won the tournament. Honourable mentions got to Krishan Kaushal bagging 10 goals, as well as Simon and Lorcan Halstead's organisation in defence and Jason Yeo for making his first tackle. A very special mention to Henry Belai who remembered his kit this time.

Many thanks go to Mr O'Malley, Mr Watkins and Mr Burgess for supervising training sessions and accompanying us to each round. We hope to achieve similar results in next year's competition.

■ **Matt Dixon** (Captain)

## Sports Day







# Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	20	8	0	12	491	607
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	12	6	0	6	231	334
	U16	2	1	0	1	31	59
	U15 A	18	8	0	10	401	427
	U15 B	1	1	0	0	27	20
	U14 A	20	13	1	6	455	423
	U14 B	4	2	0	2	149	86
	U13 A	16	2	0	14	235	650
	U13 B	4	2	0	2	145	95
	U13 C	2	2	0	0	70	50
	U13 D	0	0	0	0	0	0
	U12 A	13	3	0	10	245	500
	U12 B	2	0	0	2	20	75
	U12 C	2	0	0	2	35	50
	U12 D	1	0	0	1	10	25
HOCKEY	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	13	3	2	8	21	37
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	13	2	1	10	11	41
	U15	9	4	0	5	11	25
	U14	8	4	0	4	15	12
BADMINTON	U16 A	14	14	0	0	50	3
	U16 B	2	1	0	2	3	6
	U14 A	1	0	0	1	0	3
	U14 B	2	1	0	1	4	2
BASKETBALL	U15	9	8	0	1	241	152
	U14	4	2	0	2	32	22
	U13	3	0	0	3	42	77
FOOTBALL	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	13	5	1	7	30	36
	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	8	2	2	4	16	17
WATER POLO	U18	11	5	1	5	30	18

TEAMS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
ATHLETICS	12	6	3	1	3
SWIMMING	5	5	2	3	0



CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	4	0	0	4	I. Mohammed 101*	O. Akram 3/29
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1	0	0	1	I. Ali 14	I. Ali 2/15
U15	5	4	0	1	A. Chowdhury 60*	K. Chinnaswamy 3/0
U14 A	6	3	0	3	W. Mackie 32*	H. Rana 3/6
U14 B	2	0	0	2		
U13	8	6	0	2	A. J. Ibrahim 68	A. R. Khan 5/6
U12 A	5	0	0	5	J. Varaich 36	M. Sikander 3/10
U12 B	1	1	0	0		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 <sup>st</sup> IV	1	0	0	1
U15 A	3	1	0	2
U15 B	3	3	0	0
U14 A	1	1	0	0
U13 A	4	3	1	0
U13 B	2	2	0	0

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2018 – 2019				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
ATHLETICS	10	5	7	3
BADMINTON	2	3	1	4
BASKETBALL	1	4	7	4
CHESS	2	1	4	3
CRICKET	7	3	5	10
CROSS COUNTRY	10	7	5	3
FOOTBALL	7	5	3	1
HOCKEY	7	4	4	1
MUSIC	2	1	4	3
QUIZ	2	4	3	1
RUGBY	10	7	5	3
SWIMMING	10	3	5	7
TABLE TENNIS	1	2	4	3
TENNIS	2.5	4	2.5	1
OVERALL TOTAL	73.5	53	59.5	47





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***King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys***

Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7QJ

Telephone: 0121 444 3188

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