



**KING EDWARD VI  
CAMP HILL  
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*

## SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of another successful Summer term and as we bring the academic year to a close, there are so many things to be grateful for. I often talk to the students about gratitude and how important it is not to take things for granted, and this newsletter is as good a place as any to lead by example.

Even though the weather has been quite warm at times, I still think that we should be grateful. It has been wonderful to see the students enjoying the good weather, particularly when they are able to enjoy the freedom of the school fields at break time and lunchtime. I am always conscious that I should be careful what I wish for, and although I did find myself occasionally wishing for cooler days, I am pleased that (at the time of writing) we have not been plunged into thunderstorms. Certainly, the students have been excellent at heeding our advice to cover up in the sun and to stay hydrated.

Work on our new building, The Camp Hill Community Hub, is progressing well. We have appointed a contractor and there is a provisional start date for the building of 23rd July! We continue to look for financial support to raise enough money for the All Weather Pitch project to follow on as soon as possible after the CHCH build. Please let everyone know about these important projects and do consider whether you can join us in providing financial support. To find out more about the project please click on this link. This important project will provide new classrooms, new toilet facilities, new changing rooms and a multipurpose area that will facilitate music & drama performances and additional dining space. I cannot emphasise enough how important this project is for the wellbeing and success of the students, and I urge you to support us in any way you can.



The community we have at Camp Hill Boys is a wonderful place to be, and it is a privilege to work alongside the amazing students and staff. Together we have experienced scores of school trips, clubs, societies, drama productions, and musical concerts, and the sporting calendar has been as broad as it is deep. Truly there is something for everyone at Camp Hill, and where a gap in provision appears, it is all too quickly plugged by students and staff volunteering to launch a new club.

I therefore pay tribute to all members of the community: the students, the teachers, the support staff, the parents, the governors and the Foundation staff who all work tirelessly for the good of the many. Selflessness is a key attribute that the staff display in huge doses and it rubs off quickly on the students – the communal spirit of giving has never been so strong.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the second Annual Foundation Awards night where staff across the 14 schools of the King Edward VI Foundation were celebrated. I think it is important that we reflect on the contribution of all staff (teachers and support staff) at Camp Hill Boys and how hard they work to help us. Whilst every member of staff here deserves recognition for their contribution, I want to let you know that Mr Jack (a teacher of 54 years' service), Mr Daniels (a cleaner at our school who brightens our every morning), Mrs Bonner (our superb Catering Manager), and Mrs Harris (our Finance Officer of 25 years) all received special mention during the ceremony.

It is important that I go on record to express my deep gratitude for the service given by this year's staff leavers: Ms Pearcey (Computing), Mr Redshaw (Physics), Mr Wells (Computing), Mr Younis (DT), and Mr Lakkineni (Student Intern). I'm pleased, however, to reassure you that Ms Pearcey is remaining with us in her Music role. These wonderful people have led the way in their spirit of generosity and kindness, and we will miss them greatly. We look forward to keeping in touch with them and hearing how they are doing in the exciting new chapters in their lives.

I am pleased to say that the exam season went well and although there was the usual jangling of nerves, most students looked excited, relieved and happy even when they came out of each exam. We know that they have worked hard to prepare properly for their exams, so they don't need any luck, but we wished them the best of luck anyway and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results day.

I have talked to our students a lot over the years about the "Three Rs" and kindness. For your benefit, and in the hope that you can help reinforce these messages, here are my current thoughts.

Being ready is more than just turning up to lessons with the right books. It's about preparing your mind-set. It's about walking through the gates each morning thinking: "I'm going to make today count."

Respect isn't just about saying "please" and "thank you" – although those do matter. It's about how we treat people all the time, especially when nobody's watching. It's giving your full attention when someone's speaking. It's accepting differences – in background, in belief, in identity. It's recognising that every person around you is fighting a battle you might know anything about. We are all different – but everyone is worthy of dignity. Respect is the glue that holds a school community together. Without it, things fall apart.

Being responsible doesn't mean being perfect. It means owning your actions, even when it's hard. If you've made a mistake – say so. If you've messed up – make it right. If you see something wrong – don't join in, and if you can, help stop it. Responsibility also means thinking bigger than yourself. When you leave a mess behind, someone else has to clean it up. When you're careless with your words, someone else might carry that hurt all day. Responsibility is about stepping up. Not stepping back.

You can be ready, respectful and responsible... and still forget to be kind. But without kindness, the rest is hollow. Kindness is power. It is strength. Anyone can join in with a laugh at someone else's expense. It takes courage to be the person who says: "That's not okay." Or even just: "Are you alright?" You don't need to be best friends with everyone. But if every one of us made the choice, just once a day, to be a little kinder – this school would feel even more like a place people want to be. Kindness costs nothing and means everything.

The school continues to work towards ambitious sustainability objectives. Last year we installed LED lighting across the estate and this year we installed photovoltaic panels on our roof space. This new equipment will help us to enjoy lower ecological impact and lower energy bills. We have also promoted sustainable travel by installing electric vehicle charging facilities and now the staff can drive to school powered by sunshine! This was continued by our excellent Active Travel Ambassadors' ongoing campaign to get more students (and staff) to walk or cycle to school.

We have enjoyed meeting the new Year 7 students and our new Year 12 students in our induction events this July. It can be both exciting and daunting joining a new school (even if you are moving from Year 11 to Year 12 in the same school) and every year we work really hard to facilitate new friendships and build a welcoming community. We have delivered several primary school taster sessions aimed at reaching out to local primaries and supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This important work ensures that our school plays its part in promoting social mobility and is a clear statement that we are open to all able students from all backgrounds.

I wanted to thank the attendees at our recent Parents Focus Group meetings where we focused on topics such as school security, pastoral care, communication, behaviour policy and homework. Your feedback is helping us to formulate our policy and practices, and it also helps us to strengthen and protect all of the good things we are already doing. Your latest feedback on the school facilities, the new Community Hub and All Weather Pitch projects has led to important reviews of our estates and infrastructure.

So, I will sign off by wishing you all a wonderful holiday with all the peace and happiness you deserve. I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to being with you again at the start of the Autumn Term.

Warmest wishes,

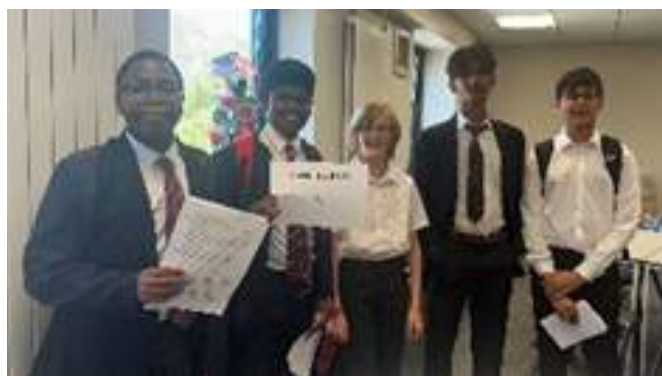
**Mr Bowen**  
**Headmaster**  
**July 2025**

## Equality Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I)

We began the term with our student committee focusing on the issue of Intersectionality. The term intersectionality was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw and is designed to explain how people can have more than one protected characteristic.

The group designed a short form time activity for Key Stage 3 that was intended to explain this idea to other students, and they then went on to present their work at the Foundation Wide Student ED&I Committee Meeting that took place on the 18th of June 2025.

In addition, we held the inaugural Key Stage 3 Cultural Exhibition on Tuesday 1st of July 2025. The form groups worked really hard during the summer term and produced information, presentation, posters and, in some cases, food that related to their chosen country.



## Year 8 GCHQ event

On Wednesday 11th June 2025, about thirty Year 8 students and I attended an online event run by GCHQ - the Government Communications Headquarters, one of the UK's intelligence and security agencies. Following an introduction from Edward Evans (Civil Servant in the Department of Health and Social Care) featuring a fun little quiz, three people spoke about their experiences with languages and how it has linked to their careers.

Firstly, Rosemary spoke to us about her work in the British embassy in Tokyo and how it took her around East Asia. She also reflected on how important it is to practise languages, giving us a personal story of how fast she managed to forget much of her Chinese when she was a child.

Next Lisa, the Head of Languages at GCHQ told us about how her linguistic skills enabled her to travel to many places, including Germany, France, the Middle East and further. She also discussed how knowing one language can help with learning another; for example, with how she did a program at GCHQ to learn Russian thanks to her knowledge of the German language, which is similar in grammar to Russian.

Finally, Ilsa explained how her knowledge of foreign languages allowed her to help refugees from Ukraine in Poland. She also spoke about how her grandfather taught her Russian through watching television and reading newspapers together when she was only three years old!

Overall, I found the event interesting and I know many others did too. Languages opened up so many doors and gave our speakers so many opportunities. It has also inspired me to take more care in maintaining my French and Polish - mainly owing to fear of forgetting them!

Many thanks to Mrs Wells for organising this event.

## **Oskar Pineau**



## Chinese Community Centre

The Chinese Community Centre is a place where elderly Chinese people come together to exercise and have as much fun in their old age as they can. They play board games, eat nice food, do lots of sewing or knitting, they play table tennis, do karaoke and a lot more. Another thing they like to do is hold concerts when there are special events like the mid-autumn festival. Luckily enough for me, they asked if my sister and I would like to play some music in the Volunteer week concert. We were overjoyed when they asked us this so we accepted straight away.

When we arrived at the hall, it was buzzing with people so we set up our instruments and got ready to play. The first piece that I played was called L'orage which means 'the storm'. Then my sister played her piece with me on the piano accompaniment part and then she played a solo piece. Finally, I finished the concert with a Chinese music classic: Moon Represents My Heart. After the concert was finished, we were overjoyed yet again to be accepted to play something at the stage for Chinese New Year 2026 outside the Hippodrome.

### **Joshua Rowlands (7E)**



## Year 12 Religious Studies Trip to Buddhist Temples

As part of their A Level Religious Studies course, Year 12 students recently visited the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara and the Birmingham Buddhist Centre to deepen their understanding of Buddhism in practice. The trip offered a unique opportunity to experience Buddhist teachings and traditions firsthand, complementing their classroom learning.



At the Vihara, students were warmly welcomed by the resident monks, who shared insights into Theravāda Buddhist practices, daily monastic life, and the significance of meditation. The group then visited the Birmingham Buddhist Centre, where they explored the Mahāyāna tradition and discussed the Seven-fold Puja.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated exemplary behaviour and a genuine curiosity about the Buddhist way of life. They asked thoughtful, respectful questions and engaged meaningfully with the speakers. Truly, a credit to the school!

The trip was a valuable and enriching experience, helping to bring the study of Buddhism to life and inspiring further reflection and discussion back in the classroom.



## English Department

We began the term in a celebratory mood, with the Public Speaking finals having taken place at the end of the Easter term. This is always a lovely event. The standard was exceptionally high - it was difficult to choose the winners, and it was a very entertaining and informative morning.

Our judges were: Mrs Amy McDermott from Camp Hill Girls, Ms Dawson and a student winner from the previous year Ayan Butt.

### The Winners

#### The Junior Section:

**1st** Supreeth Sudhakar 8K: The influence of social media.

**2nd** Raya Khan 9C: Is Fortnite more than just a game?

**3rd** Milan Sabharwal-Parmar 7H: What fast fashion is doing to our Earth

**4th** Zack Ditta 9H: Is crying unmanly?

#### The Senior Section

**1st** Sachit Sharma 10K : Could an AI ever deserve rights?

**2nd** Muhammad Awais 10H : Should the death penalty be abolished in the USA?

**3rd** Musa Ali 10K: Does the UK prison system work?

In addition, this term Dr Donnelly has been working with local writer Paven Virk to create a play with 9K. Ms. Virk mentored the group in writing duologues as part of a wider play entitled The Highs and Lows of a Teenager... Bruh! The students workshopped scenes for two characters which touched on themes of relevance to today's youth, including social media, consumerism, and gambling. Ms. Virk, who has herself starred in such films as Bend It Like Beckham as well as written for TV series including Skins, helped the class to develop a final performance of the play for the lower years on Thursday 17th July. Various funny, tragic, and thought-provoking, this has hopefully been a wonderful way to end KS3 English for 9K. Look out- the plan is to potentially roll out the scheme for more Year 9s next year!

Finally, we were very sorry to see Ms Robertson depart on maternity leave this year... however we are also very excited for her family and their new addition. She will be returning in September 2026, but in the meantime, we would like to welcome Mr Browne to the Department.

## Camp Hill Boys U15 Cricket Team Shine in a Stellar Season

The Camp Hill Boys U15 cricket team has enjoyed a truly remarkable season, showcasing talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship in equal measure. Over the course of 10 fiercely contested matches, the team emerged victorious in 8, suffering only 2 narrow defeats—a testament to their consistency and competitive spirit.

Among the season's standout moments were emphatic wins, including a **100-run triumph over King Henry VIII School**, a **46-run win against Old Swinford Hospital**, and a **65-run victory over Satley**. Other notable wins came against **Queen Mary's (17 runs)**, **Tudor Grange Academy (50 runs)**, and **Starbank Academy (40 runs)**, each match highlighting the team's depth and discipline.

The crowning glory of the season came in the cup competition. After a commanding **41-run semi-final win over KE Aston**, Camp Hill Boys clinched the **cup final with a 5-wicket win against Bablake**, sealing their place as one of the top U15 teams in the region.

The team was **expertly captained by Mushaf Mir**, whose leadership on and off the field was instrumental in guiding the squad through tight situations and big moments.

### Key Performers

- **Bowlers:** The bowling attack was spearheaded by a formidable lineup including **Vikram Karthikeyan, Yousuf Hussain, Zain Shah, Daniel Lo, Adyan Khan, and Ayaan Chaudry**, who consistently applied pressure and took crucial wickets throughout the season.
- **Batters:** With the bat, **Aadam Khan, Gus Loevgren Tremlett, Omar Slatter, and Ollie Smoldon** (also the team's reliable wicketkeeper) provided the backbone of the team's scoring, often setting or chasing down challenging totals with composure and flair.
- **Team Players:** The squad's success was also built on the contributions of excellent team players like **Ibrahim Uddin, Seb Robotham, Mihran Khan, and Hussain Zaman**, whose energy, support, and adaptability made a big difference in tight games.

With such a strong foundation and a group of talented, respectful young cricketers, the future looks incredibly bright for Camp Hill Boys cricket.

### **Mushaf Mir: A Rising Star in School Cricket with Four Consecutive Centuries**

In the world of youth cricket, few performances have captured attention quite like Mushaf Mir's recent run of form. Representing **Camp Hill Boys U15**, Mushaf has stunned spectators and opponents alike with **four consecutive centuries**, followed by a blistering 140 for **Warwickshire U15s** against Namibia U17s. His performances are not just prolific—they're a masterclass in clean ball striking, tactical awareness, and cricketing intelligence.



### The Four Centuries That Started It All

Mushaf's remarkable streak began with a thunderous **111 off just 42 balls** against **Old Swinford Hospital**, showcasing his ability to dominate from the outset. He followed this with a composed 101\* off 50 balls against **Satley School**, anchoring the innings with maturity beyond his years.

Next came back-to-back unbeaten centuries: 102\* vs Tudor Grange and 101\* vs Starbank, both innings marked by his signature blend of aggression and control. Whether facing pace or spin, Mushaf's range of strokes—cover drives, pull shots, and deft touches—left bowlers with few answers. \*I kept having to retire him\*

### Stepping Up: 140 Against Namibia U17s

Just when it seemed Mushaf had peaked, he raised the bar again. Playing for **Warwickshire U15s**, he smashed **140 runs** against a strong **Namibia U17** side. This innings wasn't just about power—it was a statement of intent, proving he could perform on a bigger stage against international opposition.

### A Talent to Watch

Coaches and teammates speak highly of Mushaf's cricketing brain. He reads the game like a seasoned professional, adapts to match situations, and leads by example. His ability to rotate strike, build partnerships, and accelerate when needed makes him a complete package.

With such performances at just 15, Mushaf Mir is undoubtedly one of the brightest prospects in school cricket. If he continues on this trajectory, it won't be long before we see his name in county and national setups.

### Camp Hill Boys 1st XI – Season Snapshot

The 2025 season proved to be a logistical challenge for Camp Hill Boys 1st XI, with exams and work experience commitments limiting opportunities for fixtures. Despite the hurdles, the team showcased resilience and promise—none more so than in their thrilling **local derby victory over King Edward Five Ways**, winning by **14 runs**.



## Match Highlight: Camp Hill vs. King Edward Five Ways

### Camp Hill 175/4 (20 overs)

- Mushaf Mir (Year 10) – A brutal 45, showing maturity beyond his years.
- Haaziq Wani (Year 12, WK) – A classy 43, anchoring the innings.
- Hassan Soonsara (Captain, Year 13) – Led from the front with a composed 22.

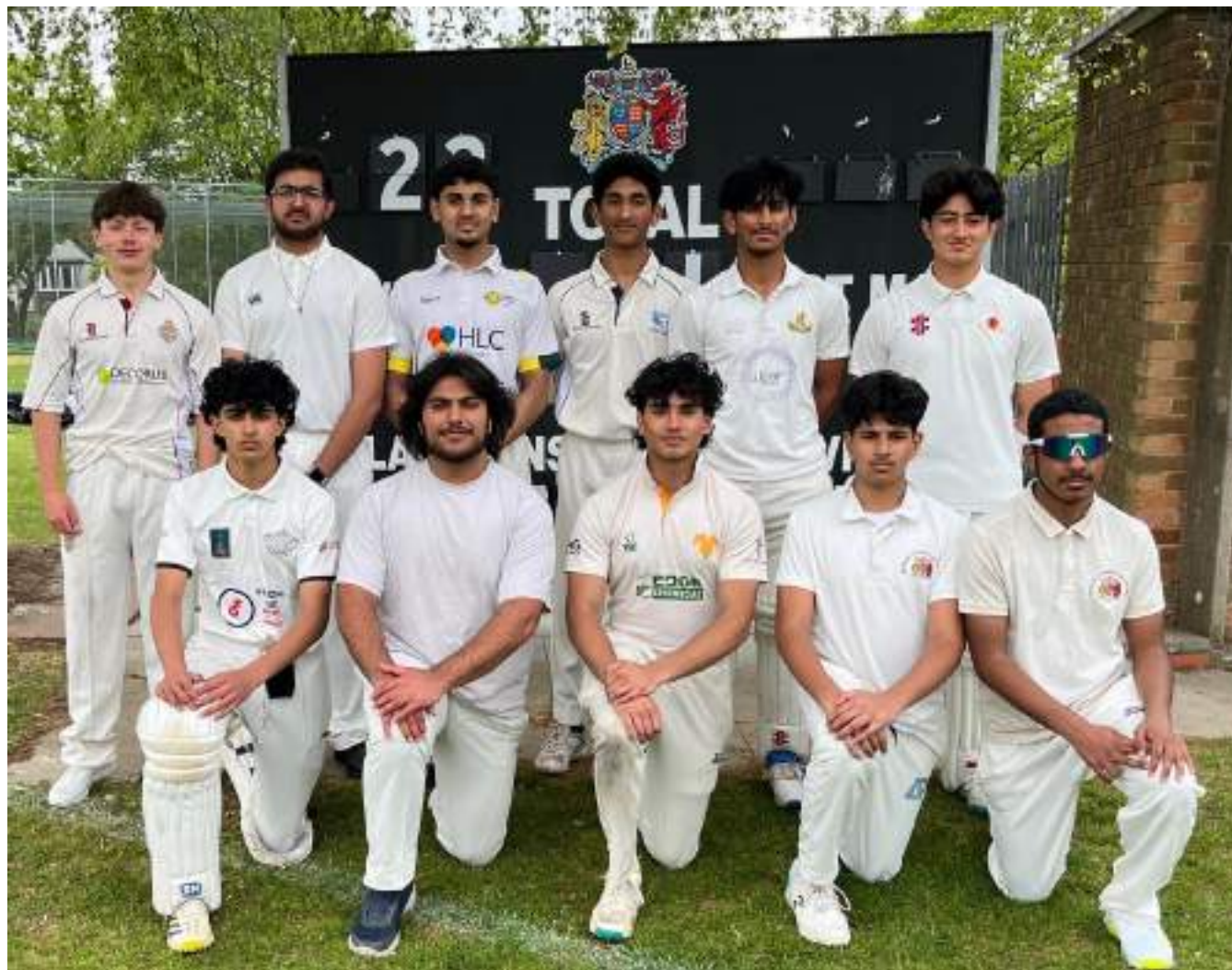
### Contributions from:

- Parth Trehan (Y11) – 16
- Raees Latif (Y11) – 15
- Abdul Rahman Aammad (Y11) – 4\* (not out)

### King Edward Five Ways 163/6 (20 overs)

- Parth Trehan (Y11) – 3/21, a game-changing spell.
- Adil Kapasi (Y11) – 2/22, tight and effective.
- Abdul Rahman Aammad (Y11) – 1/31, crucial in the death overs.

With a core of Year 10 and 11 players stepping up, the future looks bright for Camp Hill cricket. The likes of **Mushaf Mir**, **Parth Trehan**, and **Abdul Rahman Aammad** are already making their mark, while senior players like **Hassan Soonsara**, **Dhanvin Narendra**, and **Muhammad Sikandar** have provided leadership and stability.



## Camp Hill Boys 1st XI vs MCC – A Historic Victory at Harborne

In a match that will be remembered for years to come, Camp Hill Boys 1st XI secured a thrilling 2-run victory over the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) — our first win against them in over a decade. The game, played in front of a passionate crowd at Harborne Cricket Club, was a showcase of high-quality cricket, grit, and unwavering school spirit.

The day began with a warm welcome from CHB old boys — Ajay Shingadia, Owais Akram (featuring in his 8th MCC fixture), Abhinash Niratharkumar, Rayyen Khan, Mohammed Raheem, and Eesa Nadeem — whose presence added a special touch to the occasion.

MCC batted first and declared on an imposing 290/7 from 41 overs. Our bowlers toiled hard on a flat deck. Eesa Nadeem, fresh from representing SACA against Surrey 2nd XI, and Rayyen Khan bowled with pace and hostility, unsettling the MCC top order. Mohammed Raheem was the pick of the bowlers with a disciplined spell of 2/43.

In response, CHB showed immense character and composure. Abhinash Niratharkumar led the charge with a classy 86, supported by Mushaf Mir's fluent 45. Captain Haaziq Wani played a match-winning knock of 58, anchoring the innings under pressure. With the game hanging in the balance, youngsters Parth Trehan (23\*) and Raees Latif (8\*) held their nerve to guide CHB home with just balls to spare.

The sidelines were buzzing with support from numerous CHB alumni, creating an electric atmosphere that lifted the team throughout the day.

This victory was more than just a result — it was a testament to the spirit, resilience, and pride of Camp Hill Boys cricket. As coach of the 1st XI, I can confidently say this was one of my proudest days. The boys fought for every run, every wicket, and most importantly, for the CHB badge.

**Thank you to all who turned out to support. Here's to many more days like this.**

**Mr Burgess**



## Year 13 CSI Day

Excitement was widespread amongst our cohort with the imminent arrival of the Year 13 CSI Day. Having seen the door of B2 wrapped in Police Tape for many years, it was finally our turn to head into the room, get out our (metaphorical) magnifying glass and put our thinking caps on. We were here to solve a murder!

We were first introduced to the organisers of the event, the wonderful people at Thinkers In Education, who informed us of the format of the investigation. Not only were we to be tested on our deductive and critical thinking skills, but the practical element of the investigation was just as important. With each stage worth thousands of points, the team needed to emphasise the quality of our work rather than our speed.

Since Amaan was slightly late to the workshop, he was roped in with me, Pritom, Zaakir and Rudra. The teams were then told to separate themselves into two different groups: Detectives and Scientists. Detectives would be responsible for analysing the evidence and files provided, whilst it was up to the scientists to carefully match different DNA samples found at the scene of the crime to potential suspects. What our team hadn't realised was that this was timed and was worth points, so our squabbling over who had the best practical skills resulted in a lower initial score.

Following the assignment of our roles, the grisly scene was laid out to us. A young woman had been shot, and there were many potential suspects. Was it the jealous lover, the vengeful husband, or was it a robbery gone wrong? It was up to the detectives to sort out fact from fiction, as they analysed the alibis and motives. Meanwhile, the scientists were carrying out the process of gel electrophoresis.

Gel electrophoresis is a subtopic that we had studied very recently prior to the workshop, so we were quite familiar with the technique in theory. In theory. As for our team's application of that knowledge, it was far more difficult. As the DNA had to be transferred onto a very fragile gel block, we had to be very gentle in our movements. One wrong move could spell disaster, as the DNA sample would be null and void, costing us valuable information in regards to a potential suspect, as well as points lost in the competition. With good hands, however, we were able to successfully transfer our samples, keeping our team within the top 5.

With the first practical completed, it was onto the next-using agglutination of antibodies to identify the blood groups of the suspects and the victim. This was simpler to carry out than the gel electrophoresis, but the results were harder to interpret (Especially mine, since none of the blood samples showed signs of agglutination).

After receiving our gel electrophoresis results back, we had all the evidence we needed to decide on a suspect. After several intense minutes of deliberation, it was time to stand in the proverbial dock and weigh up the case, with nothing better than a quiz! Strange devices, which looked like a phone from the 2000s (eugh), were handed out, and it was up to us to lay out the scene in the form of a multiple-choice quiz. For each answer, we were rewarded with thousands of points, with the most important questions being worth double or even triple! Another factor in this quiz was timing, as the rapidness of our response would also determine how many points we would get.

The quiz was complete, the teams had submitted their answers, and the results were ready to be released. Our team, quite frankly, were not anticipating anything special. Perhaps the top three? But to our complete surprise, we had won. And with a massive score, beating out the previous record holders (although I think the victors of the afternoon session surpassed even that!). We had won by the slimmest of margins, just 100 points separating first and second- remember some questions were worth thousands! We thoroughly enjoyed the lollipops handed out.

We are immensely proud of our efforts that day, and in the words of Ahmad Al-Saydi, 'It was definitely a highlight of our Biology Careers!'

A huge thanks to Thinkers In Education for running the workshop, and of course to the teachers, Mrs Cameron, Dr Lavery and Miss Toogood.

**Malachy Hayes and Amaan Ahmed**



## Under 12 Cricket

The Under 12 cricket team has delivered an outstanding season, remaining unbeaten and showcasing exceptional talent, discipline, and teamwork throughout. From the very first match, the boys set the tone for what would become a memorable campaign. Their opening fixture against King Henry VIII School saw a strong batting performance from **Evin Watowita**, who was deservedly named Man of the Match.

In their second game, Camp Hill faced Aston School, where **Salah Usmaan** played a pivotal role, scoring a commanding 56 runs to guide the team to a dominant 10-wicket victory. The momentum continued into the first round of the cup against Moseley School. Camp Hill posted an impressive 176 runs in 20 overs, with unbeaten contributions from **Salah Usmaan (76)\*** and **\*Muhammad Raza (56)\*\***, securing a convincing 58-run win.

The team maintained their form in the next fixture, defeating Queen Mary's Grammar School by 6 wickets. In the quarter-final of the cup against Five Ways, **Umar Ayub** delivered a disciplined bowling performance, earning Man of the Match honours and helping the team to a 19-run victory. The semi-final against Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was another highlight, with debutant **Abdur-Rahman Ibn Hanid** impressing with figures of 4 overs, 8 runs, and 2 wickets, contributing significantly to a 29-run win.

The season culminated in a thrilling cup final, which went down to the final over. In a tense and exciting finish, Camp Hill emerged victorious, securing the title and completing an unbeaten season. This group of players has been a joy to coach, consistently representing the school with pride, commitment, and excellence.

A special thank you goes to the A-Team squad: **Salah Usmaan, Evin Watowita, Muhammad Raza, Aditya Sarkar, Ari Nicholl, Muhammad Abdullah, Uraib Kiryani, Umar Ayub, Abi-Bakr Bashir, Daniyal Aziz, Sulayman Hussain, Arshan Naeem, Abdur-Rahman Ibn Hanid, and Rohab Pinjari**. Each of these students has contributed to a remarkable season and upheld the highest standards of school representation.

## B and C Teams

The B and C teams experienced a season of mixed results, recording two wins and four losses. Despite the challenges, the players demonstrated great enthusiasm, resilience, and potential. Their commitment to training and willingness to learn have been commendable, and it has been a pleasure to work with them throughout the season.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following students who represented the school in the B and C teams: **Shaan Hussain, Bhaavyan Dirisala, Milan Sabharwal-Parmar, Haider Ali, Mujtaba Abbasi, Sam Kalimuthu, Hemanth Medagam, Peter Haile, Kiaan Yusaf, Humayun Ahmed, Younas Mahmood, Yaseen Miah, Kiern Seto, Huzaifia Sibtain, Izyaan Shahid, Hssaan Rana, Rahim Shah, Hasan Khan, Faris Sultan, Tawhid Choudhury, Ayman Younas, Ismael Bhatti, Akshay Senthil Kumar, Owais Sharif, and Benjamin Smith**.



## Tennis

Although the tennis calendar was unfortunately limited this year, the students made the most of the opportunities they had and represented the school with great enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and determination.

The Under 12 team had just one fixture this season, facing St George's School. Despite a spirited performance and several closely contested matches, the team narrowly lost. Nevertheless, the fixture provided valuable experience for the players, many of whom were representing the school for the first time. Their positive attitude and willingness to learn were commendable, and the match served as a strong foundation for future development.



The Under 14s had the opportunity to compete in both A and B team fixtures against King Edward's School (KES). The A team delivered an excellent performance, securing a well-earned victory through consistent play and strong teamwork. The B team, while not victorious, showed great promise and resilience, pushing their opponents in several tight sets. These matches highlighted the depth of talent within the year group and the potential for further success in the coming seasons.



Across all age groups, the students conducted themselves with integrity and respect, both on and off the court. Their commitment to training and their enthusiasm for representing Camp Hill were evident in every fixture. I would like to extend a special thank you to Johan Beech, Zak Ditta, and David Bai for their leadership and initiative in helping to organise and rally the teams for matches. Their efforts were instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of the season.

While the number of fixtures was limited, the quality of participation and the spirit shown by all involved were outstanding. I am incredibly proud of the players' efforts and look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

**Mr A Brown**



## Summer Art News

### **Year 8 Explore the Magic of Movie making at Warner Bros. Studio Tour**

In May our entire Year 8 cohort had the incredible opportunity to visit the Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter in London. Spread across two exciting days, the trip offered students a behind-the-scenes look at the magic of filmmaking and brought the world of Harry Potter to life in unforgettable ways.



One of the highlights of the visit was a special workshop on creature design, where students learned how some of the series' most iconic magical creatures were brought to life. From concept sketches to animatronics, the session was both educational and inspiring. A particular favourite moment? Seeing just how enormous Hagrid's trousers really are!



Students also embarked on the full studio tour, collecting embossed stamps in their souvenir passports as they explored iconic sets like the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, and the Forbidden Forest. To top it all off, some lucky students got a sneak peek at a brand-new special effects feature—a fire-breathing dragon—set to open to the public the very next day! Creative Contributions and House Spirit.

Beyond the magic of the studios, our students have also been busy showing off their creativity and school spirit closer to home.

We were proud to support the recent CHAOS production, where our talented team helped transform the stage backdrop from Les Mis to Rizz in just a couple of hours! A huge thank you goes to Seb S in Year 12 for his artistic flair and support in making it happen.



And of course, Sports Day brought a burst of colour and energy to the school grounds. Students had a blast painting faces in their House colours, with war stripes, lightning bolts, and bold designs proudly on display. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved and cheering on their Houses with such enthusiasm and creativity.

**G Smith**

## German Homestay 2025

On Wednesday, 26th March, 16 students from Frankfurt am Mein flew to Birmingham. They had been warned that it would be hard to understand anyone due to their Brummie accents.

Meanwhile, all throughout Camp Hill, every student was enjoying a thrilling Wednesday Week B. At the end of school, 16 of them went to meet their German Exchanges. After being helpfully reassured by Dr Loghin that the Exchanges were not dangerous, everyone channelled their inner courage and said hello to them. Everyone soon realised that the Exchanges' English could rival the Host Families'.

On Thursday and Friday, while the English part of the Exchange was at school, the German half got to go to Warwick Castle and see the delights of Birmingham. Later on Friday, one group took their exchanges out to have fish and chips while another had an Indian.

On Saturday, almost every family took their Exchanges to Drayton Manor. It was a bit of a risk as it was the first opening day of the year, but it ended up being great fun. However, for the first couple of hours we kept queuing up for around thirty minutes before the same announcement played, "Due to technical issues this ride is briefly closed. The staff will come and fix it soon".

On Sunday, most of us went for a walk around Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House.

As the final trip on Monday, the Exchanges went to see the birthplace of Shakespeare at Stratford-upon-Avon.

On Tuesday 4th April, after saying goodbye to their host families, the Exchanges went to Period 1 (and Form Time) in Camp Hill. One of the best moments of the trip was seeing their crestfallen faces when they realised that they would be in Maths.

At the end of the trip everyone sadly had to part with their Exchange Partners. Which I can gladly say was slightly less awkward than meeting with them.

I am looking forward to going to Frankfurt in September for the other half of the Exchange.

**Tristan Bishop – Park (8E)**



## Tariq Ouchefoune – winner of the 37th MiSAC competition!

The Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee annual competition aims to stimulate further interest in, and knowledge about, microbiology. Each year, the topic chosen for the competition in the UK is linked to the National Curriculum, but with the opportunity and expectation that students will explore beyond the confines of the specification and their existing knowledge. It provides an activity that students will find enjoyable and stimulating. Each year, over 1 billion people experience a fungal infection but, with limited resources and under-funded health systems, around 2 million deaths occur. This year, students were required to design an illustrated, web-page report for teenagers to raise their awareness of a human fungal disease and outline the problem of antifungal drug resistance.

The 2025 MISAC competition was very popular, with a total of 454 entries (255 at Key Stage 3; 199 at Key Stage 4), involving 744 students from 104 schools.

We are delighted to share the news that Tariq Ouchefoune in 7K was awarded first prize in the Key Stage 3 entry group of the 37th MiSAC competition. He beat students not only of his age, but also those in Year 8 and Year 9, from schools in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Switzerland, The Philippines and Indonesia.

Professor Mark Ramsdale of Exeter University, who led the team of judges, was most impressed by Tariq's work. After the judging session, he said *"The entry produced by the 1st prize winner was exceptional, not only for a student at Key Stage 3, but for a student of any age. It wouldn't have looked out of place as an undergraduate student's submission. This entry nailed the remit and provided detailed information in an accessible way and linked to supplementary content online via a QR code, which was cohesive, well-presented and engaging."*

Tariq won £100 prize money for himself, and £250 for the Biology Department. The school prize will hopefully be used to organise a biology event for Tariq and a group of friends, as well as buying some microbiology books for the school library so that all students at Camp Hill Boys can learn more about fungi and bacteria.

Following his fantastic achievement, Tariq said "I wanted to make a fungus sound like a fireproof ninja, because science should be fun. The one I chose, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, survives fire and outsmarts immune systems like it's on a secret mission. I enjoyed turning that into a clear, cool poster. I was just excited to take part, so reading Professor Mark Ramsdale's comment that it 'wouldn't look out of place at university', caught me off guard. Just shows that curiosity can take you further than you think".

The results of the competition, along with a slideshow of the winning and commended entries, can be found at <https://www.misac.org.uk/2025winners.html>. Take a look at Tariq's winning entry!

The 2026 MISAC competition has already been announced and will explore the theme 'How Microbes Make Milk'. Please see <https://www.misac.org.uk/PDFs/Misac-Comp-2026.pdf> for further details. Maybe you would like to give it a go, at least have a look at the website and think about it! You might even win a prize and be a champignon too. No apologies for the puns; they didn't take up mushroom and we know that the budding microbiologists out there will appreciate the humour.

Our other amazing mycologists who also produced extra-spore-dinary posters were Johan Beech, Bhaavyan Dirisala, Abdulloh Eshkuvatov, Aman Matharu, Hussain Zaman and Amoghavarsha Prasad.

Thank you to all those students who entered this prestigious competition and demonstrated their enthusiasm for microbiology. We hope that researching and making your poster was fun, guys! Keep up your interest in this area of biology so that fungi continue to grow on you (although not literally in the case of pathogenic species). See <https://wellcome.org/news/will-climate-change-lead-more-fungal-infections> for more information on protecting people from fungal diseases.

Again, a huge congratulations to Tariq, and well done to our other students who entered. You should be very proud of yourselves!

**C Cameron**

## **Battlefields 2025**

### Despatches from the Western Front Day 1 - Friday 23 May.

After the disorientating experience of an overnight coach journey to Dover and an early morning crossing of the Channel via the excellent Irish Ferries, we made a full day of our experiences on the Western Front – an amazing array of places and sites to visit in and around Ypres before heading to the rest and recuperation of the hotel.

Our first visit was to Lijssenhoek, a cemetery of over 10,000 souls and mainly from the armies of Britain and her Empire, it was located next to Remy Siding Field Hospital which oversaw operations and treatments on over 300,000 wounded during its time of operation across the course of the war and beyond. We learnt about some of the advances and limitations of medicine in the early 20th century – X-Rays and Blood Transfusions being a plus, lack of antibiotics though leading to many unnecessary casualties through infection. We could also pay homage to the role of the Chinese Labour Corps, in many ways unsung contributors to not just the war effort but also the restoration of lands and infrastructure in France and Belgium after the war.

This was followed by our familiar trip to Brandhoek to pay respects to former CHB students and VC and Bar laureate Noel Chavasse, the only serviceman garlanded with two Victoria Crosses in the conflict. Next into Ypres itself and a visit to the Cloth Hall, one of the finest secular medieval buildings in northern Europe, carefully reconstructed after desolation in the war and now undergoing further enhancement. With we visited the impressively interactive In Flanders Field Museum about life and conflict in the Great War with a compelling display of artefacts, uniforms and dioramas, a highlight was the climbing of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Belfry and commanding the views from the roof including that of the recently restored Menin Gate where we visited to pay tribute to the 50,000 servicemen named for whom there is no known grave.

Before heading to the hotel, we captured more of a sense of the loss of the war at Essex Farm where 15 Year Old V.J. Strudwick was buried and where John McCrea wrote his famous poem 'In Flanders Field' which cemented the poppy as the symbol of remembrance in Britain and across her empire. The final visit was to Hill 60, where front lines of the combatants were only metres apart. It is here where two great explosions in July 1917 rocked the ground and left lasting craters, one over 80 metres in diameter.

Finally, to the hotel and our evening meal and sleep in a comfy bed rather than a coach seat.

### Despatches from the Western Front Day 2 – Saturday May 24

"He saw beyond the filth of battle and thought death a fair price to pay to belong to the company of these fellows."

"Left with good heart. Never Forgotten Father, Mother, Sister, Brothers."

Two inscriptions on gravestones which book-ended our day on the Somme, the most potent and evocative battle in the English-speaking world. A day of rain, wind and temperatures which would have you begging for Trump's environmental policies, it added a different and remarkably poignant atmosphere to a day which already weighs heavily on the soul.

Starting at Guillemont Cemetery, beautiful in its simplicity and the tale of the son of the Prime Minister who joined the fellowship of the dead in the war his father played a role in creating; though this would be impossible to know from the common features of each gravestone, lain here alongside those with no known name, and those from highly regarded provincial grammar schools in the Midlands. Moving on to the only success from the first day of the Somme at Montauban, a tale of objectives achieved but never followed up to where even that would be seen as a good outcome. The haunting tale of the Devonshires buried in the trench that they hardly left, the scar on the landscape left by the immense Lochnagar Crater explosion...

Moving further north the stories of sacrifice continue. At Newfoundland Park, the tale of a small island dominion forever crushed by the weight of losses on July 1 1916, 85% of the units' fighting strength wiped out in two hours by the relentlessness of German machine guns. Hawthorne Ridge and the village of Beaumont Hamel were Day One objectives, eventually falling in November after four months of catastrophic loss of life. Standing on the site of the German Redoubt in Mill Road Cemetery, we paid respects to another former Camp Hill Boy.

The rain relented somewhat as we proceeded to Thiepval, we learnt of the hardships of the Ulstermen to keep the high ground after making progress as support on either side could not keep up and they were forced to withdraw. A visit to the Thiepval Memorial, a monument dedicated to the 72,000 missing of The Somme, included finding the names of fourteen Old Camp Hill Boys would normally have brought the day to a close and we were pleased to help find the name of a relative of one in our party.

The day finished on the way back at Hibers Road Cemetery near Arras for one of our party to pay respects to a great, great uncle; a beautiful cemetery in an interesting locale, from which our last inscription came – a fitting end for our young company to contemplate. Well done to our students for their cooperation, interest, and good humour to lighten what can be a challenging day.

Tomorrow we head north again to visit Bruges, followed by exploration of the latter battles of Ypres and then to that great totem of freedom and choice which wars have been fought to defend – the Golden Arches!

#### Despatches from the Western Front Day 3 – Sunday May 25

A morning in Bruges, after two heavy days of visiting battlefields, our students finally had some leave away from the trenches. A visit to the chocolate box streets and canals of one of Europe's best preserved medieval cities, in order to buy (erm...) chocolate boxes and waffles. We managed to fit in Flemish Primitive paintings of Hans Memling, a walk through some of the most touristy spots in the city and some lesser-known, a talk on life in Bruges under German occupation and the role the city played in the war at sea, strange modern art and a hospital roof that can be dated back to 1230 (the year and not the time) through dendrochronology. From the hub of the Markt in the shadow of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Belfry, students could choose their different paths around the city to get souvenirs and tasty morsels. With all having returned very much refreshed and energised by the experience, we could then move on to the Battles of Ypres...

The weather improved as the day went on (thankfully) and wind rather than rain was the greatest distraction, in a visit to four sites we could get a full experience of each of the five named battles which called themselves Ypres...

1st Battle of Ypres, October 1914 – here we looked at the German cemetery of Langemarck and learnt of the ‘Massacre of the Innocents’ where volunteer student battalions fresh out of German universities were destroyed in the face of determined British and Belgian resistance. At Tyne Cot where 12,000 are buried, we learnt of CHB old boy and Royal Engineer Corporal Long who died in October 1914, shot by his own sentry after forgetting the password.

2nd Battle of Ypres, April-May 1915 – here at Vancouver Corner under the brooding mass of the Canadian monument we learnt about the first use of chlorine gas and the role of Fritz Haber. To add to the story of chemical warfare we learnt about noxious fumes and countermeasures (deodorant) that very evening which led to the hotel fire alarm going off, all students reported for roll call promptly, if not in good uniform...

3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), July-November 1917 was the main focus of the day with specific visits to Langemarck and Tyne Cot to consider how the war dead of each side of the conflict were commemorated, Tyne Cot on the rising ground north east of Ypres was a key target in the offensive of July 1917 and was finally taken on October 4. The loss of life on both sides for a few miles of muddy ground.

4th Battle of Ypres, April 1918 - we were able to move south of Ypres to the Kemmelberg, the highest point in West Flanders at 154m (2m lower than CHB in Kings Heath!) and how it was finally taken by German alpine regiments in late April with a resulting loss of 5,000 French lives, students showed their alpine abilities by an uphill run on the cobbled road which is much favoured by élite cyclists. There we visited Nike, the Greek wingèd goddess of victory, in a memorial to French losses that day and in Belgium overall.

5th Battle of Ypres, September-October 1918, sometimes called euphemistically Battle of the Peaks of Flanders, was also seen on the Kemmelberg as we sat on the trig point of this crucial ‘eye of Flanders’ which held strong strategic and emotional interest, where the counter-offensive resulted in Germans being pushed back until even Bruges was liberated from German control.

Quite a day overall with the sun setting as we tucked into traditional French fayre and that great totem of freedom and choice which wars have been fought to defend, the McDonalds Maxi meal...

#### Despatches from the Western Front Day 4 – Monday May 26

The final day and another mélange of places and activities to bring home the sheer variety of experiences and involvement in the Great War. Having vacated the hotel and relieved it of mountains of pastries, it was time to move to some of the more forgotten sectors from the British point of view. We started at Arras, a memorial with 30,000 missing in a sector which falls between Ypres and the Somme and memory falls through the cracks, here we commemorated the pioneering airmen of the war including the youngest CHB casualty of the war (he was still at school when the war started), and Walter Tull professional footballer and first black officer in the British Army. In the cemetery, there were three further old boys, living a few streets apart back in Birmingham and now buried in the same row. Alongside others we identified two soldiers shot at dawn for desertion, each have suffered the traumas of war, in what these days we call PTSD. As often when we visit this beautiful walled garden, it was devoid of people other than the gardener.

Onward to Notre Dame de Lorette, the largest French military cemetery in the world with over 40,000 casualties, the scarps and ridges of Artois are not well known but here in 1915, French mountain detachments took this high point from the Germans under General Maistre, the parallax lines of French gravestones provide yet another stark contrast to the British garden feel. We also paid respects to the colonial Muslim detachments buried here, all orientated to face Mecca; the Moroccan memorial at Vimy compounded the story of their sacrifice. Alongside the cemetery, with its beautiful lantern and basilica, is the Ring of Memory which names in alphabetical order the 600,000 soldiers of all nations who died in the small region of the Western Front. A powerful tool in contemplating the scale of wasted lives.

Vimy Ridge was next to visit, here the commanding heights over the mining area of the Douai Basin, were famously seized by the Canadian Corps in April 1917 in one of the first great breakthroughs of the war, using tunnelling and the element of surprise. As hallowed Canadian ground, we were honoured to be given a tour of the tunnels and trenches by student Canucks seconded from the land of the maple leaf. We then followed the advance of the Canadian troops to the crest of the hill where the magnificent monument, probably the most striking memorial to have come out of the First World War allowed us to realise just how significant the breakthrough was as we looked down to the plains below and all the 'volcanoes' created from mining and industrial operations. Somehow, we even managed to fit in some lunch!

The final stop was the Indian Memorial at Neuve Chappelle which commemorated soldiers from all over the subcontinent who fought and died during the war – in particular they held the line in 1915 when the British Army was so low on numbers that it could have succumbed to a German onslaught, the bravery of the Indian units ensured the front line remained intact through the year. The memorial is designed in Mughal style but with familiar motifs and colour to other British and Empire cemeteries, are testament to the Indian resolve in 1915. The bullet marks which pepper the stones of this monument remind us this area was taken rapidly in 1940 by the Germans as they advanced on Dunkirk but then recovered after D Day in 1944 from which these marks derive – a reminder of ongoing conflict even after the 'war to end all wars'. Next door to the memorial is the Portuguese Cemetery, a nation who joined the conflict after the USA declared war in 1917, their commitment to the war is illustrated by those interred in clay, unfortunately with the rush to meet the ferry so we missed the chance to fully pay our respects; as is too often the case, the role of Portugal is confined to the margins – note to do better next year!

So back to Calais and onboard the Oscar Wilde with profound memories of heroism, suffering and loss; and we leave you (in CHG style) with a quote, "It takes great courage to see the world in all its tainted glory, and still to love it. And even more courage to see it in the one you love."

### **The Battlefields Team**





## Schools Challenge Quiz

It's been a successful year overall for our quiz teams but we haven't quite made it yet to the dizzy heights of a decade ago. This year we had two teams competing in each of the junior, intermediate and senior Schools Challenge quizzes unfortunately the juniors and intermediates fell by the wayside Early on in the competition when faced with some pretty serious rivals and quiz stalwarts such as Perse, Cambridge and Magdalene College School, Oxford. However we should celebrate the achievements of our two senior teams of which the B team suffered an early reverse but then went on to get through to the National Plate Finals, beating teams from City of London School and Oxford High School in the process.

The final happened online in April, having been given a bye through to the semi-final we were able to succeed in defeating our opponents and made it to the National final against King Edward VI, Stratford, unfortunately that was one bridge too far.

Well done to our team of **Ayaan Tahir, Sathya Vaidyanathan, Yahye Badeed** and **Enobong Nkantah**. Our A team claimed some impressive scalps including one against a local boys' independent school and Tonbridge School before falling at the final hurdle before the national finals against South Hampstead High School by 510-480, this is the second year in a row that we've just missed out by the one fixture on making the final eight in the country. Well done to the super impressive team of **Arnav Aphale, Shrikanen Selvaganapathy, Raphael Mahgerefteh** and **Alan Coffin**. We will learn our lessons and get more focus into our house competition next year on being quick on the buzzer.

**Mr G Hill**

## Parliament Trip

During the heat wave in June, 30 students and three staff took the train down to London in order to visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. It was a great opportunity for year 12 students who took who take Politics and other subjects to get a feel for the law making process in this country and to catch many of the sites of the capital city. Having arrived at Euston just after nine we then power-walked through Bloomsbury and the West End to get to Whitehall and Saint James's Park we ambled past Downing Street and through Parliament Square on the way to the education entrance of the Palace of Westminster.



We were given a guided tour which included the chamber of the House of Lords, however we were unable to visit the Commons this year as it was in session for an important vote on abortion rights. This didn't prevent us from seeing many distinguished parliamentarians (and Gavin Williamson) and watching the Speaker's procession as the parliamentary session opened "Hats off, strangers!" is the shout hollered out by the ushers in the process which was strange as we had no hats = other than Lance!

After finishing the tour in Westminster Hall, the only real Medieval part of the palace, we then went to a workshop in which we divided into groups, established our own political parties, drew up our own manifestos and campaigned as if it were 2024. Congratulations to **Tom Mullen** and his party for a resounding win. Having secured for lunch in Victoria, we then resumed our tour with a visit to the UK Supreme Court this is where the most important legal decisions in the country are made and we were privileged to visit the courtrooms in session and witness the Supreme Court judges deliberating on cases.

Having accomplished our mission we then walked back to the station through some of the most desirable postcodes on the planet, but Mayfair has nothing on Mosley and the King's Palace is no match for Kings Heath. Thank you to Avanti West Coast for getting us there and back without any delays on either journey (and for enabling Humraj to win a pastry in the 'Coach F Connect 4 Competition' – really!) and to Mr Rudd and Ms Watkin in supporting the visit and getting their step-count up significantly.

## **Mr G Hill**





## Music

The Summer Term in Music has been musically rich and full of highlights, with two major concerts in collaboration with Camp Hill Girls and 14 pupils sitting graded music examinations. While not a Music Department event (and featured separately in this newsletter), the CHAOS production was a standout moment, involving many colleagues from across the school. *CHAOS: Rehashed, Grimthorpe Reunited, featuring Rizz the Musical* was written by Mr Caves and directed by Mr Dowling, with original music composed by Mr Dowling and musical direction and arrangements by Mr Palmer. What follows highlight just some of the other memorable events and achievements from the term.

### Senior Concert

The Senior Concert took place on Tuesday 6 May and was our penultimate joint event with the girls' school this year. This was an opportunity to say a musical goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 musicians. The concert featured performances by CHB Choir, Clarinet Ensemble, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and the Lower String Ensemble. The pupil-led Swing Band also made an impressive appearance.

### Summer Soiree

Our final joint concert with the girls' school, the Summer Soiree, took place on Tuesday 17 June. The concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Horn Quartet, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band, Oboe Ensemble, String Orchestra and Training Wind Band.

### CHAOS

The Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society made its long-awaited return to the Camp Hill stage between 10 and 12 July, this time featuring Mr Caves' interpretation of the Wizard of Oz, with music by Mr Dowling orchestrated by Mr Palmer. The run was a roaring success with a healthy turnout of spectators coming to watch the staff humiliating themselves. A particular highlight was the line dance to Mr Palmer's stirring rendition of Andy Williams' 'House of Bamboo'.

### Pupil Achievements

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

<b>Sam Kalimuthu</b>	7K	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 1	
<b>Isa Khan</b>	9B	TCL	Oboe	Grade 1	
<b>Lucas Evans</b>	10E	TCL	Classical Guitar	Grade 3	Merit
<b>Oscar Zou</b>	9K	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 4	Merit
<b>Aman Koir</b>	L5	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 7	
<b>David Bai</b>	L4	TCL	Classical Guitar	Grade 7	Merit
<b>Tom Mullen</b>	L7	TCL	Jazz Saxophone	Grade 7	Distinction
<b>Kaushalya Senarath</b>	9H	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 3	
<b>Arjun Malhi</b>	9B	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 4	
<b>Leo Castillo</b>	8H	ABRSM	Viola	Grade 5	Merit
<b>Daniel Tran</b>	7C	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 6	Merit

<b>Thomas Badenhorst</b>	8K	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 7	
<b>Daniel Tran</b>	7C	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 7	Distinction
<b>Josh King</b>	10E	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 8	Distinction

Please do remember to let me know if your child has musical achievements outside of school, so that we can celebrate them.

It has been a great year for music-making at Camp Hill, with one in four pupils involved in extra-curricular music in some capacity. Well done to all pupils for their contributions throughout the year - I look forward to another music-filled year starting in September!

**Josh Watters**  
**Head of Music**

## DofE Summer Report:

The summer term saw an impressive flurry of activity from our Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, with four expeditions successfully completed across the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. From the gentle (but deceptively muddy) slopes of Clent to the wild and windblown ridges of the Lake District, our students demonstrated not only navigational skill and physical stamina, but teamwork, resilience, and more than a little humour when the rain inevitably came down sideways.

We began the term with the Bronze expedition, based in the Clent Hills and the surrounding area of the Lickeys. For many participants, this was their first real taste of outdoor adventure, complete with blisters, baked beans, and a slightly uneven tent pitch or two. Spirits were high, and it was a pleasure to see students adapting quickly to map reading, campcraft, and the fine art of stove-top noodle preparation.

Next up were the Silver groups, who tackled the varied terrain of the Shropshire Hills. This expedition demanded greater independence and more advanced navigation skills, which our students rose to admirably. From early starts to long ascents (and even longer descents), they showed maturity and determination throughout. Even when faced with challenging conditions, their morale – and snack reserves – remained intact.

The Gold and Silver expedition groups embarked on a challenging adventure to the Peak District, which offered them the first taste of high-level trekking, with changing weather, exposed moorland, and remote checkpoints testing both fitness and mental focus. The final, crowning expedition for the gold groups took place in the magnificent Lake District, where students tackled steep climbs, unpredictable weather, and some of the most spectacular scenery in the UK. These expeditions were not just physically demanding, but required leadership, cooperation, and perseverance of the highest order.

Across all levels, students embodied the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award – rising to each challenge with grit, good humour, and a genuine sense of adventure. Special thanks must go to the staff who supported the expeditions, all of whom embraced the outdoor lifestyle to support and aid the student through some tough expeditions.

**TBD**





## CHAOS production

Firstly, an apology... if you weren't there, then reading this will not make up for that fact. The good news is that many of you were there to witness the third in a trilogy of modern-day Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) productions. I say 'modern-day' because this fine tradition of staff and students acting out some musical farce began in the 1970s – we simply revived it in 2021. Set in a fictional Northern Grammar School (Fortuna Boys' in Grimthorpe) CHAOS shows have followed the exploits of Spike Mouseworth, Heath PIPPS and Desdemona Wright over a series of adventures, mishaps and calamities.

This latest instalment saw them putting on a musical entitled 'The Wizard of Rizz' to inject a bit of spark back into the school. This, of course, seamlessly followed on from a musical recreation of The Lord of the Rings in 2023 and Julius Geezer the musical in 2021. As is tradition, this year's show featured the varying theatrical talents of an array of teachers and pupils from both CHB and CHG as well as some recent gullible alumni.

Images from the show will long be seared into the collective memories of its audiences with Mr Rossiter's Pink Pony Club dance being a highlight for many. The land of Rizz was occupied by some strange folk such as Munchkins, Emerald Citizens, a zebra, Yellow Brick Roadmen, Witches, and Flying Monkeys (whose wings were so small they elected to walk everywhere). The standard Scarecrow and Lion were accompanied by a more progressive Tin Woman whose mission it was to meet the Wizard of Rizz. The Wizard himself was written as a larger than life, charismatic, and rather mesmerising character and so we had to get Mr Bennett to dial down his regular personality a couple of notches to play the role – he did it beautifully, particularly in his Coldplay/Guns'n'Roses mash-up.

Did it all go perfectly? No, of course not! Lines were ad-libbed, songs were started too early, too late and sometimes at exactly the right moment, dances were fudged, and lights came on and went off. But the net result was a show that, in a feat of life imitating art, was a triumphant tour de force that saw this intrepid troupe of teachers and pupils develop a real sense of community. Together we overcame stage-fright, we taught each other to dance, we supported one another, we dressed up in silly costumes in the middle of a heatwave, and we swept up copious amounts of glitter.

Many consider treading the boards in a CHAOS production as a bit of a Camp Hill rite of passage. My first one was in 2008 as a (relatively) young teacher. But I am glad that we continue to give pupils the chance to act alongside us – it helps to boost the vocals in most cases. I hope that they enjoyed it as much as the staff did and that they are inspired to do more in the future – well done to **Lexie, Jai, Clover, Tom, Jacob, Bella, Krrish, Amen** and **Aoife**, and to old boys **Caleb, Jonah** and **Archie**, and even older boy **Jonathan**.

I would like to extend my thanks once again to Mr Dowling and to Mr Palmer. Their musical creativity and talents really brought this show to life. Our team of directors, Dowling, Toogood and Lamb (which sounds like a firm of solicitors) were relentless in their support of the cast and crew, and their confidence that we would pull it off was infectious. And we pulled it off in style! In the words of Heath PIPPS, "we had a blast," and in those of Spike Mouseworth, "like the good old days!"

So, to all who played their part, on-stage or off, thank you so much for making this a wonderful experience yet again. I had vowed that this may be my last one... it may not be, although rumours of a joint CHB/CHG CHAOS are greatly exaggerated and very premature.

**Mr A Caves**



## Beaufort House Summer Report

As Head of Beaufort, I am pleased to take this opportunity to reflect on an eventful and successful year. I could not be prouder of the many achievements and the spirit shown by every student in our House – from our Juniors who have shown so much enthusiasm, to our Seniors who have shown so much commitment whilst juggling GCSEs and A Levels.

Even though the assembly before Sports Day came with the message of “it’s taking part that counts” – we absolutely smashed it by taking the trophy!! At the time of writing this, if we have one final push for House Points then we might be able to take the overall lead!

I had the pleasure of watching some amazing competitors take part in the morning events – from Kaaraj in Y12 who threw the discus with accuracy and precision, to Harry in Y8 who smashed it in 3rd place with his sprinting skills, to Lucas Evans in Y10– whose javelin almost reached Bournville.



Some special mentions to Lucas Evans for his javelin skills and breaking the school record, Seb Robotham for taking a Victor Ludorum for the 4th year in a row and to Karim Abdulmaksoud in Y8 for taking a Victor Ludorum.

A Victor Ludorum (or victrix ludorum for women) is Latin for "the winner of the games". It is the trophy presented to the most successful team, club, or competitor at a sports event. It is common at rowing regattas and is usually presented to the athlete/competitor who has won the most events or who has accumulated the most points through competing in many events. So, this is an incredible achievement!!!

I also want to say a HUGE well done to Mr Southgate, Mr Hussain, Mr Davies and Mr O’Malley for running in the staff relay and taking 1st place.

Another thing to celebrate is the exemplary behaviour of Beaufort along the sidelines at Sports Day. Teachers such as Dr Lavery, Ms Freeman and Mr Caves have commented on how brilliant you all were, and you are testament to the fact that every single person at a sporting event is crucial in the overall atmosphere and ultimately – the win! So, thank you for doing our House proud.



Reflecting on this year, and some of the highlights, one of which was the exceptional performance of our basketball teams. The atmosphere at our matches was electric, and I was delighted to see the Senior team giving their all in the Sports Hall. Despite a temporary setback when Dan Tahir left to join Tudor House, scoring impressive goals for them, his return to Beaufort reinvigorated the team. Together, they dominated the court, securing a thrilling victory and scoring an impressive 38 points. This remarkable display of teamwork and resilience exemplifies the passion that defines Beaufort House.

Our success extended beyond basketball. Congratulations to all those involved in Rugby 7s and Intermediate Hockey, whose dedication and efforts have been commendable. A special mention must be made of our swimming gala participants, particularly Yasin Elashry, Abhi Naveen, and Terry Sutton, who were three among only four students awarded with the particularly prestigious Swimming Victor Ludorum. Their outstanding performances were a brilliant representation of Beaufort House and we swam our way to 1st place victory. It was an amazing feeling for all involved!

In addition to our many sporting successes, our quiz teams have excelled. I am delighted to report that our Intermediate Quiz team came joint first with Howard, and our Junior Quiz teams performed admirably too, contributing to Beaufort House's overall joint first place in the House Quiz competition.

House Cricket and House Tennis competitions have also been marked by enthusiasm and teamwork. I had the privilege of supporting the junior cricket matches and managed to pop along to some of the intermediate matches and was deeply impressed by the players' determination and cooperation under the careful leadership of Satvik Manyam (Y8), Xai Sandhu (Y9) and Ollie Smoldon (Y10). Everyone showed remarkable skill and teamwork, with some outstanding runs throughout the matches. I would like to give a special shoutout to Muhammad Raza, who came to support and organise the Junior team despite suffering from a wrist fracture — a true testament to his dedication and spirit.

Throughout the year, we have also enjoyed a variety of meaningful and inspiring assemblies. We have embraced new spaces for our gatherings, moving assemblies to the Dining Hall and occasionally the Sports Hall, which has brought fresh energy to these important moments. Owen, one of our House Captains, delivered an inspiring talk on leadership, drawing on Emma Watson's words, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" His message encouraged us all to take initiative and embrace leadership opportunities within Beaufort House.

Other notable assemblies included our Valentine's Day reflection on love and commitment, a Mental Health awareness session emphasizing support and understanding, and an engaging discussion on Storm Names that linked resilience in nature to human strength. A highlight of the year was a joint virtual assembly with Tudor, Howard, and Seymour Houses to celebrate International Women's Day. This collaborative event honoured the achievements of women worldwide and highlighted the importance of gender equality and empowerment, fostering a strong sense of unity among the Houses. A special mention goes to Mohammed in Y7 for his spirited support during our joint assembly with Seymour House, standing up to the friendly rivalry from Mr Dowling with great enthusiasm. I think Mr Deery's head is still recovering...!

Looking ahead, I am delighted to be working with the Captain team for next year: Vidyut, Nisith (Juniors), Muhammad (Intermediates) and Wakil (Seniors). They were four of thirteen amazing applications for Captaincy and I know that they will do their very best for Beaufort. All of the applications were brilliant and I am gutted that we couldn't have eleven Captains! I am also excited to work alongside Miss Cave as new Head of Seymour House, as well as continuing to work with Mr Burgess, Mr Rudd and Mr Hill. It's a lovely team of teachers who care about all of you and your passions! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Christy, Owen, Yousif and JJ for all their hard work with Beaufort over the last year and wish them lots of success in the future.

Although the leadership board may not always reflect every single one of your efforts - the energy, enthusiasm, and sense of belonging within Beaufort House remain our greatest achievements. We take pride in supporting each other, working as a team, and striving for excellence both in competition and daily life. I am incredibly proud of all our students and excited to see how we will continue to grow and succeed in the coming academic year.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable Summer Break.

**Miss Marston**



## Howard House Summer Report

After 2024 glorious Championship victory, it looks like Howard have endured another hangover year. In spite of a great spirit and lots of positive performances we emerged from the year having only won handball and badminton, maybe sports day would be our redemption song, our song of freedom (from mediocrity).

In terms of summer events, Howard did enjoy some competitiveness in cricket and tennis but would never really challenge to get the overall crowns. We emerged after athletic standards though with a genuine chance of making the final event of the year the one that matters. We had a very successful morning with our throwing events going exceptionally well and our distance runners keeping us in the mix as the afternoon of Sports Day loomed, maybe we could dare to dream at the halfway stage of the afternoon Howard had taken a slim lead, but anything could still happen. It would be down to the relays to determine the final outcome and maybe it would be at this final hurdle that we would emerge triumphant... However, it wasn't to be.

Congratulations to Beaufort for their consistency and ability to breed Victors Ludorum. In a somewhat poetic dénouement, the sight of Jafar Rashad shoes flying off as he hurtled around the park side bend of the running track rendered our hopes crushed.

It leaves me to say a huge thank you to our departing year 13s including House Captain **Musa Ahmed** and nominee for the House Trophy, **Hadi Mumtaz**. Congratulations also to **Jed Jiminez** who has been elected as our new House Captain going into 25-26. May fortune shine upon us then, a hunger for the games ahead, and the odds be ever in our favour – and we sure have a lot of odds in Howard.

**Mr G Hill**

## Tudor House Summer Report

Another year. Another fierce House Championship. And for Tudor House, another campaign filled with pride, passion, and a touch of heartbreak—as we look set to finish a painfully narrow 2nd place out of the four houses (I told you House points are important!). Just behind Seymour, but ahead of Beaufort and Howard, Tudor once again proved itself to be a force to be reckoned with. We continue to change the narrative.

We were, by most accounts, arguably the most consistent house all year—not a single last-place finish in any event (by my calculations), which is no small feat. Tudor's Green Machine rolled on with determination, integrity, and relentless drive, no matter the event or the odds.

That said, there were a few moments that stung a bit more than others—especially in the final term. The cricket result left plenty to reflect on (maybe protecting the boundaries is more than just a figure of speech). Despite talent across the year groups, we couldn't quite get the job done. It goes to show that the championship is as much a mental as a physical competition.

And Sports Day? Let's just say we're still processing that devastating Year 8 relay disqualification, which cost us crucial points. But from setbacks come lessons—and Tudor is nothing if not a house that learns, adapts, and comes back stronger.

Despite the disappointments, there were moments that demonstrate the bright future ahead. The young guns continued to rise— **Karthik** performed brilliantly, as did **Milan, Shaan, Mo,** and **Joel**. The blistering relay team made their mark, laying the foundations for the future.

**Finn** stepped up when it mattered most, showing heart and grit, and **Mo's** selfless decision to step aside so Finn could compete was a pure act of sportsmanship we'll remember for a long time. The Kings continue to reign! **Josh** fought through injury and still beat students his senior—he's coming for those school records! **Will** was so good in standards, I struggled to decide which events to enter him in.

**Jacob Hanratty** took another *Victor Ludorum* (I think that's how you spell it... but I'm sure Jacob knows, having won so many!). The seniors revelled in their final outing too, with Dainty narrowly missing out on the 2nd place he needed in the 800m to take the VL. **Felix** ran so hard I was worried he'd never get back up.

And finally, of course, who could forget **Mateusz**? The ever-reliable hero—stepping in, stepping up, and winning the unofficial “Best Dressed on Sports Day” award (if there was one, it would be his, hands down—again!).

As we look ahead, Tudor House is shaking off the cobwebs of its old identity and charging full speed toward the future. We're growing not just our points tally, but our belief. With next year's leadership team—**Felix, Matt, Etik, Jai,** and **Harshith**—we're in safe hands, and hungry for the title. This is a house on the rise, and we go again with heads high, spirits lifted, and the determination to go one better.

Go the Green Machine!

A heartfelt thank you to **Shrikannan**, whose leadership, consistency, and energy have been an integral part of our journey this year. His absence next year will be deeply felt (though thankfully he's not actually leaving the school!). His legacy lives on in the foundations he's helped build, being a key part of the new, unbreakable identity that Tudor is forging.

Thanks, too, to our whole team this year—**Karl, Krishna, Hasan, and Samar**. Some memorable assemblies (cough Samar), and unforgettable performances—Hasan (and Malachy), your victory in the rugby 7s was all the more impressive, I'm told, because the team was predominantly made up of 'backs'!

Finally, a nod of respect to our fellow houses. To Mr Dowling and Seymour—congratulations on the championship: hard-fought and entertaining. The villain to our hero, the Scar to our Simba—though the endgame is yet to come! Beaufort's late surge under Miss Marston was seriously impressive (and nerve-wracking). And a special mention to Mr Hill and Howard, who experienced what can only be described as a "character-building" Sports Day—snatching defeat from the jaws of victory in spectacular fashion. We also welcome Miss Cave into the breach next year—good luck!

So here's to Tudor—a house of resilience, heart, growth, and youth. This wasn't our year to lift the cup, but make no mistake: we are building something special. And next year, we plan to finish the job.

**Tudor House – The Green Machine is just getting started!**

## Seymour House Report

The house report is usually an occasion for bluster and bravado, but as this is my final note as Head of Seymour House, I'll depart from tradition and allow myself a moment of sincerity.

Before you read on, a quick reminder in case you missed it: Seymour won the house championship.

In theory, this is where I'd offer heartfelt thanks to our rival houses for a hard-fought year of competition. I'd pay tribute to the grit and determination of Seymour students and staff who clawed out last-minute victories against apparently superior teams. I'd wrap it all in a ribbon of respect, humility, and sportsmanship.

I'd like to do all that, but I'm afraid I can't. The challenge from our rivals this year was so feeble that, had I engraved Seymour's name on the trophy back in September, I'd still have slept soundly.

That said, a win is a win, and this was no ordinary win. A third major trophy in four years. I step down having secured these victories, including the rare and prized House Festival, thanks to the efforts of some outstanding house captains, vice captains and senior students, as well as the ever-presents from across KS3 and 4, of whom there are too many to name. I now hand over to the capable and energetic Miss M. Cave. This isn't the end of Seymour's dominance, it's just the beginning.

I hope our rivals don't miss their alarms again in 2025/26.

Long live the villain house. Long live the golden warriors. Long live Seymour.

Yma o hyd!

**TBD**