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Summer 2026 Newsletter



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A Message From the Headmaster

Summer 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last time I wrote to you I observed that the weather had been distinctly wintery in the Spring Term, and now it appears that the situation has reversed with the recent spell of hot temperatures. I am extraordinarily proud of the community as both staff and students dug deep and showed amazing resilience throughout the recent challenges. We were able to mitigate the conditions somewhat by re-locating to cooler or air-conditioned classrooms, we relaxed the dress code, we bought more fans and kept the windows open only in the mornings to let in the cooler air, we adjusted timings where necessary (especially with the sports activities) and we all reminded each other to stay hydrated and to stay out of the sunshine. It was a challenge that we rose up to together, and I was touched by the care and support we gave each other and I am grateful that we managed to keep the students safe in school, which may have been cooler than a lot of your homes, and certainly was cooler than the local parks. Of course, we are continually reviewing our approaches to these situations and we will continue to adapt as we face each new challenge.

And then came something that no one expected: one of our oak trees shed two branches just at the beginning of morning break time. It was a truly awful incident but the students and staff responded magnificently. The emergency services commended us on the speed of our response and the clear care and support shown for all involved. There were some minor injuries which were all quickly triaged, but three of our boys were taken to hospital for more significant treatment, and although we all knew that they were in good hands, we were deeply concerned for their wellbeing. Several members of staff including myself have visited the families at the Children's Hospital and I am pleased to report that the boys are making a steady recovery.

We are lucky to have such a beautiful wooded campus and as a school we have the trees regularly inspected by an independent arboriculturist consultant. The inspection schedule is based on a frequency that should mean trees do not deteriorate to such an extent that they pose a severe risk, and that enables any developing issues to be spotted early. We take the safety of our community seriously and we are working with the Health and Safety Executive as they conduct an independent investigation and as I write the consensus appears to be that this was a freak accident that no one could have predicted. We will of course share more when the investigation is complete.

You will be aware that the examination season ended just before the hotter weather and I wanted to pass on my congratulations to all of the students who worked so hard for this opportunity. I look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Year 13 students on results day and I sincerely hope that they all get the fantastic grades that they deserve.

The extra-curricular programme continues apace with music, drama, art and sport all featuring strongly, and as I write, our House Championship is coming to its annual conclusion after a smashing Sports Day Finale. Well done to all of the students who took part in any of these activities, and a huge thank you to all the staff who willingly give up their time to support this huge array of enrichment opportunities that the students enjoy so much.

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The construction projects in school are in good health and the All-Weather Pitch looks like it might be finished on time this August, so we look forward to being able to use it in September.

The Community Hub now actually looks like a building with its steel frame, roof and stairs in place, and the brickwork for the lower ground floor is almost complete, although you cannot see it from these pictures. This project is currently on schedule to be completed by Christmas, so we may even be able to move in at the beginning of 2027.



We will keep you updated as we make more progress, and it is an exciting and tantalising prospect to think that the staff and students might be able to benefit from these projects so soon. Certainly the school deserves to enjoy much improved sporting facilities and better hygiene facilities, and the additional classrooms and hall space will provide the much-needed relief from the busyness of the main buildings.

These projects could not have happened without the financial support that we have secured from both the government and the Academy Trust, but I should also say a huge thank you to the large number of significant donors who have given to the fundraising campaign. Without your support we could not have achieved the double success that we are now so excited about, and we are now in the home straight having nearly secured all the funds we need for the fixtures and fittings for both building and pitch.

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We are looking forward to our next Parent Forum meeting on the subject of our new Management Information System called Arbor. This new system has improved many of our internal systems and we hope that you have seen benefits of improved communication with parents. The feedback from you will be extraordinarily helpful in formulating the next steps to keep improving both our use of MIS and our communication processes, so I would like to send out a most sincere thank you to all parents who are planning to attend this meeting and to all parents who have attended previous Parents Forum Group meetings.

Recently I attended the third 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 Cookson received an award recognising his 57 years of service to the school!

It is important that I go on record to express my deep gratitude for the service given by this year's teaching staff leavers: **Mrs Balkham** (French), **Mr Cattermole** (DT), **Mrs Bicknell** (English) and **Mr Browne** (English). We are also saying goodbye and good luck to some important members of the support staff team, including **Mrs Morris** (SEND), **Mrs Harris** (Finance), **Mrs Nijran** (Exams), **Mr Ogidi** (Cover & Dance!), **Miss Holloway-Lee** (Receptionist), **Mr Selvaganapathy** (Intern) and **Mr Chauhan** (Intern).

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.

We have enjoyed meeting the new Year 7 students and our new Year 12 students in our induction events this summer. 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 will sign off by saying that I hope that the weather is just right (not too hot and not too cold) for us to all enjoy a restful and happy Summer holiday period. I look forward to seeing the Camp Hill family return in high spirits in the Autumn Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen
Headmaster
July 2026

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German Homestay

At 3:35pm after another busy school day of the 18th of March 2026, I, Zijian Zhang gathered my schoolbag, my walking shoes and my coat and headed out to the entrance at reception to meet my German Exchange partner, Mira Selzer, for the first time.

Me, along with my friend Wing and several other Year 8 students were greeted warmly by the German English teachers, who paired us up with our partners, and from there we were all sent on our ways to our respective homes. Mira and I walked down Vicarage Road, chatting about the flight from Frankfurt to Birmingham before being picked up by my dad who drove us home. Upon our arrival, my mum (and two little brothers) warmly welcomed Mira to our household and after a long backwards and forwards over whether to chat some more or to eat dinner, we showed Mira to her room and left her to make herself at home.

Shortly after however, Mira called us back to take a spider out of her room. Soon after, we all settled down to a dinner of salad, boiled potatoes, garlic bread and grilled chicken pieces to which Mira took an instant liking to, especially the salad! Afterwards, Mira and I played a friendly match of badminton in the garden (neither of us were any good but it was fun all the same!). In the evening, we took Mira to the supermarket, where my mum started a conversation with her about food, which (unsurprisingly) turned into a long story about her life as an opera singer. Thankfully, that was all made up for when she picked up some of Mira's favourite foods, which included grapes, cucumbers, lettuce and pork.

On the second day at 8 o'clock, my dad dropped me and Mira off at the school gates, and after a debate on favourite subjects (though I still think geography is superior to maths), I left Mira with her friends at reception. After school, we had dinner, talked about Mira's day trip to the city centre, and played an intense game of UNO No Mercy, which to the dismay of both me and Mira, was won by my little brother. Just before bed, we watched 'Mr Bean's Holiday', a classic British comedy film filled with funny scenes.

The next day, I introduced Mira to (most) of my band, who were practising for the upcoming Teatime Concert (more on this later). Overall, for both Mira and me, Friday was a quiet day; her trip to Warwick Castle was a bit boring, and my French leçon was good, but not as good as the much preferred German Stunde. The highlight of the day was the evening film 'Evan Almighty', another movie with hilarious comedy but at the same time, heartwarming moments.

During the weekend, we visited not one but two parks, one woodland, one local nature reserve. On Saturday, the entire family and Mira drove one hour to Bodenheim Arboretum in Kidderminster, known for its scenery and more than 5 miles of woodland walks. While we were there, we fed fish in the lake, went to the farm to see some animals, including sheep, pigs, cows and donkeys, and explored the woods and a big island on the lake. We then ate our packed lunches while admiring the view of the lake, and after some more exploring, we ate some ice cream and then decided to call it a day. For dinner, we treated ourselves to pizza, with pepperoni and chicken pineapple along with extra fries.

But that was only the first half of the weekend! In the morning, after finally completing my dreaded physics homework, we took Mira to Moseley Bog, a local park that, although not as big as Bodenheim was still teeming with life. We walked a full circle while I gave Mira a tour of some of the most interesting areas and their history. I'm not sure how important it is to know that a fen is a rare type of habitat home to wet and muddy terrain to a German person, but you learn something new every day. Right?

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Finally, remember what I said about the Teatime Concert? I haven't forgotten about it! It was Monday evening, and the boy's school hall was packed with parents, friends and nervous musicians. Because other German exchange partners were there, it was a great place for Mira to catch up with her friends, enjoying the concert together. There were many great performances from orchestras to ensembles to quartets, but the best of all was (obviously) my band; we performed the classic song 'Don't stop believing' which everyone enjoyed, including Mira and her friends, who recognised the song instantly!

It was honestly a shame that Mira's time here in Birmingham went by so quickly, (in my opinion one week for a trip abroad is a bit short) but as I waved Mira one last goodbye on the Tuesday morning, I was confident that I would love the experience in Frankfurt just as much as she enjoyed Birmingham.

For any Year 7 and 8s, I would strongly recommend the German Exchange, especially if you like making new friends, visiting a foreign country or are taking German for GCSEs. It's a great opportunity to talk to real Germans and will help you develop important skills, such as strengthening your confidence in speaking a new language or getting out of your comfort zone to try new experiences, just like I did with my partner, Mira.

I look forward to seeing her again in September and also to the plans for the trip made by Mrs Wells; thank you for all the time and effort you've put into this!

Zijian Zhang, 9K



UoB Languages Masterclass

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On Wednesday the 25th of March 2026, whilst most Year 10 students endured the disaster of Sports Team photos in the hail, a selected group of talented language students met up in the foyer in order to attend the “Try a New Language” masterclass organised by the University of Birmingham. Despite the random hail showers, thanks to Mr Renault’s excellent navigation skills through the university, we made it there on time. As we strolled into the lecture theatre, we were greeted by a familiar face, the one and only Dr Edward Boothroyd who had delivered a presentation about the importance of languages to the entirety of Year 10 just a few weeks prior.

The excitement was certainly brewing amongst the cohort, and discussion on our row about what was to come amplified. Once the other schools had arrived, we made a prompt start. We started with a presentation on the importance of languages by Dr Boothroyd, and then he explained what was to come. We would be trying out 3 new languages today, Portuguese, Catalan and Japanese. We began with Portuguese, directed by Dr Maria Inês Castro e Silva. She taught us the usual: greetings, numbers, common words, and how to show courtesy. She then set us off to introduce ourselves on our rows, which me, Jeffrey, Zain and Zac definitely made the most of. We were then asked to volunteer to introduce ourselves in front of everyone else, and I think a lack of confidence showed from the whole group. Eventually, the silence was broken, and Lucas being a Brazilian Portuguese speaker himself, decided to show us all the beautifulness of his language, and even some key differences between the Brazilian and Portuguese dialects.

We then moved onto Catalan directed by Dr Laia Benavent-Llinares, where we once again learnt the basics, and this time some misconceptions regarding the language. For example, Catalan is not a small language, nor is it spoken only in Spain, it is in fact spoken by between 9-10 million people, including by celebrities such as Lamine Yamal, and is even spoken in parts of Southern France and part of the Italian island of Sardinia. Shyness was once again shown by the group, as no one seemed to want to volunteer to introduce themselves in Catalan.

Afterwards we moved onto what seemed to be the most anticipated language, Japanese, directed by Ms Junko Ogawa. We began by introducing ourselves, learning common words and how to show courtesy. Then came the fun part. Ms Ogawa decided to show us, that Japanese is an easier language than perceived, by showing us how to say some cognates. Many English words have not been altered by Japanese, instead taken on and pronounced in a Japanese accent, usually pronounced slower than English and with more enunciation. At this point, the group’s shyness became somewhat less prevalent, with many students including myself taking fun in pronouncing words in such a unique way. We then concluded the session with a guessing game, and matching Japanese words to the English, which I can say I struggled with.

We then completed a short survey and were awarded certificates before making our way out. We took a quick group photo before making our way onto the minibuses, with the weather not being able to make up its mind. All in all, as someone who speaks multiple languages, I can say that I hugely enjoyed this experience, and can say it gave me insight into what it may be like studying languages at university, and would most certainly recommend this experience to future students who are invited to it. Obrigado, gràcies and ありがとう (arigato) for reading.



Omer Arshad 10H

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Muhammed Ayub Y12, Our Future, Our Voice: A Festival of Childhood

We are incredibly proud of Muhammad Ayub (Year 12), who recently attended the Our Future, Our Voice: Festival of Childhood in Manchester as part of his role as a Youth Ambassador for the Children's Commissioner for England.

The Festival of Childhood, hosted by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, brought together young people, policymakers and education leaders to discuss the future of childhood and the issues that matter most to children and young people across the country.

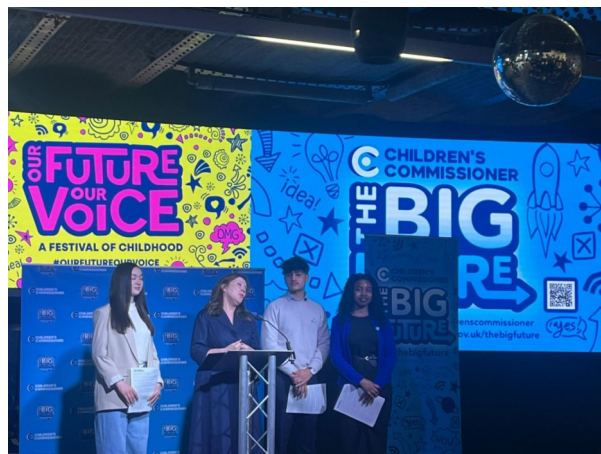
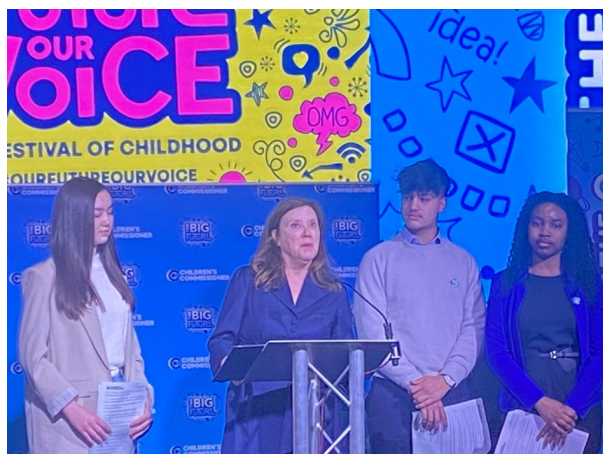


As one of the Children's Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors, Muhammad was given the prestigious opportunity to appear on stage alongside Dame Rachel de Souza during the event. Speaking as part of the opening keynote session, he joined fellow Youth Ambassadors in helping to amplify the voices of young people and share their perspectives on education, democracy, community and the importance of ensuring that children are listened to by those in positions of influence.

The event focused on key themes affecting young people today, including mental wellbeing, friendships, opportunities for the future and active participation in society. Throughout the keynote, the Youth Ambassadors highlighted the importance of adults genuinely listening to young people and acting on their views.

Representing both his community and our school on such a significant national platform is a remarkable achievement. Muhammad's confidence, commitment and ability to speak on behalf of young people demonstrate the qualities that make him an outstanding ambassador.

We congratulate Muhammad on this incredible honour and thank him for being such a positive role model for our school. His contribution to this important national conversation is something of which he should be immensely proud.



Josh Completes First Charity Triathlon

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Congratulations to Josh in 8E, who recently completed his very first charity triathlon in Henley-on-Thames. Josh rose to the challenge admirably, finishing the triathlon in an impressive 29 minutes and 19 seconds.

Competing in the 12–15-year-old category, Josh achieved a very respectable 23rd place out of 61 competitors, a fantastic result for his first-ever triathlon.

Not only did Josh demonstrate resilience and sporting excellence, but he also took part to support a charitable cause, making the achievement even more meaningful.

Everyone at school is incredibly proud of Josh's dedication, commitment and positive attitude. We congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment and look forward to hearing about his future sporting successes. Well done, Josh!



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Daniyal Qualifies for International Robotics Championship

Congratulations to Daniyal Lockyer (8H) on an outstanding achievement in the world of educational robotics.

Earlier this year, Daniyal competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge as a member of the Robocode Team, a programme in which students design, build and programme robots to complete a series of engineering challenges. After success at the regional competition, Daniyal and his teammates progressed to the National Championships, where they delivered an exceptional performance.

The team went on to win their division at the national competition, earning a place at the international tournament in Istanbul. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the team's technical skills, creativity, teamwork and dedication.

Representing their country on the international stage is a fantastic opportunity, and everyone at school is delighted to see Daniyal's hard work rewarded in this way. His involvement in such a prestigious STEM competition demonstrates the value of pursuing interests beyond the classroom and highlights the exciting opportunities available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We congratulate Daniyal on his success so far and wish him every success as he competes in Istanbul. We look forward to hearing how he and the Robocode Team get on at the international championship and are incredibly proud of his achievements.

Well done, Daniyal!

Cadbury World

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On the 16th of April, we went to Cadbury World as part of our Year 9 Geography studies.

The trip was amazing; the atmosphere was thrilling, and there was a strong smell of chocolate wafting through the air. We were given booklets to complete throughout the day while we were educated on the past of Cadbury through

various films and presentations from industry experts. We were given samples of the chocolate they made in front of us; it was an exciting experience. We were then shown a brief film of the history of Cadbury, showing the high quality of chocolate Cadbury has always specialised in. We then

watched the 4D cinema experience, which showed well-known and -loved mascots on an adventure. The Freddo ride was a highlight, as we shot at chocolate ingredients and were given prizes for high scores. After lunch, we were met by a worker at Cadbury world as she explained the Kraft takeover from Cadbury's perspective and were given time to ask questions. We were shown key statistics as well, such as how Cadbury is second in the world for chocolate (behind Mars).



Overall, it was an exciting and fun trip, which linked very well to our globalisation topic from school.

Abdul Tahir & Pharis Mengist 9H



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Conway

The 1st of June for our intrepid Year 8's was not just the start of a new month, but the beginning of some new adventures and experiences as they prepared to descend onto the Conway Centre in Anglesey. Boarding the coach outside school they were full of energy and enthusiasm for the week ahead. Even the weather couldn't dampen their spirits, and it tried. After a scorcher of a half term of temperatures in the mid 30's, they were met with wall-to-wall rain.



An eventful week began with a whistlestop tour visiting the highlights of England's motorway network. There was concern on one of the coaches when Mr Brown mentioned the possibility of a passport inspection as they neared the border with Wales. Authorities satisfied we

entered Wales, and one quick dynamic risk assessment from Mr Watkins lunch was had

on the coach and our students were traversing up to Cwm Idwal, a spectacular valley and lake in the Snowdonia National Park, where even the hardy seagulls were battling the wind and rain. A professional to the core, Mr Watkins attempted to stand on a rock, explaining how the lake was an ice-sculptured glacial one formed by Geography and stuff.



We quickly returned to the coach, and onwards to the Conway centre where the evening was met with some nutritious carbohydrates and the first set of activities we would all take part in, enhanced by the days rain. This was just the first of many activities our brave students would do over the next few days.

However, the best way to sum up the residential comes from the students themselves. Everyone had their favourite activity, be it paddleboarding, abseiling, mountain biking or even just having the chance to visit the beach. Bhaavyan in 8E said that paddleboarding was very fun as we fell in the water many times and we tried to climb onto each other's paddles and played throwing each other off the boards. School staff had to accompany the students on the boards, and secretly we think that a few of the students really relished the chance to push the staff off their boards!



The water-based activities were popular with many students, Shaan particularly enjoyed the canoeing, and groups learnt about the secret swimming pools, smuggling and the long history of the Conway house. Unfortunately, unlike the weeks before and after, the weather wasn't too kind throughout the week, and the winds kept getting stronger. This meant some of the activities were changed to land-based ones. Here students got to experience different forms of rope-based challenges, such as high ropes, zip wires and via ferrata - a mountain climbing path equipped with fixed steel cables, rungs ladder and bridges. This challenged our students with feats of dexterity and flexibility, whilst dealing with their own fears of heights.

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Away from the centre students also had the opportunity to explore the local area, traversing a slight incline to visit the local beauty spot of Aber Falls. Isa described it as “tiring, yet also unbelievably mesmerising. Walking and talking with friends while taking in the beautiful scenery, there was just something about that experience that really woke me up and realised the beautiful world that we have. The laughs, the jokes; they are memories to cherish.”



Alongside the walk to Aber Falls, students also got to visit the beach which, for many like Yaqub, was their favourite part of the week. Under the supervision of Mr O'Malley and others, several hardy souls braved a dip into the Irish Sea. Others made sandcastles or just played football with their friends on the beach. For the group that went on Thursday, they were treated to a fly pass by the Red Arrows. Despite the weather, the tradition of ice cream after the beach continued and was met with universal approval.

Whilst there is so much more that could be shared, these words from Bhaavyan sum up the trip best. “So, in general, it was a really fun experience with friends, even though we were out of home comforts and had no phones to talk to parents or any video games to play, our friends kept us company and so we didn't have to worry about talking to our family all the time! Overall, it was really one of the best residential trips I've been on so far!”



Another Conway adventure successfully ticked off, the staff are looking to get some rest before returning next year with the current Year 7. A massive thank you to Mr Watkins and his team for organising and running this incredible trip, and to the

students for bringing their A game to each and every experience on offer.



Mr Oggelsby—Physics



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Beaufort

At the time of writing this (last day of June 2026), Beaufort have been smashing it with the championship table! For the first time in the last few years, we are entering Sports Day at the top of the table – at 102 points, narrowly followed by Tudor at 95! I am so proud of you all for “locking in” (Esa in Y8 couldn’t believe that I’d heard this phrase) and giving it your all, alongside preparing for internal and external exams.

Musical Performances – who needs Queen?!

I have just had the pleasure of sitting and listening to the Junior House Music performances from our solo performer Zong (Y7) and our ensemble performers Samuel (Y8), Arnav (Y9) and Satvik (Y9). Despite a last-minute swap due to injury (thanks Arnav for stepping in about an hour before!), their ensemble rendition of

Somebody to Love by Queen was brilliant. We also enjoyed the relaxing Canon in D by Zong, and earlier in the day Under Pressure by our Senior Ensemble (Shawn, Zane, Lucas, Kevin, Xai) as well as a beautiful piano piece by Alex. Thank you so much everyone for such stunning performances, as someone who hasn’t studied music since Year 8, I am always in awe at your skills here at Camp Hill! The performers from other Houses were also incredible, it was a lovely event!

Sporting Success – channelling your inner merman

The swimming gala was yet again a delightful house event for Beaufort, full of cheers and lots of (sometimes unnecessary) splashes, soaking most of the Y8 observers along the sidelines! Top highlights included “the Plunge” as usual, but also the Senior relay, with Anthony Botros being the final swimmer of the relay event, bringing victory for Beaufort! Many thanks to Dr Taylor for actively encouraging Anthony to come along to the gala and miss A Level Chemistry!

A huge shoutout to our new Y7 swimmers: Eli, Ethan, Aran, Arjun, Hayden and Albert, as well as our reliable swimmers in the older year groups – (8) Gabriel, Daniyal, Esa, Tawhid, Amar, Byron (9+10) Abhi, Tejasv, Henry, Zac, Waleed, Akeel (Senior) Terry, Musa, Vidyut, Yasin, Yusuf, Anthony, Anton, Pascal, Nikhil, Ramsay.

Terry Sutton (y12) also broke a school record in the swimming gala from over 20 years ago, what a proud moment for everyone in Beaufort!

Alongside this, we performed well in Tennis, coming 2nd overall to Seymour. Thank you to our Tennis Captains – Aaron (7), Athan (8), Matthew (9) and Aariz (10).

Assemblies – goodbye comfy seats in the Main Hall, hello rainy autumn runs to sit on the floor in the Sports Hall...

We have enjoyed assemblies in the Hall (however brief it may be in the second half of the year!) – with the funniest moment being waving goodbye to our Captains whilst they were in fancy dress and the most uplifting moment being listening to Shawn singing My Way...his very own version of the Sinatra classic, with the backing music of Yunus on the piano and Aariz directing! These Y10 students put together a beautiful assembly sharing the value of music, and whilst the technology didn’t quite hit the mark, they will be presenting it to you guys again...something to look forward to!

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We also had a well-researched and informative assembly from Abuzar...who is apparently in Tudor?!

Looking Ahead – welcoming our new Captains!

By the time that you are reading this, I hope that we have lifted the trophy and are all celebrating in triumph. What better way would there be to welcome our new Captain team? They are: Hassan Malik (Captain), Adam Bashir (Juniors), Muhammad Ayub (Intermediates) and Yasir Qanyare (Seniors). They all interviewed exceptionally well and really do want the best for Beaufort...we are in safe hands!

Thank You – what a team <3

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to Vidyut, Nisith, Muhammad and Wakil for all of the work they have put into supporting us to success this year. They have been steadfast in their leadership and enthusiasm for Beaufort.

I wish all of you a restful summer, and to those who have to say goodbye for the final time (Y11s who won't be rejoining in Sixth Form and Y13s), remember that when you bleed, you will always bleed Beaufort! There is always a home for you here, please keep in touch!

Have a brilliant summer, stay safe and get outdoors!

Mrs Marston-Clements — Geography, KEC Subject Lead, Head of Beaufort

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Howard

Please note that reading this contains a competition to find the greatest number of references to shades of blue.

As the midnight hour falls on this year's House Championship, Howardians were left thinking of closeness to greatness, more a subdued indigo of a year than a rich lapis lazuli. The cerulean combination started off the term in the aquamarine environs of the pool where a second place overall in swimming was a cyan of things to come. Well done to our highly competitive gala swimmers who won on the day, relay teams like a cobalt from the blue! Disappointments in Quiz and Music put us back a few paces through lack of availability of some of our peacock-like best. However, as the azure sky of opportunity blazed stronger, Howard put more petrol in the tank and succeeded in some right royal results.

Prussian for the House Shield, Howard like rowers in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, they were pulling back from disadvantage with every stroke, (as shown in senior tennis). Howard highlighted the steel in the teal with a narrow defeat in Athletics, a superb sapphire performance by Year 10, including the electric Muhammad Alderwish in the shot nearly brought the crown to us. Maybe it could be our year after all, electric performances in senior cricket and a second for the intermediates meant the top honours went to Howard in the cricket. It would not be quite enough, more pewter than ultramarine in the end as we finished in. A competitive third place only two points behind second. Never mind, water off a duck-egg's back, what mattered was the willingness to compete, to enjoy the opportunities and to think ahead towards the next year's competition – hopefully winning a few more contests on the way. I wish to thank all the members of Howard who competed throughout the year, the leadership of Jed Jiminez, Eddie Kosina and co in our departing Year 13s and to welcome Hrish Narayanan, Gabriel Kalejaiye and Eisa Randeree as our new leadership team. As we head towards turquoise seas, I wish all in Howard a restful summer.

Seymour

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What a rollercoaster it has been for Seymour House this year! After sitting in 4th place at the end of the first term, we fought our way to the top and found ourselves in 1st place. As for where we stand now... your guess is as good as ours! The suspense is very real, and with the final results being revealed at the end-of-year assembly, all we can do is keep our fingers (and toes!) firmly crossed.

A huge thank you must go to our outgoing House Captains, Haaziq Wani, Jacob Close, Reuben Howard and Luis Martin-Tan, for all their hard work, leadership and commitment over the past year. They have been fantastic ambassadors for Seymour House and will be greatly missed. We wish them, along with all our Year 11 and 13 leavers, the very best of luck with their results and the exciting journeys

that lie ahead.

Sports Day was certainly one to remember – eventful, fun and incredibly HOT! Despite the challenging conditions, Seymour students gave their all and showed great determination and House spirit throughout the day.

House Cricket has also provided plenty of excitement. Our seniors battled brilliantly to secure 2nd place, while the intermediates delivered a superb performance to finish 1st. That leaves everything resting on the shoulders of our junior team, who compete on Friday 10th July. No pressure, juniors, but it really is make-or-break time! We know you'll give it everything you've got.

Whatever happens when the final scores are announced, everyone in Seymour House should be proud of the effort, enthusiasm and resilience shown throughout the year. Thank you for a great first year as Head of Seymour – long live the Villain House!

Miss Cave—Religious Studies, Games, Head of Seymour House



Tudor

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It has been another strong year for Tudor so far, we continue to throw off the tag of being a house just to make up the numbers. Particularly in recent weeks events have shown that the future is very bright for Tudor. At the time of writing, it is all remarkably close, with just five points separating Beaufort and Tudor

at the top of the table. It is absolutely all to play for. It will also, sadly be my last House Championship as Head of Tudor, at least for the time being. I could not be leaving it in more capable and passionate hands though, as Ms Gore is stepping into the breach. I cannot wait to see everything that she and Tudor will achieve in the coming years! It has truly been a privilege to lead this house! Thank you everyone for all your efforts in my time being Head of Tudor House.



Now to some highlights from recent months. The swimming Gala was the wonderful event it always is, with standout performances from Aiden Pang joining us in the seniors. Jacob Hanratty as ever dependable, and Charles Huang swimming brilliantly above his age group.

House Music again was a wonderful occasion, even if a little chaotic in organisation. Thank you to all those who took part at such short notice including our old regulars and a debut from Tyron Yiu.

Sports Day 2026 was an absolutely brilliant occasion. The PE/ Games staff and the volunteers adapting brilliantly to the challenges of having much more limited space. Tudor clearly enjoyed this new format, smashing record left right and centre. Isaac Nawaz setting a brilliant new year 7 record in High jump at 1.39m beating the previous record of 1.38m with his last jump. Will King broke the year 9 800 record by 2 seconds with a time of 2 minutes 15, bragging rights in the King household secured for now. Jacob Hanratty beat the year 10 300 record with a time of 40.32, shaving off around 3 seconds on the old record. Overall, a brilliant effort from the whole house.

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The end of the day was also remarkable, with Tudor finishing first or second in every relay! I am fairly sure there was a record broken here too! A truly spectacular performance from all those involved which led to great jubilation on the finish line for all those associated with Tudor. This combined with the performance in standards leaves us positive of an incredibly significant achievement in terms of the overall standings for Sports Day.



Also, a shout out to seniors such as Ishmail Khalil and Kanish Nayyar, drafted in last minute, Kanish in school uniform, picking up absolutely vital points for the house. That is the spirit we love to see! As well as Parth, Kanav and Muhammad Abbasi and Zidan Akhtar, for their organisation and participation! We could not have done it without you.

I would like to say a massive thank you to our departing leadership team: House Captain Felix Illiff who has led the team brilliant with organisation, resolve and a quiet assurance. The whole team has worked in great symbiosis, and this is what I hope we continue for the future, that it is truly a leadership team. So, thank you also to Matt Dainty, Etik Gadiya, Harshith Salanke, and Jai Thakur. Your enthusiasm, spirit, and general willingness to just muck in will hopefully inspire all those to come.

We also welcome our new leadership team, the new House Captain Parth Trehan, and Vice Captain's Zidan Akhtar, Abuzar Khalid, and Kanav Monga. If Sports Day is any indication, they will be an extremely resourceful and successful Team. I wish you all the best for next year.

So, as I began, so shall I end, thank you to everyone who makes Tudor what it is! Thank you to everyone changing the script, Tudor is throwing off the weight of its old reputation and being born anew thanks to your efforts. We have already won more events than last year, and we are not done yet! Thank you for having me as your Head of House, the future is bright, the future is green!



Mr Rudd—History, Politics, Games, Head of Tudor House

St Anton Ski Trip

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The 2026 School Ski Trip to St Anton was another memorable and hugely successful adventure, providing pupils with an outstanding opportunity to develop their skiing skills, build friendships and demonstrate resilience in challenging conditions.

The journey to Austria was certainly an adventure in itself. After spending over 20 hours travelling, the boys arrived in St Anton tired but excited for a week on the slopes. Their enthusiasm was quickly tested as the resort experienced difficult weather conditions during the first few days of skiing. Poor visibility, low cloud and challenging snow conditions made progress more demanding than many had anticipated.

However, it was during these difficult early days that the true character of the group came to the fore. The boys showed excellent resilience, perseverance and determination, refusing to let the conditions affect their attitude or effort. Working closely with their ski instructors, most groups made exceptional progress and were able to move onto the upper slopes within just two or three days. This achievement was particularly impressive given the challenging start to the week and demonstrated the commitment shown by pupils across all ability levels.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the trip was the way in which the boys supported one another throughout the week. Whether encouraging a friend attempting a difficult run, helping each other with equipment, or simply sharing their experiences at the end of the day, the group embodied the values of teamwork and mutual respect. These qualities played a significant role in ensuring that every pupil was able to enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Fortunately, the weather improved dramatically towards the end of the week, revealing the stunning scenery that makes St Anton one of Europe's premier ski destinations. With clearer skies and excellent snow conditions, the boys were able to fully appreciate the extensive ski area and enjoy the rewards of the progress they had made earlier in the week. Confidence levels soared as pupils tackled increasingly challenging runs and demonstrated just how much they had developed during their time on the mountain.

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Once again, Hotel Pezina proved to be an excellent base for the trip. Conveniently situated close to the slopes, the hotel provided a warm and welcoming environment for pupils and staff alike. The quality of the food was excellent throughout the week, ensuring everyone remained well-fuelled for long days of skiing. The hosts were, as always, incredibly accommodating and played a major part in making the trip such a positive experience.

The success of any school trip depends greatly on the staff who give up their time to accompany pupils, and this year's trip was no exception. Miss Cave, Mr Dowling, Mr Southgate and Mrs Mitchell worked tirelessly throughout the week to ensure the smooth running of the trip and the welfare of all pupils. By the end of the week, the staff were undoubtedly feeling the effects of the early starts, long days and extensive travel, but they thoroughly enjoyed the company, humour and enthusiasm shown by the boys throughout

the trip.

As always, St Anton delivered an unforgettable experience and reinforced why it remains such a popular destination for our ski programme. The staff and pupils are already looking forward to returning in 2027 for another fantastic week in the Austrian Alps. Beyond that, there is also excitement about potentially exploring new destinations further afield for the 2028 trip.

The boys should be immensely proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the week. Their resilience, determination, sportsmanship and support for one another made this another highly successful ski trip and one that will provide lasting memories for everyone involved.

Mr Morrissy — Second in PE and Games, Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Year 12 Religious Studies Trip to Buddhist Temples

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Year 12 Religious Studies students recently took part in an educational visit to two important Buddhist sites in Birmingham, gaining valuable insight into how Buddhist beliefs are lived and practised within local communities.

The day began at the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara near Edgbaston Reservoir, where students had the opportunity to learn about the Burmese Theravada tradition, and to quiz a monk about key beliefs such as anatta. They found out about the devotions of Birmingham's Burmese Buddhist community, the routines that shape monastic life in the city and how the Vihara builds relationships with other traditions, faiths and communities worldwide.

Students then enjoyed a very sunny lunch break in Moseley, before visiting the Birmingham Buddhist Centre, where they were introduced to aspects of the Triratna order, a modern, Western-oriented form of Buddhism. Here, they explored key teachings and traditions, engaged in conversations about the diversity of Buddhist practice and even tried some breathing meditation.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to connect their academic studies with real-world experiences. Throughout the day, they represented the school exceptionally well, showing enthusiasm, maturity, and a strong willingness to learn. Their insightful questions and respectful attitude were greatly appreciated by those hosting the visit.

Students were very happy that our day also offered us another key location to visit, the Sultanganj Buddha, a famous 2.3-meter-tall, 500 kg copper statue housed at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG). So you'll hear about that in one of next year's newsletters!

Ms Freeman—Head of Religious Studies, History

Year 8 History trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

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The History Department took 40 Year 8 students to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery this term, to explore the Birmingham galleries and explore more about the city's relationship with the history of enslavement. Students are involved in a museum design project, so were excited to see how the museum has been designed to engage and entertain its visitors, whilst also educating the general public about the city's history.

One of the most exciting aspects of our trip was travelling from Pineapple Road station. A first for most of us, and even for some a first time on a train at all! It meant we were able to zip back and forth to the museum in just a morning, opening up a wealth of possibilities for trips in years to come.

Students enjoyed the visit and found out loads about the city they live in. I hope they'll all take the opportunity to return to the BMAG – for free! – with their families and friends, maybe even in the summer holiday to come. I'll let lots of photos do the rest of the talking...

Ms Freeman—Head of Religious Studies, History



Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Photos

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Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

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First of all, what is DofE? It stands for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. To complete it, you take part in three sections: a physical activity, a skill, and volunteering. Two of these are completed over three months, while the third lasts six months, with each requiring around an hour of commitment every week. Once you've finished those sections, you get to go on a camping expedition with your friends and it genuinely became a memory I will cherish forever.

The expedition made it all worth it. We walked for two days and covered roughly 60 km (a slight exaggeration) (plus an extra 10 thanks to getting lost more times than we can count) before camping overnight. The first day was definitely my favourite. We were blessed with perfect weather making the day feel a lot more easy.

During the walk, our group set ourselves the goal of collecting 20 high-fives from people we passed. It started as a way to avoid looking like a completely lost group of teenagers wandering around with a map and compass, but it actually worked! We received plenty of compliments, lots of high-fives, and even a few helpful directions finishing the first day with 25!

Seeing the campsite at the end of the day brought tears of joy to my eyes. Meeting up with our friends in the other groups and celebrating the fact that we'd officially completed half of the expedition was such a great feeling. We cooked dinner, pitched our tents, and spent the evening relaxing together. It honestly felt like being on holiday just with slightly achy legs. You were tired enough to feel like you'd achieved something, but not so exhausted that you couldn't enjoy yourself. To finish the day, I shared a tent with one of my closest friends. We stayed up talking late into the night, sharing advice, jokes, and plenty of complete nonsense. It's a night I'll never forget.

The second day was much tougher, to put it lightly. After the first hour, though, every group seemed to find its rhythm. Conversations flowed more easily, the jokes somehow became even funnier, and, unfortunately, our map-reading skills seemed to disappear completely. With a special thank you to Stuart. He was genuinely the light at the end of the tunnel for every group. Whenever someone got lost, Stuart would come and find them. If you were walking in circles, he was the one who got you back on track. He was, and probably always will be, a legend to everyone who took part in DofE this year.

Neel Mekapothu 9B

Music News

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The Summer Term in Music has been musically rich and full of highlights, with two major concerts in collaboration with Camp Hill Girls and 24 pupils sitting graded music examinations. Of course, for so many pupils in the school, the Summer Term brings with it public examinations; however, in the middle of this, the musical life of the school continues. What follows highlights just some of the other memorable events and achievements from the term.

Senior Concert

The Senior Concert took place on Tuesday 28 April 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, Saxophone Ensemble and the Lower String Ensemble. Two pupil-led groups, Swing Band and SATB Choir, also made an impressive appearance. At the end of the concert there was also a surprise item, organised by the Year 13 students, to say goodbye and thank you to Miss Hawthorne.

Summer Soiree

Our final joint concert with the Girls' school, the Summer Soiree, took place on Tuesday 16 June. The concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Flute Choir, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band, Double Reed Ensemble, String Orchestra and Training Wind Band. As well as an ensemble performance from a Year 9 band and a solo performance by Daniel Tran. The concert also included a surprise item by the Visiting Music Teachers, who performed one of Miss Hawthorne's favourite madrigals, arranged by Mr Meadows.

House Music

This year's House Music competition took place on Tuesday 30 June. We welcomed back **Mr Palmer** (former Head of Music) to judge.

In the Junior Category, there were solo performances given by **Zongchen Xie** (Beaufort – piano), **Chenbei Ding** (Howard – piano), **Daniel Tran** (Seymour – violin) and **Timeo Zhang** (Tudor – piano). The ensemble category saw performances from: **Satvik Manyam, Arnav Pathania** and **Samuel Pitches** (Beaufort); **Johan Beech, Tristan Bishop Park, Oskar Pineau, Joshua Rowlands, Max Ruffley** and **Zijian Zhang** (Seymour); and **Mauj Dosanjh** and **Will King** (Tudor). The results for the Junior Category were as follows:



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The results for the Junior Category were as follows:

Juniors	
1 st	Seymour
2 nd	Tudor
3 rd	Howard
4 th	Beaufort

The Senior Category saw solo performances by **Alex Cammiss** (Beaufort – piano), **Julian Francisco** (Howard – piano), **Garloon Ho** (Seymour – violin) and **Tyron Yiu** (Tudor – piano). In the ensemble category there were performances from: Kevin **Cao**, **Lucas Ribeiro** and **Shawn Sen** (Beaufort); **Baryalai Bangash** and **Levi Dandy** (Seymour); and **Sathya Vaidyanathan** and **Joel Foo** (Tudor). The results for the Senior Category were as follows:

Seniors	
1 st	Beaufort
2 nd	Tudor
3 rd	Seymour
4 th	Howard

And, overall, the results were as follows:

Overall	
1 st	Seymour
2 nd	Beaufort
3 rd	Tudor
4 th	Howard

Well done to everyone involved!

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Pupil Achievements

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

Rheuben Kennard	7C	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 4	Distinction
Mustafa Obaid	7C	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 2	
Ibrahim Iqbal	7E	TCL	Oboe	Grade 1	Distinction
Visman Aulak	7H	TCL	Violin	Grade 3	Merit
Finn Matthews	7H	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 1	Distinction
Jacob Cronin	7K	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 2	Distinction
Samuel Pitches	8E	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 6	Distinction
Michael Ingley	8K	ABRSM	Trumpet	Grade 4	
Samrudh Kalimuthu	8K	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 2	Merit
Prabhav Emani	9E	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 3	Merit
Prithviraj Ghosh	9B	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 3	Merit
Student A	9	TCL	Bass guitar	Grade 5	Merit
Satvik Manyam	9K	TCL	Piano	Grade 6	Distinction
Fred Belcher	10B	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 5	
Henry Bloomer	10B	ABRSM	Trumpet	Grade 5	
Benjamin Atkin	10E	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 5	
Nicolas Hotzel Escardo	11K	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 6	Merit
Jaesh Manivannan	11K	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 6	Distinction
Student B	L	TCL	Guitar	Grade 6	
Aman Koiri	U5	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 8	Merit

Please note that, at the time of writing, pupils have not sat our termly ABRSM examinations – these are due to take place on Thursday 9 July. As always, please do remember to let me know if your child has musical achievements outside of school, so that we can celebrate them.

Next Term

We look forward to events in the Autumn Term. Please note the following dates for your diaries:

- **Monday 14 September – Instrumental and vocal lessons commence**
- **Thursday 17 September – Open Evening** (CHB Choir)
- **Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 November – Choir Tour** (CHB Choir)
- **Tuesday 10 November (19:00) – Chamber Concert** (String Orchestra, Training Wind Band)
- **Monday 7 December (19:00) – Christmas Concert** (CHB Choir, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band)

Importantly, we say goodbye to two important figures in the musical life of the school. Firstly, **Shrikannan Selvaganapathy** has been working as an intern at Camp Hill this year and has spent a significant proportion of his time here in Music. His presence here has been invaluable – calm, efficient, professional and wise beyond his years. He leaves us to begin his studies in Computing at Imperial College London, and we wish him all the best for what is, undoubtedly, a very bright future.

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Miss Hawthorne, Head of Music at Camp Hill Girls, has been with the school for 28 years. She leaves at the end of this year to begin a very well-earned retirement. The nature of music at Camp Hill is unique, with most of our extra-curricular groups and events running across both schools; as well as A level being taught in shared classes by the Heads of Music at both schools. It is a long-standing and enormously important partnership, and one which, when started at Camp Hill four years ago, I was sure to invest in fully. I am pleased to say that this was made very easy due to Prue's professionalism, passion, kindness and inimitable sense of humour. If you have been at any of the concerts, you will have, undoubtedly, seen or heard one of the many tributes to her from pupils and staff. Throughout these occasions – some of which I have spoken at – it really is difficult to find words to do justice to someone

who dedicated 28 years of their life to a school as fully as she has. For me, it was in listening and reading the stories of pupils – past and present – about how their lives have been shaped by her teaching at Camp Hill that left the biggest impression on me. For teachers like me who are (marginally) earlier on in their career, it is something to aspire to. And for the community more generally, it is something for which it is hard not to feel a very deep sense of gratitude.

Well done to all pupils for their contributions throughout the year - I look forward to another music-filled year starting in September!

Josh Waters—Head of Music

Year 10 Religious Studies Trip

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Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students visited Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford, a manor house bequeathed by late Beatle George Harrison to become the headquarters of the International Centre for Krishna Consciousness. Our students will talk about this specific Manor in their Year 11 study of Hindu Practices, so it's a fabulous opportunity to make sure there are key details and information which will not quickly be forgotten. At the Manor, students enjoyed a cart ride with some of the community's oxen and met the cows who are reared and cared for as part of the ahimsa dairy. At lunchtime, we all shared in a delicious meal including paneer made with the milk from the Manor's own cows. We were treated to a session on classical Indian dance and watched the arti ceremony in the very impressive shrine room. Although we unfortunately visited on what I think has been the only day of rain we've seen this term, we saw much of what makes the grounds so interesting. From the Tulsi greenhouses to the Buddha garden, students were able to appreciate the diversity and variety of Hindu worship even within just one context. And they very much enjoyed the gift shop before we headed home!

Ms Freeman—Head of Religious Studies, History

Cricket

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1st XI Cricket, Mr Burgess—Head of PE and Games

Senior cricket continues to face increasing challenges, with examinations, work experience placements, residential visits and an unusually intense heatwave all impacting fixture availability. Nevertheless, whenever opportunities arose, the 1st XI took to the field with enthusiasm and commitment, completing four fixtures and producing some memorable performances along the way.

The side enjoyed an excellent season overall, recording victories against King Edward VI Five Ways

School and King Edward's School 2nd XI on two occasions, while suffering only one defeat, a thrilling seven-run loss to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in one of the most entertaining school matches of recent years.



One of the season's early highlights came courtesy of Raees Latif, who struck his maiden 1st XI half-century. His composed and unbeaten 58* guided the team to victory against King Edward VI Five Ways School, successfully chasing down the target of 58 and demonstrating the maturity and skill that have become hallmarks of his batting.

The standout fixture of the season took place at Kings Heath Cricket Club against the MCC. In sweltering conditions, the visitors batted first and declared on an imposing 307/5. A special mention must go to Kabir Singh, who showed tremendous character and endurance in bowling 18 consecutive overs against a strong MCC batting line-up.

Faced with a daunting chase, the School responded magnificently. Mushaf Mir played a wonderfully controlled innings of 73, anchoring the reply and laying the foundation for an unlikely victory charge. As the game entered its closing stages, Spencer Hazzell (26) and Aakshat Kumar (34) unleashed a series of powerful strokes to bring the target within reach. The game went right down to the final over before the last wicket fell, leaving the School heartbreakingly seven runs short of a remarkable victory.



As ever, sincere thanks must go to the MCC, whose players and officials continue to uphold the finest traditions of the game, competing with great professionalism while maintaining a friendly and welcoming spirit. Appreciation is also extended to Old Boys Ajay Shingadia, Owais Akram and Hassan Soonsara, all of whom demonstrated their considerable quality with the bat and contributed greatly to a memorable occasion.

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Without doubt, the individual performance of the season belonged to Mushaf Mir. Against KES 2nd XI, he produced a breathtaking unbeaten 102* from just 39 balls, an innings of extraordinary power and timing. It was a privilege to witness and represented the seventh century of his school career to date – a remarkable achievement.

Congratulations must also be extended to Haaziq Wani, Parth Trehan and Mushaf Mir, who shared the captaincy duties throughout the season and led the side with distinction.



It has also been particularly pleasing to see several younger players make the step up into senior cricket. Congratulations to Evin Watowita (Year 8), Muhammad Raza (Year 8), Aariz Irfan (Year 9), and Hashim Wani, Omar Slatter and Adyan Khan (Year 10) on making their 1st XI debuts. Their inclusion reflects the strength of the cricket programme and bodes well for the future of the side.

The following students represented the 1st XI this season:

Spencer Hazzell (4 appearances), Parth Trehan (4), Mushaf Mir (4), Omar Slatter (2), Muhammad Abbasi (3), Rayan Latif (3), Hrish Narayanan (3), Raees Latif (3), Kabir Singh (2), Adyan Khan (2), Ayyash Riyas (2), Ben Hodgetts (2), Aakshat Kumar (2), Ishan Gautam (2), Haaziq Wani (2), Hashim Wani (1), Yousuf Hussain (1), Daniel Lo (1), Aariz Irfan (1), Evin Watowita (1), Muhammad Raza (1)

With one fixture still remaining, attention now turns to the traditional and much-anticipated Staff vs Students match. It promises to be a fitting conclusion to another enjoyable season and, if previous encounters are anything to go by, should provide plenty of entertainment for players and spectators alike.

Congratulations to all players who have represented the 1st XI this season and thank you for your commitment, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the summer.

U15 Cricket, Mr Morrissy—Second in PE and Games, Duke of Edinburgh Manager

The Year 10 cricket team has enjoyed a truly outstanding season, establishing themselves as one of the strongest and most successful sides the school has produced in recent years. The squad has demonstrated exceptional commitment, skill and resilience throughout the campaign, winning an impressive nine of their ten fixtures and competing at the highest level in both county and regional competitions.

One of the highlights of the season has been the team's memorable run in the Stokes Cup. After overcoming Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in a dramatic bowl-off following weather disruption, the boys continued their impressive progress with excellent victories over Alcester Grammar School and King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon, to reach the final. Although the team ultimately fell short against a strong Lawrence Sheriff School side, their journey showcased the quality, determination and character that have defined the group all season.

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The batting performances throughout the year have been equally impressive. Omar Slatter produced one of the innings of the season with a magnificent 63 against Queen Mary's, whilst Hashim Wani played a match-winning knock of 58 not out against Kineton in the Stokes Cup semi-final, displaying tremendous composure under pressure. The middle order has also been a major strength, consistently providing stability and momentum when required. Xai Sandhu, in particular, has shown outstanding improvement over the course of the season, developing into a dependable and influential batter whose contributions have been invaluable to the team's success.

The success has not been limited to the Stokes Cup. The team has also enjoyed a superb run in the County Cup, reaching the final where they will face King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon. The opportunity remains for the boys to cap a remarkable season with county silverware, a fitting reward for their hard work and dedication.

Throughout the season, the team has benefited from contributions across the entire squad. However, several individual performances deserve special recognition. Abdullah Riaz has been exceptional with the ball, producing two outstanding five-wicket hauls during the campaign. His ability to take wickets at crucial moments has been instrumental in many of the team's successes and has established him as one of the most dangerous bowlers in school cricket this year.

What has made this side particularly impressive is the strength and depth of its bowling unit. Rather than relying on one or two individuals, the team has seen ten different players take wickets during the season, highlighting both the variety and quality available within the attack. The bowlers have consistently applied pressure, taken wickets at key moments and worked together effectively to restrict opposition batting line-ups, making the team a formidable force in all formats of the game.

What has made this group so special is not only their results but also the manner in which they have achieved them. The boys have played the game in the right spirit, representing the school with pride, respect and professionalism at all times. The team has been led brilliantly by Adyan Khan, whose calm leadership and resilience under pressure have been evident in several tightly contested fixtures. His ability to guide the team through challenging situations has been a key factor in their success. Equally important has been the way the squad has supported one another throughout the season, consistently displaying the teamwork, commitment and camaraderie that underpin successful sporting teams.

With one major final still to come, this Year 10 side has already secured its place as one of the school's most successful cricket teams in recent memory. They should be immensely proud of what they have achieved so far. Their performances, attitude and dedication have set a standard for future teams to follow, and everyone associated with the side looks forward with great excitement to seeing what they can accomplish in the years ahead. Whatever the outcome of the County Cup Final, this has been a season to remember for a truly exceptional group of young cricketers.

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Season Record:

- **Played:** 10
- **Won:** 9
- **Lost:** 1
- **Stokes Cup:** Finalists
- **County Cup:** Finalists (final to be played vs KE Stratford)



Congratulations to all players on a fantastic season and for representing Camp Hill with such distinction. The future of cricket at the school looks extremely bright.

U14 Cricket, Mr Burgess—Head of PE and Games

The U14 Cricket Team can look back on a highly successful and enjoyable season, reaching the semi-finals of the Regional Cup before eventually bowing out to a strong King Edward VI Five Ways School side. It was a campaign full of excellent performances, individual milestones and significant development from all involved.

The team finished the season with a positive record of seven matches played, four wins and three defeats. Victories were secured against Queen Mary's Grammar School, Old Swinford Hospital, Princethorpe College and Moseley School & Sixth Form, while the team narrowly fell short against King Edward VI School, Stratford and King Edward VI Five Ways School.

There were several standout individual performances throughout the season. Aariz Irfan enjoyed an exceptional year with both bat and ball. He produced a superb 62 runs against King Edward VI Stratford, while also claiming a remarkable five-wicket haul against Princethorpe College. Against Moseley School & Sixth Form, Salah Usmaan played a magnificent innings of 74, while Ibrahim Hussain supported him brilliantly with an unbeaten 50* as the team secured an impressive victory.

A special mention must go to Aarish Aziz, who achieved a significant personal milestone by scoring his maiden half-century, finishing on a superb 74 runs. This innings highlighted the strong batting talent developing within the squad and was one of the season's memorable moments.

Leadership was another key strength of the side. Raghuvamshi Ankam captained the team admirably throughout the season, leading by example and helping to create a positive and competitive environment for the squad. Behind the stumps, Harry Clemow provided reliability and consistency, keeping wicket extremely tidily and making a valuable contribution to the team's performances.

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The following players represented the U14 team during the season and should all be congratulated on their efforts and commitment:

Raghuvamshi Ankam (7 appearances), Aarish Aziz (7), Ibrahim Hussain (7), Aariz Irfan (7), Satvik Manyam (7), Nikunj Sharma (6), Zain Iqbal (6), Gotten Agbeleye (5), Aaron Chopra (5), Henry Bramhall (5), Karthik Myooran (4), Salah Usmaan (3), Aakash Chaudhry (3), Muhammad Raza (2), Evin Watowita (2), Zakaria Qureshi (1), Pranshu Kumar (1)

Congratulations to all players on an excellent season. Reaching a regional cup semi-final, recording four victories and producing a number of outstanding individual performances gives the team plenty to be proud of and provides a strong platform for future success. Well done to everyone involved on a fantastic season.

U13 Cricket, Mr Southgate—PE and Cover Supervisor

The 2026 season was an outstanding one for the Under 13s, marked by impressive performances and a series of memorable victories. Finishing the season with 8 games played 7 wins and 1 loss, with a cup final to look forward to vs King Edward Five Ways.

The season began in emphatic fashion in the County Cup, with a commanding 10-wicket victory over King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys. Chasing down the target without losing a wicket set the tone for what would become a highly successful year.

The team continued their strong start with a hard-fought 9-run win against Queen Mary's Grammar School. Their unbeaten run came to an end at King Edward VI Five Ways School, where they narrowly lost by 11 runs in what proved to be one of the most competitive matches of the season.

A dominant all-round display produced a 66-run victory over Princethorpe College with 2 outstanding knocks from Muhammad Raza and Salah Usmaan both scoring 51* retired and Ari Nicholl taking 5 wickets for 15 runs.



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KEVI



CHB

Then they took on King Edward VI Aston Sports College winning by a convincing 9 wickets.

One of the highlights of the season came during the team's tour. Travelling away from home, the boys took on Exeter school in a low scoring thriller. Exeter batted first and with some outstanding bowling from captain Muhammad Raza taking 5 wickets for 16 runs limited Exeter to a total of 99. The team managed to chase Exeter's total down after a small collapse but Ari Nicholls 28* managed to secure the win.



Then they followed it up with a 16-run victory against Barnstaple and Pilton CC. The tour proved to be a fantastic experience both on and off the field.

They then beat Kineton school in the cup semi-final by a remarkable 139-run victory. A superb 87* from Salah Usmaan led the way. Then a Brilliant spell of bowling from year 7 Henry Hancock playing his first year 8 game finished with 5 wickets for 1 run. Leaving Kineton 48 all out.

Finally thank you to Muhammad Raza who did an excellent job as captain this year, leading the team from the front setting a brilliant example for the

squad and congratulations to everyone who has represented the A team this season: Ari Nicholl (9), Muhammad Abdullah (9), Rohab Pinjari (9), Umar Ayub (9), Muhammad Raza (9), Daniyal Aziz (8), Abi-Bakr Bashir (8), Evin Watowita (8), Salah Usmaan (7), Milan Sabharwal-Parmar (6), Abdur-Rahmaan Ibn Hanid (5), Shaan Hussain (4), Aditya Sarkar (4), Uraib Kiyani (4), Bhaavyan Dirisala (3), Noori Haider (2), Henry Hancock (2), Sulayman Hussain (1), Mujtaba Abbasi(1).



U12 Cricket, Mr Brown– PE and Games

The 2026 season was an excellent one for the U12A cricket team, with the squad producing a series of strong performances and finishing with an impressive record of seven wins from nine completed matches.

The season started positively with victories over Camp Hill Girls and West House School. In each game the team demonstrated resilience under pressure, defending totals effectively and showing an ability to remain composed in close contests. Noori Haider scoring 50* was a sign of things to come this year.

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In the first cup match of the year Camp Hill posted a competitive total of 77 runs against Five Ways, thanks largely to an excellent partnership between Zayaan and Noori. Zayaan top-scored with 31 runs, while Noori made a valuable 17, providing the foundation for the innings. Contributions from the rest of the batting line-up ensured that the team capitalised on this strong start and reached a respectable total.

In response, Five Ways were kept under pressure by disciplined Camp Hill bowling and fielding. Although the Five Ways spinners had earlier been successful in taking wickets, and several of their batters made useful contributions during the chase, they were unable to overhaul the target.

Camp Hill remained composed in the closing stages of the match and restricted Five Ways to 69 runs, securing a hard-fought 8-run victory.



The only setback during the first half of the season came in a narrow defeat to Queen Mary's Grammar School. Arhum Latif with 25 runs and Charlie Kents 2 wickets were all that showed from the game. Despite the result, the team competed strongly throughout and responded positively in subsequent fixtures, showing excellent character and determination.

Progress in the Area Cup was secured following a walkover against Tudor Grange Academy, before attention turned to a strong run of performances in June. A dominant 60 run win against Old Swinford Hospital showcased the quality within the squad. Henry Hancock taking 4 wickets during his spell as well. An excellent all-round display against Princethorpe College resulted in a convincing 46-run victory. Once again, the batting was superb with Henry and Noori scoring 52* and 50* respectively.

The team's Area Cup campaign eventually ended with a defeat to King Edward VI Aston Sports College. Although disappointing, the players represented the school with great commitment and can be proud of reaching the latter stages of the competition.

The season concluded with the Devon cricket tour, where the squad produced two memorable performances. A comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Exeter School highlighted the team's batting strength with again Noori and Henry getting 54* and 52* between them, chasing 159! The final match against Barnstaple and Pilton CC provided a dramatic finish to the season, with Camp Hill securing a thrilling one-run victory in a closely contested encounter.



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CHB

Across the season, the team developed significantly as cricketers and as a group. Their fielding improved steadily, bowlers consistently challenged opposition batsmen, and the batting unit grew in confidence and maturity. Most importantly, the players displayed excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and a willingness to learn throughout the season.

To finish with seven victories from nine played matches, including a successful tour and progression in the Area Cup, is a tremendous achievement. The players should be proud of their efforts and can look forward to building on this success in future seasons. Well done to the A team squad which included Rory Hosfield (9) Henry Hancock (9) Arhum Latif (9) Mithulan Muthukrishnan (9) Ibrahim Mughal (9) Noori Haider (9) Mustafa Obaid (9) Edward Kearney (9) Mahdi Gulamhusein (9) Albert

Kightley (8) Zayaan Wahid (8) Charlie Kent (7) Toby Gunn (1) (Brackets = Appearances). I wish you all the best for Year 8 cricket and hopefully can go on and win the cup as the talent is there!



Junior Cricket Tour 2026, Mr Brown– PE and Games

The U12 and U13 cricket teams got to enjoy Camp Hills first Cricket tour! The Cricket squads enjoyed a highly successful and memorable tour to Devon, combining competitive cricket with a range of activities and experiences away from school. The tour began with a visit to Somerset County Cricket Club, where students watched a T20 double-header featuring both women's and men's cricket, providing an excellent opportunity to see high-quality cricket in a professional environment.

The teams was based at Braken Tor near Okehampton, where students demonstrated excellent behaviour, teamwork and independence throughout the weekend. Pupils helped prepare meals, managed their accommodation responsibly and represented the school superbly both on and off the field.

On the cricket field, the squads produced 4 outstanding performances! The first came against Exeter School, where the U12s secured an impressive nine-wicket victory through confident batting. Not out scores from Noori Haider and Henry Hancock where the feature. The U13s chases 98 after being 60-6 with Ari Nicholl steadying the ship and leading the team to victory. Following the match, students enjoyed time on the Devon coast before returning to their accommodation for an evening together eating pizza.

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KEVI



CHB

The tour concluded with a fixture against Barnstaple and Pilton Cricket Club. Both teams represented the school in the highest order with some of the senior player helping coach the opposition in some of their first hard ball matches.

The tour was a fantastic success, with students displaying resilience and outstanding sportsmanship throughout. The combination of competitive cricket, personal development and memorable experiences made the tour a highlight of the season for everyone involved which included: Noori Haider, Arhum Latif, Zayaan Wahid, Henry Hancock, Mahdi Gulamhusein, Mithulan Muthukrishnan, Ibrahim Mughal, Edward Kearney, Rory Hosfield, Mustafa Obaid, Albert Kightley, Charlie Kent, Milan Sabharwal-Parmer, Evin Watowita, Muhammad Raza, Aditya Sarkar, Muhammad Abdullah, Uraib Kiyani, Umar Ayub, Ari Nicholl, Rohab Pinjari, Abdur-Rahmaan Ibn Hanid, Abi-Bakr Bashir, Daniyal Aziz. I will happily take you all away again.



Tennis

KEVI



CHB

The season began with matches against St George's School and King Edward's School, Birmingham. Despite suffering defeats in the U14A and U13A fixtures, both teams competed with determination and gained valuable experience against well-organised opponents. The players who represented are: Neel Mekapothu, Matthew Priest, Satvik Manyam, Tris Bishop-Park, Oskar Pineau, Henry Bramhall, Pranshu Kumar, Ibrahim Hussain, Daniyal Aziz, Jesse Gaston, Ibraheem Ghazali, Aaron Arul Stephen, Abe Arthur, Mo Bedward-Holland, Johan Beech, Kiaan Yusaf, Daniyal Hakim Lockyer, Zain Kassim. The players remained positive throughout and showed a willingness to learn from each performance.



Camp Hill's first victory of the season came through the U12A team, who produced an excellent performance to defeat St George's School. The players displayed confidence and composure throughout the fixture, with strong individual performances contributing to a well-deserved win. Congratulations to all of the following players for representing the school in tennis for the first time: Aaron Arul Stephen (Capt), Daniel Beech, Zakaria Beech, Anas Aboelella, Soren Heer-Stavert, Aditya Joshi, Isaac Nawaz, Murad Mahyoub, Eli Uther, Asir Yacoub, Xuanhao Timeo Zhang, Adam Khan.

Another highlight of the season was the U18A team's impressive victory away at King Edward's School, Birmingham. The following represented CHB: Saif Babar, Isaac Bulgariu, Jermaine Tulloch, Zack Ditta. Facing experienced opposition, the team rose to the challenge and produced one of the school's strongest performances of the year, demonstrating both quality and determination to secure the result.



The season concluded with fixtures for the U15A and U15B teams against King Edward's School, Birmingham. Although both teams were defeated, the players competed with great effort and represented the school admirably, continuing to fight for every point until the end of their matches. Thank you to those who represented the school in the highest order: Zack Ditta, Aariz Qadri, Benjamin Tobulevicius, Adhvaith Subramanian Nair, Dhruv Sudhir, Noah Chilvers, Neel Mekapothu, Matthew Priest, Josh Kanth, Will King, Tejasv Dhek, Rahul Sinha.

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Throughout the season, pupils showed significant development in their technical skills, tactical awareness and match temperament. Just as importantly, they displayed excellent conduct both on and off the court, embodying the values of teamwork, respect and perseverance. While results were mixed, the season provided valuable competitive experiences and laid strong foundations for future success within the tennis programme. Special mentions do to Zack Ditta and Aaron Arul Stephen who both represented at older age groups. Well done to all and to more Tennis next year!

Mr Brown— PE and Games

Athletics

KEVI



CHB

The athletics season concluded with a series of outstanding performances from Camp Hill boys, who once again demonstrated their talent, determination and competitive spirit against some of the strongest schools in the region.

At the Solihull Schools Athletics Meet, both the Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 teams performed admirably against an exceptionally strong field of athletes. With schools such as Solihull School, Warwick School and King Edward's School (KES) in attendance, the standard of competition was extremely high. Despite the challenge, the boys rose to the occasion and produced a number of excellent performances.

Several pupils recorded particularly notable victories. Isaac Nawaz delivered an outstanding performance to win the Long Jump, demonstrating excellent technique and athleticism. On the track, Will King produced one of the performances of the day in the 800m, destroying the field with a dominant display of front-running and endurance. In the field events, Muhammad Alderwish comfortably secured victory in the Shot Put, showcasing both power and consistency to finish well ahead of the competition.

The Year 9 squad then travelled to the newly refurbished Alexander Stadium for their final competitive fixture of the season. Competing against fourteen other schools, the boys produced a remarkable team performance and were particularly dominant on both the track and in the field events.

Karim Abdelmaksoud was one of the standout performers of the day, claiming victories in the 100m, 300m and Long Jump to complete an exceptional all-round display. Daniyal Watton added another track victory with an impressive win in the 200m, showing excellent speed and composure against a strong field of competitors.

The middle-distance events also produced outstanding results for Camp Hill. Karthik Myooran ran an excellent race to win the 800m, whilst Will King continued his remarkable season by dominating the 1500m. Both athletes demonstrated exceptional tactical awareness, determination and endurance, ensuring Camp Hill controlled the distance events throughout the meeting.

To round off a superb day of athletics, the boys combined brilliantly to win the relay event. It was a fitting conclusion to a competition in which the team had excelled across the board, with every athlete contributing towards the overall success of the squad. The relay victory also had an added incentive: Mr Morrissy had promised hot chocolates to any athlete who won their event. By the end of the day, after a string of victories across the track and field, it proved to be a rather expensive promise to keep! Fortunately, it was a cost worth paying given the outstanding performances and enthusiasm shown by the team.

The team's success across a range of events resulted in an outstanding second-place finish overall, a tremendous achievement given the quality and number of schools competing. To finish as runners-up among fourteen schools is testament to the hard work, commitment and talent shown by the boys throughout the season.

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KEVI



CHB

Unfortunately, the final athletics meet of the year had to be cancelled due to extreme temperatures and challenging weather conditions. Whilst it was disappointing not to have one final opportunity to compete, the decision was rightly made with the safety and wellbeing of all athletes in mind.

Congratulations to all those who have taken part this season. The performances at both Solihull and Alexander Stadium have highlighted the depth of athletic talent within the school, and there is every reason to be excited about what these athletes can achieve in the years ahead. The future of Camp Hill athletics looks extremely bright.

Mr Morrissy—Second in PE and Games, Duke of Edinburgh Manager

African Caribbean Society

KEVI



CHB

A small group of Sixth Form students recently attended the 3rd African Caribbean Society Conference at King Edward High School for Girls joining students from across Birmingham for a day of inspiring talks, workshops and networking activities. It was a valuable and memorable event, with the only challenge being the weather! With the conference taking place during the recent heatwave, it was very, very, very hot.

The conference celebrated community, achievement and future opportunities, while giving students the chance to meet new people and hear from a range of successful professionals. This included entrepreneur R'mar Murray, researchers Dr Charlene Rose and Dr Safiya Hamis, as well as representatives from the Fi Wi Road Internship Programme. Our boys also took part in mentoring workshops led by Urban Synergy and listened to an engaging panel featuring Karen Bailey, Chevy Green and Darnell Depradine, who shared their experiences and advice on careers, resilience and success.

The conference was both enjoyable and thought-provoking, with students coming away feeling inspired by the speakers' stories and the wide range of opportunities on offer. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day, and it was great to see our students engaging so positively with the activities.

Many thanks to the organisers for hosting such a valuable and memorable event.

Miss Cave—Religious Studies, Games, Head of Seymour House



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African Caribbean Society

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Afro Caribbean Society! After months of waiting, the greatest society in Camp Hill finally got to the greatest conference in Birmingham.

Somehow making our way through the winding maze of KEHS, we arrived at the ACS conference ready for what would become a packed and memorable day. The school may not have managed to put the 'AC' in ACS, as we all suffered through the heat, but the conference itself more than made up for it.

From start to finish, we met with CEOs and BAME professionals, networked with other schools' ACS groups, and listened to guest panellists in diverse fields ranging from rap music videos and cricket coaching to Bullring pop-up stores and the geography of Caribbean cuisine. The conference gave us a chance not only to hear about different career paths, but also to see the variety of ways Black professionals and creatives have made their mark across Birmingham and beyond.

One of the most inspiring parts of the day was hearing from Karen Bailey of Bailey Wright & Co Solicitors, the first African-Caribbean woman to set up a legal practice in Birmingham City Centre. Her story was a powerful reminder of what it means to break ground in spaces where representation has not always been guaranteed. It was especially valuable to hear from someone who had not only entered a competitive profession but had created her own place within it.

Other highlights included sessions with the Urban Synergy sisters Leila Thomas and Dianne Johnson, whose work encouraged us to think seriously about ambition, confidence, and opportunity, as well as a lively presentation from semi-professional footballer turned ground-breaking Brummie entrepreneur R'Mar Murray. His journey showed how never taking no for an answer can open doors in more than one direction, from sport to business and community impact, even if plan A fails.

Across the day we heard about media, enterprise, law, food, sport, culture, and identity, with each session bringing something different. What made the talks especially valuable was how personal many of them felt - pushing us to think about how far we've come and where we want to go. It was also a great chance to meet students from other schools' ACS groups, share ideas, and see how ACS can be a space for connection, community, and conversation rather than just a club.

The hot day ended with an informal KES vs KE Grammar 7-a-side football match on the KES astro, which we won. Comfortably.

Overall, it was a very insightful day for all involved, and an amazing way to kick off Yasir's reign as CHB student ACS lead.

Sixth formers, be sure to come down to ACS in September and onwards, every Week A Monday in the girls' school computer room. All are welcome, and all are guaranteed a great time.

Lemuel Adjei, L5

Musa Amir and Team Unity Initiative Win National Culinary Excellence Award

KEVI



CHB

Well done to Musa Amir (L3) and his team from his old school Team Unity Initiative on being named Winners in the Excellence in Culinary category at the WOHA 2025/26 Grand Finals, held at London Business School on Saturday, 27th June. The award was presented by Ms Barbara Campos, CEO of Joseph Fashion House.

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the team's hard work, creativity, and commitment throughout the WOHA programme. Over the past months, the students have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurship, teamwork, and dedication to making a positive impact in their community. The team raised over £700 for the charity and should be very proud of themselves!

Mrs Atwell—Chemistry

English News

KEVI



CHB

Well it has been hot this year so far, but the English Department are always cool. Unfortunately, we have lost one of the coolest members of the Department: Mr Oliver Browne and we wish him well as he goes to work for Queen Mary's Walsall. However, we are excited to welcome back Mrs Hannah Robertson from her maternity leave.

In addition, we are really sorry that Mrs Bicknell is leaving us, but also excited for her, as she is planning to retrain for a role outside of teaching.

Overall, we have had a really successful term. We have now finished our Public Speaking Semifinals, and by the time that this newsletter goes out, the final will have taken place – the speeches have been outstanding.

Dr Donnelly has been working with Year 9 on the Next Generation Awards and a group calling themselves: Team Bee made it through to the Semifinals and we are waiting to hear whether their idea was good enough for the Final, which will take place in October.

One Year 9 student, Elyasa, made it through to the Shakespeare in Participation Final – which is an outstanding achievement - and he had been due to perform at the Globe theatre. Unfortunately, this was cancelled because of the heat wave, but he will be sending a filmed performance for the judges to assess.

As a school, we got lots of commendations for the Poetry by Heart competition, and Ragu in 9E was listed as the best in the county.

In addition, some of our Year 9s have been working with a writer and actor, Parven Virk and participating in workshops that she has led on script writing and performance.

We are hoping to continue the good work next year and are already planning a possible visit to the theatre for our A-Level students.

Over, we hope that all our Camp Hill Community have a lovely and safe summer and we look forward to returning in September.

Best wishes,
The English Department

Quiz Report

KEVI



CHB

It has been a bumper year for our assembled quiz teams over the course of this year. We entered the national Schools Challenge Competition and participated in a University Challenge-style format competition which took us on a series of rounds through from the autumn term to the summer finals in all three age cohorts. In the process we competed online against a wide

range of schools from right across the country, from Northern Ireland and Scotland to London and the South Coast. Our intermediate and junior teams made it through to the online Plate finals in which they performed with distinction.



On Sunday 17 May, the Intermediate Team of Rahul Sinha, Jacob Hanratty, Aariz Qadri and Oskar Pineau competed successfully to get through to the semi-final with a victory over Colchester Royal Grammar School. Unfortunately they were then beaten by the ultimate victors, KES, no comment necessary about how much this may have hurt. On Sunday 14 June, it was the turn of our juniors made up of Year 8s Ari Nicholl, Sam Kalimuthu, Tariq Ouchefoune and Yilsun-Leo Romluc. They went one step beyond and reached the final having defeated St Andrew's Prep in the Quarters and then University College School in the Semis. They final against Pilgrims' School, Winchester started promisingly, however, we fell at the last hurdle. Well done for all those willing to put their trust in technology and take part in the competition over the weekend.



The highlight of the quiz year (other than Beaufort's comprehensive win in House Quiz) was the Senior progress to the IRL National Finals on 25 April at Stamford School in Lincolnshire. Taking the train from New Street and heading east on a sunny Saturday enabled us to take in the attractions of the rural East Midland market town, home to Burleigh House, chocolate box charm and the

grave of Daniel Lambert, reputed to be that largest man to have lived during the 18th Century. Anyway, our 'B' Team of Amen Thomas, Yusuf Sultan-Qureshi, Krish Dhir and Nikhil Gilliam along with 'A' lister Sathya along for moral support were able to show impressive resolve and took an early lead in their first fixture only to be pipped by ultimate defeated finalists Hampton School by 460-440 on the very last set of questions – so many might have beens... We were then defeated in the Shield competition by our hosts Stamford School but stuck around to see Colchester Royal Grammar School win the national crown – a rare win for the state sector against their independent rivals.

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I wish to thank all the competitors for their good humour and self-motivation in seeking to develop their knowledge and buzzing skills in ways I could not possibly help with, Quiz is in good hands and I look forward to our successes this year lead to hunger for more in 2027.

Mr Hill, Assistant Head - Widening Access, Head of History, Politics, Head of Howard House

Battlefields Trip

KEVI



CHB

Despatches from the Western Front – Day 1

Heatwave of the summer #1: It seems that summer has well and truly arrived and our ventures in France and Belgium have made us reflect on the chances, challenges and opportunities that life provides. With an earlyish departure from school successfully negotiated, we made it onto our France-bound ferry, in spite of the best efforts of the Highways Agency to shut whole sections of the M25 and a fondness for cones on every other part of the motorway network. We emerged from the confines of the boat into a glorious sunrise which lured us east towards the Belgian border, challenging even some of our hardier students with their efforts to get some needed shut-eye.



A change of driver and a stop at the services to practice some French GCSE vocab in buying the assorted delights of a French café and convenience store, then led us to start the experience proper, sneaking over the border into Flanders to get behind the front lines of the Ypres salient. The students, fresh with brand-new clipboards, work booklets and pens at the ready were hooked, by the visits to the Brandhoek and Lijssenhoek: understanding the bravery of medics like Noel Chavasse and Nellie Spindler in seeking to improve the chances of those injured on the front lines. Next towards the advanced aid post of Essex Farm where John McCrae wrote the poem In Flanders Field.

Moving closer to the front line still brought the coach into the heart of Ypres, the only major centre which remained outside of German occupation after the autumn of 1914. A city subject to intense attack over five major battles, this would be reduced to rubble only to be lovingly reconstructed after the war. We visited the Cloth Hall, one of the finest buildings of high Middle Ages, indeed an inspiration for buildings from Glasgow University to the Palace of Westminster. The exhibits in the museum build a fascinating picture of the conflict and the 230 steps to the viewing platform of the UNESCO World Heritage Site provided a real highlight with its panoramic views of the Low Countries and the proximity of Menin Gate, the memorial to the missing which contains over 50,000 names of British and Imperial Soldiers who have no known grave in this region up to August 1917. We then walked to the memorial where we enjoyed a lunch on the ramparts and reflected on the loss of life including Camp Hill Old Edwardians, a strong feature of all parts of our day.



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Moving out of Ypres to the southeast and in the direction of the hotel, we stopped off at three poignant sites, firstly Hill 60 which showed us the battered, shell- and mine-cratered landscape of the Messines Ridge which saw extensive fighting, particularly in 1915 and 1917, then it was on to Bayernwald to explore the reconstructed trenches and marvel at the reinforced concrete bunkers and mineshafts which made up this part of the German front line. The final port of call was the Island of Ireland

Peace Park, a new addition to this tour which sought to commemorate the contribution of Irish soldiers and the troubled relationship of England's oldest colony with the war. Built in the spirit of reconciliation after the end of the Troubles in the 1990s, it shows the human side and the human cost of conflict and how the legacy of 1914-18 lives on.



Despatches from the Western Front – Day 2

Time for a day on the Somme on the occasion of its 110th anniversary. The most iconic of Britain's encounters in the First World War. After a hearty breakfast, energised by the patisserie, charcuterie and cer  lerie, our students were ready for the adventures of the day. A brief venture down the A1 motorway brought us to the green, undulating, chalky hills of the Somme.

Our first of nine stops was Guillemont Road Cemetery, a beautiful place in many respects in the heart of a bucolic landscape, here among the 800 headstones were ones from all parts of society; a Camp Hill Old Edwardian, artists, aristocrats and even Ramond, the son of the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, whose grief contributed to his resignation later in 1916. This was followed by two stops on the southern sector, around Montauban, the first stop exploring the success in taking the village on the opening morning of the campaign, the second stop looking at what then happens next, the grim failure to press an advantage and the sacrifice of countless lives, many from Birmingham Pals battalions, including missing Camp Hill Old Boys, four of whom died on the same day. From here the measures of success diminished as we moved in a northward direction to see the sacrifice of the Devonshires who were buried in the trench from which they had so recently departed.



A little respite from the sun came next at Lochnagar Crater, an impressive site which highlighted the effectiveness of tunnelling and laying mines beneath the front line – what impresses is the scale of the crater, yet one without any significant strategic gain on the day it went off.

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A kiosk selling cool drinks and ices was much appreciated by our party. Onwards then to Beaumont Hamel in the northern sector of the Somme battlefield where we saw sites made famous from the 1916 film footage of the battle, like the Sunken Road and Hawthorne Ridge Crater. It was here in the shadow of a monument to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders that we had our picnic lunch, the monument grimly reminded

that us that it took nearly five months to take the small village of Beaumont Hamel, an objective which was anticipated to have fallen on day one.



Onward next to our final three stops, Newfoundland Park, a preserved battlefield landscape which tells the story of the tragedy of the Newfoundland Regiment and the impact it had on the small, close-knit community of the Empire's smallest Dominion, then to Ulster Tower and the story of successes which could not be sustained as troops who managed to take the high ground were thwarted by failure on either flank to be as successful in advancing. Finally, it was the Memorial for the Missing at Thiepval, the largest monument of its type. Here 72,000 names are inscribed to honour the missing of the Somme. This has become the central focus of commemoration for the

Somme, the structure which was opening in 1932 has countless panels of names inscribed under its imposing arches. We heard movingly from Mr Crutchley about the monument containing the names of eleven Camp Hill Old Edwardians, and from Mr Dyson telling the story of his great uncle whose name is also inscribed here.

Then back to the hotel for dinner, a few relaxed sporting pursuits and bed after a long and moving day.

Despatches from the Western Front – Day 3

Another blisteringly hot ticket on the battlefields trip. We ventured to Bruges and reminded students of what popular tourist destinations in high summer look like, busy and chaotic. Stunning architecture, art, science and medicine were in order at our first venue, the Hospital of Sint Jan, a building dating back to the 13th Century which is now a vessel for enquiries into medieval medicine, votive offerings, relics and pastoral care. It also is the centre for the works of Hans Memling, the Flemish master making exquisite portraits, landscapes and devotional imagery producing intricate images pre-dating Leonardo's great work.

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The students were enthralled by the attic space in which they could add their own spin on a Flemish masterpiece, then sit down in the darkened ambience on beanbags and carpets and watch their creations on the big screen. A quick trip to the 16th Century Pharmacy, which was part of the complex, provided offerings that were somewhat limited reminded us further of the advantages of science and modern medicine.



Further exploration through the multinational throng indicated that leading 41 students together through the streets of a tourist hotspot is the educational equivalent of using a machete to thwack your way through uncharted jungle, finally we reached the Brugian equivalent of a forest clearing, the road with the police headquarters and the war memorial. In relative peace Mr Hill could test out his new loudspeaker, as someone thought his voice may have trouble carrying, to talk about the experience of living under enemy occupation in war. Then to the main marketplace in the heart of Bruges in the shadow of the infamous Belfry from where the students were dispersed to the far corners of the medieval heart to seek out food, souvenirs and instagrammable locations.



A respite from the front lines perhaps, but the afternoon led us back to the Ypres salient and visits to the cemeteries of Langemarck and Tyne Cot, and the Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner. At Langemarck, Ms Freeman linked the legend of Langemarck to the

development of the Nazi myths of sacrifice and betrayal on the Western Front, it was here that many of Hitler's foundational ideas were forged. The cemetery itself, even on the hottest day of the year so far, still sends a chill with its 40,000 residents under the canopy of massive oak trees. At Vancouver Corner, the use of gas in 1915 was the focus, the use of a weapon of terror to disorientate the enemy but, ultimately, to limited advantage. Our last stop in Belgium was Tyne Cot, the largest of all British cemeteries and the Memorial to the Missing for 30,000 lives lost between August 1917 and the end of the war. Here we looked at three Camp Hill Old Boys, each with a different story to tell from Mr Crutchley, Ms Freeman discussed the role of conscientious objectors, and Mr Hill considered the loss of a 52-year old father of three from the Outback. Set against clear blue skies, the scale of the place and its connection to the landscape and its link to the city of Ypres in the distance could be viscerally seen.



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CHB

Our last stop was back in France on the way to the hotel, Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial and the Portuguese Cemetery at Richebourg, it was here where action took place in 1915 and 1918 and we remember the importance of sectors of the Western Front away from the main centres of set-piece battles and the roles played by troops from all over the world. Back to the hotel to get refreshed prior to facing the biggest of contemporary dilemmas, to McDonalds or to Burger

King – the doyens of American food vie for attention out of our hotel windows and students could choose their colours and dine accordingly. So, with just a day to go and three more sites to visit before Calais, we applauded the efforts of the students so far in coping with the heat and the relentless schedule and look forward to another day's experiences.



Despatches from the Western Front – Day 4

Our first visit was to the British Cemetery and Memorial in Arras, it is a relatively small cemetery in comparison with some we have visited but it does contain the memorial to the missing for this Artois sector of the Western Front, an oft-forgotten region between the two salients around Ypres and the Somme. Here we learnt of near neighbours in life and death from Camp Hill, the impact of shell shock and the story of footballer-turned-officer Walter Tull, the visit ended with reflection on the war in the air and its rapid development under the necessity of war. The airman's memorial has over 900 names of pilots and crew who were missing in action including yet another Camp Hill alumnus.

Our next visit was to Notre-Dame de Lorette, a fascinating place where we can reflect on the French contribution to war on their own soil. Here is a necropolis containing 40,000 dead, the majority of whom are buried in six great ossuaries. Although the cemetery is fascinating, it did not provide the main focus for our visit. It neighbours the Ring of Remembrance, a sculptured landscape upon which the names of over half a million soldiers who died. Overlooking the escarpments which were so crucially fought over throughout the war, the monument is a solemn way to think of the human suffering which was caused by so many in death, it is an alphabetical list of names from all nationalities who fought and died in the Artois region.



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Our final visit was to Vimy Ridge, the central focus of Canadian memorialisation on the Western Front. We started by looking at the pock-marked landscape of the crater holes and no-mans land in the restored trenches, the ridge was of strategic importance as it overlooked the important industrial district of the Douai

Basin and it was fought over, particularly in 1915 under French command and then in 1917, steered by the British but with Canadians taking a central role in the onslaught of April 1917 which resulted in the Germans having to abandon the ridge. The heroism shown is reflected in the National Memorial to Canada's fallen with no known grave, over 10,000 names appear on this memorial which dominates the landscape along with allegorical figures to represent the values that Canada has stood for in World Wars.



The less said about Calais the better...

Thank you to our wonderful staff for all their efforts in putting together an exciting and pertinent programme of visits which cover so many different aspects of the Great War. Thanks also to the students for their good cheer, especially in the face of adversity and their general ability to follow instructions and engage appropriately with MOGPs (Members of the General Public). Hopefully, memories have been made and a greater understanding of the hardships and sacrifices of the past made, mostly, by young men only a few years older than themselves. It

is an apposite time to mention this being the first year on Battlefields following the death of Alistair Bulloch, this trip would be very much diminished without his trailblazing travels over the decades and meticulous research; for those who have gone before us and inspired us to follow in their footsteps, we will remember them.

The Battlefields Team



Careers and PSHE

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Young Wellbeing Lead Training

Towards the end of June Year 10 students attended Young Wellbeing Lead training at Handsworth Girls' Grammar School. Students volunteered for this initiative, which is new to Camp Hill Boys aimed at supporting younger students. The training was delivered by Handsworth Girls' students in Year 12 and Year 10 who had been trained and successfully implemented the initiative. The confidence, empathy and professionalism demonstrated by all students was notable. The positive impact of empowering young people to lead, supporting the development of wellbeing, leadership and peer support across our school community was a privilege to be involved in and we look forward to implementing this.

Miss MacKenzie, Head of Careers, Head of PSHE, RS



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Work Experience Week 2026

1-5th June 2026 marked the first year of Year 10 Work Experience. Year 12 also completed their Work Experience within the same week and this enabled students to benefit from some new initiatives. Over 90% of students completed their Work Experience at an employer of their choice. Students who were unable to find a placement were provided with a week of workshops from Alumni, universities and businesses.

Miss MacKenzie, Head of Careers, Head of PSHE, RS



Community Work Experience

In addition to this a number of students completed Community Work Experience. This involved students looking at a specific issue that has relevance to the local community, developing research and looking at ways to seek solutions. The Year 12 focus was on Perinatal Mortality with Dr Susheel Randhawa, whilst Year 10 looked at Organ Donation with Mr Liam McCarthy.

During Work Experience Week, we partook in the NHS Community Work Experience, this was based largely at Camp Hill Boys with a day at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. Throughout the week we worked in groups to address an important medical issue: Perinatal Mortality. We were tasked with creating presentations addressing an aspect of this. We were trained some basic skills in order to conduct research and the ethics surrounding this. We interviewed members of the public to generate meaningful qualitative results before presenting to a GP Dr Susheel Randhawa a specialist in Women's Health. This gave us the opportunity to represent our community and voice our views directly to the NHS.



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Additionally, we were able to go to the Children's Hospital and participate in workshops on topics such as resuscitation, insights from a variety of professionals and a tour of the hospital. A key highlight was being able to enter an operating theatre and try on scrubs, simulating the experience of a real doctor.

This was a highly beneficial experience and provided a lot of substance for my UCAS Application.

Fayzan Asif L6

