

The Chronicle 2020





KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Every year is unique, of course, but 2019–20 was so far from the norm that this year's *Chronicle* deserves that epithet more than any in the last 75 years. A year without exams – school or national; without a cricket or athletics season; without many of the big tours, trips and visits. Who would have thought that we would be so glad the ski trip didn't go to Italy, or that the Battlefields trip would return to England the day before the Covid curtain descended on our continent? Less than two-thirds of the way through the year, the school closed and didn't reopen for five months. There may have been periods of temporary and partial relocation during the Second World War, but never closure.

Much of this edition is devoted to 'What did I do during lockdown?' As such, it is perhaps the clearest indication of the value of intelligence and education of any magazine in the school's history. How able were our pupils to adapt to a wholly new and unpredicted environment? What price their music, art, cooking, imaginative and creative skills now? Does Camp Hill really equip its pupils to learn independently (though still supported), to make decisions around use of time, to practice self-discipline, to demonstrate resilience, to put aside what can't be done and to celebrate new opportunities? Would the boys (and staff and families)

rise to such challenges when robbed of the social structure which is an enriching context for everything we undertake? I read these pages and hear these stories with admiration.

In this year's *Chronicle* you'll read, as usual, about members of staff who have moved on or retired. We wish Chris Jones a happy retirement after 37 years at the school – an extraordinary achievement, summed up by Mark Duncan's reflections. Sadly, we have also said the other kind of farewell to Mike Southworth, who never quite severed his connections with the school: after 50 years teaching here, he continued as the director of our dramatic productions until his death in January. Alistair Bulloch takes on the impossible task of summing up Mike's contribution to the lives of thousands of Camp Hill boys in his article in this *Chronicle*.

Each year is unique. 2019–20 was so very, very different. Already, 2020–21 is shaping up to challenge its predecessor for abnormality. If 'online learning' was the phrase for the year in review, 'blended learning' has already staked a claim for the defining characteristic for the one in prospect. Just as the community learnt to live in lockdown, so it will rise to the challenge of living in a world of rolling, partial attendance. We live in interesting times.

■ **Martin Garrod**, Headmaster

Editorial

Back in March, as the Lockdown was announced, I went to see Mr Garrod about *The Chronicle*. I wondered at the time whether it was worth putting out an edition – after all, many important events such as trips, drama productions and sports events would be missing. I also wondered whether, in the circumstances, staff and students would be willing to contribute to this magazine – after all, many of us have found ourselves working harder than ever trying to get our heads round teaching and learning remotely – while looking after our own families.

Mr Garrod's response was to remind me what a momentous year this has been and that 2020 should be remembered – and I have to say, I agree and although this is a shortened *Chronicle* – it is nonetheless an important one.

Many of you will, for example, want to read Alistair Bulloch's moving obituary to Mike Southworth – a truly inspiring man. I have to admit I found looking through the myriad of photographs moving. In addition, Mr Palmer has worked hard throughout the year to ensure we do not forget the important place that music has at Camp Hill. And, we sadly say goodbye to four important members of staff: Mark Gadd (Maths), Richard Parkinson (Head of Art), Anushka Puri (Maths) and Chris Jones (English/PE and previously Head of Year 9).

In addition, I asked students and staff alike to tell me about their lockdown and I have included their stories here – their experience often far more productive than mine.

Finally, I think we can take inspiration from the family that is Camp Hill. Articles have come flooding in when I least expected it and – no one has (publicly) moaned about how I bully them for articles this year – maybe there are some advantages to social isolation after all...

■ **Joanne Parmar**, Editor

The Chronicle 2020

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Leavers

Chris Jones



Christopher Martin Jones retired this summer after 37 years at Camp Hill. That is dedicated service to the school, particularly when you consider his commitment to extra-curricular life in terms of Saturday morning matches and residential trips. Chris is one of that special brand of teachers, who has sought to provide the boys with the full “all-round” education that makes this school the institution it is, allowing pupils to access such a wide range of opportunities.

Born in Urmston, Greater Manchester, in 1960, Chris spent his formative years playing rugby (league & union) and following Swinton and Manchester United. He attended Bolton School where he captained the rugby team as well as gaining representative honours with Broughton Park and Lancashire Colts. He gained a place at Borough Road College in Isleworth to study PE and English, adding a PGCE as he steered a path towards teaching. I do believe he still has his chocolate brown track-suit, but is sensible enough not to wear it!

In 1983, Charles Martin saw potential in the “northern lad” and appointed him to teach his chosen two subjects, and so began CMJ’s service. He joined the PE department and worked with some illustrious colleagues – Gerry Thain, George Cookson and John Thomas – all of whom became close friends. He also met and married Linda in 1987. There were thoughts of a move back north but that did not materialise and the arrival of daughters Rebecca and Laura saw the family settle in Bournville where they have since remained. Chris managed to maintain his own playing career, albeit only for a short time as he dislocated his hip playing for Moseley United (perhaps he should have chosen Camp Hill) and a cruciate knee ligament injury brought a premature end to his rugby career. Chris turned to tennis as a sport, he

and Linda also spent many holidays camping, walking, cycling and hiking in both the UK and abroad.

Chris did not waste time making his mark at CHB. He coached rugby and cricket sides, ran the school tennis teams, accompanied field trips, later becoming not only a veteran of the annual Wales residential for Year 8 boys, but the organiser, leader and motivator. Under his leadership, the week saw a change of emphasis towards more outdoor activity, a trend that has continued with the move to the Conway Centre on Anglesey. Mike Roden, former Head Master, said that one of the most abiding memories boys took away from their time at school was this trip, the fun time they had on it, oh, and discovering that staff could enjoy themselves too!

By 1994 Chris had become Head of Seymour House. The House system has thrived for well over a 100 years now and Chris recognised the important role it played in pupils’ lives. Under his enthusiastic leadership, Seymour won the Championship in 1995. Mervyn Brooker was now Head Master and in 1996 he offered Chris a pastoral role as Head of Years 8 and 9. The post of Head of PE was also on the table. Chris chose the former for which I am grateful as it allowed me to take the latter, to begin my own spell at Camp Hill, and enjoy many happy days in Chris’ company.

Chris retained this role for 23 years and became a widely respected pastoral leader. He gained invaluable experience and was meticulous in his management of the job, liaising with form tutors and communicating with parents. He made notes on all his interactions in school exercise books. I trust he is taking them all as keepsakes, no point leaving them for his successor as only Chris can fathom his own handwriting! As education moved into the new millennium, pastoral care became a massive part of school life and it certainly filled much of Chris’ time. However, he did not relinquish any of his other responsibilities, rather he added further to them – but always to the

benefit of the boys. He organised school teams to participate in the Lord Mayor’s Quiz and oversaw many a victory night in the Council Chambers in Birmingham. He supported rugby tours, ski trips and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. His English teaching by now focused on GCSE as he took Year 10&11 classes. There are many boys who owe their success to CMJ, to his thorough approach to lessons, his use of technology to support their learning and theatre trips to enhance their understanding. Care extended to his colleagues too, as Chris was also a member of the Staff Common Room Committee for many years, helping to organise social events and trips.



Chris has many strings to his bow and he was able to display one of them in the infamous CHAOS productions. The Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society has not appeared for a number of years now, but in its heyday it entertained all members of the school community



as staff and pupils combined to put on shows that revealed a very different side of teachers. Chris was one of the few who could actually act and it rewarded him with the part of Arkwright and later Lieutenant Shrank in *West Side Story*.

All the while these tasks filled the proverbial plate high, Chris retained his love for sport. He continued to run numerous school teams with great success. Rare was it that he was not working on Saturdays or late evenings taking the boys to fixtures. He coached successful rugby sides, seeing his U15 team reach the quarter-finals of the Daily Mail National Cup in 2000 (a feat not since achieved). In 2001, he took the senior tennis players through to the Glanville Cup Finals where they finished runners-up (another record) and junior tennis teams invariably reached the Midlands finals. He introduced the yearly visit to the Wimbledon Championships. Seats on the show courts proved a real treat for boys (and me) as well as walking round the outside courts and seeing the top players up close.

On a personal note, I am hugely grateful to Chris for being a tremendous and supportive colleague and friend. For many years the CMJ-GHC-MWD combination saw PE and Games maintain its role as a cornerstone of Camp Hill life for the boys. I know I speak for all staff when I say that Chris will be sorely missed in and around school. He retires to spend more time with his family. Linda, Rebecca and Laura will enjoy seeing more of him, as he will enjoy spending time with them and his young grandson Felix. Travel plans are in place, indeed by time of publication Chris and Linda will have been to the Ile de Re in France for their first holiday during term time!

Chris also aims to stay fit and healthy, lower his golf handicap and enjoy visits to the theatre. All deserved now that he has the time. Enjoy your retirement Mr Jones you have undoubtedly earned it.

■ **M.W.D.**



Richard Parkinson

Richard Parkinson joined Camp Hill in September 2012 after teaching at Handsworth Girls' School. At Camp Hill he flourished as Head of Art, his first time in this role. I knew from day one of meeting him that he was destined for great things in the world of teaching. It was no surprise that when he applied for Head of Art at Warwick School he was going to get the job and they are very lucky to have him.

Working with Mr Parkinson was always fun. His energy and passion for art shone through in his teaching and his knowledge about different artists and art movements was outstanding. The boys at Camp Hill quickly became in awe of Mr Parkinson's intelligence and spent many lunchtimes and at Breakfast Club quizzing him. He also used to spend this time showing the boys different games to play, therefore, providing a very energetic workspace. It quickly became a very popular place to be at lunch with Mr Parkinson playing *Balls of Steel* and me trying to frantically clear up after the Art Clubs.

Mr Parkinson was hugely admired by the boys and used to follow him about wanting to be like him. I'm surprised that they didn't throw their ties away and dress in cravats. He had many ex-pupils come to visit him to tell him how they had progressed with their art careers. Many of them wanted their artwork back proving that Mr Parkinson was a bit of a hoarder and would have to spend many hours looking for it. He was really respected by the boys and when he left in December many of them would talk fondly about him. But our loss is Warwick's gain.

Mr Parkinson did a huge amount in the time he was here. Knocking down walls,

growing the numbers at GCSE and A-Level and changing all the projects to suit the boys' interests and needs. He participated in art exhibitions for GCSE and A-Level students and promoted the arts with small galleries around the school. He organised many gallery trips



and museum visits which were enjoyed by all. Especially by us going out for nice lunches, or tea and cake. A must at art galleries. He always did an excellent job of making sets for the junior and senior plays, getting A-Level students involved in the fun.

It's fair to say therefore, that I'm really going to miss Mr Parkinson. I'll miss the chats we had about our families, TV programmes and Grayson Perry. I'll even miss the students asking me who was better at drawing! His departure is real loss for the school but it is exciting for the students at Warwick School to gain such

a superb teacher and Head of Art. Therefore, I wish him and his family all the best for the future, and good luck in his next educational venture.

Working with Mr Parkinson was always fun. His characteristics and energy towards art, teaching, and learning always had a passion that resonated in me as well as the students he worked with. He carried a flare around school on show in the corridors and classroom with his choice of cravats. Each depicting a different mood for the day regardless if that was his intention or not. Sharing classrooms made for an energetic and vibrant workplace that we hope resonated within all the students that passed through and had the pleasure of working with him. At my wedding we had the pleasure of Mr Parkinson joining us which made the day all the more special.

One story I recall that illustrates his attitude towards teaching was when he decided to knock down a wall to create a more open and creative space for his students. His dedication towards the upmost quality of teaching of his students is something that we hope follows him throughout his career as a teacher. Students had an affinity with Mr Parkinson both in teaching, and sometimes dress-sense which proves the qualities he had with the students that were luckily enough to be taught with him at Camp Hill, and all future students that will pass through his tenure as a teacher in his future career.

We both began families at a similar time, and Mr Parkinson was ever supportive towards the mix of both family and career, being supportive as ever, understanding the importance of the balance required.

■ **K.H.**

Dr Mark Gadd

At Christmas, we will say goodbye to Mark Gadd after three years at Camp Hill Boys. Mark said he would retire at the end of August but, as so often happens, he immediately had the school begging him to stay a little longer. Selflessly, he has been willing to serve another term at the school while we recruit another maths teacher.

He arrived on site, but at the *wrong* school, in 2016. After a year, he started teaching at both schools, before becoming exclusively CHB in 2018. His connections to the school go much further back: his father was a boy at Camp Hill Boys at the old site in Digbeth.

Mark studied at Birmingham University, gaining a degree in metallurgy and a PhD in industrial metallurgy. He became a teacher 35 years ago and has served his time at seven Birmingham schools, including long stints at Handsworth Grammar School for Boys (HGSB) and Fairfax. I have always known him as a part-time teacher; his other role has been as a church minister.

I first worked as a colleague of Mark when I

arrived at HGSB in 1993. Working with Mark has always been a pleasure. Although an outstanding maths teacher, Mark is unassuming and modest, cheerfully contributing to department discussions, encouraging less experienced colleagues and fitting smoothly into the team. I was delighted when he joined the department at Camp Hill Boys, because I knew how quickly and easily he would become a valued member of it. He has taught almost throughout the school, teaching from Year 8 to Further Maths A-Level. He organised the Maths Challenges last year and played an active part in the π day.

In stepping down from teaching, Mark hopes to give himself more time to carry out his work as a minister, as well as enjoying time with his growing family – wife, four children and four grandchildren. He enjoys cycling, so I hope he will also be able to indulge that hobby and clock up a few more miles in the coming years.

Many thanks for all you've done for the school, Mark. Enjoy your (partial) retirement.

■ **M.J.G.**



Anushka Puri

Anushka Puri joined the mathematics department in September 2017, having trained at our neighbouring school Camp Hill Girls. Having first met Anushka in July 2018, I could tell that she had become a vital and active member of the department, as well as a big part of the school community. I have had the privilege of watching Anushka teach and have seen her passion for the subject delivered through truly engaging lessons. I have also witnessed the great relationships she had built with the boys, being firm but fair, and always challenging them to achieve their best.

Anushka has been part of running the lunchtime Maths Club on Fridays for the last three years, where pupils get to enjoy different activities. She has always created a pleasant environment allowing everyone to feel welcome and for pupils to feel comfortable to have a go.

A great colleague, she has been welcoming to all in the staffroom, supportive to those in need and an upbeat personality. As well as the mathematics department, Anushka has also been a part of the languages department, having taught French for the last three years. During this time, she also supervised on the Year 7 Paris trip.

Anushka has given up her own time to supervise and act as support to numerous trips. She has been part of the Year 8 Conway trip for two years, as well as the annual Year 7 trip to Aston Villa and Warwick Castle. This



year Anushka was also part of the ski trip and having been on the trip for just one year she was already organising the trip for next year and has already completed many of the tasks involved. In addition, she took over as Head of Seymour in September 2019 and with all her encouragement and support, she managed to lead them to joint victory this year.

It is safe to say I am really going to miss

Anushka. She is great loss to the department and the school; I know that if she had had the opportunity she would have continued develop her excellent work. We wish her the best of luck with her move and hope to see her to say a proper goodbye next year.

■ **J.V.G.**

Obituary

Mike Southworth

1942 – 2020

When Mike Southworth started at Camp Hill in September 1966, his arrival caused barely a ripple. After all, he was just a young Lancastrian whippersnapper, joining a staffroom full of established figures who enjoyed membership of a jolly good gentlemen's club.

A subsequent editorial in the school *Chronicle* (then known as *Vivat*), commenting on staff changes, noted: "On the credit side, we welcome Mr M. R. Southworth to the History Department". And that was it, although, coincidentally, the same issue of the *Chronicle* carried an article which observed that "...in its history, Camp Hill has had a considerable number of Masters who have stayed put after appointment at a young age". Little did they know...

Mike's contribution to the Camp Hill Staff Room can scarcely be exaggerated. He was at the heart of everything, setting an example to all. Quite apart from being an outstanding colleague, Mike was unstinting as spokesman for the staff, union representative, governor, compere, author and corrector of UCAS references, mentor for those in need of advice and support, and above all, as long-time Chairman of the Common Room Committee. The most visible manifestation of his role as Chairman was his speech at the staff Christmas lunch, a hilarious affair enjoyed by everyone, even those who were on the receiving end. Their impact was limited only by Mike's failure to record anything that occurred before the beginning of December – this allowed some fortunate souls to escape ridicule.

Mike was an unfailing supporter of staff events, whether it was as goalkeeper for the staff soccer team, sometime captain, opening bat and spin bowler for the cricket XI or participant on the staff walking tours in the North. He accompanied his great friend Keith Phipps on a number of foreign visits such as the Mediterranean cruises and he was the lead member of staff on the Stansfield leg of the annual Y8 residential week. Underpinning all of this was the fact that he was a genuinely lovely bloke who got on well with everyone – no one remembers him having a cross word in the Staff Room. Mike was calmness personified.

He will be long remembered for his wonderful stage productions. Mike was able to enlist the support of an array of staff in putting on these shows so, as he was always the first to recognise, it was very much a team effort.



It says much for their professionalism and for Mike's powers of persuasion that the end-product was so brilliant. This was an era when, under Mike's direction, Camp Hill was associated with the very best that any school could offer. He put on some magnificent musicals. Former Deputy Head Mike Russell, a hard man to impress, believed that *Les Misérables* in 2005, was "the best school musical I have ever seen". There were some brilliant senior dramas: *Journey's End* and *A View from the Bridge* are relatively recent examples which spring to mind – and, in the last few years, Mike took on junior drama too. He was a driven man! What is certain is that the kids who volunteered for, and participated in, these productions regarded them as the pinnacle of their school careers.

One young man who was lucky enough to take part in many Southworth spectacles suggested that "he would not have had the life he had now had it not been for Mike". Following a successful career as a comedian and actor, Mark Billingham is now a crime writer whose books sell worldwide. He declared that the school productions constituted the happiest times he had at school: Mark was not alone in his sentiments.

Literally, thousands have marvelled at the great productions over the years but it is curious to think that Mike, despite a long-standing interest in drama and music, had no training of, or experience in, producing and directing before taking on CHAOS in the 1970's. He was self-taught. This did not prevent him from

taking a production to the *Edinburgh Fringe* in 1983, not a normal path for a school to follow.

It would be fair to say that Mike was not always the best organised of men but the way in which he prepared for productions was extraordinary: this placed immense pressure on him and there is no doubt that, much as he enjoyed it, the process took a great deal out of him. However, nothing could persuade him to retire from stage work at school. Sharp observers will note the lack of any specific reference to the CHAOS productions, based very loosely upon Shakespeare plays. These required staff, who could not act, sing or dance, to do precisely that, after a fashion, in front of a paying audience. Despite, or, perhaps, because of, the distinct shortage of talent, they were enormously successful. Mike's scripts – yes, he wrote them – were wonderful and the cast was strengthened by the odd thespian (Keith Phipps), some talented pupils and excellent lyrics and musical support.

Whereas Mike was unable to resist the lure of the stage, he did manage to retire from his work on the sports field. He was a brilliant coach of cricket and hockey, spending innumerable hours in the nets and on the training pitches before umpiring and overseeing matches. He enjoyed his role, nurturing the talents of hundreds of boys over the years, but claimed no credit for his work. In his review of one particularly successful hockey team, Mike commented "...it is always rather nice to be associated with a really good side even if



your major contribution is driving them to the ground". Typically, he summed up that team by declaring that they were enormous fun to be with. However, Mike was sad to witness the gradual demise of senior cricket at school level, increasingly squeezed out by a summer dominated by examinations and by pressure on teaching staff which, curtailed extra-curricular activities.

He was also, of course, synonymous with Beaufort House. Mike was Head of Beaufort for 31 years until giving that up in 2009. He retired at an opportune time, the previous five years having been the most successful for Beaufort in the long and illustrious history of the House Competition. Mike thoroughly enjoyed contact with a wide range of boys whom he would not necessarily meet in the normal course of teaching his subject and he welcomed giving them the chance to develop their organisational and leadership skills. As his successor, Richard Surr, commented at the time, Mike often sported an item of red clothing (a handkerchief or tie, for instance) and could always be counted upon "to maintain sartorial standards at Camp Hill". Richard added that Mike "will forever be identified with Beaufort House".

Despite his enormous success elsewhere, Mike was most proud of his academic work in the history department. Alan Cholmondeley, Headmaster at the time, did well to appoint Mike after an interview, which dwelt more upon the career of Cyril Washbrook, the famous Lancashire cricketer, than it did upon Mike's attributes, many though they were. Then, in 1968, Alan had the foresight to promote Mike to Head of History on the evidence of two years' teaching.

Mike was quietly proud of the department he led. It was the leading humanities department at a time when the sciences and mathematics held growing sway. Year upon year, numbers in the sixth form taking history were strong, usually meriting two classes. Retention numbers from AS to A2 were extremely high and the number of students going off to good universities to read history was impressive. Mike regularly received missives from past



students who had gone on to teach at universities around the world. Above all, his teaching reflected his academic rigour, undoubted intellect and love of the subject.

Latterly, he concentrated on teaching 18th century British political and constitutional history, ironically as it was disappearing from schools and from Exam Board offerings. Such was the quality of his A-Level students' examination scripts that, upon a chance meeting at a course he was attending in Coventry, a Chief Examiner told Mike that he was regarded as "a legend" in the world of examining: he was so delighted to meet Mike! When Mike retired in 2016, the syllabus retired with him. Mike would

take no credit for the success of his department, but there is no doubt that he was a brilliant teacher as evidenced by comments on social media and letters received by the family. Lads who left donkeys' years ago have taken the time to write and say what a lovely bloke he was, blessed with an affable manner, a fine sense of humour and a passion for, and mastery of, his subject.

Those who had the good fortune to work within his department look back upon their days in the history department with genuine fondness. Mike was not a taskmaster and would offer nothing, but support and guidance. He was *Old School*, with little time for formal departmental meetings. Until required to do so by the changing regime in teaching, he would not assume that he could intrude into a colleague's classroom to monitor their teaching, let alone check that they were marking sufficiently often. Neither did he bother much with Schemes of Work. I recall one young addition to the department asking about these in 1989 – she retired recently without ever seeing one.

It's no secret that Mike was not overly comfortable with technology but, as time went on, he understood how his teaching could be improved by changes driven by successive Headmasters and designated staff. Mike was an old-fashioned Head of Department for whom it was a genuine pleasure to work. His department played a full role in the marvellous success enjoyed by the school in recent years and he passed it on to his successor, Giles Hill, in very good nick. He remained a strong and supportive member of the department thereafter. He continued to be great fun to be around and was very relaxed about shedding





his departmental responsibilities.

Intrigued though he was by modern political history, Mike had an even stronger attachment to the Great War. In 1982, he initiated an annual field trip to the battlefields of Flanders and the Somme. Over the years, these have changed quite dramatically but central to each one has been Mike's utter commitment to explaining the conflict through meticulous fieldwork. This explains why lads were required to stand in selected French or Belgian fields, often in the middle of nowhere, as he explained the intricacies of a particular event on that part of the front. Despite the gruelling nature of these tours, Mike always remained thoroughly good-humoured and positive to the last. He remained committed to the trip, despite retirement, and was already involved in

planning the 2020 event in which he intended playing a full role. As it happened, coronavirus intervened and it did not proceed but it would not have been the same without him: sadly, we might have seen the last of the tours but a very large number of Camp Hill boys will be left with lasting recollections of a draining but fascinating experience. Colleagues will be left



with great memories too: Mike striding over the open spaces of Newfoundland Park, scrutinising graves at his favourite cemetery at Guillemont or taking lads around the trenches at Bayernwald. They will recall his wisdom, his humour, his calmness, his knowledge and, most of all, his company.

Mike Southworth did something no other member of staff has ever done – he stayed put at Camp Hill for 50 years, establishing a record which will never be surpassed. He enjoyed a career which impacted upon the lives of countless boys and girls. The family received many cards and letters testifying to that fact and the Church Service at St. Alphege in Solihull was attended by a host of current pupils, Old Boys, parents, governors and colleagues who provided ample evidence of the

esteem in which he was held. It was no more than he deserved when, in 2009, he received the Ted Wragg Lifetime Achievement Award – it was recognition of the enormous contribution Mike made to Camp Hill. Put simply, no-one has had a career at Camp Hill to match his – and it was a privilege to witness much of it at close hand.

What is remarkable is that Mike had time for a vigorous family life beyond school. Mike was a devoted husband to Carol, whom he met at Bristol University when they were taking a degree in history, father to Rebecca, Lucy, Emma and William, and grandfather. In his lovely eulogy to Mike at St Alphege in March 2020, long-time friend and colleague, John Smith, spoke on behalf of the family in paying tribute to Mike. He spoke of Mike's affable manner, wonderful relationship with his children and grandchildren, his sense of humour, his command of the kitchen and his love of holidays with the extended family, particularly in France.

It is appropriate to end with a couple of comments from former pupils. Alex Wood studied history under Mike and is now working in the arts in London. Aled Walker didn't study history under Mike but, like Alex, starred in Mike's production of *Sweeney Todd* in 2011. Alex wrote an article in the magazine he edits in London, thanking Mike for his role in fostering a love of theatre: he finished with the following: *"We live in a time where the arts are consistently side-lined in education: so here's to the Mr Southworths out there, still helping dreams come to life. That special kind of teacher who sows the seeds for a love of the arts that can keep growing throughout a lifetime."*

Aled wrote a long piece in the tribute to Mike posted on the Camp Hill website, ending it with the following: *"In sharing our sadness..., it also seems important, in this terrifying age of incessant change and uncertainty, to show, by our collective testament, how much better a man can leave the world than how he found it. All it takes is a lifetime of devotion to others."*

Michael Robert Southworth,
born 14 December 1942 in Southport,
died 29 January 2020 in Solihull Hospital.

■ A.J. Bulloch



School Activities

ENGINEERING

Engineering in Education Scheme (EES)

Due to the effects of Lockdown and the Covid-19 virus, the *Engineering in Education Scheme* has been slightly curtailed. The final elements of the scheme are still to be completed, as the two companies that Camp Hill Boys work alongside are in the process of signing off our technical reports for submission to the scheme. The Celebration day where the boys present their findings to a select panel will not happen this year.

The *Engineering in Education Scheme* is a program where students work on a real live engineering projects with leading businesses in the engineering world, this year being Eaton and Rolls-Royce. The projects are to create a solution to a problem in a way such that it is possible for Eaton or Rolls-Royce to implement the solutions into their businesses.

■ A.J.N.

► EES Eaton Team

The Eaton team's project this year was to create a 3D model from a 2D engineering drawing, to reduce the backlog of legacy drawings from the 20th Century.

The Eaton team has definitely seen this project as an incredible challenge, especially as it is more software oriented. However, over the past months, we have managed to create models from these engineering drawings, by using Inkscape to edit vector images then putting them into modelling software such as

fusion and completing the model from there. Alternatively, by using code to turn the engineering drawing into a black and white image, then using a tool we developed to allow us to choose which part of the drawing we want to model. That section is then turned into a series of coordinates by differentiating between black and white pixels, which are then finally graphed. By superposing multiple faces and choosing like coordinates or by revolving the coordinates around an axis we can complete the entire model.

Both methods have their benefits and disadvantages; however, we are proud that we have managed to make something of this unique brief. With the help of Dr Ali Hassan and Dr Richard Hood from the University of Birmingham, we have managed to take our project further to more complex shapes so we are very grateful for their help.

We are now completing the report and presentation so our journey is almost over.

■ **Eaton Team:**

Anuoluwa Adeleye, Harjap Bahra, Sahil Khurmi, Muhammad Raheem, Giovanni Trevisan.

► EES Rolls-Royce Team

The Rolls-Royce project is to balance a ball using PID Control in order to demonstrate the type of control theory, which is applied in fuel injection systems in Rolls-Royce engines.

The Rolls-Royce team saw this project as challenging, but incredibly interesting, as we learnt a lot about control theory and how we can use it to return an unstable system to equilibrium.

In our case, we used a ball on a see-saw-type beam, which must be returned to the centre of the beam by our control system.

Our control system had to use a concept called PID Control, which measures errors. In our case, the error is the distance between the ball's actual position on the beam and the centre, which is the ideal position). The error is then integrated and differentiated to form three terms: proportional, integral and derivative, which are each multiplied by constants K_p , K_d and K_i and summed to give an output term, which is scaled appropriately and sent to the actuator (in this case, the servo motor).

The error is split into three terms as each term can improve the overall response in specific ways: the proportional responds directly to the error, moving the beam so that the ball rolls towards the equilibrium point. The integral term builds up over time, so that the longer the ball stays out of equilibrium for, the greater the output will be. This prevents the ball from getting stuck at any point that is not the centre as the integral will keep increasing the output, thus tipping the beam more and more in order to force it back into motion. The derivative term represents the rate of change of error, so if the ball moves quickly, thus causing the error term to rapidly change, the derivative will increase the output response massively, which prevents the ball from falling off the end of the beam if it rolls too quickly.

Our final model used an acrylic (perspex) beam, connected to a central pivot to allow it to rotate, and a crank and slider mechanism connected to a servo to move the beam up and down to move the ball towards the centre in response to the output it receives from the PID system. In order to track the error, we used an ultrasound sensor to monitor the position of the ball, which allowed us to track where it is in relation to the equilibrium point to find the error.

■ **Rolls Royce team:**

Siddharth Bagchi, Rajiv Nailadi, Krishan Solanki, Dhruv Trehan, Mohammed Uddin.

COMPUTING COMPETITIONS

British Informatics Olympiad 2020

Saksham (Y13) made it to the National Final of this maths/programming competition, after his excellent performance in the three-hour round one test. Well done to all those who competed this year.

■ N.F.

First Lego League Competition

Following our success at the regional competition before Christmas, the KS3 FLL Team were invited to compete in the National Final for the first time.

On the 22 February (yes, during half term!) we went to UWE (Bristol) to take place in the National Finals of the First Lego League (FLL) Tournament. This was altogether bigger and more intense than our previous experiences, with sixty-six teams competing, the event

being live video-streamed by a film crew, and lots of pumping music.

We had redesigned the front end of the robot and worked on its reliability; as well as completely revamping our presentation in the light of feedback received. Even so, we found the competition serious, as it included several teams of engineering apprentices. However, we did see some excellent robots and learned many techniques that should help us next year.

The competitors were: Y7: Rafael, Aman, Shubham, Joel, Fadi; Y8: Zeeshan, Seth, Rhys, Kenny, Sampanna; supported by Sarah (CHG Y9), Mr Frost and Ms Pearcey.

■ N.F.

Bebras Competition – Success!

Eight boys were invited to the National Final of this competition in Oxford during February. Reaching the final of the Seniors (14–16) or Elite (16–18) age groups is an impressive achievement, as 22,722 and 7,085 students respectively entered the first round for these age groups.

Proshanto, Kevin M and Kevin X (Elite) and Ben, Raunaq, Peter and Tingyi (Senior) were among the highest achieving students invited to the final round in their age groups, and were presented with their finalist certificates at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College (see both pictures right).

■ N.F.



Perse Programming Competition

This is a **team** programming competition for Y7–Y11. Following a successful first round 14 teams qualified for the final round (ten from CHB and four from CHG). We brought this forward to compete before the Covid-19 closures were announced but this meant that only six of the CHB teams could take part.

The top team (P. Kippax, K. Sambhi and M. Sharma) got a score of 54.36, with the second placed team (B. Brown, P. Chandar, P. Shrikaanth) scoring a creditable 43. Again, it is great to see so many demonstrating their skills and competing at a national level, particularly under the difficult current circumstances!

■ N.F.

TCS Oxford Competition

This competition is invitation only but more than 600 pupils qualified across the two Camp Hill schools. Always logistically difficult to organise, things were even harder this year as each school was closed for a day in the week of the competition.

In the end 106 CHB students took part in the 60 minute individual programming competition.

Of those 106, 6 boys: Taheen (7M), Shubham (7K), Pruthvi (9K), plus Alex, Keven M. and Saksham (all Y13) qualified for the National Final, which took place in March. Covid-19 meant that the boys competed online from home.

Taheen finished in sixth place nationally in the Junior category, with Shubham in eleventh

place. Pruthvi placed twenty-seventh in the Intermediate age range. Saksham placed seventh nationally in the 'Elite' competition, with Kevin snapping at his heels in eighth place. Given that more than 250,000 people took part, this represents a substantial achievement!

■ N.F.

MATHEMATICS

Maths Challenges

The autumn term saw two major mathematical events, the Senior Team Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge.

The Senior Mathematical Challenge took place in early November and involved all mathematicians in Y12, further mathematicians in Y13 and the top set in Y11. This year the boys achieved a total of 61 bronze, 54 silver and 43 gold certificates from our 200 entries. Top results this year came from Xue Bang Chen, Leon Zhang, Proshanto Chanda, Harry Balfe and Saksham Shah of Y13, along with Qiyuan Chen, Kevin Xu and Mu'aaz Ghafoor of Y12. These eight boys all qualified for the follow-up British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, while a further 35 boys qualified for the (slightly easier) Senior Kangaroo. In the Olympiad, Kevin, Qiyuan and did well enough to achieve Certificates of Merit; Xue Bang did even better, obtaining a Certificate of Distinction. In the Senior Kangaroo, Prabhjot Gill, Johns Noble, Fawwaz Abdullah and Joseph Clark (Y13), Ross Evans, Miles Balderson and Samyak Jain (Y12) and Hemal Aggarwal (Y11) all did very well to achieve Certificates of Merit.

■ D.J.T.

Senior Team Challenge

On Wednesday 6 November, the annual Senior Team Maths Challenge returned to Camp Hill for another session of gruelling questions.

Two teams were entered by Camp Hill: an **A-Team** (pictured upper right) of Xue Bang Chen, Andrew Lee, Kevin Xu and Muhamad Ahmed, and a **B-Team** (pictured lower right) of Aaron Grewal, Tim Hayton, Qiyuan Chen and Saksham Shah. The teams hoped to continue the success from last year, where the A-Team qualified for the National Finals.

Both teams performed admirably in the first rounds, with Camp Hill A-Team getting full marks on both the group round and the following cross number. The B-Team was right on the A-Team's heels, dropping only six marks in the first two rounds. However, they did manage to be a mighty 15 seconds ahead of the A-Team in the cross number.

With just the shuttle round to

go, nerves were frayed. The teams had been informed of the top three teams during the break. Unfortunately, neither of the Camp Hill teams had been mentioned. Nevertheless, the boys were not disheartened and started the shuttle round knowing that all was still to play for. Despite the very challenging questions,



both teams managed to score 55 out of a total of 60. Unfortunately, it was not enough – Camp Hill A-Team ultimately finished in second place overall, scoring 181 out of 186 marks.

It should also be noted that Camp Hill

B-Team performed very well. Although they were an unofficial team, and so did not appear on the official rankings, they scored 175 out of 186, which would have been enough to put them in fourth place overall.

The teams are grateful to Miss Janaki for organising the event and Mr Thompson for running lunchtime sessions which gave us a chance to practice before the competition.

■ **Aaron Grewal**

Year 10 Maths Feast

On Thursday 27 February, a squad of four Year 10 students travelled to Hillcrest School to compete in the annual *Year 10 Maths Feast Competition*. The team consisted of Farhan Awais, Matteo Gianni, Tanav Kotha and Sai Ponnuru. Upon arrival, we were greeted with a number based word search, which we all turned a blind eye to – other than Matteo, who seemed intent on completing it. Thankfully the competition soon got underway, and we were ready to begin the day.

The first round was a 'Merry Go Round', in which each member of the team had a fixed time to work on one of four sets of questions comprising different topics (such as outer space), without any form of communication with peers. When the allocated time was over, the papers were rotated clockwise, and each member had a minute less to continue working through the questions. This carried on until the round was just one minute long, during which time the team could discuss any difficult questions. We did not manage to use this time effectively, and ended up missing out a few questions. We went into round two feeling mediocre.

Round two was a very different round, involving six long questions requiring full written solutions; however, only four would be

handed in to be marked. We discussed which four questions were the easiest, despite all six being of similar difficulty, and set to work. Towards the end of the allotted time, we found out that we had only answered three questions fully, so two of the team started work on a cross number, while another worked on what we deemed a harder question. In the end, we didn't manage to finish the cross number in time, and failed to write a complete solution to the fourth question. After the 25 minutes were over and we handed in the papers, Farhan managed to complete the cross number on his second attempt within five minutes – this was of no use as we could not hand it in, and only disheartened us more as we now knew that we could have handed in four complete solutions rather than three.

The third round was the comprehension round: the teams were given an information sheet on a given mathematical concept (in our case it was linear programming) and had to answer questions based on this topic. The round went quite well – or so we thought. It turned out that one member of our team (who shall remain nameless) managed to colour in the whole graph, when the question explicitly said to only shade in particular inequalities. Disappointment overwhelmed us as we had

lost three marks due to silly shading, as well as follow up questions based on this graph.

Round four was a relay round. The teams were split in half, and each pair had to provide a solution to a question, which the other pair would need to complete the following question. There were four rounds, each containing four questions. We scored well in this round, only making two small errors.

At the end of round four were the presentations, where winning teams were awarded certificates. However, after comments in previous years that the competition was not 'inclusive enough', the organisers did not disclose any information on the final rankings of the competition. Instead, they awarded certificates to the winners of each round. Camp Hill Boys were awarded certificates for winning rounds one, two and four, however losing out to Swan-shurst School in round three due to a silly error. Nevertheless, we left the building feeling gratified with our performance.

Thanks go to Hillcrest School for hosting the competition, and especially Mr Thompson for arranging practice sessions and Mr Azam and Mr Bruten for transporting us to and from the competition.

■ **Tanav Kotha**

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Spring Term brought with it the Intermediate Challenge. This is also the largest, with almost 350 entries, so the logistics of the morning had to be handled with military precision. This was done, and the papers sent off: when the results arrived, the boys had achieved 83 bronze certificates, 109 silvers and 75 golds. Six boys did extremely well, qualifying for one of three follow-up Intermediate Mathematical Olympiads, and in addition a massive 86 boys qualified for one of two colours of kangaroo. These follow-on rounds took place just before the school 'closed' in March – consequently, at the time of writing; we are still yet to find out the results.

■ **D.J.T.**

Team Maths Challenge

The Team Maths Challenge was scheduled to take place in mid-March; unfortunately restrictions on large gatherings meant that this event had to be cancelled.

■ **D.J.T.**

Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge was the challenge of the Summer Term. Owing to the fact that school was closed to the majority of students, this year the challenge was run in an online format. Once again, we were very pleased with the results. The boys amassed a total of 66 bronze certificates, 55 silvers, and 32 golds.

Sadly, as the challenge took place significantly later in the year than usual (it takes time to create and test the functionality necessary for it to run online!), there was not time to allow the usual follow-on rounds to run.

■ **D.J.T.**

The Student Council

Hil! My name's Adeen Irfan and I am the current Chair of the Student Council at Camp Hill Boys. Just over a year has passed since the Council passed over from Henry Campos and Navaneeth Natarajan, and I am delighted to share how we have continued their fight and succeeded in making the Student Council an effective body for change.

In our first few months, the Student Council attended the King Edward VI Student Council Conference, held at Five Ways School. During the day, we heard a variety of speeches, participated in discussion activities and went on a tour of the school. The day culminated with an action planning activity. It was interesting to see how other Student Councils function and the ideas they have. Our speech focused on our Student Council's achievements and our action plan for the year. We learnt a lot from the other schools and I would like to think the other schools learnt something from us.



Following that, we set up the Student Council Twitter feed, which now has over 400 followers. We also set up a Student Council website. Our new online presence was well received and has meant that we can easily share our work, not only with pupils at Camp Hill but schools across the world. We have also used the two display boards in the foyer to share our work, updating them regularly. We have used them to update students on our work, display minutes from our meetings, and

show our Chairman's introduction and certificates we have received; as well as advertising links to the Student Council's social media pages.

The last thing we managed to achieve before last summer was our successful campaign for benches on the playground, of which there are six now and three table tennis tables which are used by many [see pictures below]. We also addressed the incoming Year 7s on their induction day and introduced them to the Student Council. This has led to our current Year 7s being fully engaged with the Council throughout the year.

Upon return in September 2019, we set up shop in the Careers Room during the Camp Hill Open Day leading to lots of positive conversations with prospective parents.

One thing that we had worked on developing in the previous term was our positive relationship with our caterers, AiP. This continued with our new caterers, Chartwells, in September. We have successfully removed all beef from the canteen, increased the number of halal, vegetarian and vegan options as well as ensuring the proper labelling of these items. We have moved towards a plastic free canteen with paper cartons and boxes and metal cans being the most common alternatives. We also support our caterers with their cultural days. The Student Council continues to meet with our caterers regularly to represent the views of the student body.



Our next proposal gained a lot of interest from around the Multi Academy Trust. We worked with the English Department and Ms Garvey to set up Book Boxes in each KS3 class-

room. These act as little free libraries for boys to swap books they have read. The boxes have been used well and as such, we succeeded in our aim of promoting reading for pleasure.

We also held a lunchtime event for UK Parliament Week on 8 November 2019 where we polled students and teachers on their preferred Brexit outcome and what issues mattered most to them. Remain and Climate Change both won overwhelmingly. Little did we know what 2020 would bring...

The Student Council in Lockdown

Since the beginning of Lockdown, the Student Council has remained engaged. Wednesday 20 May was this year's National 'Thank a Teacher Day'. It marks a moment when we, as a nation, can come together to say thank you to teachers across the country who are making a difference not only now during these unprecedented times, but every day of the year. However, lockdown made it a little more difficult to say thank you this year.

At Camp Hill Boys, the Student Council set up a way for pupils to say thank you to their favourite teachers. A link was shared with all pupils to the Student Council website where they could post their messages of thanks. We received almost 500 messages from pupils from year 7 to 13 for 60 members of staff. There were running themes throughout such as kindness, understanding, and care. Thank you to all the boys who took the time out of their day to write kind messages to their teachers.

Charity

This year, as in previous years, the students at Camp Hill Boys have been incredibly generous and very willing to put forward their time, energy and money to support the Student Council in our charitable initiatives.

The first charity event we held was a successful stage show based on the comedy panel show, "Would I Lie to You" where Mr G Hill, Ms Lamb and Mr N Hill took on the roles





of Rob Brydon, David Mitchell and Lee Mack respectively. Two teams of teachers were pitted against each other. Each teacher read out a statement from the card in front of them and it was the opposing team's job to sort the fact from the fiction. This exciting and innovative charity event, ran by Kishan Sambhi was a huge success for the Council, raising over £150 for The Children's Society. The Children's Society, a charity working to support vulnerable children in England and Wales, were impressed by our event's creative premise and thanked Camp Hill Boys for their kind donation.

In the autumn term, the Student Council held our annual *Krispy Kreme Doughnut* sale for BBC Children in Need. With the boys excited and the queue going all around the foyer, we raised £170 for Children in Need having sold over 400 doughnuts. Unfortunately we ran out of doughnuts and some boys were left disappointed but do not worry! Next year's dough-

nut sale will be bigger than ever before.

The Student Council's most popular initiative is our new stationery shop, called *Doodles*. The stationery shop is an ongoing project, which exists to provide affordable stationery for pupils at Camp Hill Boys. It also raises money for the Malala Fund which is the official organization led by Malala Yousafzai, focused on helping girls go to school and raise their voices for the right to education. *Doodles* has brought in over £300 and will, hopefully, continue for a very long time. Our "Exam Kits", which have been endorsed by Ms Nijran, include everything you need for your exams and were a hit in the run up to mock exams. For whatever pupils need, from pens and rulers to highlighters and compasses, students can visit *Doodles*, the Student Council Stationery Shop.

Eco Initiatives

Climate Change is one of the issues that pupils at Camp Hill Boys are most passionate about with an amazing number of boys taking part in school climate strikes this year, a movement started by young climate activist Greta Thunberg. However, pupils at Camp Hill Boys have also expressed their concern within school and the Student Council have listened.

The Student Council have helped set up the Eco Committee, which the Student Council's Deputy Chair Ardeel Hussain chairs with the help of Mr Butcher, who got together a group of students passionate about the environment and making our school more eco-friendly. The Eco Committee's key objective was to achieve the Eco-Schools Bronze Award. First an environmental review of the school was completed. This involved seeing what our school already does and highlighting areas for improvement. From this review, we chose three topics in which we saw the potential to make a change. This year we selected Global Citizenship, Transport and Waste.

In the Global Citizenship topic, the Eco Committee hopes to organise something special for the 51st Annual Earth Day on 22 April. Our hope is to make sure everyone learns something new and is able to take part in an activity related to this year's Earth Day theme: Restore Our Earth. Whilst we implement new ideas in school, it's important to understand the bigger picture, educate ourselves and remember how we are part of a much bigger group of people working for our planet, we are truly global citizens. It's an opportunity to reflect and celebrate a day dedicated to our complex, amazing planet.

For transport, the Eco Committee are working towards reducing the size of pupils' carbon footprint by promoting sustainable methods of transport to get to school. Taking the bus, train, cycling or walking to school are small commitments we as pupils can make individually to have a bigger and more profound difference overall. The Student Council have worked with the Eco Committee to more than double our capacity of bike spaces by installing new bike racks on the playground. We hope to launch a campaign to highlight the benefits of more sustainable travel in the near future.

The Student Council's first proposal back in 2019 was Paper Recycling. We set up meetings with the site staff, as well as SLT and detailed the steps towards getting it done. With the



support of Ms Puri and Mr Rudd, the Chairs of the Student Council attended a staff meeting, presented our Paper Usage and Recycling Pledge, where members of staff pledged to reduce the amount of paper they used and to recycle any paper they did use. We collected over 80 signatures from members of staff and took this to the site manager who agreed to help us by purchasing paper recycling bags for each classroom and blue wheelie bins in each corridor. Camp Hill Boys has been successfully recycling paper and card for over a year.

Now the Eco Committee are hoping to continue that work and build on that success by trying to introduce plastic recycling in school. Plastic use in the canteen and other plastic from home is a major issue fuelled by the extensive





commercial usage of plastic, that is hard to avoid. Reusable bottles are an amazing way to cut this use down however we hope to accommodate single bottles that are very common in school by installing a plastic recycling collection in school. Whilst we may not be able to eradicate plastic use at Camp Hill we are able to try to limit the impact this has on the environment by recycling as much as we can.

We have also set up a Vertical Farming Display in the foyer describing the future of food through Hydroponics. This was done with the support of Dr White, Dr Lavery and the Biology Department. We also worked with the DT Department to set up lights on our vertical farming display. This caught the attention of many passers by who were keen to learn more about one of the potential solutions in our planet's green future in agriculture.

Thanks to Mr Butcher, Dr White and Ms Hundal for all their help with the Eco Committee and the Student Council's green initiatives this year.

Black Lives Matter

On 5 June, Student Councils from across the King Edward VI Foundation came together to ask the schools of King Edward VI to take further action on racism and race education in our schools.

Our campaign began with an open letter to the of the schools of King Edward VI. To summarise, we asked for the enforcement of school behavioural policies, the creation of safe spaces for pupils to report abuse and the education of pupils on race-related issues. I implore you all to read the letter we wrote. We

received support from Preet Kaur Gill MP, Gary Sambrook MP and numerous Birmingham City Council members, as well as organisations such as Beat-frecks, Citizens UK, UK Isn't Innocent, and others.

Our letter also received coverage from Birmingham Live, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, Birmingham Post, and ITV News. Because of the letter, a special committee made up of pupils from all the schools in the King Edward VI Foundation was formed. This is the first time that such a committee existed and we hope that through working together as pupils and staff from across eleven schools, we will be able to implement real change.

On 18 June, all the Head Teachers of the eleven schools of the King Edward VI Foundation in Birmingham met with representatives of their

Student Councils. Here we discussed ways in which the school communities could work together to strengthen our shared and deeply held commitment to eradicating racism. In addition, we discussed how we could work together to develop a culture in which all students can flourish from the moment, they enter the schools.

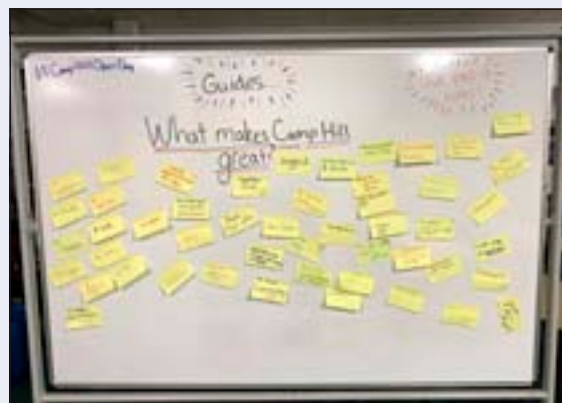
This is what has been achieved so far, but I recognise there are so many more steps to be taken. It is important that your voice is heard when identifying what those steps are. As Chair of the Student Council, I have before stood on a stage and



told you that you have the right to have your voice heard in your school. It perhaps never been so important that you use that right.

The Camp Hill Community is strongest when pupils and members of staff work together towards a common goal. The progress we have made over the last twelve months has been immense. From book boxes and bike racks to "Doodles" and donuts, the number of things the Student Council has achieved this year is greater than ever before. I'd like to ask you to continue to use your voice next year. Follow us on Twitter at: @KECHBCouncil. Feel free to email us at: studentcouncil@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk or talk to your form representative about how you can have your voice heard.

■ Adeen Irfan



Business Language Day

On the 10 March, Year 9 were off timetable for Business Language Day. The day proved to be an insightful and motivational, not only to improve our language skills but also to see where languages can take you.

First, we had Stu, an Old Boy of the school, talked to us about his experiences with languages in school and how they have influenced the career he would later be involved in. In school he had chosen double languages (French and German) for GCSE. After passing **both** exams with **full** marks he later got a job in marketing. As part of his job, using French, he has travelled to many countries for work and within the two-week period after the Language Day, he would be travelling to four different places. He also talked about how using French, he helped two boys from Tunisia who spoke no English join his football club by speaking French with them, which would not have happened unless Stu had his language skills. He also reiterated (which is becoming increasingly relevant) the arrogance that Brits have with not learning languages and expecting everyone else to speak their own language. After Stu's talk we were set our first task.



Our instruction were as follows: 'You need to design a cereal product for the German/French market, make a leaflet outlining your idea and make a poster.'

We would then later have to present this in German/French to everyone. Our team started by coming up with a name: Leckere Bälle (Tasty Balls – no not what you're thinking!). They were honey coated granola and dried berry balls that were more of an on-the-go cereal. After deciding on our name and product idea, we had to come up with a jingle... uhum (clears throat).

Then we designed our packaging and leaflet by using as many of the items on the vocabulary sheet as possible. After adding colour, one person in our team just couldn't resist making a life-size box with the gum ball design that we had incorporated. After finally putting together all our items, everyone in our groups presented their product. We had seen some 'Okay' products (inside joke) and some really good pitches and then we presented. After performing a jingle and then seeing a surprise appearance from the mascot 'Hans der Hamster' we explained our product. We won the in-class round, which led to us presenting to the whole year group.

However, the competition was just too high. After seeing outstanding language and presentation skills from the other groups we just couldn't meet the standard. I think all in all, it was a really great opportunity to expand our knowledge in languages but also learn some of the more casual language used by French and German people. The insightful experience has been great for all of us providing a useful day of

fun and learning. [see below: photo of winning group]

After lunch, we had two language taster sessions from Year 12s. The first one gave us an insight to Mandarin Chinese and some of its basic words and characters. We also learned some Chinese greetings and then spent the remainder of the half-hour trying (in most



cases, fruitlessly) to write them out and putting together the most inappropriate sentences we could. On the practise sheet there was also the character for a type of Chinese noodles, which was apparently the hardest character in the language. Precious few rose to the challenge, and unfortunately it got the better of me.

The second taster was a crash course in Italian. We were saved the trouble of learning the alphabet, so we made considerably more progress with the actual language compared to Mandarin, but it was as fun as the Chinese nonetheless. We started off with a game of Italian bingo after learning the numbers from one to twenty and spelling our names in Italian. We then continued to blitz greetings, food, things in a restaurant, clothes and hobbies. For our last session we had a translation workshop, translating some interesting tweets from celebrities.

All of Year 9 would like to thank the MFL Department for organising the day and Stu for volunteering to come and talk to us.

■ Caleb Wilton and Sam Nouhov

Read for Good

Reading is, obviously, at the heart of the English Department – it is kind of our thing – and we have therefore worked hard to promote it with the help of Ms Garvey, our amazing School Librarian.

To help encourage our Year 7 and 8 students in their reading and to raise money for charity, we have been running the 'Read for Good' event (previously known as Readathon) since 1995 and as the press release the charity sent to us said: "King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys is taking its pupils on yet another reading adventure as it launches its 25th Readathon on 21 October 2019. The school is one of the most dedicated supporters of children's literacy charity Read for Good – having raised more than £40,000 over the last two decades, as well as generations of bookworms."

Read for Good's sponsored read has been



running in schools since 1984, motivating millions of children to read for pleasure. The money raised by schools is used to bring the magic of stories to all of the UK's major children's hospitals through brand-new books and

storyteller visits, as well as supporting school libraries.

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys has taken part in 24 sponsored Readathons since 1995, most recently organised by the

School's Second in English, Joanne Parmar. She said: "Readathon really is a fantastic initiative to get our students reading for pleasure – my favourite moment of every Readathon is seeing the students so engaged with what they're reading and the wonderful peace which this brings. Knowing the money we raise helps to support children in hospital, particularly in Birmingham Children's Hospital, is especially rewarding for our pupils. We're incredibly proud of what we have achieved running Readathon over the years so to be recognised for this is wonderful!"

Justine Daniels, Read for Good Chief Executive, said: "Thousands of schools have run our Readathon over the years but King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys has really embraced it in an exceptional way. The school's commitment to Readathon has enabled the magic of stories to be brought alive for its pupils, but also for thousands of children in hospitals across the country including Birmingham Children's Hospital. So thank you to King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys for reading, raising and being truly amazing!"

As thanks for running this charitable event so successfully, we were offered the opportunity to have local storyteller Graham Langley come into school in the autumn term to speak to our students about Read for Good and to tell them a story [see photographs on this and the previous page]. He also agreed to run an extra story-telling session for a small select group of students – and both events proved to be very successful.

■ J.L.P.



The Library

We managed to squeeze in two excellent author events during the spring term. In February Ross Welford came in for the whole day to run a creative writing session in the morning and an author talk in the afternoon. Our Year 7 Book Club had been reading his book *The 1,000 Year Old Boy* prior to his visit, so they had stored up lots of questions for him.

He entertained the group with stories of a writer's life and set fun tasks to get the boys thinking about their own stories. By the end of the session, we had some excellent tales which were surprisingly epic considering the short amount of time there was to write them! The afternoon talk was given to students in Years 7 and 8, who were greatly entertained by Ross' close-up magic skills, as well as his attempts at creating a story with the input of 200+ students!

In March we had Chris Bradford in to visit for a talk on the last book in his *Young Samurai* series. It was in the last few days before the lockdown so we were delighted that he could



make it to us safely. Our students were treated to a Samurai sword demonstration with lots of willing volunteers! We're always in safe hand with Chris' visits and this one was no exception. The queue for his book signing took hours to clear and our students came away with great memories and some excellent selfies.

To try and make the lockdown and summer holidays as entertaining and book filled as possible, we have invested in an ebook platform for the school. We hope this will allow students to continue to develop their love of reading no matter what happens in the coming year.

■ A. Garvey



Art at Camp Hill

Many students entered art competitions this year! Back in the autumn term, when life had a bit more normality to it than it does now, Sam Nouhov in 9J entered 'The Education Art Prize 2019'. This is a national competition run by *Specialist Crafts*, with an opportunity to win a creative, one-day workshop with Keith Brymer Jones. Keith is one of the UK's most recognisable ceramic designers and many of you may know him for his judging (and tears!) on Channel 4's 'The Great Pottery Throw Down', where his passion and enthusiasm for ceramics is clearly visible.

The aim of the competition was to design and create a piece of pottery, made from clay in order to promote the diversity of this art form across the UK. Sam has developed his clay skills in his own time with his Grandad, who has taught Sam how to use a potter's wheel. This is often made to look very easy but I can assure you it is not!

Sam created a collection of three pieces, which were all made using the slab technique to construct the bold geometric shape and form [pictured below]. He designed these with the idea of them being scalable, so should they ever be manufactured in industry they would be suitable for slip casting and moulds, which was all part of the design brief. During the process Sam had to deal with issues such as cracks appearing due to the chemical reaction of clay and water as his pieces dried out. He finished them with a beautiful mix of two different glazes, which altered colour depending on the thickness of both the clay and glaze, which has resulted in a beautiful variety of blues and ambers as seen in the photograph of Sam's

work. Sam was selected as one of ten finalists from across the country, which is an incredible achievement!

Adwaya Gupta from 7C bravely entered a BBC Television competition 'Britain's Best Young Artist'. The brand new television series is looking for creative pupils who are passionate about the visual arts, while also exploring a wide range of art forms being practiced by children from across the UK. Adwaya worked extremely hard, creating numerous art pieces, striving for the best piece that he would then go on to submit. He was shortlisted for the television show and had to go through an online video interview during lockdown! We look forward to seeing how this new television programme develops and to finding out whether Adwaya will be making an appearance on it over the forthcoming months.

The art team have also taken on a creative endeavour by taking part in 'Sketchbook Circle'. This is a year-long collaborative project to encourage artist educators to make time for their own personal work. Mrs Hodges and I are paired with two other art educators across the country and each month we put our work into a sketchbook, which then gets posted on to one of our partners and in return we receive a sketchbook from our second part-

ner, where we will then work into and respond to the work they have created. This goes on all year which means that there are two in-depth artistic conversations occurring over the course of a year. Although we've had some disruptions along the way we thought we would share some of the work we have done so far.

Finally, we may not have been able to showcase our students work at the annual *South Network Art Exhibition* as we normally would but we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing how creative our students have been during lock down and we thought it would be good to share some of their work with you! For many people over the past few months art has been a real source of exploration, discovery and indeed escapism, benefitting our mental wellbeing during an extremely challenging time. For now, we hope you enjoy the work published here and that the creativity continues.

■ G.S.





8



7

Artwork Credits

- 1 – Adwaya Gupta (Britain's Best Young Artist Entry)
- 2 – Arjun Harnal, Y12
- 3 – Mrs Hodges (Sketchbook Circle)
- 4 – Matthew Holland

- 5 – Zahi Ishan
- 6 – Sam Nouhov
- 7 – Connor Phillips, Y13
- 8 – Finn Sambridge-Davies (Cake Sculpture)
- 9 – Mrs Smith (Sketchbook Circle)



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Beaufort

The year's House Championship has started off with mixed successes for Beaufort. For the first time ever we played separate Year 9 and Year 10 Rugby Competitions, in place of what used to be the Intermediate Competition. The Year 9 Beaufort boys secured a second place victory, trailing Seymour, while the Year 10s earned a solid first place in their age group.

Disappointingly the Senior 15-a-side Competition was cancelled due to a tightening of the rules about who was allowed to play, and some Houses – not Beaufort – being unable to present a full team. We look forward to the Year 7, Year 8 and Senior Sevens parts of the Rugby Championship next term.

Next on the order was the Football Competition. Our Senior 11-a-side team, led by Ryan Malhi, were strong on the field, and with Simon Halstead stepping in to cover our regular keeper Sam Hope, we barely conceded any goals. Unfortunately, though, our strikers struggled to get their goals past some stiff opposition, and we ended up finishing joint third place with Seymour. To be fair, Tudor boy Ciaran 'Boona' Cunningham was outstanding, and their victory was well deserved.

The 5-a-side Futsal Competition also didn't go very well for Beaufort this year: our Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams struggled to win any of their matches, leaving us in 4th place over all in the Football Competition.

Yet another upset was to be had in Cross Country, an event which Beaufort has enjoyed winning for the last four years. We had some excellent finishes, particularly in the Intermediate and Senior sections: Peter Kippax won the Senior Victor Ludorum, closely followed by Joe Day and Tom Heppel. We had strength in depth in the Intermediate section too: Darius and Cyrus Maleki-Tooserkani, Sam Ankrah, Jonah Kippax, Matthew Holland and Paul Kelly all finished in the top ten. Sadly, our Juniors were out-classed by the other Houses, with Vinay Bora being our best finisher, in 7th place. With the Cross Country standards also accounted for, Ms Puri's Golden boys claimed the Cross Country title this year, with Beaufort a close second.

Senior Quiz went very well for Beaufort this year, with us winning over all. Regular House Quizzers Tom Heppel, Sam Gray, Madhav Manoj and Vignesh Venkatramaiah all returned for another three rounds of Mr Hill's event. Proving the reliability of our Seniors, Bhuvan and Sam Hope also stepped in to cover when Madhav and Vignesh couldn't make it one lunchtime.

To finish the term off, we had Badminton and Basketball. It seems that this year's Junior teams were quite evenly matched, with Beaufort, Howard and Tudor sharing first place.

Some very strong opposition in the Senior age group left us in third place there though, ahead of Seymour. Thanks to those Senior players, Nurali, Bhuvan, Hemal, Jamie and Muhammad, for making themselves available.

After a term of mixed successes, Basketball worked out very nicely for Beaufort. The Junior section was tight: yet another three-way tie for 1st place, this time between Beaufort, Seymour and Tudor. Thanks to Christy Baiju for doing a superb job of organising and leading the team in my absence. In a similar fashion, Sam Ankrah led his Intermediate boys to victory, and Amar Jandu and Richard Amoshe likewise in the Seniors. Our Seniors won all three matches, holding off a strong Howard team and earning Beaufort the overall Basketball Championship.

The spring term was a productive one for Beaufort. Seymour had made significant gains over the other houses in the autumn term and it looked like Ms Puri's golden army were set to storm ahead. However a few good results for Beaufort levelled the playing field, starting with Junior Quiz and Chess.

Junior Quiz saw the return of veteran Year 9 Dean Gregory, alongside some enthusiastic Year 8s and Year 7 newcomer Jariullah Ahmed. The boys handled Mr Hill's onslaught of trivial well and we came out of the competition with a superb result. The Intermediate leg of the Quiz Competition was curtailed by the school's closure, but of the two rounds our Inters managed to take part in, it looked like Beaufort would hopefully be placing in the top two for the Quiz.

Over the last few years Beaufort has enjoyed quite a lot of success in the House Chess Competition, and at the beginning it looked like we were on course for another victory. After wrestling a draw with Howard in the first week and then confidently beating Seymour the week after, it looked like the third week of the competition would simply require us to walk over Tudor. That complacency cost us the win though: surprisingly stiff opposition from Tudor, combined with a great performance from the Seymour chess players led to the surprise result of Seymour winning overall, with Beaufort in second place. Well done to Hemal, Devesh, Humza and all of the other boys who took part.

Junior Rugby provided another enjoyable spectacle in the first half of the spring term. Unfortunately for our Year 8 players, the score lines didn't reflect their enthusiasm and effort. One good win over Howard placed us in third place, with Seymour once again enjoying the victory. The Year 7 games were a tense affair: Seymour and Beaufort both flattened the Howard and Tudor teams, coming together in the final match to decide who would take first place. A toughly contested game followed, resulting in a 5-5 draw and a win shared by

Beaufort and Seymour. Well done to all players, and special mentions to Luke Dolan, Kaaraj Chandock, Christy Baiju and Michael Carson for their contributions.

Just before the February half-term break we had the House Swimming Gala. Like chess, this is another event which Beaufort have enjoyed winning for several years. Once again though, it didn't go as well as hoped! The swimming standard results, which all Year 7 to 10 students contribute towards, didn't leave Beaufort in the strongest position this year. The gala saw some excellent performances from the Beaufort swimmers: Joe Day earned another Victor Ludorum, Year 9 boys Darius and Cyrus swam very strongly against extremely stiff competition, and Seniors Michael James-Thomas and Simon Halstead put in a sterling effort swimming and also organising the Juniors.

Beaufort performed very well in the House Gala, but this year it wasn't enough to catch up with Mr Nash's green machine. Congratulations to the Tudor boys, we'll take the title back next year.

Before the abrupt closure of the school in March, the second half of the spring term's activity had started well for Beaufort. It's a shame that we had to say farewell to our Seniors prematurely, Mr O'Malley didn't get a chance to make his Year 13s cringe (one more time) by showing the Year 7 portraits to the rest of the House!

On the plus side though, with all the scores up to the closure counted, Beaufort and Seymour shared the House Championship this year, so another victory for us!

Michael James-Thomas and Bradley Williams did an excellent job of organising the Senior section, and we have been very fortunate to have such strength in depth in this year's Beaufort Year 13. Good luck to all of our leavers, and I hope that we will be able to get together at school again soon.

■ S.O.M.

Howard

The new academic year was a fresh opportunity for members of Howard House to rise back to their usual winning standards, following a mediocre championship performance in 2019.

This was certainly the trajectory the House took in the first major event of the year. Football provided a sweet victory and an early head start for the House with big performances coming from our skilful seniors Hasan Akthar and Rishi Pingili who led the House to victories in both indoor 5-a-side and outdoor 11-a-side.

Unfortunately, this was our single whiff of victory throughout the year. Results from

cross-country weren't as promising as our line-up suggested, despite valiant efforts from Ayyub Ali and Seth Dockery in particular. Additionally, an injury suffered by strong runner Milan Dawson held back our Intermediates which may have affected our final standings in this event.

Badminton seemed to hold much more hope for Howard, and rightfully so, with spectacular performances all round, especially Adarsh Palikumar and Ati Maheshwari in the Seniors who were the top-pairing seed. It came as a disappointment when Tudor snatched the victory, but with both of these competitors around for next year, there is confidence within the house about our coming badminton endeavours.

On the basketball court Howard seemed to lack any stars, with the House performing averagely across all year groups, although there were definitely some commendable wins in both the Seniors and Intermediates. These weren't enough though to prevent Beaufort from taking their anticipated win.

The spring term seemed to offer a fresh start. Great standards' results led us into the Swimming Gala in second place. With Tudor clearly maintaining the lead throughout the competition, we fought admirably, and it seemed like second place was ours. This was all until the final race, where our marginal lead was shattered by Beaufort and we were forced to settle for bronze. This does not however detract from the efforts of our swimmers during this event, especially our young prospects Anthony Demitry, who won the intermediate level, and Adam Birch of Year 7.

Although the House Rugby Series had started for the Juniors and Intermediates, it stopped short of the hotly awaited Senior events, which were set to be competitive and rewarding for the House with top team performers Seth Dockery and Luke Hemmings representing the House. But, sadly, our chances of redeeming ourselves in the latter term of the year in these events were gone as the lockdown meant that our potential victories in athletics, cricket and rugby slipped away from our hands. However, next year is set to be a successful one, where the House will work its way back up to its consistent winning standards throughout the whole year with many talented prospects leading and representing the House in the different fields across all year groups.

Many thanks to House Captain Bilal Stitan for his contributions to the House and great leadership. He has shown great constant support to the House, playing a major role in many of the events himself alongside a group of supportive and competitive seniors.

■ **Yusuf Elsherbiny**

Seymour

Seymour started the academic year with enthusiasm, a new Head of House and the hope that we would not come second, again! The first event was the Year 9 and 10 Rugby Competition. The Year 10s came in a well-deserved second place and the Year 9s won all three of their matches, giving Seymour a fantastic start to not only the Rugby Competition, but also the year's events.

The Junior Rugby Competition continued in the spring term. The Year 8 team was enthusiastically organised by Matthew Ransbotyn and Math Misghina. They put together an incredibly strong side and finished in first place. Reuben Howard and Yahye Badeed organised the Year 7 team; for many of the boys it was their debut event representing the House, they played very well and ended up finishing in a well-deserved first place (well joint-first with Beaufort). Combined with the Year 9 and 10 results from last term, these successes put Seymour in a very good position for the overall Rugby Competition this year.

Both the Football and Basketball Competitions saw Seymour finishing in second place. For me the biggest success of the Football Competition was the sheer enthusiasm I saw at the Junior trials. Organised by Salim Miah and Omar Ismail in Years 12 and 11, over 20 boys turned out and fought for their place to represent Seymour. All those who played were a credit to the House, getting as many players involved as possible in each match, with a stand out performance from Mathiwos Misghina.

John Byrne lead the Seymour Senior Quiz team to great success, beating all of the competition; stand out performances from Jonathan Anderson and Joel Foster meant that the team won every match. Joel Foster did not stop there however, going on to write a "wicked (preliminary) quiz in order to separate the wheat from the chaff" and organised the Seymour Junior Quiz team. He clearly did a fantastic job of this, as the Juniors led by Omar Al-Zubair won every round, with fantastic performances from Raphael Mahgerefteh, to continue Seymour's success in the House Quiz Competition. Following such strong performances from both the Juniors and the Seniors, the Intermediates only needed to win one of their three rounds to secure an overall win for Seymour, but unfortunately the school closure came too soon for this to happen and we were deprived of the overall win.

Reading this might lead you to believe that Seymour finished in first or second in every competition. Unfortunately, even with bags of enthusiasm, this was not the case. Pranoy Nishanth and Pranav Julori ensured we had full strong teams for the Intermediate and Senior Badminton Competition, though we still finished in last place. The swimming standards were also not a strong event. The teams organ-

ised by Sicheng Li and George Hill fought hard, but, alas, the Swimming Competition was not for us, and Seymour finished in last place.

However, back to the positives, I have saved two stand-out competitions for last. The Chess Competition was the perfect example of self-belief against all odds. This year the team was organised by Vish Nalabotu; the organisation was no mean feat as it involved coordinating boys from every year in the school, and making sure we had full teams for all of the three after school events (by week three of three, Vish had this sorted!). The first event started with a bit of a panic, as we were one competitor short; however, Omar Ismail stepped in at the last minute, and helped us secure an initial win. By round three, however we were on the back foot. I must admit, I saw no way through the competition, but Vish and his team did not share my pessimism, gaining 6.5 points out of a possible 8, and securing an overall win of the Chess Competition for Seymour.

Cross-Country was a big moment for Seymour, it came early in the academic year and I believe did a great deal towards boosting the morale of all. Every member of the House from Years 7–10 represented the House in the standards and we narrowly won this part of the event, putting us in a great position for the final. All finals teams were complete and were overrun with enthusiasm. The combined scores of the standards and finals secured a well-deserved win for Seymour, who had very strong performances throughout. This was the first big win that Seymour had had in a few years, and it was wonderful that nearly every member of the House contributed to it. Well done to the first Seymour in each of the finals, Mathiwos Misghina, Ajay Dhaliwal, and Ismail Mohammed.

When I started in the role this year, my one aim was that Seymour would be fully represented in every single match, and I am very proud to say that we succeeded. I have been overwhelmed by the contributions of all; every event has been met with a full team and a lot of enthusiasm. Pupils in Year 12, have given fantastic assemblies; Fintan Hogan talked to us about the current climate emergency, Jonathan Anderson delivered an interesting and useful assembly on how our brains deal with stress, and Aadam Waheed talked to us about his favourite fonts – you had to be there. There through it all were of course the House Captains, Nikhil Gupta and Henry Moreau-Smith, whose help was indispensable this year.

Finally, of course, to the results. It has been a long time coming, but finally Seymour did not finish in second place. With the competition cut short due to school closure, Seymour were awarded a well-deserved and long awaited first place position (joint with Beaufort). Naturally, we all know what would have happened if the competition had been allowed to run its course...

Unfortunately, it is time for me to end my

time as Head of Seymour. It has been a truly eventful year, I had no idea what to expect when I took up this role in September but I certainly did not expect to have this much fun. Well done to everyone that contributed to a truly well-deserved win.

I would like to welcome Mr Dowling to the role of Head of House and of course, our new House Captains, Samyak Jain and Alex Simpson. I wish you all the best luck for next year. Long live the Golden Army.

■ **A.N.P.**

Tudor

It has been a strange year in the House Championship to say the least; we had put ourselves into a strong position to have a realistic pop at winning the overall Championship in the summer term, as we usually do very well in the events that still needed to be completed. But alas the virus and lockdown took centre stage. However, before going any further here in my article I would like to say a big thank you to every member of the House for their efforts during the academic year 2019–20.

Well, how did we fare over the year in the various activities? In the first term, we had mixed fortunes, however, I did believe that we had the ability to push on and swing things in our favour.

The first activity of the term saw our Senior 11-a-side Football team win two of their three games. The 5-a-side Tournament at the Futsal Arena was a mixed night, but Ciaran Cunningham must have a special mention as he scored fifteen (yes fifteen!) goals on the evening. The two competitions combined gave us a joint second place in the Football Tournament.

I must say a big well done to Hassan

Soonsara who won the Junior age group and Thomas Dainty who won the Intermediate Cross-Country, but unfortunately these results only allowed us to gain third overall, as our standards need to improve if we going to show what we were really capable of.

Our biggest success this term was in the Badminton, where our senior players won their section of the competition, and the junior players achieved joint first place, therefore gaining first place in the Badminton overall, congratulations.

The Basketball Competition with the Junior team started off well for Tudor, as they achieved two wins in their competition and came joint first. The upper age groups failed to improve on this situation partly due to lack of communication at the end of a busy and tiring term.

The spring term was to say the least “strange”. The term started with the chess team staying behind to play their competition, they persevered, but they could only manage to win one of the rounds. I would like to say thank you to Mowahid Shahbaz for his efforts in organising the team.

The Inter-House Quiz team had started off their competition winning the only two rounds played, I can only thank them for their efforts, I’m sure they would have gone on to win their final round. But then for the team Covid-19 struck.

The House Swimming Competition was the highlight of the spring term for Tudor. Being one of five biggest House events in the school year (the others being Athletics, Cricket, Cross-Country and Rugby), the competition involves contributions from the majority of the school. It was fantastic to see all the Junior and Intermediate members of Tudor House giving it their all in the swimming standards, with this collaborative effort allowing us to secure a lead going

into the House Gala.

On the day of the Gala, Tudor proved to be capable not only on average across the House through standards, but also through the competency of its best swimmers in each age group. Multiple individual races were won by Tudor swimmers, including Felix Iliff for the Year 7 swimmers in the breast stroke, Shrikannan Selvaganapathy and Karl Rodrigo for the Year 8 swimmers in the breast and back stroke respectively, Sam Nouhov for the Intermediate swimmers in the breast stroke, Leon Zhang for the Senior swimmers. Special mention going to those swimmers who stepped up to fill absences and Shrikannan Selvaganapathy joint winner of the Year 8 Victor Ludorum and Sam Nouhov joint winner of the Intermediate Victor Ludorum. All swimmers also performed brilliantly in the team relays, allowing Tudor to maintain the lead carried forward from the standards to win the competition, along with a joint-victory in the relay cup.

It was unfortunate that the term was cut short, as Tudor would’ve been able to carry this momentum forward into the remainder of the year with the dedication and host of talented musicians, cricket players, athletes and much more amongst the House members. Nonetheless, I am sure that future championship titles are well within our sights.

As it might be the only time I can have a chance to say a big thank you to the older members of Tudor, for their efforts during your years representing the House. I would like to thank Leon Zhang and Joe Clark for their help in running the House this year and behind the scenes cajoling and organising. I hope that any of the old boys will drop by if they are in the vicinity of school, so that we can catch up and say a proper good bye. Stay Safe!

■ **A.J.N.**

VISITS AND UK TRIPS

Imperial War Museum

On a cold Thursday morning in early January, 60 Year 9 pupils set off to the Imperial War Museum, London, to visit the Holocaust Exhibition and to learn more about the Second World War, and especially, the Holocaust.

Once the long three-hour journey was over, we were glad to stretch our legs and get a breath of fresh air and were eager, but also prepared to learn about the horrors of the war.

After a brief introduction, we were all given audio guides that would play commentary relevant to where we were in the exhibition, giving us all the information we needed to truly understand the atrocities that were committed during the war.



The exhibition was designed to take us through time, telling a story, through objects, pictures and artefacts, along with the narrator from our audio guides, showing the gradual change of attitude towards Jewish people and other, so called 'Undesirables', in Nazi-occupied Europe.

We made our way through the Holocaust exhibition, listening to the commentary from our audio guides and looking at the videos, images and text all around us. Watching the slow rise of the Nazi Party, and how life got worse for the Jews and other persecuted groups, as we went through time, was a very saddening experience. The scale model of Auschwitz was especially surreal, with thousands of victims lined up next to the railway lines, really highlighting to us the scale of the atrocities that were happening.

After lunch, we were allowed to explore other parts of the museum in small groups, something we were looking forward to as it would allow us to focus on what we were interested in and learn more about that specific area.

The museum contained a timeline of the Second World War, spanning multiple floors and highlighting all the key events along with items to go along with them, making for an interesting, informative and educational experience, along with giving us more insight and knowledge into the War and helping us greatly with our World War II studies in history. Items from bullets to fighter jets and things in between helped us understand not only the war itself but also the daily life of people during the war.

Finally, all 60 students got back together on the coach, ready for a three-hour journey back to school. The trip to the Imperial War Museum was very informative, highlighted the horrors of the Holocaust and allowed us to learn about the Second World War, in a way that would not be possible in a normal lesson. The commentary from the audio guides and the artefacts, along with the numerous images and videos helped greatly in our understanding of both the Holocaust and the war, and made for an experience we will never forget. The trip also served as a reminder of the atrocities



ties that were committed in the Second World War by the Nazi Party.

We'd like to thank the History Department and all the teachers involved for allowing us to

go on this informative trip that taught us about the horrors of what happened during the Holocaust.

■ **Moin Gazi**



Warwick University 'Love through the Ages' Trip

On Monday 11 November, a memorable day, Mr Hill and I accompanied the Year 13 English group to Warwick University for a Conference focused on the 'Love through the Ages' element of the AQA English Literature course.

We arrived promptly at 09:45 and immediately took our seats, ready for the Conference to begin. The Conference consisted of a series of interesting and relevant lectures on the topic. We heard from Nick Hutchinson, an actor, director and lecturer; from Simon Avery, a lecturer at the University of Westminster; Jon Rich, a senior examiner and the poet Michael Symmons Roberts.

The rest of the day gave us all time to explore the Warwick University Campus and to experience the food options on site. An interesting and rewarding day – we hope to have the opportunity to take students to this event again soon.

■ **J.L.P.**

Professor visits Camp Hill

**Dr Ian Roberts of Warwick University
Visits A-Level German Students**

On 16 January, Year 13 German students were fortunate to have the opportunity to have a lesson taught by Dr Ian Roberts of Warwick University about the film 'Goodbye Lenin', which the boys are studying as part of their A-Level course.

This was a valuable experience, as not only were the students able to obtain a greater insight into the film and the context in which it is set (Berlin at the time of reunification), but also to ask Dr Roberts about studying languages at university, and his experiences as a professor.

We would like to thank Mrs Thomson for arranging the visit.

■ **Rory Price**

Mr Duncan

During lockdown I have been...

Watching *The Crown* – a series I have been meaning to catch up on for some time. I am fascinated by the insight (albeit partly fictitious) it provides to the royal family, the relationship between monarch and prime minister, and the relationship between the Queen and Prince Philip. It's a rather lavish production and one I recommend. I am also watching the latest series of Sky's *The Blacklist*, which has just returned to screens for season 7; I have followed it from the outset. A master criminal working with a covert government organisation, political and international intrigue. Raymond Reddington, the lead character portrayed by the superb James Spader – it's brilliant!



Reading a lot! Mixture of autobiographies, fiction and World War based docudramas. The autobiography of Eddie Jones, the England rugby coach was very interesting. This was updated following the World Cup Final in Japan 2019. It follows the path of Jones from player to coach and his work in many rugby-playing nations. He has an impressive CV. He is open, honest and self-critical. A must for any rugby



follower, not just an England fan. I am now reading a fiction piece entitled, *A Long Night in Paris* by Dev Alfon. An Israeli national mysteriously disappears from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, another is abducted from his hotel room. A gripping tale of international relations and subterfuge.

Cooking all sorts of dishes, trying to broaden my horizons. Quite pleased with my curries and tagines. Enjoy preparing and cooking when you have enough time to do so.

Missing meals out, going to the gym and, above all else, swimming.

■ M.W.D.



Staff in Lockdown

Having spent a couple of months achieving very little – amazing how having lots of time translates into having very little time at all... I decided to test the waters and find out what staff had made of their lockdown too. I found that many had been very productive – so in between marking and setting work remotely – **these are their stories...**

(Mr Duncan merits his own article!

– see the top of this page)

■ J.L.P.

Mrs Mitchell

I've made 76 washable uniform bags for front line workers (pictured right) as part of a Facebook group. Altogether the group has made thousands of these bags to allow key workers to bring home their dirty uniforms safely. It's been a good way to keep busy as well as feeling useful.



Mr Rudd

So I got (just before lockdown) a puppy called Huey who is a Pembrokeshire Corgi so we have been (failing) trying to train him.

We have been doing a weekly *Zoom* quiz with our friends from University on a Wednesday evening, we take it in turns to make up the questions. I made a custom *Lego* spaceship, a model gundam, and read *21 Draw* – the character design book.

I have listened to the *Monastery Murders* by E. M. Powell and I am now listening to *Dune* and reading *Mort* by Terry Pratchett. I finished reading Harry Leslie Smith's: *Don't let my Past be your Future*.

Some work colleagues and I have played the board game *Arena* on a few occasions. I keep planning to draw but failing. We have watched *The Last Dance* (about Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls) on *Netflix* and I am re-watching *Avatar the Last Airbender*. I also read the classic, *Dark Phoenix Saga* from *X-men Comics*. Oh and we did the live drawing thing on BBC Four and some gardening (fence painting).

Mr Butcher

I have restored my grandfather clock. This was handed down from my great-grandad (maybe even my great-great-grandad) eventually to me. The restoration included nearly 20 hours of chipping away at black paint which covered the clock as a mark of respect when Queen Vic-

toria died. It was then hand sanded, cleaned and oiled. It now stands proudly in my hallway, ready to welcome my family when lockdown is over.

As I haven't been able to play volleyball or go to the gym, I have taken up running. So far, I have run a total of 214km. I have also covered 90km on my bike (in just 2 rides).

I have created a vegetable patch in my garden, currently growing lettuce, onion, spring onion and radish. I have been busy preparing resources ready for the new academic year to support all of our learners in geography.

Mrs Smith

I have done the following: •Made drawstring bags for the NHS staff to take their uniforms home in and distributed to local care. •Taken part in Live-Draw and Paint-Along sessions with Matt Sewell (as suggested by Aine), which was great fun with my girls. •Made a cushion cover. •Started a course on ways of looking at art with the National Gallery of Art, Washington. •Been foraging for wild garlic (and then cooked with it!) — whilst trying to get to grips with home learning for my girls who have been losing interest rather quickly, and balancing work from home!



Ms Pearcey

Amongst other things, I have made an Advent calendar wall hanging (pictured above). There are little pockets to put something in for each day. Getting ready for Christmas!

Lockdown for Me

The Lockdown has been a tough time for all, and has also been a time of great change. Our routines all changed, and most of us started to appreciate school, including the routine, meeting friends face-to-face, and, most importantly, having fun.

The endless days of gaming, *Netflix* and *YouTube* are quite certainly one thing, but there is a need for more. I, for one, have taken up many new hobbies, as I imagine many will have done, such as a surprising penchant for gardening, reading more avidly than ever, and (believe it or not!) spending *much* more time with my family, something I rarely actually did, prior to the Lockdown.

I have played board games with my little sister (letting her win, of course), played cards with my grandmother and father, and helped my mother with the cooking. Not that I didn't do most of these things earlier; it is just that now I have more of a need to do so, and an actual want to do so.

Lockdown has been a tough time, and it is not to say that there have not been negative experiences. We have had to cancel our annual trip to India, stop property dealings and, worst of all, we have not been able to meet our

friends. There is always *Zoom*, or *Google Duo* or *Meet*, or *FaceTime* or even *WhatsApp* video call, but, as I have found, they simply cannot give the same experience as meeting friends and talking face-to-face with them. There is something special about that, that digital communication simply lacks, and I think that is the reason that humans still want to meet friends in person, rather than digitally. Plus, digital communication gives one such a strong urge to either play video games, or watch something, or surf the web. Our concentration goes down, and we lose our interest in the matter at hand. Almost fifty percent of people have admitted to using *YouTube* far more significantly. The population's health has gone down, due to most being in the house all day and feeling snack cravings hit much harder.

The Lockdown has been a refreshing, despite tiring, experience putting our lives into perspective compared to what we are living like now, and will be an experience we remember for the rest of our lives. 2020 will be a year to remember, and I hope that your Lockdown experiences have been as thought provoking as mine.

■ **Sampanna Raut**

My Time in Lockdown

Staying at home with family during Lockdown can be slightly dull and tedious. Lockdown rules do not allow you to invite others to one's house. Everybody became used to this; we said goodbye to guests, parties and sleep-overs for almost four months. However, fortunately, life in Lockdown did not turn out to be quite as terrible as it had seemed to me at first. After all, every cloud does have a silver lining!

Lockdown was a challenge, but I intended to focus on the extra spare time on my hands. I felt that this additional time was a great opportunity for me to get involved in things that I used to overlook or that just passed me by as I walked through life on auto-pilot, everyday a *Groundhog Day*.

During the early part of Lockdown, I often found myself either glued to a computer screen playing video games or reading a book. Doing this over and over again didn't feel quite right. What I really needed was someone I could talk to (other than my immediate family), during this period of "alone time." And so, already a month into Lockdown (how time flies!), I had a solution. It was online socialising.

Video games and reading books, had their perks, but did their satisfaction come close to

the enjoyment of socialising remotely? No, not even close. Phoning relatives, talking to cousins, as well as emailing school friends, old and new, proved to be far more fun. But did that mean I left other things? Not at all. Spending quality time with my parents and younger siblings as well as helping my sister and brother with their homework and playing basketball were just some of the things that I planned to focus on more.

So, how has Lockdown impacted my life, you may ask? Well, it has allowed me to appreciate family life, the things which have been done for me as well as reconnecting with friends.

■ **Mohammad Ayan Butt**

Lockdown: An Interesting Experience

Coronavirus Lockdown was an interesting experience for me. I entered it thinking that it would last a few weeks, and end just in time for my family to celebrate Eid. Unfortunately, it lasted much longer, but I still enjoyed being at home.

My school timetable was much better, and I had no distractions. I played badminton with my siblings, and I recently took up a hobby of yoyoing. I had much more time to spend with my family as well. I do miss the school tennis courts and busy lunch queues, though. I am looking forward to September!

■ **Dawud Ifan**

Lockdown Tasks

During Lockdown, I set myself the task of keeping my brain occupied in an entertaining, yet helpful way. I have always been fond of writing short stories, and as we came to the topic of detective stories in English, I thought of creating some extra-curricular short stories of my own.

The problem I used to find with this hobby was the lack of time to write my stories, between schoolwork and other activities, it was hard to find the time to pursue my writings. Lockdown, however, gave me a lot of spare time, which I utilised for this purpose.

Firstly, I completed the in-school work of creating a detective story. I found myself spending longer than necessary to make it as interesting and enjoyable as possible. This process invigorated my story ideas, and I immediately got down to writing. Many ideas were scrapped, and I found it hard to focus on one particular script. Eventually, I found a way of venting my thoughts towards one particular script – this was the *Young Writers' Competition*, posted on email by Ms Garvey.

The competition set the interesting task of conveying a story in just 100 words. The theme was that of a missing item, and the competition's name was '*SOS: Missing Sagas*'. This competition helped me hone my skills, as it showed how to create a story without excess dialogue or descriptions. After completing the entry, I was ready to start new stories and ideas.

I was in the middle of such works when I received the surprising news that my hundred-word mini-saga will be published in a *Young Writers' book*! This has helped to boost my confidence greatly, and has convinced me to continue my passion. Lockdown proved a great opportunity to start new hobbies, and reignite old ones, assisting me in passing the time while also opening up new paths for the future.

To conclude, let me share my hundred-word story for the *Young Writers' Competition*:

A hole in the window. I leave for seconds and there it is. Part of it missing. Ok, not missing, considering it was there on the floor, but missing from the window, yes – tomato, tomato. The shards seemed like gleaming crystal catacombs that danced in sunlight sharply. But concentrate – why a hole? Huh, the top of it looked awfully like a head – round, squashed. Come to think of it, below there was something like a body – large, and mocking me with superior masculinity. But the hole – oh, I get it now! Someone jumped through! Someone must be in my... Damn.

Thank you for reading this article and I hope it inspires you to take on new hobbies as well.

■ **Sushant Shyam**

The Secret to Learning Effortlessly

Yes, that's right, during Lockdown, I discovered a secret to achieving more with less effort! Not only did I acquire knowledge with ease, but also, I successfully created a YouTube Channel – *Quick History*.

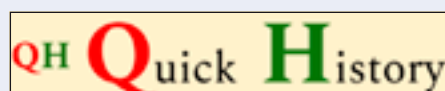
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpiCVY_cx82dXp0cyHEglwg

Incidentally shared by Mr Rudd within Year 8's

Google Classroom – thanks Sir!

This has received positive support and members of the school society broadly welcomed the Concept Capturing Cartoon videos – the video animation illustrations are a testimony to the famous quote 'one picture is worth a thousand words'. In essence, animated videos can convey the equivalent of numerous textbook pages; allowing you to learn with ease, with a bonus of communicating impressions and feelings upon topics.

My channel's brand name is "*Quick History*", where I publish weekly interactive (hopefully simplistic and compelling) videos upon historical themes such as the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution. In addition to acquiring extended concept theory, the channel energised for positive digital collaborations with

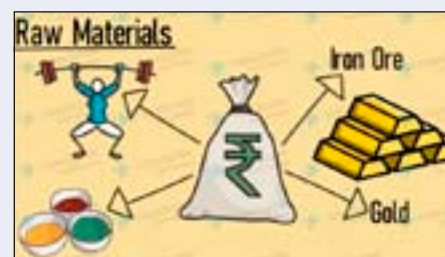


other students within my year, allowing for a socialising experience of knowledge. :) Furthermore, I fascinatingly recognised that producing the videos implemented me to revive twice the amount of information I previously discerned upon the subject!

An analysis reveals teaching through video is the best method to implant learning, essentially since you need to distinguish, recognise and become competent to interpret effects and ideas to others – the manner of articulating notions accomplishes the aforementioned with efficiency! It's an indisputable fortunate certainty that Lockdown authorised for creative, productive and imaginative juices to diffuse throughout the school community between students and teachers alike: I hope you ascertained my (moderately compact) journey of discovering further knowledge through animation somewhat inspirational.

Why not check out my videos to see cartoon illustrations – the secret of learning effortlessly – and produce a video upon something you're passionate about to your friends. Stay safe; stay well!

■ **Shrikannan Selvaganapathy**



Overview of Lockdown

Lockdown — a word that many during these unprecedented times are all too familiar with. It started off personally, as a mere hindrance and possible annoyance however, as time progressed, this period of isolation made me think of everyday life and I soon found myself gradually appreciating everything that we take for granted, whether it be school, the great outdoors or importance of people.

Humans, by nature, are social creature, looking all the way back to our primordial ancestors, being social was a fundamental instinct, an adaptation of evolution. Live together or die alone. And so, when this taken away from us, we become stressed, worried, and self-conscious.

Lockdown has allowed me to expand my horizons, especially when options for hobbies were more restricted than usual. Therefore, much to my own amazement, I decided to start pursuing a field of art; painting, in which I consider myself quite adequate at. In addition to this, I have found myself addicted to an online coding website known as Grok learning and have spent in total, over twenty hours using it.

In addition to this, my family and I have also managed to climb Scafell Pike – the highest mountain in England, and have managed to become, to some degree (I daresay) more



physically active, be it on a treadmill or playing cricket outside.

In conclusion, I have found it to be an eye opening experience, allowing me to truly value the normalness of peaceful times, not only this but it has allowed me to enrich myself in sectors that I otherwise would not usually concern myself with. Therefore, as we continue to fight this war with the virus, my final thoughts is that in the end, when we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we, as a global



community, will be better off than we were before.

■ **Sasan Hapuarachchi**

'Blackhole' Video Project

During lockdown, Kishan Sambhi and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov decided to embark upon a perilous journey from which there would be no return (all the better for escaping the lockdown).

So, in the name of scientific discovery and to advertise Kishan's YouTube Channel, (*Gum Joe*) Deniz was sent into the dark depths of a black hole never to return again.

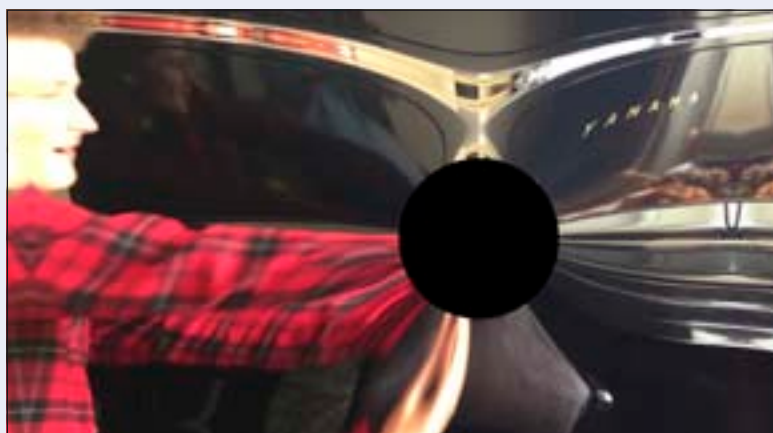
The extremely tight deadline for the task (so its submission in a short video competition would be considered) proved to be the most challenging aspect, but Kishan managed to break his personal record, producing the video in only two hours from Deniz's footage by himself!

Here is a link to the video:

<https://youtu.be/CudfleGXaF8>

Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov is hoping to be rescued from the black hole soon!

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**



Art during Lockdown

Over the course of the quarantine, I have been working on restoring a garden bench. I wanted to create a garden-themed composition by painting garden birds with acrylic paint.

Firstly, I sanded the bench using an orbital sander and a mouse sander, and taped the edges to prevent spreading of unwanted paint. I began the painting with the legs, and then I decided to create a two-tone with a pale green on the seat. I drew the birds with pencil, and later painted them with a set of acrylic paints. I got my mom and her partner to do a bird each, and I painted the rest. Finally, I coated it with sealer to withstand the weather.

■ Archie Holding



Finlay's Lockdown

Finlay has had an eggcellent time!

As well as completing schoolwork and spending hours on the trampoline, my family had a 'Come Dine With Me' Competition which we each hosted, making a three-course meal and providing entertainment. This is a picture from my egg themed night (every course featured eggs and I wrote an egg quiz too).

■ Finlay Guevara



The Super Mega Grand Ultimate Egg Quizzzz!!!!

1. Where were eggs discovered?
2. How many types of egg are there, e.g., fried, scrambled?
3. What is your favourite type of egg?
4. What type of egg was in your starter?
5. What country's eggs are illegal in a British supermarket because they are washed?
6. How many times does a hen turn her egg each day to prevent the yolk from sticking to the side?
7. How many calories is in a single chicken egg?
8. How much does an average chicken egg weigh?
9. How many eggs are consumed by the U.S. annually?
10. What would rate this quiz on a scale of 1-10?

My Activities During Lockdown

Fundraising

I started two fundraisers during Lockdown. The first one was for *Penny Appeal* who were delivering aid to poorer countries as in many of these countries the government aid is not very good and people are starving because they can't afford food. My goal was to raise £300 by doing 1000 skips a day (around 16–17 minutes with no breaks) but I only managed to raise £90 which is still not bad.

The second fundraiser was for the *Human Care Initiative during Ramadan* which also had a goal of £300 to help those in Bangladesh. The theme of this fundraiser was “Poverty Ponders” – as in £1. The idea was that you don't need to donate a large amount to make a big difference, and if as many people as possible only donated £1 it would still help a lot of people. I also did two live shows on *Facebook* to promote this fundraiser with the main aspect being that just £1 can buy a lot of things in poorer countries, like four portions of kichuri in Bangladesh (essentially four medium-sized meals) so families should try to donate at least £1 for each person in the family. This fundraiser was a big success and managed to exceed the goal of £300, raising £340 which went directly to those in poverty so they could break their fast with something substantial in Ramadan.



far has to be the one for “*Youth in Lockdown*”. (I think that this poster looks really modern/futuristic and others have told me it looks very “youth-like,” whatever that is supposed to mean). The event was a special live show hosted by me with one of my friends as the guest. We talked about the Lockdown and stuff we are doing during the Lockdown, like our bike rides together and how I finished reading the *Quran*.



Technological / Media

In addition, I have been the video editor, poster/thumbnaïl maker, lighting setter, researcher, and general “tech person” for the *London Islamic Research Academy* (LIRA).

For the poster making (for *Facebook* live shows) and thumbnaïl making (for *YouTube*) I used *Paint.net* but am now learning how to use *Photoshop*. For video editing I used to use *Openshot* but have now switched to *DaVinci Resolve* and am learning how to do more advanced effects using it.

You can find a lot of my posters on the *London Islamic Research Academy Facebook* page (<https://www.facebook.com/lirauk>) but my favourite one by

Educational

I have been learning Japanese. I stopped learning it because of GCSEs but I have started again and am making good progress, using the *Genki* textbooks, *WaniKani*, *Tofugu* and *Bunpro*. Through my Japanese studies I have also learned about SRS (spaced repetition) which is something I will definitely use during my A-Levels because it works really well.

I am planning on starting to learn Arabic soon. I have also been preparing for A-Level Maths (and Further Maths) and have recently learned about logarithms and exponentials.

■ **Thaqib Fiyad**

Foreign Trips

German Homestay

Last term, a group of eighteen Year 9 students arrived back from their Homestay in Frankfurt. Our school is twinned with Schule am Ried in Frankfurt.

Last school year we had housed their exchange partners for a week. There was some amusement as the day they arrived was supposed to be the day Britain was going to leave the European Union. After a fun week, they returned to Germany. We then waited impatiently until it was our turn to visit our partners.

On the 16th October, we all had an early morning and met at Birmingham Airport. After waiting for late students, we departed for Frankfurt Airport. After a little under two hours on the plane, we touched down in Frankfurt and prepared for a relatively long journey by public transport to the school.

After meeting our exchange partners at the school entrance, we departed for our new homes for the week. On the Thursday, we enjoyed two lessons entirely in German then went in to the main city to do some shopping. After splitting into groups, we were let loose on the main shopping street, with a stern warning not to spend all of our money or to get into vans with strangers. After our shopping spree was concluded, we visited Frankfurt Zoo. The zoo was amazing, with several lions, monkeys and other animals such as rhinoceroses.

We then departed to spend the afternoon with our host families. The next day, we visited Senckenberg Natural History Museum. Our group split into two, then both groups got a guided tour of the museum. Highlights included a replica of Lucy, one of the oldest known humans, and some real dinosaur skeletons. We were taught that actually, a lot of dinosaur 'skeletons' in museums are replicas and not the real deal.

Then, another afternoon with our host families. We did not do any activities at the weekend, instead interacting with our families and getting to know them a little better.

On the Monday, we once again experienced two lessons then departed to visit Palmengarten, Frankfurt's botanical gardens. We yet again split in half, and once again got two guided tours. The first half of the group made their own chocolate cream, whilst the other half learnt more about cocoa, vanilla and the rest of the chocolate-making process.



On Tuesday, it was time to go. After saying our goodbyes, we left for a final lesson and then to the airport. We arrived back on home turf at about lunchtime, then returned home.

■ **Heath Gamblin**

VDI in Frankfurt

The VDI is a scientific event organised every year by the Association of German Engineers (Verein Deutscher Ingenieure). In mid-June, teams of students from Germany and some international teams gather at the Frankfurt University for Applied Sciences and present science-based projects.

Our school prepared biology and physics-based projects. These projects were not only hands-on and practical-based in regards to sciences, but they were also a perfect way to develop presentation skills and use them in a foreign language, in this case, German.

This year, the school's Biology Group (Adrian Ifrim, Yousif Alfahad and Will Mackie) decided to investigate the effect of lemon juice on digestive enzymes. To put it simply, we asked ourselves whether drinking lemon juice before a meal could make you fuller for longer, which would reduce the need for snacking. We decided to look at two enzymes in particular: amylase which digests the starch in your body, and lipase which digests fat. Due to the

nature of the reactions going on, we had to use two different experiments that exposed us to equipment we had never seen before. The outcome of our experiments was just as we had predicted, in that lemon juice does in fact slow down digestion.

Our Physics-Based Team (Ishan Tewari, Humza Rana and Shaan Dhillon) looked into capacitors and their property known as capacitance. There are capacitors all around us, and the conclusions of this investigation could prove beneficial for finding new ways to improve, for example, the lifespan and capacity of batteries that we rely on in everyday life, be it in our phones, our laptops, etc. Their conclusion was that, maximising the surface area of the metal plates of the capacitor or decreasing the distance between the plates, can greatly increase their

capacitance. Their findings also met their initial predictions.

Since December last year, we were constantly working on our experiments, gathering data, interpreting our results, writing our final reports and producing a presentation. All that was left to do was to pack our bags and fly over to Frankfurt for the event. That was, until our



enthusiasm was curbed by the COVID-19 crisis that hit the world. Obviously, the event was cancelled and we were very disappointed.

Fortunately, the German organisers allowed all the teams to send in their projects to be evaluated so that our hard work would not be in vain. At that point, a brilliant idea came to mind: to put together our biology presentation in a TV news show format. Each member of the team recorded themselves in their own homes presenting our results. Using specialised media tools, a professional video took shape and our message finally got across from our school to Germany. The video for our Biology Group can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/MBxDae_rLsY

Finally, in the good Oscar style, we would like to send our thanks to: Mrs Thomson, for organising the teams and the event, Dr Lavery



and Mr Tucker for scientific supervision, proof-reading our reports and presentations, and to Tim Beierlein for assisting us in our German pronunciation and proofreading the German

in our reports and presentations. Without the continuous support of such great and talented staff, the quality of our projects could not have been achieved.

The latest news (8 September 2020)

We are delighted to say that both of our groups won prizes!

Our Biology Group came in second place, and they were awarded a Samsung Galaxy Tablet. Our Physics Group was successful in pocketing the special prize for their experiment! For their prize, they received well-deserved Amazon vouchers.

This is the second year that students from our school have won prizes from this prestigious event. Well, as the old saying goes: *'To the victors belong the spoils!'* Congratulations to everybody!

■ **Adrian Ifrim**

Ski Trip

On the final day of the spring half-term, forty-two students and six teachers, braved the 24 hour journey for an adventure to the Austrian Alps for a fun packed week of skiing and other activities.

During the journey, we filled our stomachs by snacking on brownies and other fatty foods, listening to music and also apparently going to the toilet every '5 minutes' which was a necessity, according to Kirish in Year 13. We had a number of comfort breaks along the way, which included the Year 13s playing rugby on the Eurotunnel, as well as feasting on some Burger King. However, we eventually arrived at Hotel Pezina and 'definitely' passed out as soon as we settled in.

Woken up the next morning by Mr Bruten's iconic statement: 'Morning boys', we ate our breakfast, which varied between cereal, bread and meats and then headed out to the slopes in St Anton for the first time. We met our Slovenian instructors, Marko, Kamel and Hannah and then disembarked into the snowy mountains of Austria. The 'expert' group headed straight up the mountain and later during the week were joined by the intermediates and beginners. After a long hard day of skiing, we returned to our rooms, showered and a quiz awaited us. After dinner, which consisted of soup, for starters, and a chewy pork breast and sauce, the quizmaster Mr Bruten was waiting for us as he tested our general knowledge and sports team skills. Afterwards, we relaxed by playing pool and table football.

Our next days of skiing improved our ability and by the end of the week, it was brilliant to note how much progress we had made. This was extremely obvious in the beginners' group where boys who had never seen skis before were whizzing down the mountain on Blue 31. Despite a few falls (including when I went flying off a button lift hitting the electric cable), all of

us completed the week mostly unscathed. All of our groups have utilised St Antons' brilliant facilities by exploring new slopes every day.

Of course, the skiing was only half the story as we enjoyed activities such as swimming, ice-skating and quizzes. On Tuesday we went ice-skating and some of us showed off our skills by pelting others with snowballs while some novices decided to stick to the edge and allow others to throw snowballs. On Wednesday we went back to the same leisure centre where we went ice-skating but we went swimming instead. We enjoyed the outdoor lazy pool. We also played many games of pool, including one game called killer pool with Mr Burgess.

The next day, another long coach journey was upon us. We packed all our stuff, cleaned out our rooms, and sadly said goodbye to the hotel we had stayed in for the week. At 6.30 pm on Thursday, we got on board the coach and

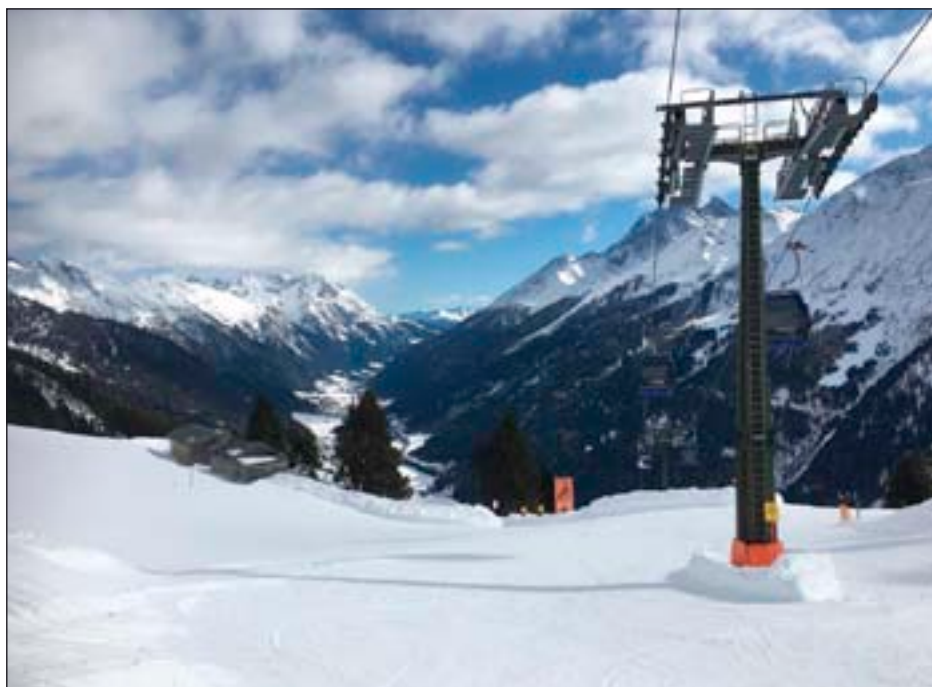
set off for home. In the morning we arrived in France and took a ferry to get back to England. For most of us, the remainder of our money was spent on the arcade, which was probably a bad decision. At 12.45 pm on Friday, we arrived back to school ready to get picked up, with our brilliant trip finally coming to an end.

The skiing trip to St Anton was an amazing experience for both the students and teachers with a load of fun-packed activities and excellent sports. If we could, we would definitely go again. We would like to thank Mr Burgess for organizing the trip, Mrs Bourne, Dr Lavery, Mr Bruten, Mr Nash and Miss Puri for giving up their half-term, the Schwazer family for being a great host family and the coach drivers Paul and Graham.

■ **Musa Ahmed, Jairaj Khokhar and Edward Cheung**

See Ski Trip pictures below and on the next two pages







Music

The Foundation Celebration

Each year, Year 7 boys from all the King Edward VI Schools in Birmingham attend 'The Foundation Celebration', an event explaining the foundation of the schools and celebrating their achievements. At this, the schools take it in turn to present music and readings.

This year it was our turn to present the main music slot. We took the School Choir, which was now large in number, forty-nine boys, and they sung beautifully. We performed an interesting programme, listed below, with two items from the sixteenth century and then one more recent piece, which went down very well.



Pastime with good company

Henry VIII (1491–1547)

If ye love me

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585)

The Lord is my shepherd

Howard Goodall (1958–)

A small string band accompanied the first and last items. The boys in the choir enjoyed singing in the impressive surroundings of the University Great Hall.

■ S.F.P.

Chamber Concert

The Chamber Concert is the first joint concert of the academic year, and this year's concert was packed with interesting musical items. The String Orchestra performed under the baton of Ms Chloe Millar for the first time, and did a great job starting the evening with a *Concerto Grosso* by Vivaldi and then Disney tunes.

There were some excellent smaller ensembles. I particularly enjoyed excellent playing from the Junior String Quartet (Harley Hau, Joel Skaria, Thomas Pitfield and Rhys Jamieson) with *Take on me* by A-ha, and our Senior Guitar Trio (Billy Villabrosa, Udayan Nayyar & Kishan Sambhi) performing *Bad Guy* by Billie Eilish.

I was delighted with two excellent duos, as well: Thomas Li and Connor Huss (bassons) performed a piece called *Cowboys* with great style, and then Billy and Catherine Villabrosa played a most musical version of the piano duet *March Militaire* (op 51) by Schubert.

There were also a number of other excellent ensembles and solos. The Training Wind Band closed the evening with lively and enthusiastic interpretations of the Beatles' Songs *Twist and Shout* and *She loves you*. A most successful event.

■ S.F.P.



Remembrance

In November, we mark Remembrance Day with a special assembly. Firstly, all boys come to assembly in silence. Following a talk by the Headmaster, *The Last Post* is sounded, and then the Head Boy lays a wreath by the boards in the Hall that bear the names of those Camp Hill boys who lost their lives during the war.

This year Ethan Reid was the trumpeter, and he did a fine job. I was delighted that he also volunteered to play this piece at a special ceremony at Moseley Rugby Club (pictured below at this event) on Remembrance Sunday, and played extremely well.

■ S.F.P.



Prize Giving

Prize Giving is an opportunity for some of our most talented musicians present some music, and it provides variety and a break to what can otherwise be a rather formal and stuffy event.

This year we had two groups, both excellent in quality, but contrasting in style. The wind quintet performed lively modern pieces with great dexterity and precise ensemble.



They were Qiyuan Chen (flute), Kevin Mathew (oboe), Matthew Anderson (clarinet), Ben Scott (French Horn) and Connor Huss (bassoon).

The other group was a Jazz Trio of Ethan Reid (trumpet), Judah Daniels (piano) and Wolfie Spyrou-Kirby (kit). They played jazz standards before the event, and then a wonderful version of *Fly me to the Moon* during the Prize Giving, with stylish playing and inventive improvisations.

■ S.F.P.

Charity Concert in Birmingham Town Hall

We were delighted to be invited to sing with *The Midlands Hospital Choir* in their charity concert in Birmingham Town Hall. The charity was particularly appropriate: *Clicsargent – Young Lives vs Cancer*.

I was very proud of the choir who sang their items extremely well. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all. I was happy to receive this note from the *Hospital Choir* accompanist,

Melissa Morris, a professional musician:

"I'm so impressed with the choir, they sound amazing, and the work ethic of such a large group of young men really will have such a positive impact on their lives and their peers. Congratulations on your success!"

■ S.F.P.



Carol Singing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

The School Choir were pleased to support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity again this year by singing carols for an hour in the lobby of the hospital. (pictured below)



As well as entertaining the passing patients and their visitors, we raised over £200. After the event the hospital contacted us, invited back again in 2020, and wrote: *"Thank you so much for coming in to perform last week in the hospital atrium! You raised an amazing amount and spread some lovely Christmas cheer!"*

■ S.F.P.

Christmas Concert

On the last Monday of term, we held our Christmas Concert. As always, it was a packed evening with contributions from our senior and intermediate groups, many excellent ensembles, and both school choirs.

The Wind Band gave a very good account of themselves, performing first *Apache* – a piece first made famous by *The Shadows*, but now known to most because of a famous advert! There followed an exciting arrange-

ment of James Bond tunes, followed by the seasonal *It's beginning to look like Christmas*.

The School Choir's contribution was particularly accomplished this year. They began with the lively *Pastime with good company*, followed by two carols: *Mary had a Baby* and *The Holly and the Ivy*. In the latter carol the flute was played by Connor Huss, and the piano by Godfrey Leung.

I was very happy with our excellent smaller ensembles too: the Senior String Quartet, Wind Quintet and Guitar Ensemble all played with great skill and conviction. I was very pleased

that Sam Gray took a major part in a Sixth Form Choir too. They performed a difficult Christmas carol arrangement with great musicianship.

Concert Orchestra played three pieces at the end of the concert. They were disciplined and brought out the contrasts in Brahms' *Symphony No 4* (Movt. III), then more relaxed in the 'James Bond' tune *For your eyes only*. As is traditional, we finished with *Sleigh Ride*, during which Santa came out and distributed sweets to delighted younger pupils in the audience.

■ S.F.P.





Carols for 'The Hub' at Hazelwell Church

For many years we have supported Hazelwell Church by providing our School Choir to sing at their Carol Service which takes place before their Old Folks Christmas Lunch.

This year, we were planning to do the same, when I noticed a clash of dates. My son, Benjamin, a past pupil at Camp Hill, now studies music at Leeds University, and the graduation for his MA was to be that day. I clearly wanted to attend this important event.

We did not want to let the church down, and so came up with a plan. The School Choir is very good this year, and we have some very able Sixth Form pupils. Thus, we planned for the service to go ahead, with Sam Gray (Year 12) conducting, and Godfrey Leung and Cian O'Dwyer (Year 13) playing the organ. Mr Bruten was kind enough to take the boys to the church and supervise them. An account from Sam follows below:

■ **S.F.P.**

This year, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to conduct the School Choir at the Hub Hazelwell for their Christmas Carol Service. Accompanied by Godfrey Leung on the organ, the choir performed a variety of music, including some traditional carols and some more modern pieces, with Cian O'Dwyer providing excellent organ voluntaries. Both the choir and the congregation thoroughly enjoyed the service, and the choir received a multitude of compliments for their singing and their professionalism. The choir should be proud of how they represented the school and it was a joy to conduct them.

■ **Sam Gray**

Year 7 visit Symphony Hall to hear the CBSO

On Monday 3rd February we took all our Year 7 pupils to hear the CBSO (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra) perform in Symphony Hall. The orchestra put on a concert designed for KS3 pupils, and it is free to pupils from all over the City.

This year the concert was called *KS3: CBSO Dissected* and the programme covered music from 1830 right up to 2012. The boys listened really well and said that they enjoyed the event. I think they particularly enjoyed Berlioz's exciting *Marche au supplice* (March to the Scaffold) which has a 'programme' (story) accompanying it, which tells of a man going to his death, and in the end his head is chopped off by a guillotine and bounces into a basket!

■ **S.F.P.**



The Carol Service

The last Wednesday of term – the day for an important event in the school calendar, the School Carol Service, which is held in All Saint's Parish Church, King's Heath. This year the choir was large, with fifty singers, and particularly good, with many experienced and able singers (*pictured above*).

The service began with a lively version of *Riu, riu, chiu* a 16th century motet, after which Haziq Wani sang the traditional *Once in Royal David's City* most beautifully. There was then a balance of the old and new: John Rutter's attractive *Candlelight Carol* was sung with feeling, then the West Indian piece *Mary had a baby* was performed with enthusiasm and gusto, with solos from Dirugan Senthilvasan, Sam Gray, Thomas Pitfield, Sicheng Li, Harry Lownes and Jonathan Anderson. As we thought of the three kings, the choir performed *Lullay my liking* by Gustav Holst *a capella*, with excellent

solos from Noah Lloyd, Sam Gray, Matthew Anderson and Sushant Shayam.

Following the last reading there was an exciting performance of *The Holly and the Ivy* arranged by June Nixon (with flute solo played by Connor Huss). It was also good to have a pupil playing the organ voluntaries this year: Cian O'Dwyer in Year 13 played a short piece before the service and then the famous *Toccata* by Widor afterwards, at the end of which he received rousing applause from choir and congregation!

We were delighted to have a full church to support this event, and they played their part well, joining in lustily with the singing of the carols. Well done to all choristers for all their hard work towards what proved to be a really musical and atmospheric Carol Service.

■ **S.F.P.**

Funeral for Mike Southworth

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mike Southworth in February. Mike and I worked together for over thirty years at Camp Hill, producing memorable musicals, plays and concerts. He was an inspirational teacher, and always supportive of the music department, and appreciative of the standards that we achieved.

Thus, I was pleased and honoured that his wife, Carol, asked us if the School Choir would sing at his funeral. The funeral was on Monday 2nd March at 1 pm in St Alphege Parish Church, Solihull, and we asked Year 8 pupils and older to attend.

In *The Lord is my Shepherd* by Howard Goodall, Wilf Kane sang a calm and memorable solo treble line, and then the altos, tenors and basses performed the beautiful anthem *If ye love me* by Thomas Tallis in its original low, rich key of C major. A selection of First World War songs from *Oh! What a Lovely War* was most poignant, and a reminder of the many fine shows that Mike had directed at Camp Hill. The service finished with organ music, tunes from *Les Misérables*, another great show that we put on together. It concluded with a rousing version of *Do you hear the people sing?*

■ **S.F.P.**

Concert Orchestra performs in Birmingham Cathedral

Just a few weeks into the term, our Concert Orchestra performed in a prestigious Choral Festival, organised by The Royal School of Church Music, in Birmingham Cathedral. We have taken part in this event for the past five years now, and it gives the pupils the opportunity to play in the wonderful acoustic of our Baroque Cathedral.

The event went particularly well this year. Here is what Mark Lawrence, Director of Music at West House School (and a past parent at Camp Hill) wrote about the event for the Royal School of Church Music in the *Church Music Quarterly*...

“An annual fixture in the Birmingham RSCM scene is the ‘Come and Sing’ Choral Evensong held in Birmingham Cathedral (St Philip’s) on the last Sunday of January when the Cathedral Choir is by tradition singing elsewhere in the diocese. Simon

Palmer directs an amassed choir from RSCM affiliated churches and schools, accompanied by the very proficient Concert Orchestra of the King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools (Girls’ and Boys’) which he directs, with Darren Hogg playing the organ. This has been a popular event for several years.

This January, a fine turnout took up the job of polishing some splendid favourites, which many of the choirs might not be able to resource ‘at home’. Parry’s *I was Glad* was the climax of the service, which also included Stanford in C and Rutter’s *For the Beauty of the Earth*, along with hymns, a responsorial psalm and Ferial responses. As director of an RSCM-affiliated boys’ prep school chamber choir, I was pleased to give my singers the opportunity to sing in an SATB+ choir. Somehow, the *Gloria* of Stanford in C seems to be their favourite bit!

The choice of music when singing with

the orchestra is partly governed by the availability of the parts. Stanford and Rutter have both provided interesting orchestrations, which considerably enhance the music over their standard organ accompaniments; Parry’s coronation opus is an orchestral piece from the outset in any case.

With ninety minutes of intensive rehearsal and a short break for refreshment and robing, the 3.30 pm service soon arrived, and we were supported by a full congregation of families and supporters. The popular vote of the congregation was that it was an inspiring and worthwhile service. Many thanks to Cathedral Precentor, the Revd Canon Dr Josephine Houghton, for leading the service and to Simon Palmer for organising and conducting.”

■ S.F.P.



Instrumental Parents' Evening

Our experienced and dedicated team of seventeen specialist visiting instrumental teachers teach instrumental lessons every week, and many

of them direct an ensemble too. Once a year we organise an Instrumental Parents' Evening when parents have the opportunity to meet their son's instrumental teacher and discuss progress.

This year, the meeting was held in the Girls' School Hall, on Tuesday 10th March. It was a

popular event, and many parents commented how useful it was to meet with the instrumental teachers and discuss their sons' instrumental lessons and how they are getting on.

■ S.F.P.

End of Spring Term

As we all know, the problems with COVID-19 has meant that other planned musical events later in the term have had to be cancelled or postponed.

The Teatime Concert was planned for Tuesday 17th March, and right up to the day before we thought it would go ahead. Then, the night before, Boris Johnson announced that theatres should close immediately, and it was at that point we knew that we could not carry on.

It was sad that the Camp Hill Percussion Ensemble trip could not go ahead. Percussion Ensemble had been invited as guest performers at the finals of the National Concert Band Festival at the Royal Northern College of Music to play alongside the RNCM Percussion Ensemble. They were there to show case percussion, and what can be achieved in a school setting.

As well as these, the following should have taken place...

- ◆ The House Music Competition
- ◆ GCSE Performances

- ◆ Associate Board and Trinity 'grade' examinations
- ◆ Senior Drama (with *'Always look on the bright side of life'* and *'Men in Tights'*)

When we realised that the school was going to have to close, I told all the boys to take their instruments home, and reminded them that they now have lots of time to practise. I hope that this is going well! We all look forward to the time when normal musical activities can resume.

■ **S.F.P.**

MUSIC DURING LOCKDOWN

In a difficult period of enforced isolation, it was really good to see enthusiastic school musicians making excellent use of their time. The musical activities were wide-ranging:

some took instrumental lessons 'online', a few performed with others using electronic links and some published their compositions and performances on *YouTube*. Others composed,

both for their own interest, and to submit to Composition Competitions.

■ **S.F.P.**

Composition Challenge

Some musicians used the spare time of Lockdown to be really creative. For me, Lockdown was a difficult period mostly because I was lacking things to do. Everybody always tells you that the long summer after Year 11 is your chance to go on holiday or to volunteer or to get a job. Personally, I had several music festivals lined up, which were all, unfortunately, cancelled. Instead, I found things to get stuck into around the house. I tried my hand at everything from playwriting to learning a new language, but personally, the most rewarding was song writing.

At the start of the Lockdown I challenged myself and anybody who wanted to take part, to create a piece of art each day, for ten days, based on stimuli. People took part in many ways, from painting, to writing short stories. I completed most of the challenges recording songs. Writing, recording and mixing a song



in one day is quite a complex task, and simply cannot be done without good time management. In the end I wrote seven songs in seven days, filling in the other three days with photographs and poems.

I then took to *YouTube* to share my creations. See my *YouTube* Channel at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv_CKRYQws0IKkV5tLgEUIA

Since the challenge at the beginning of Lockdown, I then continued to write and record songs from my home studio (bedroom with a microphone) and have come out with some songs I am quite proud of. I have continued to upload my music to *YouTube* and *SoundCloud*, as a way of sharing my music with the world. Maybe next year it'll be an album every day!

■ **Charlie Moore**

Composition and Performance during Lockdown

Some boys have a great amount of music in their lives, and one of these is Connor Huss. For him, and others like him, lockdown must have been a challenge. It was great to see them finding new ways to make music. **Connor's story follows...**

■ **S.F.P.**

Lockdown was a very alien situation for those involved in music. We could no longer have face-to-face lessons, and could not meet and play in ensembles. Even so, this wasn't all negative, at least in my experience.

It was obviously a shame not to be able to perform music, but I feel that it provided a chance for us to practice and improve without the immediate pressures of impending performances. I've been able to dedicate far more of my time to improving some basic aspects of my technical facility, giving more time to issues which need it, rather than just the ones which crop up in a particular piece.

Some of us were still able to organise 'ensemble' performances online, by recording different parts to a click track and editing them together. Whilst fundamentally different to playing together with others and simultaneously hearing the result, it was a lot of fun to take part in, and the process as a whole was a good way of keeping in touch with musical friends. I recorded a few bassoon

duets, and also took part in a larger project to record a short piece I composed for bassoon ensemble.

It was also good to have the opportunity to continue composing, but without so much of the other work which would usually get in the way of it. I had a lot of fun writing music for pleasure and dedicating more time and thought to it.

Overall, it's quite hard to say how lockdown compares to music before. There are clear disadvantages to not being able to play together in person or have face-to-face lessons. But I've found that there were also some less expected benefits, helping us to improve more as musicians than we might have done otherwise, and that playing music together online was a great way to bring people

together at a time when it couldn't be more important.

■ **Connor Huss**

Links

► Over Lockdown, Connor also organised a virtual performance by friends of his 'March', the first movement of a *Suite for Bassoons* which he composed. Last summer his teacher, Mr Brookes (with his Bassoon Quartet) performed Connor's piece at the Buxton Festival. See the following link:

<https://youtu.be/bQOjmtV6WY>

► Connor played a bassoon duet with Thomas Li – which can be seen at this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FaaUbS3aDgVh-Mmowcb0MRw-tEYlaJJe/view?usp=drive_web

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FaaUbS3aDgVh-Mmowcb0MRw-tEYlaJJe/view?usp=drive_web

■ **S.F.P.**



Section of the Dectet in D by Connor Huss



Wind Sextet by Connor Huss

Virtual Instrumental Lessons

Most of our Visiting Instrumental Teachers had to take furlough, but we were pleased that some managed to continue to teach 'online'. This worked very well for many pupils. **Stories from two of these pupils appear below.**

Musicians have embraced technology, and we will certainly continue to use many of these new ways of working in the future. We do look forward to September though, when we hope that we will be able to begin the road back to live music once more.

■ **S.F.P.**

A lot of extra-curricular activities this academic year have had to been put on hold because of the current circumstances. For those taking instrumental lessons, however, where there's a will, there's

a way! I decided to have online, one-to-one saxophone lessons with my teacher, Mr Drew.

After overcoming a few technical issues, the content of lessons was just as in-depth and still felt like learning despite the change of environment. (Many thanks to all those involved for still providing our musical education during these strange times, including the instrumental teachers and Mr Palmer.

■ **Adrian Ifrim**

(Adrian Ifrim is pictured below)



As undoubtedly the lockdown was tough for all of us, I consider myself lucky to have had a few opportunities to keep myself sane, whether that was a healthy amount of watching films and TV shows, having regular visits from friends, or keeping up music.

Since March I was fortunate to have both piano and clarinet lessons once a week using Skype or Zoom. Aside from the odd faulty Wi-Fi problem, I found these lessons to be highly beneficial, especially on the clarinet. Due to there being no way in which my teacher could accompany my playing, we spent the whole of the Lockdown going through pieces without accompaniment and doing various exercises that aimed to improve my overall tone. This then meant that in the last few weeks before summer, we were able to play through all the pieces we missed together with an overall better sound.

■ **Matthew Anderson**

Eurobalcom Project European solidarity during COVID-19

Over the Lockdown period I took part in the 'Eurobalcom Project'. This project was started to promote European solidarity through music during the Lockdown and consisted of a number of musicians from across Europe playing 'Te Deum' by Charpentier (perhaps better known as the theme of the Eurovision Song Contest). Their videos were later compiled into one after being sent to the first violin. The video grew in number of players over time and instructions on how to join were advertised on the School Twitter and sent to music students at the school.

■ **Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov**



Watch Deniz and others play at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC5IAHzLGks>

Music Videos on YouTube

Some will already have seen the excellent *YouTube* videos made by Judah Daniels. Links to them were made for the school website and *Twitter*. Judah is an excellent musician and jazz improviser, and will be studying computing at University. I asked him to write about how he made his videos.

His story follows.

■ **S.F.P.**

At the beginning of Lockdown, I decided to try to make use of all the free time and started a musical *YouTube* channel. I began with an improvised arrangement of 'My favourite Things'. It had an overwhelmingly positive response which has really encouraged me to keep exploring possibilities for both the audio and video production. It was quite warming to wake up one day to a number of emails from teachers expressing

how they've enjoyed my production.

I wanted to include more instruments in my videos, so Mr Palmer very kindly agreed to allow me to borrow the school's double bass and bass clarinet over the Lockdown period.

Using some old excess wallpaper and old green wall paint I found lying around, I managed to put together a DIY 'green screen' on my bedroom wall. I also got in touch with a few friends to do some collaborations, including Rachel Howles for some vocals. Using the green screen has been a source of endless fun – one of my most ambitious projects was Herbie Hancock's 'Chameleon' with 8 Judah's on screen as an entire band!

Although it's been lots of fun making music from my bedroom, I'm looking forward to the day where live music can be played once again.

■ **Judah Daniels**



Links

Have a look at these links to Judah's work:

- ▶ *My favourite things*
<https://youtu.be/-O0BPlsWVRg>
- ▶ *Chameleon*
<https://youtu.be/4HHiPOW2bCg>



National Youth Choir

So many of us had important events cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus. **Sam Gray was one of these and his story follows:**

■ **S.F.P.**

In November 2019, I was lucky enough to audition and be offered a place in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, and was then invited to attend a week-long residential, working on choral skills and musicianship with other singers from around the country.

Naturally, this has since been cancelled, but a global pandemic wasn't going to stop us from doing what we signed up for. I have since taken part in a virtual recording of the Welsh composer Sir Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man', a piece of music designed to promote hope and peace, rather fitting given the circumstances we find ourselves in.

I had great fun taking part in virtual rehearsals, tutorials and recordings with hundreds of other singers, although it did require a feat of construction to build a stand to record myself singing from out of some tins, books



and a chair, with my laptop on an upturned bin below it so I could follow the music at the same time, but I can't wait to see the finished product in August.

I am also planning to take part in an online course during the holidays, and although it won't be the same as being there in person, I will enjoy meeting and singing with other young people, especially after having only seen



the same four faces for almost three months. It just goes to show that even when the world is turned upside down, people will always find a way to come together and make music, and long may that continue.

■ **Sam Gray**

Picture (centre): Sam Gray recording his Grade 8 Singing Exam

Picture (right): Sam Gray's homemade recording stand

Music at home

I was talking to Cian O'Dwyer, another of our talented Year 13 musicians, and asking about his musical activities over Lockdown. Cian will be studying music at University next year. An able violinist and organist, he played the organ voluntaries for our Carol Service last Christmas. Being an organist myself, I was lamenting the fact that churches have been closed over this period, so that I have not been able to practise. Cian reminded me that he was fine – and doing a lot of practise – as he has his own three-manual organ with full pedalboard in the front room of his house! *[pictured right]*

His comments follow.

Please note his reference to Louis Vierne.

For those who are unsure – he was a

French organist and composer.

■ **S.F.P.**

I was lucky enough to have a practise instrument at home and that helped me a lot through Lockdown, though I doubt the neighbours were saying that after hearing Louis Vierne blasting out of the window all day!

■ **Cian O'Dwyer**



Music Exams

Just as the country entered 'lockdown', many boys and girls were getting ready to take their 'grade' music examination in school. These are organised by The Associated Board, and Trinity College London. In time, the Boards developed new versions of their examinations which would not involve face-to-face contact.

Trinity came up with a new examina-

tions where pupils were to be recorded on video. All three pieces were to be performed, with accompaniment or without it. A number of pupils were pleased that on this occasion, because of the strange circumstances, there were to be no scales or sight-reading. A real benefit for some pupils – so some were delighted with this system!

The Associated Board had a different system, which involved only an audio recording, and the 'tests' were to be assessed by teachers.

Many of our pupils decided to go ahead with their examinations with one of these systems. Some came into school and performed with an accompanist, recorded in the Music Room.

It was not until October that we received most of the results. It had been worth waiting though: we were delighted that most boys had done extremely well. **The results for the past academic year are shown below.**

■ **S.F.P.**

KEY TO RESULTS LISTINGS

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

Boys' names are listed alphabetically for each grade

GRADE 1

Christy Baiju, 9J – Guitar, 1 (M)
Daniel Oluyeye, 9M – Saxophone, 1
Finn Sambridge-Davies, 8J – Trombone, 1 (D)

GRADE 2

Idries Bharmal, 11J – Guitar, 2
Vidjut Tutika, 8J – Guitar, 2 (M)

GRADE 3

Michael Carson, 9S – Orchestral Percussion, 3 (D)
Leo Chen, 9K – Orchestral Percussion, 3 (M)
Clement Franklin, 9K – Trumpet, 3
Kenny Lau, 9J – Violin, 3 (M)
William Lin, 8M – Violin, 3 (M)
Benjamin Little, 9J – Orchestral Percussion, 3 (M)
Harrish Satkunarajah, L4 – Guitar, 3

GRADE 4

Rohan Desai, 10K – Drum Kit, 4
Rajan Gill, L7 – Guitar, 4 (M)
Sam Nouhov, 10J – Jazz Saxophone, 4 (M)
Thomas Pitfield, 9K – Viola, 4
Vansh Pradhan, 10S – Guitar, 4 (D)
Sampanna Raut, 9M – Drum Kit, 4

GRADE 5

Siddharth Bagchi, U8 – Guitar, 5
Chaithanya Gowda, U8 – Alto Saxophone, 5
Harley Hau, 10S – Violin, 5
Wilf Kane, 9M – Guitar, 5 (M)
Jack Mistry, 9K – Trumpet, 5 (D)
Viswamedha Nalabotu, L1 – Guitar, 5
Kishan Sambhi, L1 – Guitar, 5 (M)

GRADE 6

Cyrus Maleki-Toosserkani, 10J – Guitar, 6
Darius Maleki-Toosserkani, 10M – Guitar, 6
Se Mouthaan Ward, 11S – Drum Kit, 6
Adam Rarko, L1 – Viola, 6 (M)
Krishnan Sen, U6 – Clarinet, 6 (D)
Shangqing Yang, U7 – Tuned Percussion, 6 (D)

GRADE 7

Keshav Najran, 11S – Guitar, 7

GRADE 8

Joseph Clark, U6 – Jazz Saxophone, 8 (M)
Sam Gray, U5 – Piano, 8 (D)
Sam Gray, U5 – Singing, 8 (D)
Saksham Shah, U1 – Rock and Pop Drums, 8 (M)

DIPLOMA

Qiyuan Chen, U5 – Flute, Diploma (M)

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

After a mixed season the year before, the squad looked forward to this one feeling stronger than ever before. The Year 12s and 13s had already formed strong bonds on and off the pitch and these were further bolstered by the enthusiastic and talented Year 11s who had moved up, a few of whom went on to become 1st XV regulars.

Despite this new found confidence within the squad, the season got off to a pretty rough start against a Bablake team, who already had a few matches under their belt. Their superior fitness and game awareness proved too strong in the end with Bablake coming out as 41-19 victors despite there being plenty of encouraging play from Camp Hill throughout. There looked to be a resurgence at the end with Ryan McNamee putting in an impressive display at full-back before sadly being taken off with a head injury and Camp Hill being reduced to 14 men. *Mr Reliable* Seth Dockery scored his first ever 1st XV try and Michael James-Thomas grabbed a brace but powerhouse number 8 Jason Sula took Man of the Match for his relentless 70 minute performance.

The next two fixtures were in round one and two of the vase, each of them having very different outcomes. The 26-14 win against Princethorpe was a masterclass by flanker Ross Evans as he grabbed three tries and the Man of the Match Award. However, a special mention must go to hooker Alex Simpson for his uncharacteristic try in which he ran half the length of the pitch untouched. The highs of that win were sadly forgotten a week later as the team put in a disappointing performance against KE Stratford, losing 35-7. What hurt the most about this loss is the fact that the game felt winnable at multiple points, but Camp Hill proved to be their own worst enemy, gifting Stratford easy tries as a result of poor mistakes.

The next two matches were exactly what the team needed after this disappointing loss with emphatic wins against Prince Henry's and more notably KE Aston; 46-17 and 34-5 respectively. Braces from Ollie Ebenezer, Jason Sula and Emery Uzoma helped blow Prince Henry's away whilst half-season wonder Fintan Hogan also chipped in with his first try of the season. However I think the whole squad would agree that the victory against Aston was a sweeter one. The opposition tried their best to reduce the game to niggly, off-the-ball scraps but the team managed to keep their cool, stick to the game plan and put out arguably one of their finest of the season. New outside centre Sam Satodia seemed to be settling in nicely into his first year of senior rugby, grabbing himself a try but the afternoon belonged to full-back Luke Hemmings who put in a stellar performance,

scoring and earning himself Man of the Match.

After a couple of weeks training in which the coaches hoped to fine tune some of the negative aspects of the performance against Aston, the team were eager to follow it up with an equally convincing win against KES. Camp Hill were quick off the blocks, scoring two quick tries through paceman Bradley Williams and Ross Evans and the team looked to be following in the same vein as a few weeks earlier. However KES have never been the kind of team to go down without a fight and they matched Camp Hill's efforts with two quick tries of their own. Ross also received a sin bin shortly after, but Man of the Match Josh Birch seemed to settle things down with his second try of the season. The final minutes brought another sin bin and this proved to be too much pressure for Camp Hill in the end. KES scored a try in the final play to end the game 19-19, breaking players and spectators' hearts alike. If offered a draw before the game, many players might have taken it but after such a spirited performance this result was tough to take and left everyone going home dejected.

Luckily, we managed to put this result behind us and went on to convincingly win the next three games against KE Lichfield, Haberdashers and Queen Mary's. Though not the toughest opponents, Camp Hill still showed heart in overcoming them and were not complacent in any of the matches. Joe Clark played exceptionally well in all three and bagged himself two Man of the Match Awards and George Lanham stood up to the test of first XV rugby, scoring a try on debut.

These performances seemed to be the end of any positives for a while, with Camp Hill registering a 13-10 loss against Adams and more disappointingly a 26-5 loss against KE Stratford. Though an improvement scoreboardwise, the team departed Stratford yet again feeling as though they could've performed much better. To add insult to injury, back rowers Jason Sula, Henry Moreau-Smith and Joe Clark suffered concussion, a broken nose and a dislocated knee respectively, sadly ending their seasons early. These injuries were testament to their commitment throughout the season right up until the final whistle, even in games where victory was off the table. Things didn't get much better with a crushing 41-0 defeat to Bishop Vesey a week later. The old Camp Hill adage 'the scoreline did not reflect the effort of the boys' had never been more fitting with the team hit hard by injury. Nikhil Gupta and Jonathan Anderson stepped up to the plate in the absence of key players however, putting in valiant performances to prevent the scoreboard being any nastier.

The final loss in this recent run was against Five Ways which would normally be a demoralising affair for every Camp Hill boy involved. Regardless of the result I believe everyone came off that pitch proud that they had stood

up to the well drilled, full strength and injury-free team that they faced. Despite the odds being stacked against Camp Hill, there were big hits and sumptuous skills in abundance right up until full time. A special mention must go to scrum half Will Taylor who had a fantastic debut season in the absence of Tommy Ransbotyn up until this match, in which he unfortunately broke his collarbone; the only positive being Joe Day scoring the play after Will had been carried off to exact revenge. The match ended 38-22 but to Camp Hill this felt almost as good as any win during the season given the nature of the match.

The season came to a fitting end with a sub-

lime 29-5 win against Camp Hill RFC. It seems as though the team had saved their best play for the final opponent and each try brought elation to every player, coach and spectator who watched on. Stalwart props Matt Dixon and Pierre Lee's work often goes unnoticed but they both put in mammoth performances that were simply impossible to ignore. The year 13s were understandably emotional at the end of the game, with heartfelt speeches from the likes of Ayyub Ali bringing a tear to everyone's eye but this felt like the perfect game to end on. There was also a 7s tournament at Stratford but the less said about that the better.

Unfortunately the tour was cancelled due

to obvious reasons but special thanks must go to Mr Burgess and Mrs Crutchley for their work to organise it in the first place and at least we got merch out of it eh? Thanks also go to Mr Taylor and Mr Caves for their invaluable coaching and support throughout the season. I personally would like to thank every single member of the squad for making my last year of rugby at Camp Hill as captain an absolute pleasure and I feel honoured to have played alongside all of you. I will look back on this season with the fondest memories of any and will definitely be returning to watch the first XV next year whenever possible.

■ **Ollie Ebenezer**

2nd XV Rugby

I think it's safe to say the 2nd 15's season was not wholly successful. Passing over the exact details of our results this season, the 2nd 15 played 5 and lost all games with the U16 team playing 3 and losing all of those games as well.

Rather than dwelling on the results of the season, I'd instead like to talk about some positives coming out of this season. Given that the results do not give us much, this season stands as a time for some much needed development for some of those players on the fringes of the 1st team.

A number of players who started in the 2nd team were soon beginning to get appearances here and there in the 1st team, most notably Sam Satodia who soon nailed down his start-

ing place in the 1st 15. It was these kinds of opportunities that made the games we played worthwhile. The games allowed players such as Joe Day, Kareem Mehanna and myself the chance to hone our skills and impress the coaches enough to gain appearances in the 1st team across the season.

The season also posed a chance for those in Year 11 to gain experience playing against older boys ready for next season, when I expect many players to be making the jump to the 1st team. Many players such as George Latham, Lorcan Halstead and Simeon Humphries should be going into next season expecting a good few appearances in the 1st team. As well as this, those players who were in and out of the 1st team should be hopeful they can

cement a place in the 1st team thanks to the experience gained in the 2nd team this year.

The Under 16 team did achieve a win however at the post-season Sevens Tournament where we played 3 games, winning 1 and losing 2, although that win did come, quite satisfyingly against KES where a highly skilled Camp Hill team beat rivals KES very convincingly.

Finally a few words of thanks, firstly to all the coaches Mr Taylor, Mr Burgess and Mr Caves for the coaching in both training and during matches and secondly thanks to the team who put in some quality performances across the season despite the results and who also put up with my frustration during games.

■ **Sam Morris**



U18 Rugby Team

U15 Rugby

This 2019–20 season would be the last season we would play together, making this a very bitter-sweet season for our squad as many of us had been in the squad since Year 7, however seeing the squad grow and play stronger through the year is something special.

We started the season with an intense game against Bablake with us winning 22-20, in a hard game fought. However, the next game against Old Swinford was our first loss of the season, giving the team a wake-up call, and this call was received loud and clear as the next game, we won our first cup game against Kings Norton Boys' 32-0, due to the relentless work rate of the team. Unfortunately, we lost

the next two games to Camp Hill RFC and our next Cup game against Aston.

Our spirits would have been lower and more games lost if Raj Gahir had not given a rallying speech and this arguably led to us winning the next two games against Fairfax and Queen Mary's.

After this we fell into a losing streak where the score line did not reflect the effort of the boys. However, a month's break from playing games had renewed our confidence, which was well placed, as while on tour, despite horrible weather, we secured a hard fought win against Cockermouth, where people falling face first onto the muddy floor was commonplace.

The next match on tour was a well-fought battle between us and Austin Friars with a

momentary lapse at the penultimate play resulting in Austin Friars sneaking in one more try to win the game 22-29. Our final game as the Under 15 team was against Wigton, which unfortunately ended in a competitive loss, however the passion and grit shown in this game was truly amazing.

This season was a truly special season with special mentions to Shabir Ahmed for most tries scored in the season and Raj Gahir for never missing a tackle saving the game countless times. A huge thank you to both our coaches: Mr Burgess and Mr Taylor, who tireless dedication to us regardless of weather, shaped us into far better players throughout the season, their advice always coming in clutch, making us only appreciate them more.

■ **Hasan Syed**

U14 Rugby

Determination. A word that with no context has little meaning, but when you step back and view the bigger picture, you can see the hard work and dedication that is put into something. If I had one word to describe the U14 Rugby team, I would describe them as determined; from the weekly attendance at Thursdays after-school training sessions, thanks to the wonderful sacrifice of Mr Taylor's evenings, to the ability to get back up from a tough match. What drove this determination was our mutual love for the sport, our support of each other as a team and for the skills created from it. Building on current skills such as handling and game awareness, and also newer ones such as conversions and line outs allowed us to raise our abilities across

the board.

The combination of these skills allowed us to create some truly impressive plays, however, I would be ignoring the unfortunately large elephant in the room if I were to not mention some of our heartbreaking defeats; namely from King Edward's Five Ways and Queen Mary's. Despite this we still lifted our spirits and looked to the next match as an opportunity as opposed to a hurdle, and I would be ignoring an arguably larger hypothetical animal if I didn't point out the hard work from everyone in our team and in particular Ismail Rahman and his wonderful work rate, Thomas Isaac and his speed to breakdowns, Philip Krone and his magical kicking foot, Yijun Chen and his almost scary amount of tackling, Thomas Dainty and his amazing support, Chude Ndozi with his

lightning fast pace and of course Mrs Jermine's unwavering belief in the team.

This hard work carried over to our Rugby Tour on the 5th March, which luckily still took place ahead of the near six-month lockdown. After a loss and a laugh against Cockermouth school, a clearly stronger opposition, we rose from the ashes and managed to bring out our first, and last, win of the season in our penultimate game against William Howard School. After packing our bags the night before, we travelled home via our final match at Wigton RFC. Despite our sleep deprivation and early morning, we still managed to put up a strong fight and unfortunately only just lost. I speak for the whole team when I say a good time was had by all.

We may not have *gotten lucky* with the



U16 Rugby Team

opposition and the weather in many of our matches, and the keen readers might have spotted my omission of match scores, due to

my belief of its unimportance, but the determination shown by the squad more than makes up for it, and I look forward to another year of

rugby with our team, even if COVID-19 prevents some, or even all of our games. Well done lads.

■ **Matthew Holland**

U13 Rugby

The U13 rugby season has been a roller-coaster with a good mix of wins, draws and losses. With 4 wins, 5 losses and 3 draws, the U13 have managed to keep positive, despite some heavy losses against tough opponents. Our team improved since last year, with some team adjustments and different tactics with a range of coaches.

The season began with a home game against Bablake to welcome us all back to the rugby season, and despite our efforts all throughout the match, Bablake proved to be the stronger side. Although this was a rough start, the team kept their heads up. The score of 10-30 did not reflect the effort and resilience of the U13s all throughout the match with Karl Rodrigo boosting confidence with his two tries in the first half. The second half of the match was not nearly as strong from Camp Hill and saw us conceding more tries than we would have wished for and though Bablake was the winning side, this match was a lesson for the whole squad, showing what we would need to improve throughout the season. This was to maintain effort and work-rate all throughout the match.

Subsequent matches against Old Swinford and KES were very close and a boost of confidence for our team, with the away OSH game drawing 45-45 and narrowly losing a home game to KES with 20-25. Although we lost to KES, it was a good showing by Camp Hill. Unfortunately, the errors that we made were capitalised on by the opposition, which gave them the small advantage allowing them to win the game. After these two close matches, we felt confident against Camp Hill RFC. Our confidence was shown in the match and we won by a great margin. Finally, the efforts of the U13 paid off and we won the game 30-5.

After a break from rugby, we knew that our next match against Southam was going to be a difficult match. Although losing by a significant margin 5-35, it did not show the teams perseverance throughout the match and the U13 deserved a better score. There were many try opportunities for both teams, but Southam managed to secure the most tries and their defence proved impossible to beat on the day. In the end, Karl Rodrigo was the only try

scorer. In the following two weeks, our team trained hard for the next two matches against Lichfield and Kings Norton. Heading into the away match against Lichfield, we were feeling confident having beaten them last year and we dominated the match throughout. There were 5 try scorers, with a score of 40-5. Like Lichfield, Kings Norton was a match in which our team played with confidence. We knew Kings Norton would put up a fight but we were prepared. After a close battle, we proved stronger in the second half and won the match with a comfortable margin. The final score was 35-20.

Five Ways was a match in which both teams battled hard. Despite Camp Hill's ongoing efforts, Five Ways proved the stronger side. Despite tries from Karl Rodrigo, Christy Baiju and Jai Varaich, there was no way through Five Ways' defence. The end score was 25-45, but again this did not reflect the hard work put in by the Camp Hill side. Coming from a heavy loss, the team was looking for redemption. With two hard opponents, Fairfax and Adams, we knew that it would be tough. Although we all agreed Camp Hill put up a great fight in both matches, we could not secure the win leading to both matches ending in a 20-20 draw.

The penultimate match before the Greater Birmingham Tournament was one to remember. Although losing by a significant margin, the U13 were relentless in their efforts to break Bishop Vesey's defence. This was a challenge as Vesey's experienced players were strong in defence. After a great effort all throughout the match by both teams, Vesey came out on top and won 0-30. Fly-half Ayan Butt should be commended for his work rate and resilience throughout the match. Our final match for this season was against CHRFC. Camp Hill was dominant in all aspects of the game. With 7 try scorers, this game showed the teamwork and strength of the U13. With two early tries down the wing from Captain Matthew Ransbotyn and an impressive run from Rahul Chauhan, Camp Hill were off to a rolling start. More tries from Karl Rodrigo and Christy Baiju put us in a comfortable lead. CHRFC put in a good effort but it was not enough. Camp Hill won by a comfortable margin of 50-15.

The time that we had all been waiting for was finally here, The Greater Birmingham Tour-

namment. As it had already been postponed, our team was eager to go. Matches against Sheldon and Kings Norton were easy wins for the team and we were beginning to get into our stride. Our next match against Bishop Vesey's was going to be a challenge. We knew that the matches were short and a try for either side could be the difference between winning and losing. Both conceded and scored tries but Bishop Vesey's came out on top once again. Five Ways was a disappointing match with the U13 not showing their brightest colours. Five Ways dominated all throughout the game. Camp Hill did not put in the efforts needed to beat the well-organised and strong side and Five Ways won with a comfortable lead. KES and Fairfax were close matches with Camp Hill losing to Fairfax by one try in the latter half of the match. Camp Hill put a good effort in against KES but towards the latter part of the match, Camp Hill's defence was beginning to fall apart. KES saw this as an opportunity and scored. The U13 got 5th place with 2 wins and 4 losses. Although the team enjoyed every moment of the day, this was not the way we wanted to end the season; however, all players should be proud of their work ethic and resilience throughout the season.

Players that should be commended for their hard work are Captain Matthew Ransbotyn and Ayan Butt at scrum-half and fly-half. Their organisation on and off the pitch showed and their work rate was key in many matches. Tackles needed to be made and Mathiwos Mishghina was the one for the job. A strong running centre and a good tackler made it hard for the opposition to score against us. Karl Rodrigo was incredible in many matches with an impressive 23 tries. Forwards such as Malachi Powell, Christy Baiju and Jai Varaich showed strength in the scrums and running.

Christy received the Forwards Player of the Season Award, Ayaan the Backs Winner and Edward Cheung the Most Improved Player. Karl was leading try scorer (24) for the second successive year.

A massive thank you has to be given to Mr Jones and Mr Duncan, who coached us throughout the season and always turned up on Saturday matches.

■ **Matthew Ransbotyn**

U12 Rugby

The rugby season for the Year sevens was an eventful one this year. For many of our boys it was like playing a completely new sport. At the start of season the gap in skill between the player who had played before and those who were playing

for the first time was significant, but towards the end of the season the skill gap wasn't as evident as many of the boys had drastically improved over that period of time.

For some people who had already played rugby at a club before this was a completely different experience because they were used

to playing with a certain group of people, but they adapted and they learnt a lot from this experience.

The after-school training sessions were very enjoyable, but also kept our fitness up as a squad. In these sessions we went into depth on how to tackle, ruck and how to keep our

formation which really helped us in matches.

The matches were very enjoyable as well and a brilliant opportunity to put the techniques we had learnt in training sessions into

use. The most enjoyable part of matches was the competitiveness between both schools and this made the game really interesting for the players, coaches and spectators.

I am really looking forward to rugby next year because of the opportunity to play as a team again after a long time.

■ **Kaaraj Chandock**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

The 2019–20 season was a mix of results for the 1st XI. Having lost a number of key players the year before, it was always going to be a tough season but the boys were up for it.

The season kicked off with a decent start drawing 1-1 against a capable Bishop Vesey's side. There was plenty of decent play in the midfield but clearly both teams were rusty as the finishing really was poor. Quite a few games saw us up against much stronger opposition. The defensive line of Ibi Ahmad, Sam Gray, Maninder Kallay and Vignesh Venkataramaiah were under constant pressure desperately trying to get the ball out to the midfield and up to the attack. Tom Heppel made many

fine saves to keep the score lines respectable.

As the team headed into the mid-season, they started to gel into a hardworking group and began producing some well worked moves. The mid-field of Humraj Bansal, Sukhraj Virdee, Prit Dey, Harjeevan Panesar, Seth Turner and captain, Luqmaan Rashid, worked tirelessly to provide the forward line of Ben Brown and Sam Pearce with plenty of chances. Both managed to net several times over the course of the season.

The most entertaining match ended up being played on half a pitch against Bishop Vesey's, after line marking painting meant the Ds were out of use. It was decided that instead of short corners, a penalty flick was going to

be given. Bishop Vesey's ended up with five attempts by the end of the game. Luckily for us, we had our 'stand-in' keeper, Abnash Sian between the posts. Only one flick made the back of the net. Against a good opposition, on half a pitch, we managed to draw an entertaining game with 2 goals a piece.

It was a real shame the season ended prematurely. The highest quality hockey was not able to be showcased in the House Tournament either. I would like to thank the Year 13s leaving us this year. The efforts of Luqmaan, Harjeevan, Vignesh, Prit, Yusuf Ahmad and Abu Faiyaz over the past five years have made a huge difference to Camp Hill's hockey.

■ **T.J.W.**

2nd XI Hockey

The 2019–20 season for the 2nd XI hockey team comprised many defeats. Notably, a 5-2 defeat against the run of play at Solihull School, resulting from lacklustre defending in the second half, dampened Camp Hill spirits early on in the campaign. Subsequent 6-1 and 7-0 thrashings against our King Edward's Consortium rivals, KES and Five Ways, added salt to an already gaping wound and seemed like nightmarish moments of déjà vu for the Year 12s and 13s who played in the 2nd team a year prior.

Nevertheless, these early upsets spurred the team's resolve to improve and hours on Monday after school at the University of Birmingham, and during Wednesday training sessions interspersed with our regular fixtures, were consequently taken with utmost seriousness. Under the close supervision of our expert coach, Mr Duncan, we practised with an eclectic range of shooting and dribbling drills, and honed our one-touch, 'tiki-taka' play using the school's state-of-the-art facilities (our asphalt tennis courts and green dustbin goalposts of course!). Our sustained efforts in and outside of these training sessions deservingly led to our most spectacular display of hockey at the end of the season, coming in our lucky thirteenth and final fixture.

Having narrowly lost 2-1 to Bablake earlier in the season (Humza Irfan scoring our goal), we knew the stakes for redemption were high in our second encounter. It undoubtedly showed as Camp Hill kicked-off and immediately looked apprehensive on the ball, spelling misplaced passes from defence and mid-field

to opposition players (perhaps due to the absence of our star wide-receivers Andrew Lim and Haseeb Arif). Nonetheless, Camp Hill kept plugging away and eventually, intricate play between Harjeevan Panesar and Devesh Aggarwal led to an inch-perfect through pass to Ben Brown, who confidently lifted the ball over the opposition goalkeeper sliding across the astroturf.

However, yet again, in typical 2nd XI fashion, our excellency in attack proved to be incredibly short-lived as a defence-splitting pass saw Bablake capitalise on their only opportunity of the game, drawing the score level to 1-1. However, to Bablake's detriment, Zain Rizvi was hungry for goals. He immediately substituted himself on for Harjeevan Panesar in the left mid-field position and instantly made an impact, slaloming past the helpless opposition right back. He cut inside and stared devilishly into the whites of the goalkeeper's eyes, hacking his stick at the ball (the ground several times, and maybe even a few opposition defenders as well). Miraculously, the ball crept over the goal line and an eruption of cheer followed suit from the Camp Hill dugout as Zain scored his first goal of the season (and maybe his life). An emotional Zain could not control his excitement during his celebrating but a slightly annoyed Mr Watkins quickly silenced him.

The whistle blew for half-time and the aforementioned apprehension at the start of the game was swept away. Camp Hill were in the driving seat. The whistle blew for the second half and like a machine well oiled and finely tuned, we effortlessly distributed the ball in and across the opposition dee, eventually

leading to a composed, swept finish into the bottom right-hand corner from our talisman, Ben Brown. The match's highlight reel soon ended, but our euphoria certainly did not as Mr Watkins blew his whistle for the final time. Our first victory of the season!

I feel immensely proud seeing a group of players, some of whom in September did not even know how to hold a stick, develop as individuals to become incredibly valuable assets to the team. Once again, the scoreline of the fixtures never truly reflected our efforts and I hope the boys continue to play hockey during their time in sixth form and keep improving.

Commendations should go to James Thomas, whose captaincy and unwavering enthusiasm for the sport built up the camaraderie of the boys; ensuring morale never dropped, especially in times of defeat. Special mentions must also go to our highest scorers Humza Irfan and Ben Brown (each with three goals), Abnash Sian for his scintillating performances in goal (when he was playing), Marzan Ahmed for being a brilliant replacement goalkeeper and saving us from even heavier defeats, and Tom King, Swayam Gupta, Connor Huss, Hemel Aggarwal and William Yang for their strong performances throughout the season and influence on the team's defensive dynamic. Plaudits to all other players who played. Huge thanks as well to Mr Duncan who accompanied us to fixtures at Olton and away by minibus, and kept believing in us (even if we at times did not).

■ **James Thomas**

U15 Hockey

The Under 15 hockey players were a pleasant surprise this year, playing well as a team whilst at the same time given the individuals a chance to shine. They were certainly a team that could create chances, and score as well. By the end of the season, having only played 10 games, they had a goal difference of +22!

Big wins against Queen Mary's and Old Swinford of 11-0 and 7-0 showed just how well

they could play as a team. Hard fought battles against Five Ways and Aston also showed a huge amount of grit and determination.

Jack Herbert and Aryan Singh stood out as club players, with Ajay Shingadia and Milan Dawson also being influential with their sheer energy and excellent reading of the game. Several players made great progress across the season, including Aarav Duggal in goal, Ajay Dhaliwal, Yuvanash Nirantharakumar, Mohammad Roheel and Aadi Sreekanth, developing their understanding and their

skills during each game.

For the Under 15s the season concluded with a successful tour. Three wins out of three, and a very happy Mr Hardy, meant that the team finished on a high. It was a shame they didn't get chance to play the House Hockey.

With these boys coming through into the Senior Hockey next year the future is looking bright. Let's just hope we can get back onto the pitch and play some hockey soon!

■ T.J.W.

U14 Hockey

Despite starting and ending with losses, the U14 hockey team have had a brilliant debut season. We started out on 15 October 2019 as 14 players of mixed experience waiting to play for the first time on astroturf, and 20 weeks, 6 matches and 8 goals later, we had proven ourselves against

a range of schools, from OSH to Five Ways (some more than others).

We've survived all 6 matches without injury; a match without a goalkeeper (even though the kitbag had been checked twice), which we also won; some really good play from other schools; Mr O' Malley's questionable choice of music and, most inexplicably,

Mr Taylor's driving – we we're as strong and experienced as ever.

We would like to thank Mr Burgess for coaching us and Mr Duncan, Mr O' Malley and Mr Taylor for getting us to the venues and giving us tips, as well as umpiring. We look forward to the 2020–21 season – bring it on!

■ Caleb Wilton

Badminton

A season that unfortunately come to an abrupt but understandable conclusion. In December 2019, we achieved success in the South Birmingham event. The team progressed as winners following a titanic tussle with KES, to come out on top was very satisfying!

This took us to the Doug Ellis Sports Centre in February 2020 for the Birmingham Finals. Here we played a number of other schools to decide who would progress to the Midlands Finals. Our team comprised Adarsh Palani Kumar, Zak Malik, Manan Jasuja, Pranav Juloori and Hemal Aggarwal. They did us proud, winning all their singles and doubles contests, mostly by comfortable margins. They were duly presented with gold medals and we were all looking forward to the Midlands event in late March, which had to be postponed. Winners of that would have progressed to the prestigious National Finals at the Milton Keynes Centre, an honour we have experienced in each of the last two years.

We harboured high hopes of a hat trick of qualifications but alas, Badminton England were left with no choice but to cancel the remainder of the competition. A great shame that the boys missed out, particularly so as there is no corresponding event at U18 level. The boys will no doubt continue to enjoy their badminton in their club and county colours.

I would like to give special praise to Adarsh and Zak. They have been the mainstay of our team for five years and their contribution on and off court has been outstanding. I have always enjoyed watching them play and wish them all the best for future development.

■ M.W.D.



Basketball

U16 Basketball

In contrast to my other reports on the U14 basketball and rugby 2nd XV team, I can report back on a highly successful season for the U16 basketball team.

Coming off a strong season last year where we fell one game short of a Championship win in the final, losing to a highly skilled St Thomas Aquinas, we started this season's training feeling confident. After several training sessions shaking off the rust of the holidays we came to our first fixtures of the season in the form of a tournament at the fortress, the Camp Hill Sports Hall.

With the prospect of 4 games, we were excited to get stuck in, but also wary of the old enemy, St Thomas Aquinas and a new opponent Aston Manor, who were led by a few players I knew from club level, one of whom plays in the England Basketball set-up.

This set-up meant a stellar first game against Aston Manor, in which we were leading for large portions of the game but just fell short and lost 10-16. The remaining 3 games of the tournament resulting in 2 wins and 1 loss leaving our season record at 2-2. Top scorers at this tournament were myself with 14, Mustafa Shoukat with 10 and Joe Day with 8.

Next came a full 40-minute game against Shenley Academy where our superior skill



shone through and there was a real gulf in the quality between them and us with Camp Hill winning by 41 points to 11. Impressive scoring tallies from Mustafa with 15 and Joe and myself both with 10.

The final game of the season came against Kings Norton where it was much of the same story with Camp Hill dominating Kings Norton with the final score being 45-18 to Camp Hill. Mustafa scored 16 this game with myself scoring 14 and everyone else chipping in with 2 or 4 points each.

To finish this article, I'd like to reflect on an amazing season. Everyone in the team con-

stantly chipped into the scoring showing how well-rounded we are and some players did things you don't see on the scoresheet. For example Omaree Johnson's rebounding masterclass all season provided plenty of opportunity for himself and others to score. Finally a couple of words of thanks, firstly to Mr Burgess for organising our games and also refereeing and coaching us at those games and secondly to the team which played amazingly all season, the finals of which were only cut short by the current pandemic. I'm certain we could have provided an upset against Aston Manor in the finals.

■ Sam Morris

U14 and U13 Basketball

The U14 basketball team's season produced a mixed bag of results. With a group of inexperienced, but naturally capable lads, Mr Butcher, as well as Zach Hobson-Taher and myself, two of the more senior players, had our work cut out. We aimed high and I am glad to say succeeded in turning the team into a highly skilled group of players, who could keep pace with and sometimes beat opposition convincingly.

After several training sessions, which we committed to building on the boys' basic skills like lay-ups and basic shooting, we were all set

for our first fixtures of the season. We played 5 games, drawing 2 and unfortunately losing 3. Whilst this sounds less than successful, it was a good set of results for a team with many players who had never played competitive basketball before and there were many positives to take from the games.

The next competition came towards the end of the season, after plenty of lunchtime sessions improving the lads' skills. The improvement across the season was obvious and plentiful. The team won 2 out of 5 games and pushed some highly skilled teams to close games.

Whilst results could have been better, the season proved to be good developmentally for the team. Players such as Chude Ndozi and Harley Hau have developed into great leaders and can take the team much further next year. More special mentions go to Arnav Nailwal who posed a good scoring threat all season and Matthew Ransbotyn who improved noticeably throughout the season. A final thank you to Mr Butcher for organising the games and helping with coaching alongside Zach who helped myself with the lunchtime sessions and games all season.

■ Sam Morris

Chess

An interrupted and intriguing season, Chess this year has certainly been interesting. Following a meeting last summer, it was decided that there were going to be a number of changes to the way the local Chess Leagues were to be played this year.

Gone were the trips to local schools, traversing across town at 4pm every Friday. Instead, in its place were regular trips to the library computers. After some organising, Camp Hill were able

to put together 5 teams, 2 in the First Division, 1 in the Second Division and two in the U13 Division, allowing us to play teams virtually via a chess website.

There were many teething problems, for example, coordinating with two (or sometimes three!) other schools at the same time and sometimes the websites did not show our opponents due to technical problems. Ultimately, these were fixed and we managed to play a number of games, where players were allowed 20 minutes for all of their moves. Sadly, the move to online play has meant that the style of play

has changed, which has not suited everyone. In addition, all schools involved have not always been able to field a full team, including, on the odd occasion, Camp Hill. Furthermore, a number of schools dropped out during the course of the year and our students mostly ended up playing against various teams from KES. Looking back on the scores for the various fixtures, many matches have been very even in terms of play with the winning margins very close. Other matches have been more clear-cut, and our teams have done very well on a number of occasions.

As the season was cut short, when lockdown

occurred with a number of crucial matches still left to play; the leagues and season have been abandoned for this year, with no overall results declared. It's not clear when chess will be able to be resumed in this form, though it seems likely that online play is here to stay.

Away from the leagues, there have been several tournaments that Camp Hill has taken part in this year, where we experienced a good range of success. These two tournaments were played in the flesh, with Camp Hill players able to scrutinise their opponents every move, often by looking for those tell tale signs in their opponent's eyes.

On the evening of Friday 27th September, 21 intrepid chess players stayed after school to take part in a Blitz Chess Tournament, held here at Camp Hill. This was the first time that the tournament had been held here in some years. Representing the school were students from all years and abilities, in 5 different teams. They were Dark Knights of Chess (Yr 11), Lil Jon (Yr 11), Baby Shark (6th form), Glasses (mixed) and Carrot Crushers (U13). Our teams faced strong opposition from KES, Wolverhampton and Hallfield.

In Blitz games, each player starts with 3 minutes and gets 2 seconds for each move. You have to think quickly, without making mistakes, outfoxing your opponent. We began with a round robin competition. The teams were split into two pools, where they had to face the other teams in that pool. It looked like KES were the team to beat, with their teams the top of both pools. However, Camp Hill placed second in both pools, with Dark Knights and Baby Shark progressing to the semi-finals. Our other teams were left to fight it out for the minor places.

In the semi's Babyshark lost to their opponent from KES, and ultimately came fourth. Dark Knights experienced better luck, beating their opposition and progressed to the final. Here they came up against a very strong KES team, and the final was very tight. Of the four games played in this match, the Dark Knights won 2 and lost 2. It was a draw. The officials conferred at the front of the stage and decreed that because of board count the victory was to be awarded to KES. It was the narrowest of margins to lose by. However, that takes nothing away from the achievement of our team.

Special mentions go to Carrot Crushers who

came in seventh, and to Muhammad-Ali Zahid who valiantly stepped up and played for a team from Wolverhampton when they were missing a team member. Congratulations go to Hemal Aggarwal, Devesh Aggarwal, Viswamedha Nalabotu, and Deniz Yoruk-Mikhailov for their triumphant second place.

On Friday 7th February, four teams of intrepid chess players traversed the long distance to KES to fight for the honour of being crowned Chess Rapid Play Champions. The teams were the Dark Knights of Chess, Chessmegadon, Carrot Crushers and Movistar Planet.

In previous tournaments both the Dark Knights and Carrot Crushers have experienced much success. In recent tournaments, the Dark Knights have placed second, and the Crushers were best junior team. However, this tournament was slightly different in that not only were they playing for school honour; they were also playing for personal pride, as their own personal England Chess Ranking were up for grabs.

Over five rounds the players battled it out, considering whether to move their rook to D5, or was now the time to sacrifice the Bishop, positions changing regularly. Moving into R5 the Knights were second, Movistar third, Crushers fifth and Chessmegadon ninth. Each team faced some tough opponents in the final round. Our Dark Knights of Hemal, Devesh, Vish and Deniz against the best from KES, Movistar against the might of Hallfield. Though young, many of Hallfield's team could represent Team England.

Ultimately the Knights lost, but the Crushers won. This meant that the Carrot Crushers of Daniel Chen, Ryan Alexander, Ethan Ho and Akshay Suglani came third, beating the Knights who came fifth via a tie break. Movistar sixth and Chessmegadon eighth. Congratulations to the Crushers for their third place. Honourable mentions go to Mowahid Shahbaz, Shrikannan Selvaganapathy, Ryan Alexander and Viswamedha Nalabotu for being the best in their teams.

Finally, the other main chess fixture of the year, House Chess occurred in the spring term. This was an interesting tournament, Seymour the defending champions and strong favourites. Initially all looked promising for Seymour, taking a quick 4-3 lead. However, an intense battle between Cian O'Dwyer and Imaad Zaffar, led

to the players running out of time. As the balance of the match depended on this game all the Chess House Captains were called together and unanimously decided that Cian was in the stronger position and was likely to have won the game, and so the points were given to Seymour, making them 5-3 victors on the day.

In the other match that Beaufort and Howard scored 4-4, making their match a draw. With various illnesses going through the chess camps, both teams were unable to field their strongest teams, and on reflection, a draw was the right result for these two rivals.

Round two was a more straightforward affair. In their match against Tudor, Howard scored an impressive victory, winning 6-2. Seymour had an awful match against Beaufort, 5.5-2.5. Missing their star player from last year, Daniel Chen, Qasim Bedford led them gallantly but Seymour were unable to withstand the might of Beaufort on this occasion. Moving into the final round Beaufort and Howard were joint first, followed by Seymour and then Tudor.

All hopes for Howard to win House Chess this year were swiftly defeated by a resurgent Seymour, who won 6.5-1.5. Ultimately it all came down to another tight match with Beaufort against Tudor to decide who would be the victors of House Chess. Based on past performance, the strong money was with Beaufort, but they have come unstuck before, performing the chess equivalence of a batting order collapse in cricket.

With 7 games played the score stood at 4-3 in Tudor's favour. In the final match, Maninder Kallay vs Humza Irfan, the winner would not only determine this particular game but the whole tournament. A tight, strategic game, this one could have gone on for quite some time, and it exceeded the one hour time limit for only the second time this tournament. However, as so much depended on one match the time limit was waived and play continued. Ultimately, Maninder forced Humza into an error, and with it, Humza lost the match, giving Tudor the win against Beaufort. It also meant that Seymour won the tournament overall. Congratulations to them!

We are hopeful to begin re-starting chess soon, though only when it is safe to do so.

■ J.G.O.

Football

1st and 2nd XI Football

This season has seen the most disruption to fixtures in Camp Hill's illustrious footballing history. With the state of pitches all around the region being so poor since November and lack of match and Wednesday games action; it has been a credit to the players that they have performed so well

in the four weeks available after Christmas and before the shutdown of all fixtures and Cup Competitions.

Highlights include picking up new fixtures against John Henry Newman School and easily beating them 6-2 with Ciaran Cunningham running the opposition ragged.

An excellent win away at Princethorpe College against a slightly weakened team allowed us to come away with a 4-2 convincing win with a superb goalkeeping display from Aditya and the backfour defenders including a mas-

terclass from Sam Hope, Patrick and Philo and Taran. The Seconds also played very well winning 5-1. The Seconds then travelled to Bablake narrowly losing 1-0 after Bablake requesting the first team not to travel!

The standout performance of possibly the whole season then came in what proved to be the last game of the season on the 12th February. Always a physical test and having lost there for the last two seasons the Firsts put in an outstanding display of team unity and spirit. Again Aditya, Bilal, Sam, Patrick held on and

stopped a barrage of attacks, Henry cleared two off the line and Camp Hill held their nerve. Then two wonderful goals from Ciaran and one from Richard Amoshe who has emerged as a powerhouse of a football player led a 3-0 win. This stunned the Swinford players and referee who awarded a soft consolation penalty which Aditya duly saved. This goes to show the amazing work ethic and team spirit the boys possess.

The West Midlands Cup game was cancelled and this clearly was our year to add some Silverware to the cabinet. Apparently Sandwell Academy were delighted the competition was cancelled. Henry has led the team superbly well in the most difficult season on record and his organisation and performances have been commendable. Ciaran has been the top goal scorer and overall star player with some mag-

nificent goals and pleasing to see he is doing well in the West Midlands representative side. Ryan Malhi has also done a commendable job is organising the Seconds.

The emerging talent of the Year 12's is promising, Rishi, Taran, Patrick, Dillon and Richard leading the way but have big shoes to fill with the talent that is leaving.

■ **A.S.**

Swimming

Most of our swimming action took place in the 2019 autumn term, with no fewer than four galas for the Camp Hill Boys and Girls to take part in.

Early in the first half-term we took our U13, U15 and U18 teams to Warwick School for an annual fixture, alongside Camp Hill Girls. Year 7 Adam Birch joined a handful of Year 8s in the Junior team, making him the first boy to represent the school in any competition. In the individual events we saw a few boys improve on their personal best times, and some excellent competitive swimming from Intermediates Anthony Demitry and Sam Nouhov.

Stiff competition in the Seniors meant wins were hard to come by. However, that did not deter the boys from giving their all. The relays were particularly close, with Michael James-Thomas missing out by mere seconds. Strong performances also came from Leon Zhang, Joe Clark, Yusuf Ahmad and Matt Dixon.

The final event was the team freestyle relay. Junior Rhys Jamieson completed the first 50 metres to find himself neck and neck with Warwick. The whole team were relying on Ryan Alexander to create a winning lead in the four-man race, but seconds before diving in, his goggles broke and he dived into the water several

seconds after Rhys had touched the wall. Ryan had also succeeded in breaking Shrikannan's goggles, so Shri was left to swim his two lengths with his eyes closed – it wasn't going well.

Later in the first half term we took Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams to the Midlands qualifying round of the ESSA Relay Competition. It was another great experience for the boys, but unfortunately our times did not qualify us for the final this year.

The Year 7 swimming trials revealed a healthy number of strong swimmers, and we were able to select eight boys who might be asked to swim competitively for the school. The Junior teams travelled to Bromsgrove Prep for a match against their U11, U12 and U13 teams. This was the first competitive swimming match that some of our Year 7s had ever taken part in, and so was a valuable experience.

Towards the end of the autumn term, we joined back up with Mrs O'Grady's Camp Hill Girls and travelled to St Martin's School. Camp Hill Swimming Club swimmer Adam Birch 7M, was promoted up to swim alongside Year 8s. The highlight of the gala was our U14 team, comprising Sam Nouhov, Anthony Demitry, Cyrus and Darius Maleki-Tooserkani, who came first in every event.

Friday swimming training proved as popular as ever amongst the Camp Hill Boys and Girls. Year 11s Anil Sivakumar and Miles

Balderson continued to attend regularly; both have attended almost every possible training session since they started in Year 7! Year 13 Sicheng Li also kept up a regular appearance, sometimes swimming and other times offering his valuable assistance on the poolside. As well as the Seniors, special mentions go to Ibrahim and Hassan Afzal, George Hill, Matteo Gianni, Adrian Ifrim and Rhys Jamieson, who have also attended almost every training session possible.

This year also saw the continuation of water polo training on Friday lunchtimes, which was led enthusiastically by Year 13 Matt Dixon. It has been great to see the Seniors' enthusiasm for water polo, and it's encouraging to know that some of those younger boys who attended training might keep it up.

With the abrupt closure of the school in March, we sadly had to say farewell to an incredibly talented group of Senior swimmers and water polo players. Many of these boys were school swimming regulars since they joined Year 7 back in September 2013, and it has always been a great spectacle at the House Gala to see these swimmers pitted against each other. So, all the best to Michael James-Thomas, Joe Clark, Matt Dixon, Simon Halstead, Yusuf Ahmad and Leon Zhang... keep swimming!

■ **S.O.M.**

Tennis

Although one might think, after a summer term as strange as this one, that there would be nothing to report on, one would be wrong. There were three notable achievements by school tennis teams this academic year.

Years 7/8 and Years 9/10 Division 2 Regional Finals

As a result of winning our local leagues in the previous summer term, the U13 'B' team: Prasanna Sivakumar, Krishna Nair, Dylan Mbichire, Haroon Zaffar and the U15 'B' team: Aryan Singh, Sai Ponnuru, Praneeth Udathu, Prithu Krishnan, Jack Johnson qualified for the Regional Finals held at Tipton Tennis Centre in September.

Both Camp Hill teams had byes in the first round but then met the two eventual winners

in the next round. The U15s lost 6-0 to a strong Uppingham team from Leicestershire, but not before taking two of the rubbers to tie breaks. Sai in his singles, and Praneeth and Jack in their doubles, did well to draw their matches 4-4 before losing the deciding tie-breaks. This put us into a third/fourth place play off against St Peters Collegiate, Wolverhampton in which we fought hard but eventually lost.

The U13s lost to Bosworth Academy from Lincolnshire in their second round match which led to a third/fourth place play off with KE Stratford from Warwickshire. This match was keenly contested with Haroon winning his singles, Prasanna and Krishna their doubles, but Stratford eventually ran out winners 4-2.

Despite not registering a win on the day, both teams performed well and deserve credit for reaching the regional stage of the competition: Years 7/8 and Years 9/10 Division 2 Regional Finals

Year 9 and Year 10 Tennis Midlands Regional Finals

After winning their local league during the previous summer term, the Year 9 and Year 10 tennis team (Jai Bahalkar, Manan Jasuja, Pranav Juloori and Milan Dawson) have successfully negotiated two knockout rounds this term.

This included winning matches against Heart of England School, Kenilworth and Trent College, Nottingham, to earn a place in the Midlands Regional Final and gaining a place as one of the top sixteen teams in the country.

The Regional Finals took place in November and would decide which four teams would contest the National Finals in December. In our first match we were drawn against Magdalen College School, Oxford. With the team declaration showing that all our opponents had higher rankings than the top seeded Camp Hill player, we knew that the match was going to be tough and so it proved. Although all the matches were

competitive, only Manan Jasuja seeded at 2 managed a well-deserved win and we lost the match 5-1. In the 3rd and 4th place play off we played another strong team, Warwick School,

and lost 6-0. However, the match score does not reflect the competitive nature of some of the games and the effort that the Camp Hill team put into their play during the day. Despite not

registering a win on the day, the team should be proud of their achievement of reaching the last 16 schools in the country.

■ **C.M.J.**

Water Polo

U18 Water Polo

After winning the ESSA Bowl Tournament last year, the team were confident going into our second year of the ESSA National Schools tournament. We started our season with two friendly fixtures against KES and Warwick School which we won 14-9 and 14-7 respectively, this filled the team with confidence going into the preliminary round which decided the band of the tournament we would qualify for.

The first round took place at Walsall Gala baths which would prove difficult for our team as it was an all deep pool. We would face KES Birmingham and Warwick once again as well as Manchester Grammar School, whom we knew would be a well-drilled side. The first match was against Warwick which we won comfortably 17-3 however, none of us were prepared for the KES match that would follow directly afterwards. Despite a hard battle with KES, due to fatigue from the previous fixture we were unable to claim another win, leaving the final score at 6-4. Our final match was against Manchester Grammar School, as we suspected they were a very polished side and resulted in an 11-5 loss. Despite losing two fixtures we qualified for the plate; a level above the bowl which the boys were happy with considering they were keen for a challenge!

The second round would be hosted by

Camp Hill in our very shallow and cold pool. With one school dropping out, Warwick and St. Peter's York were the schools that stood between us and the Plate finals. Having beaten Warwick at the previous tournament we were confident we could beat them at our home pool, which we did with some great goal-keeping from Sam Hope and goals from our goalkeeper turned striker Simon Halstead. St. Peter's York was now the only thing that stood between us and the finals, we got off to a great start, but after a slight lapse in concentration in defence, the score at halftime was 4-4. With Dr Taylor, Mr Bruton and Mr O'Malley as witness the boys came out of the gates with a new fire under them with goals from Matt Dixon, Krishan Kaushal and Lorcan Halstead leaving the score at 8-4. Meaning we had finished first and qualified for the finals in March alongside St. Peter's York.

After three weeks of intense training, the finals had arrived. The boys left school bright and early ready to return home with the gold or so we thought. On arrival we learned that we would be facing four schools, Queen Elizabeth London, St. Peter's York and St. Paul's London whom we had faced before last year as well as Dulwich College London. First up was a thrilling 5-4 victory over Queen Elizabeth followed by a superb 13-4 win over St. Peter's however, the toughest two matches remained. After watching Dulwich College play against other sides we knew they would be a formidable side. Once again we got off to a rough start with many of our key players being kept out

the game, despite our best efforts we were unable to convert many opportunities into goals, resulting in a 6-1 loss. With two wins and a loss, second place was up for grabs. Whilst both teams were evenly matched in the beginning some late goals from St. Paul's left the final score at 8-5. Even though we had finished in third, the team were thrilled to not only be going home with a medal but also with the knowledge we were 9th in the country. Special mentions go to Krishan Kaushal, Matt Dixon and Lorcan Halstead for their efforts in attack and Ross Evans, Michael James-Thomas and Sai Potluri for their defence. Player of the season was Krishan Kaushal for his outstanding performance across all fixtures.

In addition, it's been a pleasure to coach the team with Jason Yeo making sure there's never a dull moment at training, also congratulations to Rufus Hall who is now playing Water Polo outside of school at Warley Water Polo club. Moreover, I hope Water Polo not only continues in school but becomes a more integral part of the house and colours system. Many thanks to the whole team especially Simon Halstead, Michael James-Thomas, Jason Yeo, Krishan Kaushal, Sai Potluri, Leon Zhang, Sam Hope, Mr O'Malley, Mr Watkins, Mr Burgess and Mrs Halstead for their commitment to the team over the last two years and Warley for providing us with balls and caps to train with. Finally, I wish Lorcan Halstead and Joe Day the best of luck as they take on the role of captains of the team over the next two years.

■ **Matt Dixon**



Results Summaries

TEAMS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY	1 st XV	14	7	1	6	297	280
	7's	4	0	0	4	17	91
	2 nd XV	5	0	0	5	67	163
	U16	3	0	0	3	25	95
	7's	3	1	0	2	37	47
	U15 A	14	5	0	9	237	374
	U15 B	1	0	0	1	20	25
	U14 A	14	1	0	13	233	517
	U14 B	3	1	0	2	65	75
	U13 A	12	4	3	5	300	295
	U13 B	2	0	0	2	25	60
	U13 C	1	2	0	0	30	25
	U12 A	9	1	0	9	95	275
	U12 B	7	1	1	5	55	210
	U12 C	4	3	0	1	175	65
	U12 D	4	1	0	3	75	110
HOCKEY	1 st XI	13	4	2	7	20	54
	2 nd XI	13	1	3	9	11	31
	U15	10	6	0	4	36	14
	U14	6	3	1	2	8	8
BASKETBALL	U16	6	4	0	2	130	67
	U13	6	0	2	4	46	20
FOOTBALL	1 st XI	9	6	1	2	31	22
	2 nd XI	5	3	0	2	11	13
WATER POLO	U18	11	7	0	4	101	62

BADMINTON	U16	National Finalists
HANDBALL	U15	South Birmingham School Games — Second Place
TABLE TENNIS	U16	South Birmingham School Games — Second Place
TENNIS	U15	Regional Winners
WATER POLO	U18	National Plate Finals — Third Place

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2019 – 2020				
ACTIVITY	BEAUFORT	HOWARD	SEYMOUR	TUDOR
BADMINTON	2	3	1	4
BASKETBALL	7	3	5	1
CHESS	3	2	4	1
CROSS COUNTRY	7	3	10	5
FOOTBALL	1	7	4	4
SWIMMING	7	5	3	10
OVERALL TOTAL	27	23	27	25





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