CHRONICLE 2007

The year 2006/7 marked the 50th anniversary of Camp Hill Boys moving from the original school buildings on the Stratford Road to our beautiful campus on Vicarage Road and, as this year’s Chronicle illustrates, our Jubilee Year was all that we could have hoped for.

The year began in September with the tail end of summer sports and our intermediate Tennis players reaching the national team finals in Loughborough. Then it was the usual busy Autumn schedule of Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Cross Country at school level and a whole host of House competitions. The new Sports Hall was soon proving its worth as a wonderful addition to school facilities and, with the re-opening of the swimming pool early in 2007, Camp Hill could once again boast some of the best sports facilities of any school in the Midlands. Indeed, summer 2007 brought some of the most notable sporting successes in Camp Hill’s recent history, with our Athletes winning the Foundation meeting for the first time in living memory and the Year 8 team going on to qualify for the National Junior Athletics team final. This talented year group also went on to win the prestigious Dennis Amss Shield, their second Cricket trophy in as many years.

Not to be outdone, our Chess players continued to flourish in the local leagues and our junior and senior squads both finished in third place in the UK Championships. Our Mathematicians produced their annual clutch of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in the various Olympiads and Aaron Pereira and Nathan Brown were selected among the twenty top Mathematicians in the country to attend the training weekend at Cambridge University. Our all conquering Chemistry Quiz teams not only won the McDermid trophy, the West Midlands Championship, for the sixth time but went on to finish runners up in the national Top of the Bench quiz finals at the Science Museum in London—an outstanding achievement.

Many of the boys who excelled in activities on the sports fields or in laboratories could also be found singing, acting or playing music in Camp Hill’s wonderful evenings of poetry, music and drama throughout the year. The concerts with Camp Hill Girls were a delight and, under the direction of senior students, the junior production of Our Day Out was a great success, as was the poetry evening for Years 7, 8 with our partner primary schools. However, the real highlights of another tremendous year of music and drama at Camp Hill were the staging of Fiddler on the Roof and the concert at the Symphony Hall to mark the school’s Jubilee. Fiddler was a hugely enjoyable show with singing and music of the very highest quality. Our thanks and congratulations must go once again to Mr Southworth and his team. Within weeks of Fiddler Mr Palmer had organised musicians and singers from Camp Hill Boys and Camp Hill Girls, as well as our partner primaries, for a spectacular evening of music at the Symphony Hall. Mr Southworth and Mrs James also worked tirelessly to ensure that the whole evening was a marvellous success and a most enjoyable way to celebrate our Jubilee.

Jubilee year was also marked by other events and activities. In November, the AFS organised a wonderful dinner dance in the school hall and paid for Jubilee ties, designed by Petros Mylonas (Upper Sixth) which I presented to each boy in the school during 2006/7. Mr Russell also organised the contents of a time capsule but didn’t have the heart to bury it once he saw the beautifully crafted box that Gilbert Smiles had made for the artefacts. The school is now looking for a space worthy of the capsule!

In terms of buildings, Jubilee year not only witnessed the formal opening of the Sports Hall and the re-opening of the swimming pool, but also saw work begin on Phase II of the school’s exciting capital development programme. This phase will see a new library, three new classrooms for English, a new Sixth Form study facility and rear entrance to the school created out of the shell of the old gym and changing rooms. If all goes to plan, the building will be complete by Spring 2008 which will then allow two classrooms to be turned into two much needed new laboratories in time for the next academic year.

I must take this opportunity to thank the school and K E Foundation Governors for the foresight and generosity they have shown in supporting this £2 million project. When added to the Sports Hall, swimming pool repairs and dining hall refurbishment, almost £5 million will have been spent improving the
Camp Hill schools in the last two years! The school has also sought help from other sources to fund these developments, with £500,000 coming from the Innovations Unit at the DfES (DCSF), a generous gift of £50,000 from the Wolfson Foundation and by launching the Jubilee Campaign that has already raised a further £150,000. I would like to record my thanks to all the parents, Old Boys and friends of the school who support Camp Hill Boys in fundraising and so many other ways every year.

In the Chronicle we also thank and bid a fond farewell to staff who left Camp Hill during the year. A special thanks this year to the following: Maggi Burston who retired in July and who will be fondly remembered for the support and encouragement she gave boys for 7 years. Best wishes to Ian Bettison who is moving to Camp Hill Girls as Head of Mathematics and to Matthew Puzey who joins Bishop Challoner as second in English and good luck to Johanna Junback who is returning to Sweden. We also said au revoir to Patrick Amieli who joins Five Ways as Assistant Head after 19 successful years at Camp Hill. We wish him every good fortune in his missionary work! Finally, I would like to record our thanks and best wishes to John Dinham who retired in July after 35 years of outstanding service to Camp Hill. John’s teaching, quietly spoken manner, wisdom, energy and the genuine care and respect he showed for all will be sadly missed. (See article below.)

Obviously, in a preface I can only highlight a few points and a few people in a year when so much has happened and when so much has been achieved. Indeed, the most fitting tribute to Camp Hill in its Jubilee year was to be named as the Sunday Times Secondary State School of the Year 2006/7 and everyone associated with the school deserves credit for this richly deserved success. My thanks to all who made 2006/7 such a great year in the history of the school and to Mr Hill and his editorial team in bringing the Chronicle to you.
Editorial

Welcome to the 2007 edition of The Chronicle, marking the 50th anniversary year of Camp Hill moving to the King’s Heath site.

The school’s Jubilee year has seen a celebration of all that is, and remains, good about Camp Hill. This edition of The Chronicle is, I hope, testament to the school’s vast and varied array of extra-curricular activities, academic excellence and sporting success.

However, 2007 has also heralded many changes. The Sports Hall is now complete and fully operational, the swimming pool contains water once more and the skeletal outline of the new library is gradually rising from the site of the old gym. And the changes have extended to staffing; the Editor-in-Chief role being no exception. After seven years at the editorial helm, Mr Hill has relinquished the role (allegedly with much reluctance) with his appointment as Head of English. Fortunately for all involved, he has remained instrumental in the production of this edition; an otherwise impossible task for a new member of staff. After such excellent supervision, apparently, I’m on my own next year!

As usual, the student editorial committee have been entrusted with the task of editing the many articles submitted by students and staff (corrections and clarifications should, therefore, be addressed to them). It requires hard work and time to edit each section of the magazine, and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

Thanks must also go to Andrew Simpson for the special Jubilee edition front cover and Mr. Fred Rogers at the Foundation Office for his work in assembling the magazine for printing.

As always, the final thank you must go to all who have contributed articles this year; without you, The Chronicle would not be possible.

C. Dawson
Patrick Amieli

Patrick joined Camp Hill in 1988. His background was not conventional. He was born in Algeria and raised there until his family had to flee the country when it gained independence. It was the fate of many such refugees from the "évènements" that they had to leave most of their possessions behind when they returned to the Metropole. Those whom Patrick has entertained to a Couscous may have seen the battered old couscousiere he uses - one of the few family possessions to come out of Algeria.

Patrick speaks with nostalgia about the desert scenery and the special light there among the dunes. At heart, Patrick is a Bedouin! He had a wealth of stories about his adventures, including tense exchanges at the border with officials who thought his wife was travelling on a fake passport - she was English but her passport clearly labelled her as a UK citizen. The niceties of British Isles politics was lost on Algerian border guards!

He studied for his degree at Limoges university and went on to complete a maitrise in comparative literature, a passion that was later to be shared with A level pupils.

However, education was not Patrick's first choice. He started his working life as a Journalist in Limoges working on a regional newspaper - La Montagne. And it was here he learned to drink Pastis at lunchtime - an experience that would later stand him in good stead on long, rough channel crossings.

There followed a three year stint in the French education system, including a spell at a Lycée Agricole. A passionate student of literature and culture was unlikely to find many outlets for his enthusiasms in this context but the experience prepared him well for the PGCE at Warwick.

When Avril brought him to England, he learned his English in a typically gregarious fashion leaning against the bar in pubs or as the French say - "à la zinc". For a linguist, Patrick's priorities were refreshing. Entirely un-neurotic about his accent, he did not want to pass as an Englishman. But he developed the best grasp of English idiom that I have ever encountered in a foreign speaker. The first time he went to Saint-Malo, the centre organiser remarked that his spoken French was not bad for an Englishman!

When he became Head of Modern Languages at Camp Hill, the job was not straightforward. The worst bureaucratic excesses of National Curriculum Mark I were coming into force, characterised by a rash of statements of attainment that had to be ticked and aggregated into Attainment Target scores. This was a joy for civil servants and number crunchers but an enervating burden for teachers. OFSTED too had produced its first handbook - the size of the shorter Oxford English Dictionary. It was a period when if anything moved, you needed a policy for it.

And then he had to contend with a colourful department. Managing the Languages department is akin to herding cats. All had very clear cut personalities and as a result, very different teaching styles. At a time when nationally, the language theologians were trying to impose a deadening uniformity, Patrick had the good sense to let his colleagues play to their strengths and then scrutinise their results.

And, surprise surprise, the results went against all national trends. He maintained and improved them at an excellent standard at a time when, across the country, languages were being dropped by two thirds of pupils. Even more impressive, he did this with a clientele of boys, a third of whom already had a second language - English. Furthermore, he maintained A level numbers at a higher level than many Specialist Language colleges. Under his
stewardship, the Saint-Malo trip became a fixture in the calendar of the school and exchange links were inaugurated with a school in Riom. Over 700 pupils will have enjoyed a period of residence abroad thanks to his efforts.

In his work here, Patrick has had to contend with a certain level of English Xenophobia. At the height of some spat over lamb or beef - which the French had either blockaded or grilled alive in lorries (as is their wont) - a tabloid had the headline 21 reasons for hating the French. As a physicist you are unlikely to come in to work to face the headline 21 reasons for hating Physics (perhaps there would be more!). By the way, by the time they reached reason 21 they were getting desperate to make up the numbers. They put their road signs in kilometres to make the country look bigger than it is.

Patrick went on of course to take on, very successfully, broader responsibilities with the DRB and community aspects of designation bids. Particularly impressive was the way he orchestrated community partners to sing the school’s praises at the critical time just when the bid needed it. His work here proved valuable, not least in financial terms, for the school as a whole. We have all benefited from his success. It is only fitting that it helped to secure his advancement at Five Ways. We wish him every success in his new post.

MR

Ian Bettison

Budding mathematicians beware. Let Mr. Bettison be a warning to you all. Look and learn, as a lapsed mathematician now at last gets back on track.

Looking back, no one who met Ian Bettison would deny that he was and is a talented mathematician. But having gained impeccable maths results at Mortimer Wilson School in Alfreton: a Distinction in his GCSE Maths Extension paper followed by a grade A at A Level, Ian made a dubious decision. He accepted a place at University College, Oxford. Nothing intrinsically wrong with that - he actually won a scholarship for his final two years, but he left with an Oxford degree, not in Mathematics (following the good example of Mr. Rogers), but in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Soon realising the error of his ways, Ian saw the light and entered Cambridge for a two year PGCE conversion course to Mathematics. As a newly qualified maths teacher he went to Warwick School, but was soon diverted into also teaching ICT, Key Skills and Ethics, producing and directing a play and being responsible for 3rd XI Hockey, Rowing, Clay Pigeon Shooting and the Engineering Section of the Combined Cadet Force.

Six years ago, he tried again and gained an appointed to this school as a teacher of mathematics. And now? Now, he has not only been teaching GCSE Statistics and Maths, A-Level Maths and Further Maths, but also A-Level Economics, GCSE ICT and AS Philosophy. True, Ian might say that ICT and Philosophy do not really count - they are only taught one lunch time per week, but their popularity and the boys’ excellent results belie that. So now, having arrived as a member of the Maths department, he has ended up as a member of five departments: Maths, Economics, ICT, Philosophy and Games.

Yes, here is a mathematician who when he is not teaching economics, ICT or philosophy seems to spend most of his afternoons and weekends on the games fields – coaching and playing. He has taken his U15 cricket team to the final of the Docker Shield in two consecutive years, and done tremendous work with U15 and U14 Hockey teams. They will
miss his professional coaching and the silky skills shown even on the astrotarmac pitches of Camp Hill (colloquially referred to as the ‘playground’ and ‘tennis courts’).

That is not to say that Ian cannot teach maths. I personally have observed scintillating lessons where standard topics have been brought alive by mind-blowing real life illustrations and challenges, enhanced by interactive ICT at its cutting-edge best. He has given excellent service to mathematics in school and beyond: taking GCSE booster classes in the Easter holidays, running Saturday morning sessions for Year 6 pupils, organising student visits to enrichment ‘Road Show’ and Further Maths conferences, and not least mentoring Graduate Trainee Teachers. He has been a superb colleague in the maths department – able, effective and always willing to help. So where did he go wrong?

Whether it was the habitual, philosophising company of such non-mathematicians as Messers Hill and Puzey, the sweet talking of Mrs James, the promise of a better laptop from Mr. Rouse, or the lure of a new hockey stick from Mr. Duncan, somehow in the last six years, Ian has gradually been drawn away from the straight and narrow path of mathematical enlightenment into the sidelines of other subjects. At last, realising again the error of his ways, and knowing that only drastic action would work, he went for shock therapy. He applied to Camp Hill Girls. Imagine his surprise when they accepted him! But it seems to have worked. From now on, as their Head of Mathematics, Ian will once again be a fully paid-up, full-time mathematician.

Ian, as you make the long trek east to Camp Hill Girls, you leave us with many happy memories of an energetic and personable polymath. We wish you well and trust that you will now keep on track!

PRJ

John Dinham

Edwardians, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my cause, and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me for mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe. Censure me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any readers of this Chronicle, any dear friends of John’s, to them I say, that Nathan’s love to John was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Nathan rose against John, this is my answer – not that I loved John less, but that I loved his TLR scale more. As John loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him; but as he was forgetful, I retired him. There are tears, for his love; joy, for his fortune; honour, for his valour; and retirement, for his forgetfulness.

Now I come before you to praise John and all he did for this illustrious educational establishment. Therefore, I’d like to begin with a brief(ish) chronology of John’s career, here at Camp Hill.

1972 (BC) is where it all began and, indeed, it remains a year of great significance. Treasures were brought, in the form of the Tutankhamun tour, which even today stands as the British museum’s most visited exhibition; a treasure was born, namely me, and most importantly of all, a treasure was discovered, when John gained employment at Camp Hill. Now, if I could remember how old I am, or indeed had more than 10 fingers, then I could easily tell you how long John has actually been here. But, since I can’t and I haven’t, we’d go with the rough approximation of – a very long time.

Now, even at this early stage in John’s career, it quickly became obvious just how talented he was, as within a year he was promoted to the exalted position of Fire Officer. Now I’d just
like to point out that as the Golden Jubilee celebrations indicate, Camp Hill had already moved to its present Vicarage Road site, and was not forcibly re-located due to John’s negligence. In fact, rumour has it, that thanks to John’s diligence, such was the prestige surrounding the post that Mervyn Brooker, when appointed as Deputy Head, callously snatched the post away from John, in order to further his own career!

For the sake of brevity, you’ll be delighted to hear that John’s next promotion came much later in his teaching career, with his appointment as Careers Officer. Fortunately, most political analysts blamed Thatcher for the huge rise in unemployment during John’s tenure, which silenced any doubters over his credentials for the post. Certainly, I would personally like to thank John for the heartfelt advice he gave me all those years ago: Don’t do English, don’t become a teacher, and don’t under any circumstances come back to Camp Hill — at least whilst I’m here.

And so, at last, we come to 1988, which was a crucial year for both John and Camp Hill; he was deservedly appointed Head of English. John himself has commented upon the general dismay at his appointment, mainly due to the fact that he beat into 2nd place a rather stunning looking external candidate, but in all seriousness, the school made the right decision — beyond any shadow of a doubt.

John was an inspirational leader of the English department for an incredible 19 years. He managed to take the department from strength to strength, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable odds. Who else could have dealt with such professionals as Meiros Richardson, Matthew Puzey, myself and of course, Gary Hedges, to name but a few, and yet still manage to keep the department afloat? In fact, such was the respect that John garnered in his colleagues, that it was completely impossible to hide anything from him or at least Meiros found it impossible. In numerous clandestine meetings, Matthew and myself have uttered the words ‘under no circumstances tell John, Mi — got it? Over and over and over again, safe in the knowledge that within thirty seconds of leaving Room 2, Mi would be back to inform us that she had told John everything. Indeed, over the past three years, at the mere raising of one of John’s eyebrows, Mi managed to confess to the murders of both JFK and Lord Lucan, as well as taking part in a particularly savage attack on a poor defenceless racehorse called Shergar.

Being serious for a moment, however, John was a truly admirable Head of English. He always supported his colleagues without question and raised the profile of English within the school to giddying heights. Through maintaining the most exacting of standards, and always ensuring that he led by example, he gained the respect of both colleagues and pupils alike, who will miss him enormously I’m sure, when it finally sinks in that John has moved onto pastures new. Indeed, if I can lead the English department half as well as John has done, then I will honestly be a very proud man.

Now of course, no tribute for John would be complete, without mentioning his love of photography. John probably became best known as the ‘school snapper’ having taken countless pupils’ portraits over the years. Such was John’s expertise with a 35mm lens, that even the most scruffy of urchins ended up looking like some kind of angelic life-form. However, even John’s powers of transformation were put to the test, when he was needed to aid former Headmaster, Mervyn Brooker’s portrait fiasco. Having commissioned a top artist to provide the school with a lasting memory of Mervyn’s visage, it was perhaps more devastating than anyone could have imagined; at just one glance of the painting, grown men had been reduced to tears (whether through laughter or terror, I’m not sure). Fortunately, the portrait that hangs there today is thanks to John, and as such, we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Indeed, when Mr Darby decides the time is right to move on, he would be wise to give John a callé
John won numerous competitions for his photography, including the Nikon Photo International award, Kodak’s Gold award and the Independent newspaper’s Independence award. He has had photos exhibited at, among others, the Photographer’s Gallery, the Royal Photographic society, the National museum of photography, the Metropolitan Gallery in Tokyo and most importantly of all (having slipped the editor a fiver), The Chronicle!

Having known John as both a pupil and a colleague, it is no exaggeration to say that he has been a major influence in my life, as I am sure he has been for all of you reading this who know him well. Behind a calm exterior, lies a man who is passionate about all that is good in life. He is very intelligent, very witty, and incredibly modest; but it is for his genuine kindness that I will remember him most of all.

I wish John a long and happy retirement, in this next chapter that awaits him and his wife, Sylvia.

NH

Johanna Junback

With a rich and experienced background Dr Johanna Junback was an obvious appointment and a great asset to the Biology Department. She joined us in September 2006 and unfortunately left at the end of that academic year.

Johanna was an extremely well qualified Biologist having studied at the great institutions of Oxford University and the University of Wales. Her field studies had taken her from Sweden to Russia to Canada to Bangor and now to Birmingham. She came with a wealth of work experience ranging from being a Swedish au pair to tutoring at University.

It was clear from the start that Johanna was a true professional. Her passion for Biology, and her desire to share this with others, ensured that all students taught by her enjoyed well planned and interesting lessons. Johanna’s teaching style was one of support and encouragement; can any student remember her raising her voice?

Johanna enjoyed all the school had to offer. She gave her time to support the Year 7 Science Club and Saturday School with Year 6. Even Prestatyn with Year 8 could not quell her enthusiasm. She infiltrated the Friday evening tennis/badminton club giving Mr Dawson and Mr May a run for their money.

Outside of school she was equally busy. Her interests included photography, cooking, travelling, sailing and dancing - she was the queen of salsa! Her culinary skills were a hit with staff when she prepared a Swedish buffet featuring the classics of pickled herring and reindeer sausage!

It was disappointing when Johanna decided to leave. Birmingham was, unfortunately, not the city in which she wanted to settle and her native Sweden beckoned. Johanna has now returned to Stockholm and is now using her many skills working on education projects in a Science Museum. Johanna made a big impression in a short time and we all wish her well for the future.

TM

Matthew Puzey
Matthew has had a rather unusual career at Camp Hill, having joined the staff of the boys' school twice and that of the girls' school once. He first joined us in a temporary post to cover a maternity leave in November 2001, after which he did a similar job 'next door' for two terms. When a permanent vacancy in the English Department arose at the end of July 2003 we were very keen to recruit a colleague who had proved his worth in a short time.

Matthew was a good and popular classroom teacher and he made a considerable contribution to the extracurricular work of the English Department. He ran theatre trips, established and chaired a lunchtime debating group, organised inter-school public speaking and debating competitions, directed or supervised junior drama productions and oversaw the school newspaper and a senior drama competition team. As his head of department I much appreciated what he contributed in and out of the classroom and to departmental meetings, which were much enlivened by his wit and by his minutes.

Travel is one of Matthew's principal leisure interests; he met his wife while teaching in Poland and they have since visited destinations as far flung as Cambodia, Tahiti, Easter Island and Chile among many others. Indeed so frequent a traveller is Matthew that he has been known to pop over to Krakow or Prague or Barcelona or Copenhagen for the odd weekend. My own journey with him to Malvern remains firmly impressed upon my memory.

Matthew's travels have developed his interest in food; in international cuisine he is a connoisseur of stir-fry river moss and water buffalo sausage. Bon vivant, wine buff and cook, to the present writer he had an enormously impressive knowledge of all things gastronomic - though the present writer is notoriously ignorant of such things.

We congratulate Matthew on his appointment to a 2nd in department position at Bishop Challoner's School; his wit and congeniality will be much missed by his colleagues at Camp Hill.

JRD
MacDermid Chemistry Quiz Finals

Having won this competition for 4 years running, the team was under some pressure to do well. Buoyed by a convincing win in the preliminary round, the team of Nathan Avogadro Brown, Aled Chadwick Walker, Jerome Becquerel Wicker and James Faraday Dow arrived at Birmingham University on the evening of Tuesday 13th March in high spirits but fearful of another nail biting finish, as was the case the year before.

When the draw was announced, we realised that (once again) if we got to the final it would probably be against Camphill Girls. However, there were two other teams to be negotiated in order to get to that point. Our first opponents were Warick an unknown force as this was the first year that they had entered the competition. There were some nervous glances after losing the first round 16-14 but in the remainder of this quarter-final the team made virtually no more mistakes. Helped by getting 22 out of 21 in the third round the team stormed to a 106-83 victory.

After some confusion about the room for the semi-final, and some comments about the fact that the girls school only got 78 in that round, we sat down to face King Edward Stratford. The team captain, James Dow, was not too concerned when we lost the first round 20-19, but when we failed to build on a one point lead from rounds 3-7 it looked like there would be close finish. The final round, based on Who Wants to be a Millionare, took 15 minutes to explain and even longer to understand. It boiled down to James Dow and Aled Walker having to answer questions on specialist subjects (acids and hydrogen were chosen from the list), with a maximum of 10 points each. Fortunately, full marks were achieved which meant that the team could not lose. An error by the opposing team lost them 10 possible points in that round, so the Camphill team eventually won 75-64. This was A LOT closer than the final score suggests.

On returning to the main lecture theatre, it seemed that the strange final round had caused even more arguments and confusion in the other semi-final Camphill Girls versus KES (new to the competition). Once the girls team realised that they could pass the last question and still win, it looked set for an all Camphill final for the third year running. In the immortal words of Dr. Taylor, We murdered them. 18-4 up after only two rounds the result was never in question. Trying to finish early and go home, the question master forgot to ask both teams a question at several points but, undeterred, we were holding our 15 point lead, and knew that if there was a moles calculations round we would be almost certain winners. However, this was not the case and it was replaced by a salt preparation team round. Only scoring 3/12, and still maintaining that adding potassium to sulphuric acid was acceptable because it would destroy half a lab, the lead was expected to slip. However, the girls school only managed to get 3 also, and the final round came with a maximum of 12 marks, and being were 15 points ahead we could not loose, eventually
coming out 65-50 winners. There was no final round tension as there had been the previous year, but the experience in the semi-finals was not one to be forgotten easily. Camphill boys now qualify for the national Top of the Bench Finals in London next year.

**Aled Walker**

**Top of the Bench Chemistry Quiz 2007**

After coming first in the McDermid competition last year our school won the opportunity to represent the West Midlands in the National Top of the Bench Competition and so on a Saturday morning in March at the ungodly hour of 7.15 AM the team met up at New Street station. James Dow of year 11, Nathan Brown of year 10, and Alex Jeskins and Staszek Welsh of year 9 all met up with Dr. Taylor in preparation for the journey to the Science museum for the competition. We had come sixth the previous year and did not feel confident that we could beat this position, especially as we still had absolutely no idea how they manage to come up with the different positions. When we eventually arrived at the Museum after travelling the wrong way on the underground for a while we spent some time looking around the areas we expected would be needed for the quiz (the areas that had been used the year before). We then went to the lecture theatre to sit a simple written test, which I expect about 80% of the competitors got completely correct. We then had a race around certain areas of the museum, the year nines in Weather and Materials and the others in Chemistry, heat, famous 18th century scientists and Health Matters. This was a simple test, especially as these were the exact areas we had explored earlier and the questions were exactly the same as last year. As we travelled to the Imperial College labs for the practical section of the competition we reflected that there was very little chance of the previous sections making any difference and so it would all come down to this. We were hoping for a practical involving cooking an egg as Doctor Taylor had explained how to do this to us on the way. When we arrived however we found the task was almost exactly the opposite of this. We were given three unmarked white solids (which turned out to be Citric acid, Sodium hydrogen carbonate and sodium chloride) and water and told that we would have to reach a certain temperature, which would be told to us half way through. As we started mixing chemicals together we were shocked to find the temperature falling and realised the reaction must be endothermic. We were then told the target temperature, 6°C. We resisted the temptation to just mix all of the chemicals together just to see how low it would go and attempted to work out mathematically how much we needed. However as we had a spatula that was clearly unable to pick up the same amount of solid twice this was always going to be a bit of guesswork. In the end we managed to reach 8°C. We thought this was pretty good and apparently it was as we were amazed to find that we had come second. Our shock was only surpassed by that of the winning team. So we took the return train with a new silver plate for the school trophy cabinet and book tokens, a t-shirt and a pen and pencil each, as well as the memories of a most enjoyable day out. It is now up to the team for next year to try and surpass this achievement. Good luck guys.

**James Dow**
Aerospace Challenge: Cranfield 2007

It’s often been said that one of the reasons Camp Hill is such a great school is the huge range of opportunities it offers to its pupils. But one of the most underestimated is the chance for year 11 and sixth form students to enter the ImechE sponsored Schools Aerospace Challenge.

The competition, a creation of the ex-chief Harrier test pilot John Farley, takes the form of two stages – firstly teams of four students address a specification set by the RAF in a six-page dossier. The second stage, held at Cranfield University with other winning teams, offers engaging theoretical work balanced with practical flying in both an aeroplane and helicopter, and team-building exercises which are always great fun. The overall winning team is awarded £625 for each team member plus £2,500 for the school.

This year Camp Hill made another successful entry with a team consisting of myself, Richie Wong, Mark Davies and Simon Jukes, which you might have read about in the newsletter.

Even without the flying, the residential at Cranfield was a very action packed week! Each of the teams tackled a series of aerospace engineering exercises, interspersed with lectures on the jet engine, the aircraft design process focussing on the Hawk jet aircraft, a discussion of the Harrier jump jet and the Joint Strike Fighter designs, and many other engaging topics from experts in their fields.

Perhaps the most enjoyable lecture was presented inside the huge airliner interior simulator followed a practical on airliner evacuation – unfortunately, the big escape slide was out of order, but we did get to simulate an overwing evacuation of a typical regional jet. The simulator itself is used for evacuation research, where they study the behaviour of people escaping ditched airliners to further improve safety – a great A level psychology project I’d bet!

But the highlight of the whole week could only be the flying and this was absolutely amazing. I flew the Grumman AA-5 ‘Tiger’ on a basic VFR (visual flight rules) local area flightplan involving taxiing, takeoff, climb, cruise, straight and level flight, turns, descent, flying an overhead join and finally landing, but the highlight for me was that I was lucky enough to get to practice stalling the aeroplane and then recovering the situation, which involved a dauntingly large nose-down attitude!

The other half of the highlight was the flying the Robinson R-22 helicopter which, was challenging to say the least, especially in the hover, but nonetheless equally exciting, and very addictive! Flying a helicopter is an encounter that has to be experienced to be believed, since it’s hard to describe in words how much fun it is when you’re zooming along at low level over the airfield, watching the rotorwash kick up debris in front of you! A heart stopping moment on the flight was practicing autorotation landings, where the engine is switched off and the helicopter is landed without power!

So that’s it! We all had fun and I hope I’ve inspired you to have a go at next year’s Aerospace Challenge – go on, give it a go, there’s nothing to lose and even if you don’t have a clue where to start Mr Jackson is always on hand to throw ideas around with. If nothing else do it like I did: for the flying. Even if you go to the cheapest flying school, you’re still getting around £250 – £300 of flying absolutely free! And if you’re considering flying professionally this is the perfect way to get your feet wet.
Ross Willington

Engineering Education Scheme (Part 1)

This year, a Camp Hill team consisting of Venkat Bhamidipati, Mark Davies, Calum McGee and Michael Zhang took part in the Engineering Education Scheme, working with Goodrich Engineering Control Systems. After a tough interview morning during which the team was chosen by Goodrich, the EES started with a launch day at Millennium Point in October. This involved an engineering challenge to build a bridge out of straws and paper and a long discussion of the project with our partner engineers from Goodrich. The project given to us was "Build a Demonstration Model of a Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) System" which, put simply, meant building a pump which you could vary the pressure from.

Over the next six months, we had to work hard on what was a full engineering project including planning, research, design, manufacturing, testing and evaluation. A residential visit to Birmingham University in December provided the time to get a lot of the practical side of the project done in the Engineering Department's labs, while also giving an opportunity to mix with other Midlands teams. Importantly, we gave a respectable performance in the 5-a-side football competition as well!

Once the dreaded thirty-nine page report had finally been completed to our partner engineers' satisfaction and we had removed (almost!) all the leaks from our pump system, it was off to the NEC for the celebration day in late May. Here, we showed off our Cherryade (fuel was too dangerous, water not visible enough) pump to top engineers from national companies and gave a presentation on our project to a panel of experts. We also enjoyed going round and looking at what all the other teams had done.

Overall, the EES was a great experience for all of us who took part and an excellent stepping-stone for a university course in engineering. Our thanks must be given Mr Nash, who never quite gave up on us through numerous setbacks; Mr Turner, who helped us a huge amount with the construction of the pump; and the engineers from Goodrich, who reliably turned up for every meeting, supported us well and picked apart our report until it was (nearly) perfect by the tenth and final draft.

Mark Davies

Engineering Education Scheme (Part 2)

Let me start by asking you a question. How many opportunities out there do you know of which provide students with an in-depth experience in science, engineering technology, and project management? I bet you can't list that many. And how many do you know which not only offer all three, but also link the students with local companies to work on real world issues? If you're thinking what I'm thinking, it's of the Engineering Education Scheme (EES.)

There are usually too many applicants for the EES at Camp Hill and this year was no exception, eight students being selected for interview from around twenty five. I was lucky enough to be awarded a place along with Daniel Honnor, Rashid Ahmed and Karl Lu to work on a pipe-cutting device for National Grid. The team brief was to work with three senior engineers from the company, preparing a pipe-cutting tool projected to make the nationwide upgrade of National Grid gas mains easier. An integral part of the EES is the teacher who
represents the school and mentors the students. In this respect the help of Mr Nash was invaluable.

As promised, the programme provided a bucket load of opportunities. Essentially we got hands on work experience creating design solutions to the National Grid specification, plus as part of that a residential at Birmingham university to expand and develop our ideas. Giving us useful experience of university life and the use of seriously impressive university facilities. The residential also allowed us to build up contacts at the university, with whom we later liaised to produce the final product. We also got the opportunity to visit a National Grid site where our designs could potentially be used. This was very interesting highlight, and a real privilege since members of the public are not usually allowed so close to the works.

As if this wasn’t enough, at the end of it all, there was the challenge of presenting our final solution in a formal written technical report followed by a verbal presentation to a panel of senior professional engineers. I think the most gruelling part of the former though was actually keeping the paperwork up to date!

For our efforts, the team was proud to receive an EES National Certificate on successful completion of the programme and a Duke of Edinburgh Skills Certificate, plus the opportunity to compete for a British Association (BA) CREST Award. This on its own is serious stuff, but there was also the satisfaction of seeing our design praised by professional engineers, which proves that we must have done something right!

In short, the Engineering Education Scheme is a fantastic opportunity. There’s something in it for everyone and if you are interested in engineering as a career then so much the better. It is a brilliant place to start getting to grips with what the career is all about and gives you a unique perspective which the careers advisors cannot provide. I’m sure that I speak for the rest of the team when I say that certainly I had fun participating and in fact it’s probably worth joining in just for this alone!

Ross Willington

Jubilee Blood Donations Roll of Honour 2006/7

The following boys decided to celebrate the Jubilee by making a difference. They became blood donors.

Paul Bishop
Ian Briggs
Paul Bassi
Ross Kenny
James Pumphrey
James Mason
Anand Patel
Antony Stewart
Will Ramsey
Danny Rodwell
Jonathan Harding
Alex Evans
Johnny Sartorius
Rahul Makwana

If you are seventeen or over, you too could join this roll of honour. See MR for details or log on to www.blood.co.uk to register as a donor.

MR
**Year 8 Trip to Prestatyn**

After a week of exams, the day Year 8 had been waiting for had finally arrived, Monday the 11\(^{th}\) of June. Smug in the knowledge that the rest of the school had to endure a week of exams while they were in North Wales, spirits were high. After a brief talk in the sixth form block, we got onto the coaches and headed off. After a few hours on the coach we stopped off at Llangollen, where we were told we would have a gentle walk. Instead we were faced with an arduous climb up Dinas Bran. Nevertheless, we set off with Mr Nash at the back, threatening sanctions to anyone who fell short. At the top, we had to draw the spectacular scenery around the hill to which some of the pupils replied, Where? After only 10 minutes of sketching, we were faced with the walk down, but it wasn’t all bad, as at the bottom we were allowed to stop off in the town for refreshments. Before long we were on our way again, to our destination: Pontins! There was a short talk when we arrived, and after about half an hour we were allowed into our chalets. Our first night was spent getting to know our surroundings and settling in to our chalets. It soon became apparent that this would be The year of the Pringle as everyone unpacked at least one tin of Pringles. However, it became quickly apparent that Mr Duncan had been accepting them as bribes, because if you looked through his chalet window, you would see about seven tins on the table.

On the second day, the two coaches travelled to Aber Falls, and Caernarfon Castle. At Aber Falls we were first faced with yet another short and gentle walk with Mr Nash keeping everyone together. Then when we reached the river, we were told we would have to do some more Geography and Biology, and although not all of us seemed happy, most of us brightened up when we realised we would have to go into the water, follow oranges down the river, and kick water into nets. Unfortunately, it was over too soon and we were faced with the walk back. At Caernarfon Castle we were given a guided tour and a bit of background to the castle, as well as going round the gift shop. When we arrived back at Pontins we had dinner, with Nathan Cornwall holding up the tradition of smartening up, even though no one else did. Afterwards we had a number of choices of what we could do, which involved snooker, swimming or an inter-form cricket tournament.

On the next two days, we went to Plas Y Brenin, an outdoor pursuits centre, where we experienced climbing, skiing, orienteering and canoeing. In the skiing, almost everyone fell over, some being quite spectacular (even the instructors both fell over). The canoeing was no different to every year, with Mr Jones becoming a target for splashing. Eventually, much to the satisfaction of the other people in his group, he capsized. In the orienteering, one group decided to take a shortcut up a hill, but ended up taking about twice as long as the long route would have. Overall, although the weather wasn’t brilliant, everyone loved the days at Plas Y Brenin.

On the final day the weather deteriorated. We had a late breakfast, and spent a lot of time in our chalets, tidying up and watching TV to pass the time. After a few hours, we finally left them and had our final meeting. Prizes were given out, including worst snooker player, best dresser, and cleanest chalet. Soon afterwards, it was time to leave and, although it was raining, inside the coaches were a multitude of tired but happy kids.

Overall, the trip was a great success, and on behalf of all of Year 8, I would like to thank all the teachers who gave up their time to make this trip possible. I also presume that all the teachers would like to thank Year 8 for giving them so many Pringles!

Alan Egan
ST David’s Outdoor Pursuits Expedition

Our regular rock climbing challenge was slightly different this year due to the additional attraction of 'coasteering'. The sight of several of our party in tight-fitting rubber suits would, under different circumstances, be the subject of some closer scrutiny by the local constabulary. However, all went well and everyone returned none the worse for the experience. I’m sure that all the boys had an adventure that they will not forget easily, and we sincerely hope that they continue their interest over the years.

Once again, we are indebted to Sid Newbold for his organisational skills as ‘quartermaster general’ and, of course, his van. A great deal credit should go to Mr Bruten whose climbing skills remain, as ever, impressive and to Mr Downing, whose good natured approach to all circumstances remains undiminished. Mr Cookson starred yet again in the toast-making section of the field kitchen, but his chipping probably needs some serious practice.

However, it was the boys who were the real stars. They never complained about climbing in appalling weather conditions during the first two days and always appeared to accept whatever was given to them to eat! Apart from one brief but memorable lapse during a washing-up session, hardly anything went awry and, generally, they were a credit to the school at all times.

PTC
Czech Republic 2007

At 4 pm on Friday 20th July boys from years 8 to upper sixth departed on a long journey to Košice in the Czech Republic accompanied by Mr May, Mr Duncan, Mr McDermott and Mr Caves. The journey took around an entire day to complete passing through France, Belgium and Germany, when we finally arrived at the international youth camp we were given the evening to get to know our new surroundings.

Sunday morning was dedicated to free time and sports at the campsite with the afternoon being devoted to a walk up a local mountain. The weary band of boys was tired when they eventually reached the summit but felt a sense of achievement in what they had done. The evening provided a visit into nearby Mariánské Lázné allowing us to eat and drink in one of the numerous cafés and witness the spectacular singing fountain, Mr May’s highlight of the trip.

On Monday we travelled to the spa town of Karlovy Vary and visited the world famous spring with a chance to sample the supposedly healing waters before being able to experience the town’s culture and visit its many shops. The evening activities included the coveted singing competition compulsory for all boys and staff which was great fun and enjoyed by all. Highlights of the night featured Mr Caves’ harmonica playing and a song reflecting on the trip written and performed by the teachers.

On Tuesday we all travelled to Tachov for a two-hour bowling session which was a chance for everyone to have fun and let off some steam. The evening was dedicated to the first of two discos which allowed us to socialise with the Czech camp residents and really enjoy ourselves.

Wednesday saw an early start for us as we set off on a two and a half hour coach trip to the historic capital of the Czech Republic, Prague. The tour involved travelling to the palace and the cathedral to admire the architecture and design. Then we continued to the famous Charles Bridge, featured in the opening scenes of Mission Impossible. After, we visited the Old Town Square to witness the one o’clock chiming of the astronomical clock before proceeding to Wenceslas Square where there was an opportunity to sample the many shops before heading back to Košice.

On Thursday we travelled to the famous town of Plzeň, the home of Pilsner lager. Part of this journey consisted of a boat trip which offered great views of the beautiful Czech countryside. In Plzeň there was the chance to do some shopping and to walk to the top of the spire at St Bartholomew’s church, the tallest spire in the Czech Republic. That evening there was another visit to Tachov to ice skate or, for the less daring and adventurous, play mini-golf. This was a chance to have fun and several people embarrassed themselves, not least Mr Caves.

Friday was our last full day in the Czech Republic and brought a visit to Domažlice where we were given plenty of time to shop and haggle in the Vietnamese shops which sold a wide range of products and offered the chance to pick up some real bargains. The evening brought the final of the prestigious pool competition. All the boys and staff were entered into this competition which was won on Friday evening by the pairing of Mr Duncan and Kieran Ahern. This was also the evening of the farewell disco and allowed us to say goodbye to our Czech friends.

On Saturday morning we all packed our things and tidied our chalets. All that remained was a presentation ceremony which allowed us to thank the teachers and the Czech staff at the campsite who made everything possible. Then we all gathered in the coach to set off on our
long journey home. I would like to reiterate our thanks to the teachers and Czech staff that
helped to make the trip so fantastic, all of us really enjoyed it.

Alex Riley

Study Visit to Frankfurt 2007

On Thursday 24th May, 27 year 8 pupils accompanied by Frau Rudge and her
husband, Mr Carman and Mr Dinham flew off to experience a taste of life in
Frankfurt. After a short flight we arrived at Frankfurt Airport, and then navigated the
various U-Bahn and S-Bahn (in temperatures exceeding 30°C!) to arrive at the station
where we would meet our families at around lunchtime. Our families were very nice,
and thankfully spoke some English, which was helpful as our German was quite
limited. We then had the remainder of the afternoon with them, in which we unpacked
our things, talked and played games.

Over the next few days we were taken to a German school where we found ourselves
at the centre of attention. We were marched round Frankfurt with Frau Rudge intent
on teaching us some of its history and we went to the Swiss Market at Heidelberg
(cuckoo clock, anybody?)! We also saw the largest wine barrel in the world which
captivated Mr Carman’s attention until he found out it was empty.

On Friday morning we had to get up early to arrive at the local school at half past
seven! We followed our partners around the school and learnt about the way that
German schools worked. Lessons were quite confusing, as they were conducted
entirely in German, although we could pick out some pieces of information, such as in
Maths or Physics. Most people enjoyed English best! After the lessons, our partners
and ourselves were put into teams of six (three pairs), in which we then spent the
afternoon carrying out a series of tasks including drawing houses and plants, finding
some English speakers, and buying food. Each team was then judged on their efforts.

Saturday saw another early start, as we were going to spend the day in Frankfurt
where we visited many of the important landmarks, including the town hall, the
market square and St Paul’s Church. After a lunch break and some souvenir shopping
(during which people bought such things as a silly hat, a parasol, and a 16-pack of
batteries), we headed to the Zoo, which everyone really enjoyed.

All pupils spent Sunday with their families. Unfortunately, Sunday was the day that
the sun finally ended and it started to rain, so outdoor activities were rather limited.
Still, the rain went away for part of the afternoon, so not all was lost.

The rain came again on Monday, our last full day when we were to visit Heidelberg.
After some U-Bahn and S-Bahn rides, we walked up a long hill along the river valley
overlooking the town, then down the other side, and over the bridge across the river.
The mood was slightly dampened by the rain, but we continued on to the funicular
railway. At the top, we visited the old castle, housing the largest wine barrel in the
world! After some time in the castle, we returned to the town, and spent an hour
looking around the shops; unfortunately, many were closed, as it was a holiday. We
returned home and spent the latter part of the afternoon with our families, before packing our bags in the evening, ready for the journey home.

Tuesday was the day of our return, and it saw another early start. We said goodbye to our families, and retraced our route back to Frankfurt Airport. Our take-off was delayed slightly due to a technical hitch when our plane lost all power but the crew assured us that there was absolutely nothing to worry about, and we took off half an hour later.

It was a great trip and judging by peoples’ reactions they would like their German partners to stay here on a return visit. We would all like to thank Mrs Rudge, Mr Rudge, Mr Dinham and Mr Carman who made this trip possible.

James Wallis & George Mather

Frankfurt Schülerforum 2007

Early on a Thursday, still mourning the tragic loss of Liverpool the night before six pairs of bleary eyes gazed upon Birmingham Airport wondering what lay before us. By 10 o’clock local time we had been whisked away to Schule am Ried to meet up with those families willing/insane enough to provide us with hospitality for the next few days. But first we turned the tables by listening in on an English lesson… German style.

For the rest of the day we met up with our host family and enjoyed the luxury of their accommodation. Although we will never get our heads round those multi-coloured bins. Having gone off to do our own thing the families then treated us to all sorts and we experienced German cinema. Well Pirates of the Caribbean 3 in German, harder to decipher than it sounds. What is more German public transport even tried to imitate its British counterparts, it broke down.

The next day, at the mercilessly early time of 7.00 am, we embarked on the adventure that is the Schülerforum at the local university. Alex, John and Phil gave our presentation on electric cars, to critical acclaim from the judges and James, Benedict and Nathan produced a high quality piece on robotics. All the judges and teachers watching (Mr Carman, Mr Dinham, Frau Rudge and Mr Jackson) all agreed we had done the school proud. Following this culmination of months of hard work we were treated to some of the technical wonders concealed beneath Frankfurt’s veneer. And even though we were all exhausted the night proved to be just as rewarding. Let’s just say we followed the old adage, ‘work hard, party hardder’

Our final day saw us meet up with the Year 8 group and tour the magnificent city of Frankfurt. Enthusiastic guide Rudge was more than adept in showing us, amongst others, Goethe’s house and the building where German democracy practically began. But that night we had to bid an emotional farewell to our wonderful host families and arrived in the airport reflecting on what had been. Needless to say a storm meant our flight was delayed to 11.30 pm and we did not arrive at home until the early hours of Sunday morning.

However, that took nothing away from an excellent trip organised brilliantly by Frau Rudge. We must also thank all the host families for all the effort they put in to make us feel at home. Maybe most of all a lot of thanks must go to Mr Jackson, who accompanied us all the way, was always a good sport to our useless jokes and even at one stage appeared to have mastered the labyrinth of a German underground system. It was an amazing experience that all that
took part enjoyed and we just hope that the exchange students won’t feel too disappointed with what we can offer in Birmingham.

Alexander Taylor, John Liu, Phil Trscinzki, James Rogers, Benedict Hardy and Nathan Tongue

PARIS ART TRIP

Once again we trudged through the many unknown side streets of the Marais in our attempt to secure an even shorter route to the Musée Picasso; but failed. Similar expeditions had the exact same result when searching for other destinations which needed to be inspected for their artistic potential. Nevertheless, all the boys enjoyed their time whether they were gathering much needed information for their A Level Art course, or merely spending time in Paris as tourists, eagerly soaking up the traces of culture to be found in the Louvre, the Pompidou Centre or even the bizarre exhibitions in the Grande Arch. Occasional visits to other sites of interest such as the now obligatory Sacré-Cœur by night to witness the twinkling effect of 20,000 halogen bulbs fixed to the Eiffel Tower, Pere Lachaise cemetery wherein lie the mortal remains of such luminaries as Jim Morrison, Sarah Berhardt and, of course, Oscar Wilde? (No, he was livid!).

If any of you reading this should happen to find yourself in Paris in the near future, be sure to pop in to the Pizza Momo near St Paul metro station, for the best genuine Pizzas in the world. Just mention my name and see what happens. The Camp Hill quiz teams did remarkably well also, only narrowly defeated by some seriously dodgy marking. Who would ever guess that James Pumphrey really actually knew the date of the publication of the first translation of the Bible into English; 1382 or thereabouts? I mean I James Pumphrey! He also knew the exact equatorial circumference of the Earth to the nearest half inch and the fastest man-made object before the 19th Century! This boy will go far. But we did actually introduce boys to the delights of several art galleries and museums, the most memorable in some respects was a whacky art exhibition at the Pompidou Centre, featuring several art videos of dubious origins and doubtful content. I missed these, apparently.

Many thanks to Mrs Rachel Watts, who could now be regarded as a regular tourist, despite having to endure the indignity of being accommodated in a different building where she was surrounded by dozens of foreign types from Spain, Italy and Malaya. The boys were, as usual, excellent and a credit to themselves and to the school. Alex Haskey revealed a little known talent for binge eating (kebabs I am reliably informed) and Robert Cruickshank is surely the most laid-back seeker of Art Nouveau memorabilia ever to emerge from the Hotel Fauconnier on a sunny morning in October. It never ceased to amaze me just how much junk food our boys can eat. They never stop – crisps, waffles, hot dogs, burgers, cakes, nuts and almost anything in bright shiny wrappers containing soft, spongy substances entirely made of ingredients normally only found at the bottom of midden-heaps. They must have stomachs made of cast iron. I sat and watched Joe Pick eat, none stop, three huge packets of crispy things followed by several large cans of Pepsi and then turn around to Will Arnold and say I'm still feeling a bit peckish, fancy a couple of donner kebabs? Not bad you might think, but we hadn’t actually left the station at that point. It was a taste, (no pun intended), of things to come!

Boys for the 2007 tour are even now in serious training. I am reliably informed by Andrew Simpson, himself no mean dad about town. Oh well, at least they didn’t find the lovely little Italian restaurant charmingly named Mafiosa. Now that’s something else!

PTC
Poland 2007

The last academic year has seen the first exchange between King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys and our new partner school in Poland; Zespól Szkół Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Swidnica.

We first met and worked with staff and students from this 16-18 co ed. selective grammar school in November 2005 at the Krzywałwa Foundation Centre for International Understanding, which is located in a small community about 5 kilometres outside Swidnica. Our usual Autumn Sixth Form tri-annual European Union political seminar with our German partner school Schule am Ried, had been moved from Chateau Munsbach in Luxembourg to this new venue in Poland, and II LO had been invited to join us as a local school whose people were known by the Krzywałwa centre. The British and Polish students and staff got on so well that, from our experience of the benefits to our students of working closely with a German school for many years, we decided to try to open a dialogue with our new Polish friends.

By the following February we were trialling a video conferencing link and plans were made to invite a group from II LO to come and see us in Birmingham. Mrs Joanna Maslukiewicz and Miss Iwona Juzwa, from the II LO English Department, brought ten students to Birmingham, for five days, in October 2006. Our visitors appeared to have made a very positive impression upon our school community. All the Polish students spoke English very well, and their outgoing, intelligent and sociable nature, combined with the fact that the majority were girls, ensured a mildly curious but warm reception from all the classes they attended in school, and particularly from the audience that gathered in the hall to see their special presentation. They were hosted by Camp Hill families over a 5 day period and enjoyed a group day trip to London, where the highlight turned out to be the toy department of Harrods.

Then it was our turn. On February 28th 2007, ten boys from Years 11 to 13, accompanied by myself and Mrs Rudge, travelled to Swidnica for the reciprocal visit to our new partner school, using the Ryanair service from East Midlands airport to Wroclaw which is an hour’s drive from Swidnica.

Our boys were the native speaking novelty act in this year's LO II English American Week, where the normal curriculum was replaced by a series of special activities, including drama, competitions, public speaking and singing, all of which celebrated the use of spoken English. We also represented our school through a series of video images that had been compiled by the boys themselves, including the student edited highlights of the school bands at the Evolutions concert. Teams from several schools in Swidnica worked together with our boys to make the event a very special success.

Each Camp Hill boy stayed with the family of their Polish partner and their time out of school was spent sight seeing and exploring the evening social scene of this Polish provincial city. They were very well looked after and we managed to pack a lot into our brief time in the country. We spent Saturday in the city of Wroclaw and Sunday with the host families. Polish hospitality is wonderful, particularly if you enjoy your food. Some of the experiences in this fascinating region with its complex heritage of German, Soviet Russian and ethnic Polish influences, may have been quite thought provoking for the young people. All the more so, as the increasingly important Polish community in Britain is the subject of constant reportage in the media. They learned of the experiences of the local people who settled in Silesia after 1945 and saw the legacy of a Communist society in the new Poland. They got a sense of the nation from the faith of the people, and from the values still placed by people today upon the history of Poland. As well as seeing the city of Wroclaw, some boys visited castles, and other places of unexpected interest, including the
former German concentration camp at Gross Rosen. As for myself, I enjoyed using my primitive Polish in the coffee shops, visiting a Sunday market after attending Mass in the cathedral and, as a special treat for a Geography teacher, a trip to see the Sudeten Mountains close to the Czech border.

We had a brilliant time with very hospitable people who seemed to share similar values. For our part as teachers, we were made most welcome by the staff of LO II and we started the joint planning to build on our partnership experience through an application to the European Union Comenius school project scheme. Unfortunately, for this year at least, there have been too many demands on the resources of Comenius, and our joint application from four partner schools has been refused funding and we will perhaps have to look at other ways to build on our existing partner school relationship in the year ahead.

My special thanks to Mrs Rudge for her support in this enterprise and to my Polish colleagues Mrs Joanna Maslukiewicz, Miss Iwona Juźwa, and the Director and staff of II LO who made us so very welcome during our stay in Swidnica.

CJ

SKI TRIP FRANCE

This year’s ski trip to La Plagne in France was a great success. This is not my personal assessment but a collective opinion from the boys who seemed to enjoy every minute. With snow conditions nearly perfect for the whole week, additional snow at regular intervals simply put the icing on the cake. The boys behaved impeccably throughout and were able to explore more of the resort owing to the extra hours ski-ing with staff. The standard of ski-ing improved rapidly during the first few days – even the novice group were able to negotiate some demanding routes; ski-ing across the road to the meeting point, for example. Nevertheless, a truly exhilarating holiday for all, and, once again, not possible without the help of our regular staff skiers who not only supervise additional ski-ing time, but also act variously as first-aiders, crime investigators, gentlemen’s outfitters, dietary consultants, travel guides, carpenters, mechanics, night club doormen, music critics and lastly “top blokes.”

Next year we have a large group travelling to Italy, followed in 2009 to Austria. Complex negotiations for 2010 are currently in hand – watch this space!

PTC
Anyone attempting all 25 questions is either very clever or very ö÷. Yes, it would be stupid to spend 87 minutes steadily building up a good score through valiant solutions, and then, on the final so-tricky questions, throwing them away in three mad minutes of ghastly guesswork. The one hundred or so Camp Hill candidates for the UK Senior Maths Challenge are specifically warned. And they listen. Between them they gain an incredible 76 certificates: 28 Gold, 26 Silver and 22 Bronze, which must be about our best ever. Of course you always get the one who does them all anyway, but then Jos Gibbons would, wouldn't he? and what does he end up scoring? Only full marks, 125/125 – top equal in the country, thatö all.

Nathan Brown (Y10), Aaron Pereira (Y11), Sam Brown, Ian Trzcinski and Mark Davies (Y12), as well as Joe Sheldrick (Y13) also score in the hundreds, and, for being so foolhardy, together with Nathan Man, Jimmy Xu, Andrew Martin, Sailesh Mistry, Nat Jowitt, Karl Lu, Michael Zhang and Dale Pearce they are entered for the follow-up British Maths Olympiad paper ö a test to test the best. [PHOTO: BMO candidatesöhere] A couple of joint after-school practice sessions on past BMO questions are attended by ten likely lads and as many girls, but the actual BMO paper ö attempt six unlikely questions in 3½ hours, still always comes as rather a shock: e.g. öFind four prime numbers less than 100 which are factors of 3^22 ö 2^23 ÷ (No calculators, of course.)

Spring 2007: World Olympiad Triallists and easy STEPs

For a school to have one Olympic triallist in one event would be impressive, but three in two! Who will represent the United Kingdom in this yearö International Mathematical Olympiad in Vietnam? Competition for places is intense. From the thousands who take the UK Senior Maths Challenge in November, a select few sit the British Mathematical Olympiad in December. This is serious, mind-blowing problem solving. The best brains in the country might well spend 3½ hours on six questions and not score more than 6 out of 60. Tough stuff! So how do Camp Hillö fifteen brave young men do? Not bad at all. Twelve are in double figures. Aaron Pereira and Nathan Brownö scores of 18 gain them invitations to the rarefied realms of Round 2. Sam öan-sure-Iönot-going-to-do-very-wellö Brown does better still, achieving 10 out of 10 on each of the three questions he submits and misses out on a top-100 prize by just one mark. Jos Gibbons does best of all, however, with a top-100 prize, yet again. [PHOTO: öAaron Sam Jos Nathanöhere] So now, Camp Hill has an incredible four pupils in BMO2. Can they go further? Yes! Amazingly both Aaron and Nathan are invited to the residential IMO training course at Trinity College, Cambridge at the end of term. As for Jos ö who has made Trinity twice already, who was last yearö UK IMO reserve, and who gained a Bronze representing the UK at the 2006 Balkan Maths Olympiad ö would he be there, making it an unheard of öthree in the final twentyö for Camp Hill Boys...? No! Jos will be setting a new record, being the first Camp Hill pupil to attend Olympiad trials in two different subjects. He has qualified in the top 10 in the country for the Chemistry Olympiad trials.

The results of this yearö UK Intermediate Maths Challenge are superb. Camp Hill pupils achieve an excellent 225 certificates of merit – 68 Gold, 94 Silver and 63 Bronze. Thirty-three pupils qualify in the top 2% of their age group for the Kangaroo Maths Challenge. Better still, nineteen more are in the top 500 in their year, from 200 000 UK entrants, and qualify for their respective age group Olympiad paper.

One small STEP, but Cambridge Entry Sixth Term Examination Papers reveal whether candidates can think for themselves rather than just öurning a handleö. A little previous practice is always beneficial, so when Mr. Kavanagh of King Edwards High School offers STEP classes on four consecutive Tuesday evenings, we jump at the offer and into a minibus and are there ö we being ten keen Sixth Form students from Camp Hill Boys and Girls, and a driver. What an experience striving at ömpossibleö questions for two
solid hours straight after a full day at school. And what satisfaction, when, after a hint here, a nudge there, much persistence and a little perspicacity, students make that giant leap forward and do easy STEPs.

**Summer 2007: JMO, IMOK top-50s and Summer School record**

Every Child Matters, so all our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils are entered for the UK Junior Maths Challenge. The results are pretty good with **175 pupils receiving certificates of merit: 68 Gold, 74 Silver and 33 Bronze**. Eight pupils excel, and from an original entry of one quarter of a million, qualify in the top 1000 in the country for the follow-up Olympiad paper. For Andrew Pearson, Marvin Miu, Alex McCormick, Thomas Dowling, David Bertram and Kamdeep Uppal (Y8), it becomes part of their Prestatyn experience, while Ben Griffin and Sidhu Umapathy (Y7) tackle the two-hour paper back at school. They all receive certificates, with Andrew doing especially well to gain a Certificate of Distinction and a Bronze medal.

The European Kangaroo Maths Challenge is taken by two million pupils across Europe, including 33 from Camp Hill. Of these, very well done to Ross Jones-Morris, Kuldeep Samra, Danny Kerrigan and James Dow (Y11), Adam McCarthy (Y10), as well as Gary Zhang, Rupert Cole and Chris Carter (Y9) whose solutions place them in the top 500 in the country, gain them Certificates of Merit and Kangaroo key-rings.

[PHOTO: Kangaroo participants\(\)here \(\) or omit if not room]

In the harder UK Intermediate Maths Olympiad, Camp Hill pupils acquit themselves very well, and all receive certificates: James Jordan (Distinction); Thomas Brooks, Kieran Child, Andrew Briggs, Philip Trzcinski, Jack Attack, Michael Koppel, Daniel Pun, Joshua Tibbetts, and Edward Wallace (Merits), as well as Rory Goodenough, Andy Mei, Staszek Welsh, and Serge Wicker.

[PHOTO: Olympiad qualifiers\(\)here]

Five Camp Hill pupils do particularly well. In addition to their Certificates of Distinction, Aaron Pereira, Nathan Brown, Aled Walker, Timothy Shao and Andrew Jeskins all win top-100 medals, with the first four also winning UK top-50 book prizes.

[PHOTO: Timothy PRJ Andrew Aaron Aled Nathan\(\)here]

Aaron Pereira and Nathan Brown enjoy four days training and testing over Easter at Trinity College, Cambridge Selection Camp, but as they were still two years under age, not unexpectedly do not make the final cut for this year’s UK International Maths Olympiad squad. Instead, they were selected to be ‘Leaders’ at this year’s Summer School. Amazing! This prestigious event, for just 50 of the most promising UK Maths Challenges students, has included at least one Camp Hill mathematician every year for the last 8 years. But this July there become three, when Aled Walker is also invited as a participant. How will he fare? Read the accompanying account of his wonderfully bizarre experience!

The year end sees our impressive Graduate Training teachers progressing to permanent posts: Mrs Khuttan at Edgbaston High School for Girls, and Mr Watkins at Camp Hill Boys. We are grateful for all they have contributed, and wish them many more successful years.

**National Mathematics Summer School 2007, 8th-13th July**

Camp Hill Boys outdid itself again this year, with no fewer than three boys attending the prestigious National Mathematics Summer School, a week of intensive mathematical instruction held conveniently at Queen’s College Birmingham. I joined the veteran Camp Hill mathematicians Nathan Brown and Aaron Pereira (who made up half of the senior members).

The format of the days was strenuous in the extreme—a one and a half hour lecture in the morning from Birmingham university lecturer and founder of the famed maths challenges, Tony Gardener, followed by an hour or more of mathematical competitions. After lunch, there were three and a half hours of instruction on topics as varied as cryptography, continued fractions and the pigeon-hole principle. One session even consisted of trying to decipher a maths problem written in a foreign language and then having to present a
solution to the group in a foreign language. Those who were bilingual in Japanese excelled themselves and those who had forgotten every iota of French they ever learned larked about and had great fun.

In the evenings was when most of the enjoyment was had. On one evening there was an informal mathematical team challenge (imagine team chess with algebra instead of bishops), on another there was a lecture on short impartial game theory and there was an evening of entertainment put on by the students themselves. Many of the contributions were musical but the most noteworthy acts were Nathan Brown’s inimitable interpretation of that classic fairy tale ‘Rindercella’ and James Munro’s attempt to combine recitation with juggling – reciting pi to 100 decimal places whilst juggling. James and I contemplated a joint juggling act, but we would have put the spectators in danger. Such was the eclectic bunch of people who had been brought together that there was also someone who could play the ‘Have I Got News For You’ theme tune on the ocarina and much fun was had singing along to the Complex Number Song and Mathematical Pi (think American Pie with better lyrics.)

However, the weirdest event was yet to come. The organisers thought that it would be a great idea for us to see some culture while we were there, so by the amazing grace of no forward planning whatsoever they had bought 50 tickets to whatever happened to be on at Midlands Art Centre that evening. What ensued was the most bizarre piece of post-modernist theatre that any of us had seen or are likely to see ever again! If I tell you that I ended up cutting my thumb during the performance whilst trying to stone the plum that every single person there had been given, you may get a sense of it. Perhaps theatre really is dead.

Although all of us learnt a huge amount of mathematics, not to mention missed a week of school, I think that the bringing together of so many insane strangers who became good friends (mainly through epic games of Psychiatrist) was the most wonderful thing about the experience. As well as friendships, I think that the juggling craze that ensued will last for a very long time!

Aled Walker
Fiddler On the Roof: a view from the chorus

After the amazing success of the school production of *Les Miserables* two years ago, there was much excitement about what Mr. Southworth’s musical extravaganza would entail this year. Although he kept us all guessing, laying false trails along the way, he eventually decided upon that tale of Jewish life, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

When casting had been completed, with head boy Isaac Ghinnai leading the cast as Teyve, it was time to put on our worst Russian accents and start rehearsing. Much fun was had watching Mr Palmer struggle through the multiple key changes of the opening number but despite all his efforts we eventually mastered the singing of it. The other musical numbers followed in quick succession, but no one could fail to notice that our lord and master (Mr Southworth) had outdone himself again, by leaving even less time than usual to rehearse the production. Our problems were compounded by the last two days of the half-term being ‘snow days’ and thus preventing any of the planned rehearsals.

With even the weather conspiring against us it was all hands on deck when school recommenced. In 3 weeks we had to learn several song and dance numbers and most of the rest of the musical as well! However, much fun was had in learning the Rumour sequence, in which a piece of gossip is passed on throughout the villagers and becomes mutated out of all recognition. With 40 or so people charging about the stage whilst singing, it got a bit rough, with a desperate race to get behind the curtain before the next group had to arrive in the area one had just vacated! Good exercise, and well has great fun!

In productions such as this, it is often the rehearsing that becomes the most enjoyable part. Yes, having the performances as a final goal and acting in front of an audience is important, but the ability to see the production as it moves from its infancy to its conclusion is, in my opinion, the most wonderful experience. Perhaps the most spectacular occasion in rehearsals was on our first run through the ‘Dream’ sequence. Due to many absentees (who were either performing in or going to see the Sosage factory production of *Les Mis*) we were short on the ground as it was, and then Isaac had to go off to do a speech as part of his head boy duties. This left Kat Hardy (our choreographer, daughter of the head of years 10 and 11 and the person who played Teyve’s wife, Golde) playing 4 different parts simultaneously; it had to be seen to be believed!

After all this preparation, it was finally time for the performances. Fake beards were produced out of thin air, the make up artists were drafted in and costumes were organised with Mrs James’s usual vigour. The bottle dancers were ready, and the bottle dance sabotage party was also in position to fill them up with water and thus make them impossible to balance. Opening night was, shall we say, interesting. The chorus were inevitably immaculate, but the leading characters were, I must say, very very average. Well, Sam Clear had to improvise for 2 minutes while Laura Pardoe suddenly realised that she was on the wrong side of the stage – we never let her live that down.

Each subsequent performance improved, and by Saturday night we were on the crest of a wave. Yes there had been problems (Rosie had the audience in fits when her microphone fell on the floor; she just stared at it and said, ‘What is this, it hasn’t been invented yet!’) but the experience was unforgettable. The after-show party provided a fitting hoorah to another great production!

Aled Walker

Junior Drama – *Our Day Out*
In October last year (admittedly quite late for the November performances) Messrs Puzey and Hill took on the arduous task of Junior Drama yet again. This year's play was one of Willy Russell's finest, *Our Day Out*, the story of a working class Liverpudlian 'progress' group on their school trip to North Wales. It is set in the mid-70's and explores themes ranging from simple teenage worries to the darker elements of the clash between two opposing teaching styles and the poverty that the British working class suffered throughout the 1970's. The story is at times hilarious, but at some points deadly serious, such as the cliff top scene between Mr Briggs, the primary antagonist, and Carol Chandler, the down-trodden protagonist.

The play is very much an ensemble piece and so the casting was very important towards its success. The cast was well assembled by the Upper Sixth directors Chris Pearson, Isaac Ghinai, and Chris Dowling from the Boys' School, along with Kat Hardy from the Girls' School. The cast was largely assembled from the Boys' school's Year 8, with Christopher Sherwood and Alex Wood as Brian Reilly and Digga the school bullies and Tom Dowling as Andrews, the wannabe popular kid, putting in excellent performances. I played Mr Briggs, the grumpy Deputy Head who seems to suffer a character change after joining the party at the last moment, only to revert to his old self by the end of the play.

From the Girls School, Elin Dowsett must be given special credit for her excellent portrayal of Carol Chandler, and it must be given also to Alice Seville in her role as Mrs Kay, the liberal older teacher. Also from the Girls school were Iona Campbell and Savannah Gallo, as two superficial teenage girls, Olivia Deane, as a younger teacher on the trip, Pippa Liley, another teenage girl, and Mel Chanal and Sophie Ingleby as smart waitresses who turn the theiving coach party away.

The rest of "The Kids" were played well by Alex McCormick and Oliver Palmer, from Year 8, and newcomers Jason Pereira, Talay Cheema, and James Featherstone. Another Year 7 who was outstanding was Loughlan O'Doherty as Colin, the young male teacher who stands up to Briggs; he played him with great enthusiasm. Imani Stewart-Browne was hilarious as Ronnie, the foolish bus driver. Hassan Mohammed, Patrick McElroy and Jake Yafai were excellent as adults who the kids fool comically throughout their trip. Ben Smith and Nishant Prasad also put in good turns as the Head Teacher who sends Mr Briggs along on the trip and the school lollipop man respectively.

The play was well executed and altogether very successful, judging by the warm applause of the audiences over the three nights it was performed. A special thank you must be given to the team of Directors, Mr Hill, Mr Downing, Mr Carmen, Mr Davenhall, Mr Southworth, Mrs James and all of their helpers for doing the backstage work that made *Our Day Out* 2007 the success that it became. And of course, extra special thanks must go to Mr Puzey, for ensuring that the play managed to get performed in the first place! Altogether, a great Junior Drama production. Roll on 2007!

**Kieran Ahern**

**Junior Poetry and Music Concert**

Once again the Music and English departments joined forces to produce the annual Poetry and Music evening, this time with the theme of 'sport'. This year also saw for the first time contributions from Kings Heath and Wheeler's Lane Primary Schools, who had attended a Music and Poetry Workshop run by Mr Hill and Mr Palmer, along with some of our Year 8 pupils, earlier in the term. It was an event of laughter, fun, excitement and enjoyment for the audience.
It’s a totally different story for the teachers and performers though, as they spent weeks toiling over all the preparations leading up to the day.

The evening started off with a brilliant performance of Sonata in f minor by Beethoven, performed by Marvin Mui on the Piano. Next were the poems from the Year 7s, giving the new students a chance to perform in front of the parents, some for the second time after performing in the Junior Drama. First was 7K, with performances of Ref by Talha Witten, Snake Wrestling by Talay Cheema, Goal by Ben Griffin and Trying Hard by James Featherstone. After that was another musical piece, Parisian Waltz by Christopher Gunning, performed by Benjamin Palmer on the clarinet. Of course all the musical pieces are not based on the theme of sport because there aren’t actually that many pieces on the topic, or at least Mr Palmer couldn’t find them!

After that was the turn of 7M. A performance of The Kentucky Fisherman Love Poem was extremely well narrated along with poems written by the boys, which included The Drug: Speed by David Peters and The Swimmer by Jack Lee. The best performance from this class was by far the King Edward’s School Song, performed with all the bravery and valour needed by performers who could not sing. They were met with a big round of applause for their courageous attempt, however.

After a performance of Allegro by J-H Fiocco, played by James Bruten, it was the turn of Kings Heath Primary School. Earlier in the term, the English department along with the help of several Year 8 boys, held a poetry workshop for the children in Year 6 at Kings Heath Primary School where the children were split into groups of 5 and were given the subject of Sports to write a poem about. With the help of the Year 8 boys, each group produced a poem and were able to perform it. Two of the groups agreed to perform at the Poetry Evening and both The Lesson by Ryan Lucas and Nayan Patel and My New Friend by Dulie Foster-Finn, Erica Steer, Issy Good and Sophie Alcock were very well performed.

After another music performance of Orange by Burgmuller, played by Peter Lui on the Piano, it was the turn of the final year 7 class, 7S. That just not cricket by Abdullah Farhad and Goal by Joshua Bridgman were performed well, but a special mention must go to the stunning performance of Mr Hill-Sporting Wonder by Andrew Newman and Calum Paver, which is supposedly written by Mrs Richardson after extensive research on Mr Hill’s sporting habits (eating, drinking and trying to teach rugby). The first half of the evening was ended by a performance of Ejercicio by Jose Ferrer, played by James Bicknell on the Guitar.

The second half of the evening began with a performance of Gangster Prankster written and performed by King’s Heath Primary School and Wheeler’s Lane Primary School with a little help by Camp Hill Boys. This was also created on the day of the poetry workshop, conducted by Mr Palmer. Then it was the turn of the Year 8s and their stunning poems. 8J got the ball rolling with their poems, which included The 100m Sprint by Jagatpreet Gill and The Boxer by Asim Shoaib.

Another piano piece, Intermezzo in A by Brahms was performed by Robert Smith. Then Another Primary School involved in the poetry workshop, Wheeler’s Lane, had 4 poems to perform, including The Triathlon in Future Make a List! Tournament and The Relay Race.

This was followed by two musical pieces on the Guitar and Tenor Saxophone, and then finally came the last Year 8 class, 8S. A total of 8 poems were performed by 8S. The best one of these, indeed the best performance of the night, was Bicycle Race of course originally by Queen performed very bravely, or stupidly, by Robert Rossiter, Josh O’Donnell, Alex McCormick, Thomas Mitchell-Hewitt, Oliver Dawkins, Michael Chalmers, Michael Bristow, Dominik Brundler, Christopher Sherwood, Kieran Ahern and Ankit Bhatt. From the look on Mr Palmer’s face at the time, the whole group might not have been all in pitch but the humour was certainly there.
Finally the evening ended with a great performance of *Skylark* by *Hoagy Carmichael* performed by Clive Ke on the violin and Aled Walker on the Piano.

Special thanks must go to Mr Palmer for organising the music, Mr Dinham, Mr Hill, Mr Puzey and Mrs Richardson for helping all performers with their poems, Mr Carman for the stage, Mr Davenall for the lighting and Mrs James and Mr Southworth for the refreshments. So another successful evening for the English and music department, despite the traditional last minute rush, and we hope that, with Mr Hill as the new head of English, this year’s Poetry and Music Evening will be even better than the last.

**Ankit Bhatt**
Autumn Concert

In the week after half term we held our Autumn Concert. This year we included our Training Band, directed by Mr Meadows (Saxophone Teacher), and Training Strings, directed by Mrs Hagyard (CHG Teacher). These groups performed with enthusiasm, and showed great promise for the future. Both schools contributed effective guitar ensembles, and there were also some very good solos, including Aled Walker playing Sonatine by Ravel, and Jamie Phillips playing the furiously hard Rustiques by Bozza.

The School Carol Service

The Carol Service is held in the last week of term, and this year adopted a slightly changed format, keeping the traditional plan, but providing for more variety of readings and music. The choir sang really well, and more than deserved the refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards!

The Christmas Concert

One of the highlights of the school year, the Christmas Concert is always a special occasion, and tickets are often hard to obtain! The main orchestras and bands perform, as well as several choirs. This year we had a wide selection of hats, and Santa even arrived at the end and proved a dab hand at playing the viola!

Clarinet Ensemble at Symphony Hall

As well as our own Symphony Hall concert, members of Clarinet Ensemble, directed by Mrs Sharon Wall our Clarinet Teacher, had yet another engagement in April. They had been asked by Symphony Hall and the CBSO to perform in The Mall before a CBSO Family Concert. They played really well, and many people commented on how proficient they were.

Fiddler on the Roof

Rehearsing the orchestra for Fiddler on the Roof was great fun this year, and I was very pleased to be able to recruit all of the players from amongst our own pupils: quite an achievement, considering that the parts are very demanding. To augment our numbers we were delighted to welcome back two of our most talented old boy musicians, Jonathan Dodd (Cello), and David Hewings (Guitar), both now studying in their first year at Cambridge University. They all played wonderfully, supporting the cast very well, and contributing in no small measure to the great success of the performances.

Jubilee Concert in Symphony Hall

This concert celebrated the beginning of the move, fifty years ago, of the Camp hill Schools to our present attractive site in King’s Heath. It took place just one week into term, and so involved much detailed planning from the Music Departments. On the day, over 250 Camp Hill pupils rehearsed in Symphony Hall, with over 150 pupils from Harborne Primary School, King David Junior and Infant School, Moseley Church of England Primary School and West House School.

Concert Band gave a rousing start to the programme with selections from Wicked, and then music from Catch me if you can, with an excellent saxophone solo played by Daniel Jackman. After some neat singing from Chamber Choir, the large Intermediate Orchestra performed a lively version of Thunder and Lightening Polka, and then tunes from The Order of the Phoenix. Swing band was a great hit with everyone, introduced by Mr Roger Rae, our
Trombone teacher, and an experienced Jazz tutor. Jamie Phillips entered on his own from the back of the stage in the first piece, playing a haunting trumpet solo. The second piece included a lovely vocal solo, in an arrangement by our pianist, Paul Riley. The first half was rounded off with a bold playing of *Raiders March*, followed by an exuberant performance of *Disney Blockbusters*.

After a welcome interval, Concert Orchestra gave a really polished performance of movements from *The Carnival of the Animals*. The whole orchestra played well, but there were particularly notable solo performances from Paul Riley and Sam Brown (piano), Sam Clear (xylophone), Hannah Templeton (clarinet) and Jo Snape (double bass).

Having sat still and quietly for a long time, it was now the turn of the Junior School pupils to take part. The massed choir of Camp Hill Choral Society, Chamber Choir, Show Choir, the Boys' School Choir and all of the Junior Schools' choirs rose to perform *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*. In such a splendid building, this really was an impressive sight, and an impressive sound too. The pupils clearly enjoyed themselves, and gave a really exciting performance of this fine piece. The Symphony Hall lighting and sound were wonderful too, complimenting the piece perfectly. Special mention must be made of the fine soloists: Thea Lawrence (narrator), Alex Hammond (God) and David Kay (Noah). The accompanists did a fine job too, playing such a complex piece so stylishly. They were Paul Riley (piano), Julian Fagan-King (bass guitar) and Isaac Ghinai (drum kit).

**The Summer Soirée**

The Soirée at the end of the summer term is a chance for our Intermediate and Junior musicians to perform. I am delighted that so many of our instrumental teachers now also organise ensembles, and this event illustrated this very well: whilst the Heads of Music directed one group each (Wind Band and Intermediate Orchestra), all other groups were directed by instrumental teachers or pupils. The groups included Bassoon Ensemble, Double Reed Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble and a choir.

SFP
War

You fight for peace, you kill and die for war.  
You kill, your only cause: to prove a point.  
You grip the nations with an iron claw  
Of fear and every country you anoint  
With death, despair, the stench of drying blood.  
Their houses bombed, the homeless fill the street.  
The soldiers lie in pits of hardened mud,  
Their hardship clear, with nothing much to eat.  
Mankind divided, fellow men now fight.  
Once friends - now split you fight to have your way.  
You spill the blood of man to show your might  
And leave it 'mongst the corpses and decay.  
We know the hardship, death, dismay and gore -  
Why do we still lie in the gloom of war?

Jason Pereira

The Last Dive

He stood poised,  
Every muscle in his body,  
Tensed, hard as stone,  
Then as the plane door  
Slid open and clicked into place,  
And as the pilot's hand slowly  
Rose and curled to give the ok sign,

HE JUMPED

Falling, the wind  
Rushing past his face,  
His body straightened,  
Smooth and pointed as a needle,  
He fell, spinning, flying down  
Like a javelin, and then,  
At the last possible moment,  
He pulled the cord,  
It snapped off in his hand,  
The parachute did not unfurl,  
Frozen in terror,  
Forgetting his back up chute  
He screamed a scream for none to hear  
The ground rushed towards him,  
His arms and legs flailing,

And he landed with a sickening thud,  
For none to hear!

Chris Sherwood
The Sorrow of the World

I am worthless, yet I am valuable,
I have nothing, yet I am everything,
People's lives are given up for me,
But I cannot cause immortality.
I am the light for people,
Blazing the trail for them,
The focus of people's entire lives.
Some have me uncountable,
Some do not even have a tiny bit of me.
I cannot give happiness,
Yet I cause it in others,
Greedy, selfish, ignorant people,
Ones that do not care,
For the troubles and misery of others,
They do not give me freely,
Like some.
I circulate the world,
The bringer of woe and despair,
The maker of death and destruction.
In many different forms do I circulate the world,
In many different forms do I cause pain and happiness.
Some see me as a gift,
And would use me for good,
But some would use me to obliterate cities,
And make deserts out of forests.
People believe having me will make them joyful,
But they are wrong.
I bring only grief, famine and hunger,
Strife, turmoil and war.
I can build countries,
Destroy empires,
And lay the world to waste,
Yet people still strive to attain me.
It is their purpose in life,
The thing that drives them on and on and on.
I am worthless, and I am valuable,
I have nothing, yet I have everything,
Nations are given up for me,
But I cannot cause life eternal.

Xincheng Wang

Jaberhockey

'Twas chilling and the ice skaters,
Did shiver and tumble on the ice,
And freezing were the hockey sticks,
As the cheer leaders did shout:
"Beware the other team our side,
The clubs that bash, the fists that crash,
And knock the minute puck into,
The back of the net. Smash!

He took his hockey stick in hand,
Long time the rival team he fought,
Then rested he, cuz’ the referee,
Had called half time, 0-0.

And as in preparation he stood,
The referee, his eyes on fame,
Blew the whistle ending half time,
And restarting the game.

One two, one two! And threw and threw!
He weaved his way past the blues and blacks,
He thrust the puck into the net,
And went triumphing back.

"And have you scored a winning goal?
Come to my arms, my brilliant boy,
Oh joyful day! Hurray, Hurray!
He cried out in his joy.

**Brother In Arms**

As I lie there on the ground
I saw all thy friends about me
one falls Over so I crawl to him
turning him onto his back I stare into his eyes.
Lifeless, dead eyes.

Blood and mud cover his face
his hand clutches his stomach
it falls to the ground, limp
I see something,
something shiny and bloody.
embedded in his body.
I pull at it and it gradually eases out

Shrapnel

Tears fill my eyes, my blooded hands hug him close,
my brother, gone.
I look up to heaven and see only hell,
   my brother, gone.
Why would a God want this to happen?

I look across my shoulder and see men falling,
falling for their country,
crying out with pain and agony;
the world seems to have stopped.
There is a new pain, not in my heart but in my side.
As I sit there I think of my mother and father

These are the last thoughts as I join my brother above.

Dominic Fitzgerald

Progress

Raindrops still fall upon the blacksmith's yard
A monotonous cacophony
Tearing through flimsy time
As an axe. To a tree

Raindrops still fell as Gaia flees,
As metal clangs
As fire languishes in the
Dusky hollows of the furnace

Raindrops still fall as spires rise,
Piercing the sky with brick and
Mortar, as serpents wind
Through grassy fields

Raindrops still fall as bitumen spreads,
As emerald vanishes to an echo,
As leaded liquor flows so
Freely. Incessantly.

Raindrops still fall as bells toll,
As belief wavers,
As panic spreads through
Grief and suffering

Ice takes hold as democracy implodes,
As crops fail,
As a sunset ember flickers
Like a lone candle
Raindrops still fall as trees rise,
As towers crumble, as
Machinery falters. Brambles reclaim
The forests and the seas.

Aled Walker

**Fear**

You pace
Agitated
You cannot see me
I lurk
Nought but a shimmer of movement
Corner of your eye
The shapes in the shadows
My blade reflects my solemn smile
You cannot see what I see
My strength
My silence
My passion
My hunger
I whisper your name in the breeze
You turn
I am not there
Just a dark void
A chasm that reaches out
A fear that cannot be named
A twisting, writhing contortion within
It screams for release
A whimper
A sob
A plea
Yet steel lips bar its path
A brave victim
I am at home here
In the shade
In the twilight
A simple breeze cools my scarred face
I see those scars
In the silver blade
Each a proud moment
Each a well earned wound
Each a reminder of death
I am at home here
It is time
I step out of the dark
Out of the safety of the shadows
Out of the comfort and into the light
You turn
Seeing me for the first time
The last time
Simultaneous
   Eyes lock
Muscles tense
   Steel Ups
  Your dilemma is my delight
  Do you flee, or do you fight?

   David Harvey

A Hellish Heaven

Has it really been so long,
since last I heard a voice,
Or spoke or listened,
Or even had the choice?

And why, I ask, do I still feel tears,
Softly down my cheeks,
A never ending flow,
Of bitter, anguished weeps?

Why can I not recall the sound,
of wind in the trees,
or the faint touch,
of a child on my sleeve?

Allow me to explain.
Although now I have no name,
I was Once a man of fame,
The master of my game.

A businessman rising,
Never compromising,
Always devising,
New ways of surprising.

Until that day,
When someone got in my way
And I decided to lay,
The trap of hearsay.

And from that moment the spiral descended,
I backstabbed and murdered to meet my ends,
And out of that wound that could never be mended,
The poison seeped of a bid for revenge.
A simple explosion and my life was ended,  
And few were those who needed to cry,  
And my family that I long had defended,  
Were driven to beg on the streets to survive.

But my crimes in life,  
So Unspeakably dark,  
Would seem to some like the laugh of a lark,  
Were they to see but a taste  
Of the punishment that lay ahead.

And out of the morgue,  
Where my mangled remains  
Were left in a near universal disdain,  
My spirit was torn by a wraith,  
Known to me only as Dread.

And so it was,  
In a sad little boat,  
With others as wretched as me,  
My spirit was borne by the Demon of Dread,  
To a place from which none can flee.

Hell is not,  
As some might imagine,  
Frozen to the lowest degree,  
Nor was it lava to which I was led,  
But the base of a twisted tree.

A tree which,  
As I understand it,  
Was enchanted to allow me to see  
The bitterness of a child forced to beg,  
From the tender age of three.

A child and a wife that I left behind,  
The remains of a life that I wish I could find,  
I caused so much strife in that little time,  
That I wish I could regain.

And for one hundred years I was forced to watch,  
Coins drop like tears in a begging box,  
The Devil's jeers could never be stopped,  
When my child cursed my name.

And those silent puppeteers,  
Those calculating engineers,  
Of all my punishment.

They took me to one thousand Hells,  
When I heard the funeral bells,  
Of my last descendent.
And though I may have often wondered
If they enjoyed the mind they sundered,
I feel it was deserved.

Perhaps this feeling came from me,
A regret for the fate of my family,
So my conscience could be purged.

Yet now I love my pain,
For it shows me all how vain
My actions were in life,
How I was a knife,
Always doing harm,
Always slicing the arm
That helped me.

I sit in torture for my sins and wonder if it is not best,
Maybe I have found my rest,
In not forgiving.

I feel that I love my hate of my past atrocities,
And now I bend upon my knees,
Thanking all the gods for forgiving
And for giving me my
Hellish Heaven.

Benedict Hardy

Wonderland

And I'm in;
A pocketful of numbers
and a fistful of letters
(they slip down easily).
Bass pounding in ears;
Airbrushed Hippolytas radiating
to the rhythmic pump;
a hundred blazing torches
scolding hopeless Lancelots pining for a Guinevere;
a pretty late-night hand-maiden
to take them down the Rabbit Hole.
But I'm already in Wonderland,
slipping between the Amazonians,
growing, shrinking, floating over their heads.

Until; a parthian shot through the back
and I'm down, looking up at my Iseult,
my Hopeful Lady;
brown eyes brown hair teeth white sweater scarf skirt
(parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme).
Moving in beautiful dissonance,
an effortless symphony.
King Mark is out of town, she says.

So, we're outside, we're in the road, on the pavement, sitting, standing, talking, laughing, crying, shouting, whispering, her white sails flying high

And I wake up on the park bench. About six am. The sun creeping over the distant trees. And all that's left is a black-and-white clump of soft material.

So, a scarf round my neck, a pocketful of numbers, and a fistful of letters, I make my way back to Wonderland.

Neil Evans

Mayhem

We knew which house was the right one, along the monotonous, regimented row of clones buildings people called 'home' and there it stood.

Behind the veil of glittering Vegas lights, A rainbow coloured pandemonium. Uncles. Aunties in their saris, grannies and cousins filled the lounge. My miniature relatives looked through From inside the display cabinet, wearing their mortar boards.

An 'Aunty-ji' brought out a tray of golden, Crispy pyramidal pastries. The edges curling, as I unravelled the crumbling Pastry to reveal fluffy flakes of potato. The steam condensing on my cheeks.

The marquee outside, Every move Tracked by the cameraman. Until one of the kids Gets in his way. The core of the tent was gleaming red, the sequins and mirrors Catching the light from the tacky Chandelier.

And they call this an Indian wedding. The girl in the middle was changing her surname the next day, While her laden wrists were tied with golden chains of love, prosperity and wealth.
This house was the right one, along the monotonous, regimented row of cloned buildings people called ‘home’ and there it stood. The house that reminded me of my culture.

Kunal Sirpal

The Portrait of the Student

The STUDENTE was a meke knave in al trouthe, And sleigh he was by cause of his gay youthe. That proved wel; ful often could he make The elde folk to laughen at his jape. A col-blak y-pod wel could I espie, On which he mad a propre melodie, But of his vois, it was as loude and rude As any devel or similitude. At dauncing, he wel koude with lightnesse trippe, And maken solas for our felawshipe. His moobylfoon was eek of color blak And wel he koude a sermoning to mak But with himself alone, no companie Was needed for to wirche his fantasie. He wered a surplis whit as winter snow, Yclad in tye and kirtel I wel know; From Birmyngham this propre studente cam, From Camp Hill Boys, and was ycleped Sam. Ywis his wit was turn’d to learne poetrie He koude the dedline comth rapidlie. But he hadde bettre bisynesse to do And axed me to writ his poem too. And when that I hadde doon, he maken haste. A sory look around the group he caste. He seyde ‘Cheers Chaucer mate, and then was goon ‘God save the rowte, and that! We’ll meet anoon!’

The Studente never biginneth his tale. He did not tarie.

Sam Clear

Should I…

Should I give a friend a mention Or use punctuation Or crank up the tension To provoke a reaction

Should I take my time To make it rhyme Or put an awkward space
In an awkward place

Should I use alliteration
Or quote a quotation
Or use a rhetorical question
To make a suggestion

Should I make a stand and air my views
Or give them a choice so they can choose
Should I write an epic story of brave warriors of old
Or write a tall tale of a man with a cold.

Should I add onomatopoeia like smash and boom
Or should I add rhythm and make it a tune
Should I shorten sentences for dramatic effect
Or not.

I don't know anymore
I'm all burnt out
I don't even know what my poem's about
So I'll go upstairs and rest my fears
And hopefully I'll wake up with some good ideas.

Ross Jones-Morris

Evening

Evening,
At diminuendo of summer day
The sea was a plain of mirrors,
Yellow brick road illuminate
Stretching to the sea.
More alluring than the lights
Of any city, this.
Stone would swing from
his hand careless
As wingstroke;
Would skip along the lighted way.

Release my tendoned fling it sank in the dark, nonbouncing:
In the dark nonbouncing sank; hand taut, strained.

In my sleep it did not sink
Not in my dream did it sink
Ricocheting not once: not once
Not twice, but forever
Behold my capsule of me
Dancing its curve over
The arc of the world
Forever.
Or
flyGliding onto the coral coast
Of a Treasure Island
Or
slamFreezing into an ice floe
In the roaring forties
Or
glitterFlittering to home
In the smooth Ctesiphon/glassy whorl
Of a shell

No. Nothing is changed
As I look out over the stern,
I see it still circling the world.
Step out onto that corridor of mirrors.

**Aaron Pereira**
Editorial

Another exciting and hectic year of sport at Camp Hill. We are indebted to the dedicated team of staff who help out so willingly and also to the strengthening sports partnership with local schools that Mr Speake coordinates. Enjoy reading of the fortunes of our teams, the frustration of the cricketers with the English weather, but ultimately of outstanding achievement as the year ended. My thanks, as always, to all the staff, pupils and parents who made the year another memorable one.

MWD

WINTER RESULTS SUMMARY

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Rugby

1st XV

The season began with a narrow defeat to King Henry’s and this was essentially the story for the whole season. A number of narrow defeats, often with the points margin at less than 10 points, meant that the final statistics of played 18, won 6, lost 11 and drawn 1 does not reflect the commitment and effort made by all players throughout the season both in games and at training.

The team has, however, enjoyed a number of well deserved victories including ones over local rivals KE Aston, KE Fiveways and a huge 43-0 defeat of Camp Hill Rugby Club in the latter part of
the season. Close losses against teams such as KES and Bablake School also displayed that the side were able to compete very well against the generally more experienced and physically challenging independent school teams. In all, 340 points were scored (not including tour) with a total of 56 tries, 24 conversions and 4 penalties.

Another way to describe the commitment to the 1st XV that senior boys show is that no less than 25 boys made 1st team appearances throughout the season. This depth of squad is fantastic in showing the popularity of the game at school and the willingness of lesser experienced players to step up to 1st team level. The only problem with this of course was it gave Mr. Cookson the difficult choice of choosing 18 players to take as his 1st team squad to Ireland for tour.

This year’s tour was, as always, an immensely enjoyable affair taking 38 1st and 2nd team players and the usual rabble of Dads, teachers and a number of others who simply just could not miss out on the fun that makes up a Camp Hill rugby tour. Aside from eating, drinking, presentations and a day trip to Dublin, we also managed to fit in a spot of rugby. The team produced two huge victories over Dundalk RFC and Lisburn High School; and the only thing to dampen our spirits was a narrow defeat to our final opponents Belfast High School in a highly physical and aggressive game. However even this could not stop the traditional ‘big sing’ in the changing room showers!

Special mention must go to the captain Ian Briggs who not only was top points scorer for the season with 13 tries 22 conversions and 4 penalties to his name but was also voted as ‘Player of the Season’ at the annual Senior Rugby Dinner. Other congratulations must go to Joe Pick, William Arnold, James Pumphrey, Josh Olomolaiye and Matthew Webster who participated in every minute of every game throughout the season. All of the upper sixth players will be missed in the forthcoming season but we look forward to a number of new faces and some already experienced ones stepping into the ranks. Hopefully next season will allow us to begin a new campaign to avenge a number of unlucky defeats and build on the successes of this season.

Alex Hammond

2ND XV

Once again, another long and difficult season of Rugby. Early autumn saw us off to a solid start, with our first win against Solihull Sixth Form College, followed by a number of other impressive performances. The string of good results showed that although some key team members had been promoted to the 1st XV, new players in Lower Sixth and Year 11 soon stepped up and fitted into the side extremely well. In particular, Billy Welch and Calum McGee have proved invaluable assets to the back line, with a number of outstanding performances between them over the course of the season. Similarly, the forwards have muscled together well and any lack of size against opposition was always overcome by the hard work and spirited efforts of the pack as a whole. I’d especially like to mention Adam Thomas’s ever impressive performances throughout the year; he has been the backbone of the forwards and his awe-inspiring efforts during matches never ceased to make an impact on games. One very noticeable performance was a mid-season victory away at KE Aston; the well deserved 18-14 win was a result of the immense effort put in by the team and was a highlight of the season.

Being captain this season has been a pleasure due to the enthusiasm and commitment of all the squad players. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal band of parent supporters who turned out week after week to encourage the team. The three matches in Ireland were successful and enabled us to round off an already impressive season.

I Trzcinski
This year’s campaign began excellently for the U15 rugby team with two convincing victories against King Henry VIII and Fairfax. We won the latter a huge 54-0 with tries scored by Harvinder Mandair (2), Gavin Bhangal, Damien Bishop (2), David Baldock, Callam Robertson (2) and myself. Confidence ran through the team and it felt like it was the best time to have a Daily Mail Cup match against Warwick. Unfortunately we lost heavily as they were a very strong side, with their backs being bigger than our forwards. We then lost the next two matches against Prince Henry’s and King’s Worcester.

Next was Bablake, which was an important match for us as we needed confidence ahead of a looming KES fixture in the following week. We managed to win 38-22 which was very pleasing to all the supporters and us. David Baldock in particular had an outstanding game which made him man of the match.

After a week of hard training the day had arrived for one of the more eagerly anticipated matches on the rugby calendar: KES. We got off to a great start with Nick West and Gavin Bhangal once again scoring tries to give us a 10-0 lead. I then added a penalty and with half time so near it was the worst time to concede a try. But at half time we were still 13-7 up and were playing some good rugby. The second half started very brightly as we dominated possession and at times were just outplaying KES. We eventually scored another try through a powerful bulldozing run by Callam Robertson which gave us an 18-7 lead. Even though KES were trying to hit back, our defence held strong and with five minutes to go victory seemed certain. Yet KES scored a converted try and the atmosphere and the players became very tense. KES were really dominating in the last few minutes and scored another try which left us in a sense of shock. We lost the match 19-18 after virtually giving the game away in the last five minutes when we deserved so much more for our efforts.

We picked ourselves up though and had a superb run of four straight victories, the best against King Edward’s Aston where we won 42-14 with tries from Alex Taylor, Gavin Bhangal, two from myself and two from Damien Bishop. It seemed as if we were on form again but we then lost the next five matches, mainly due to poor defensive errors. With a month’s break after that and a long term injury to one of our most influential forwards, Alex Taylor, the rugby tour couldn’t have come at a worse time for us.

Our first match was against Cockermouth we won a hard fought victory 12-5 and it typified the attitude and spirit of our team. Gavin Bhangal and Harris Hussain were our try scorers, but even though it was a great team performance, Raj Atkar was man of the match and deservedly so for the amount of passion he had and the amount of work he put in for the team. But like our season’s results we then lost the next match against Austin Friars, won the next against Keswick RFC in a shortened match and then drew against Wigton RFC in another shortened match. On the whole, tour was very pleasing and a great experience for everyone who went. Harris Hussain got the award for the best back of the season, Nick West received the award for best forward of the season, Mussawar Akram got the award for most improved player of the season and Raj Atkar got the best player on tour award.

So after another big season we reflected back on our achievements. The season proved to be a very mixed one with us losing 10, winning 9 and drawing once. Damien Bishop was once again top try scorer with 16 tries. I was top points scorer with 138 points with Damian Bishop (81 points) and Gavin Bhangal (65 points) coming second and third respectively. But that was only because of the hard work.

Kaldev Bhogal
U14

The U14 team of 2006 / 07 entered the season fresh off the back of a team of the year performance. This, perhaps, led to our complacent entry into the New Year, which led to an average performance of 11 wins, 0 draws and 7 losses.

The first two games set off to a promising start, with two significant wins, 22-3 against King Henry VIII and a 50-0 win against Fairfax. Morale was high, although if truth be told we had never really been pushed enough to test ourselves and see just how determined and we were to retain our title. The chance came to prove ourselves against certainly one of the most notorious teams in our age group: Old Swinford Hospital. Unfortunately, we were unable to show our full potential although there were still many hearty performances throughout the team. The loss was not terrible: 19-31, although we all knew that we had to improve if we were going to show what we were capable of against the next big challenge we were going to face.

This challenge came under the name of Bablake, who, as we later found out, had been unbeaten for their past 16 games. Oblivious to this harsh reality we went into the game ready to win although it became apparent that they were not going to be a push-over. They relied greatly on one or two players, specifically a number eight rather fittingly named ‘Chukka’ and this, in combination with their 2 man line-outs, became too much for our Camp Hill side, as we eventually lost 34-15.

Despite this, we managed to pick ourselves up and win the next four of our matches, including a win against King Edward VI Five Ways, in which we saw the first ever drop goal attempt scored by our very own Jonny Wilkinson - Jacob Hanvey, which brought a smile to all of our faces.

This smile was carried on into the Rugby tour to Carlisle as we saw some of our most impressive rugby played. We won the first two out of the three matches played though perhaps if Carlisle had only 15 men playing, instead of 15 plus the referee, we would not have lost our final match to such a heartbreaking five points.

Overall, the year was pleasing to see how our game of rugby had developed and special mention must go to Jamie Blakeman, highest try scorer, and Andrew Stevens, highest overall points scorer with a personal total of 63 points. We all should be proud of our performances and look forward to a year in which we hope to reclaim our team of the year title.

John Eraifej

U13

The under 13s have had an outstanding and breath-taking season. The results were: played fourteen games, won nine, drew none-bitng games and lost three. The team was awarded the Maurice Robinson Shield for being the school Rugby team with the best record and any Camp Hill side that registers wins against KES (5-0), KE Aston (17-12), KE Five Ways (15-5) and Bablake (27-21) proves they are a difficult team to beat.

Throughout the season many matches have come down to a one-try affair, not so good if you are a spectator or a coach. The first match of the season was against King Henry VIII Coventry which we unfortunately lost but the team learnt from the experience and the next two games resulted in a win against Fairfax and an exciting 28-28 draw against Old Swinford, who were one of the strongest oppositions the team played all season.

After a disappointing game against Kings Worcester in which Jon Lutwyche scored an amazing three tries, Camp Hill went the next six games unbeaten; including returning the favour to King Henry VIII Coventry, beating KE Five Ways, KE Aston (it is always a good thing to go one up on
them) and drawing away against KES 0-0 (in which we had a seemingly good try disallowed) which sent the team into the Christmas holidays on a high.

The first game of the new term was disappointing, losing to Adams Grammar, where the score line did not match the game losing 21-7. The next game was against KES and everyone in a Camp Hill shirt was gunning to beat them. Tempers were high and nerves were frayed especially after our last meeting but our nerve held with David Wen scoring the decisive try that led to a 5-0 victory.

Next came the Greater Birmingham Cup and being put in a difficult group, Camp Hill came through with a win and a draw, that led us into the final against our bitter rivals KES. From the first few minutes it was easy to see it was going to be a tough and fast game. The team went in at half time at 7-14 with Chris Williams getting a deserved try for his hard work behind the scene. Coming into the second half it was always going to be difficult to come back from one score down and so it transpired; Camp Hill were getting closer and closer to the line until KES got a quick turn over and scored a runaway try and after putting over the conversion, KES drove Camp Hill out of the game. The final result was KES 21- Camp Hill 7.

In the spring term the team had their first taste of Sevens at Solihull School. During the tournament Jon Lutwyche scored six tries in four games, Alex Weir weighed in with an impressive three and Robert George kicked eleven conversions and also scored three tries in the four games. After getting through a difficult group, the Camp Hill team went down in the quarter final to eventual winners, Aylesbury Grammar School, one try in it again: 24-19.

Over the season 270 points were scored. The whole team were exceptional, however, a few players merit special mention: Asim Shoaib and Alex Weir formed an almost unstoppable centre partnership, ably supported by fly half Tom Dowling. Their hard work and passing down the line enabled Jon Lutwyche to score many of his outstanding 22 tries. Next is David Williams who grafted hard in the front row along with his partner Jagatpreet Gill, who also turned up on the score sheet twice himself. Next is the driving force in the forwards, Ben Smith with his big tackles and his decisive running with ball in hand, crossing the line nine times. Then behind him scrumhalf and Captain Robert George with fourteen conversions and five tries.

I can honestly say that it was an honour and a privilege to captain such an incredible team. Well done the U.13s!

Robert George

U12

Last year was very successful for the Under 12âs Rugby team. After a bad start, losing 12-27 at home to Old Swinford Hospital School, we turned it around and won 5 matches on the trot with big wins over King Henry VIII Coventry (24-0), Adams Grammar School (31-5), King Edward VI Aston (17-7) and King Edward Five Ways (22-5). Our biggest win of the lot was against Hereford Cathedral where we racked up a total of 52 points, with 8 tries being scored that day.

After this good run of results we let ourselves down when we lost 20-0 away at KES. But again we turned it around, beating Adams Grammar again, this time 17-5. We then followed this up with tight victories over Bishop Vesey (15-12) and Kind Edward Stratford (12-7). After these, we travelled to King Edward Lichfield and a great performance from the team gave us a 44-0 win, another 8 tries being scored. In our final game before the Greater Birmingham tournament we played Fairfax at home. We put in a good performance but lost 5-15 at full time.

The Greater Birmingham tournament was played at Camp Hill and we were drawn in the Group with Fairfax and King Edward VI Aston. Our first game of the tournament saw us play out a 5-5 draw with Fairfax which was a better result than the last time we played against them. We headed
into our final group game against King Edward VI Aston with a lot of confidence, after beating them 17-7 earlier in the season. We didn't play our best and at the final whistle the score was 24-5 in their favour.

We finished bottom of our group and headed into the 5/6th place play off against King Edward Five Ways determined not to let ourselves down again. We scored early on and held on until the last couple of minutes, but a defensive error allowed them to cross over the line and make the score 7-5 to them. This meant that we came 6th which was very disappointing, as we had put in a lot of hard work throughout the season.

All players performed well throughout the season, but some are worthy of special mention. Rory Luscombe was our top try scorer with ten tries, also clocking up the highest individual points tally of 60 points. And as well as point scoring, commitment and consistency were key factors in our successful season with eight players being ever present. Nathan Quadri, Umar Ahmed, Tom Kostuch, Ed Thompson, Nick Wilson, Gilad Grant, Jake Thomas and I all made 15 appearances. Another special mention must go to Sanjay Nath, who started the year in the D squad and worked his way into the A squad. We look forward to having him as our captain this year.

Finally, a big thank you from the whole squad goes to Mr Caves and Mr Cookson for training us and helping us out throughout the year and thank you to all the parents who turned up every week to show their support. Thank you.

Jack Lea

Hockey

1st XI

The new season promised to be a challenge for Camp Hill’s new 1st XI Hockey Squad, having lost some old experienced faces. The fresh, new team of Camp Hill started the season with high moral and hunger for success. With tough opposition the team got off to a fair start showing glimpses what it was capable of. Captain Isaac Ghinai demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and game reading throughout the season, whilst vice captain Ahmer Choudry showed excellent moral boosting qualities.

Camp Hill’s passion and determination for the game shone as the season progressed and the now not so new midfielders Parin Solanki, Hassan Kamal and Jazdeep Bhogal were settling in playing with great vigour and pace. Captain Ghinai maintained high energy levels putting in vital tackles when needed, and Choudry portrayed strength of character and outstanding skill. Good link up play between Solanki and Kamal helped to feed forwards Tom Beardmore and Ross Kenny, who both snatched up the scraps upfront keeping us on a good scoring record. Joe Sheldrik and Mathew Price were solid in our defence and teams found it tough to get past, with Neelesh Mohan always being a positive influence. Choudry picked out excellent through balls and with Solanki and Kamal who gave constant width and speed, Camphill always looked dangerous when attacking. The strength and commitment of the team did not go unnoticed despite mixed results against some experienced sides and the players developed new skills and set pieces.

With it being Mr Southworth’s final year of hockey the team were intent on ending the season on a high; we played to our best and that was all that could have been asked for. The year proved to be successful and what was a group of players merged into a team which contested every game with vigour, drive and a longing to win. All qualities expected from a Camp Hill student.

Parin Solanki
2nd XI

The 2nd XI have had a remarkable season, their most successful for a generation, managing to win as many games as they lost, a feat unheard of at Camp Hill. The side showed skill and determination throughout the season, and it even appeared that they enjoyed playing. There were times when the team left the pitch dejected, but more often left knowing that stronger opposition had been forced to work hard for victory.

There were some notable victories. KES were beaten twice, including a 3-0 victory where Nadeem Sadique scored 2 beautiful goals, and Bhupinder Chana scored a hat-trick in a 7-1 demolition of Old Swinford Hospital. Aston were twice defeated, on the receiving end of Camp Hill’s ‘sexy hockey.’ A strong Solihull side, coached by a former England international, was also edged out in a thrilling match, thanks to an instinctive and powerful finish from Devan Raindi.

The whole side is to be commended for their work. David Harvey, often found in mid-air, proved to be a reliable new defender, while in the heart of defence, Priyank Parikh and Kulveer Rooprai were solid and uncompromising, with the latter often venturing down the pitch with great success. Veteran Ed Robinson retired with his playing described by the management as ‘ferrazy.’ In midfield, Leo Kretzmer, Greg Evans and Callum Miller have shown some great skill at times, with Sadique pushing forward with great intent. Up front, Chana scored 7 goals, but was beaten to the Golden Stick by Raindi, with a highly impressive 9 goals; both always causing defensive problems. Often found setting up these goals was captain Danny Rodwell, who led by example with his driving runs and tireless effort. Kevin Tonry’s dedication to the art of goalkeeping saw him make some spectacular saves, and despite his wanderings down the pitch and claims that defenders were pointless as they blocked his view, he was a deserving winner of player of the season.

Danny Rodwell

U15

The season got off to a great start for the U15s as we beat KE Aston 3-0, scoring more goals in our first match than we had in the whole of the previous season! We failed to build on this win properly up until Christmas. However, we developed quickly after Christmas with some strong performances such as a narrow 4-3 loss to Queen Mary’s and a 3-0 win over Bishop Vesey, leading into a successful tour. Although we suffered a 4-0 loss in the first game against Cockermouth School, we improved greatly to win our next two matches 1-0 and 6-1. This season finished as it started with a brilliant 8-0 win over KE Aston.

Special mention must go to: Joht Chandan, our star (and only) goalkeeper, Bhavesh Patel, Mohammed Asaf, James Rogers, and Jacob Plummer. However, everyone in the team improved throughout the year, especially Vishal Rawji and Arun Verma. Newer additions to the squad such as David Hickman and Raghav Chandegra settled in well. The awards given on tour went to: James Rogers (Player of the tour), Bhavesh Patel (Goal of the season), Jacob Plummer (Player of the season) Vishal Rawji (Most improved player of the season).

Everyone would like to thank Mr Bettison for his efforts in coaching us throughout the season and we will all miss him next year.

J. Plummer & V. Rawji

Old Boys’ Jubilee Hockey
An Old Boys’ Hockey match was organised, mainly by Matthew Tovey, to celebrate the golden jubilee of the school. The team, picked from numerous academic years, played the school’s current 1st XI team at KES, Edgbaston in April.

Both teams played the match in a good spirit and no mean degree of skill. The match was highly contended and both sides put their utmost into the game. Although the 1st XI had played together for much of the previous year, the Old Boys bonded well to play a fast paced passing game, moving the ball well around the younger students. The school held strong for much of the match yet conceded a goal from a rocket shot just inside the D, allowing the Old Boys to take the lead.

The senior team sneaked a further goal to double their lead and despite the 1st XI playing extremely well for the entire match, they were unable to bite back in substantive fashion. This was a fine match, watched by several spectators and certainly enjoyed by all who played. It was fun to catch up with old boys and hopefully next year the 1st XI can reap some revenge.

Kevin Tonry

Cricket

1st XI

With rain, cancellations and one team not daring to show up, our completed match tally reached a magnificent total of four.

We started the season with a 50 over match against Old Swinford. As most of our boys were only used to the quick, sharp action of twenty twenty style cricket, we were forced to apply every bit of energy within us to stand under the blazing hot sun and concentrate for the full 50. The cobwebs in our game shone clearly as the Old Swinford batsmen blazed their way to 287 off their 50 overs, with the only good bowling attack coming from Kamran Hussain who ended up with figures of 2-36. Our strong batting line up never really got going, with Wasim Mir getting the highest score of 18, which allowed Old Swinford to bowl us out for 78 and unfortunately lose the game by 209 runs.

Our confidence shot from the previous game, we travelled to K.E. Stratford for an exhilarating game of cricket. Camp Hill batted first and notched up 138 in our 30 overs. We were led from the front by an excellent batting display by Mohammed Abdullah who high scored with 60. After which, he led us out into the field to fight for a win. Our bowling was tight and consistent, frustrating the Stratford batsmen and forcing them to play big shots, which of course resulted in plenty of wickets. However, our fielding was poor and allowed Stratford to creep their way to 134. Needing just 4 off the last ball (bowled by Harshad Rajgor), we needed to keep the fielding tight and Harshad needed to keep his foot behind the line. The batsmen played the ball straight to a fielder and ran 3 allowing us to win by just 1 run! Bhupinder Chana led the way with fantastic figures of 3-17. He bowled a tight line and agonisingly good length, getting two edges and knocking the stumps over.

For the next match we were pessimistic about the weather, which was spitting as we zoomed along at 20 mph with Mr. Southworth behind the wheel towards Solihull Sixth Form College. Camp Hill again batted first and just 14 overs were played before the match was abandoned due to rain.

Lawrence Sheriff made their way down to face us at home. The opening partnership of Mohammed and Harshad finally paid off as Camp Hill batted first and put on a stand of 102 runs for a 1st wicket partnership, Mohammed scoring 44 and Harshad 57. Wickets then started falling freely as the middle order collapsed, not for the first time this season, leaving us with a score of 141 for 7 wickets off 25 overs. Lawrence Sheriff then answered back with an opening partnership of 68, the
difference being their middle order held tight and for the loss of only 2 wickets, they eased their way to victory by 7 wickets. Young Henry Barber achieved the best bowling figures of 1-20. He is anticipated to be a promising player for the future with his medium fast, on the spot bowling.

Our final completed match was against King Henry VIII School. On a pitch which was far from perfect, we batted first and battled our way to a measly 73-all-out, with no batsman reaching over 20. We fought hard to hold on for a win, with Mohammed again carrying his team with some good bowling, ending up with figures of 3-20. But the defeat was inevitable and needless to say, we lost by 6 wickets.

The last scheduled match against KE Aston was rained off, which was a shame as we put ourselves in a strong position by batting first and reaching a score of 159 off 30 overs. Mohammed shone again as he put together a magnificent 87 for the team, supported by Bhupinder, who was on 32 when the rain intervened and put a stop to our charge.

All in all, it was a decent season, and although we only won 1 out of our 3 matches, there were many good points that could be picked up upon such as the excellent bowling display by all bowlers, with the best figures turning out to be from Bhupinder at 3-17. The batting was decent but could have improved a lot down the order, such as myself, having a pretty poor season with the bat. The best score came from Mohammed with 87 against Aston.

All players have to be thanked for time and effort, especially the Year 11’s: Henry Barber and Philip Terry, who were ultimately the bag carriers for the team but showed great potential with some nice bowling and batting. Surely they will shine as they progress through the 6th form.

Finally, we have to thank Mr. Southworth, who put in a lot of effort to organise matches, which was not always easy and having to come along and umpire for every one we played.

Parminder Bhomra

2nd XI

A thoroughly entertaining and trying summer for the 2nd XI began against Old Swinford Hospital School as captain Mohsin Khan won the toss and decided to bat. Unfortunately the team was unable to meet his expectations and fell to 118 all out with only Mobasher Akram 17, Umar Farooq 15 and Gus Khakh 11 not out adding some respectability to the score. After an inspirational team talk from the captain and Mr. Duncan, the team set about to try and defend their score in the field. However, despite a few scares Old Swinford never really looked troubled, eventually winning by 5 wickets, although Razullah Ahmed, Umar, Mobasher and Priyank Parikh all picked up wickets in an attempt to disrupt their scoring.

The next match against K.E. Stratford proved to be more successful as in a total of 132 for 9, Mohsin played a captain’s innings of 44 not out and was well supported by Devan Raindi, 20. Camp Hill then continued their form in the match, proceeding to bowl out K.E. Stratford for 72 to win by 60 runs. This excellent bowling performance was led by Umar and Razullah who each picked up 3 wickets with Mobasher, Gus, Priyank and Ross Jones-Morris also picking up a wicket each.

Hoping to carry forward this result to the next match on a very good batting pitch, the team was unable to contain a rampant Solihull side who posted 206 for 5. Only Mohsin made inroads picking up 4 wickets. With their backs against the wall, Camp Hill tried valiantly to win the game when coming out to bat with Asim Siddiqa making 36, Khurram Tejar 17 and Priyank 20 not out but in the end the score proved to be too much as Solihull won by 55 runs.
Camp Hill struggled on this time against Solihull VI Form where the team stumbled to a dismal 42 all out, albeit against a strong cricketing side, and were unable to cause Solihull many problems with the ball as they won comfortably by 8 wickets.

In an effort to make amends a new look Camp Hill side restricted King Henry VIII to 105 for 9 with Nathan Riddell picking up 3 wickets, Gurpreet Ubbey 2 and Atta Khan as well as Asim Shoaib a wicket apiece. After a couple of early scares Camp Hill settled down with Asim making a score of 44, Chris Curtis 26 not out and Nathan 11 not out to ensure a well deserved victory.

As the final match of the season arrived Camp Hill played old rivals Aston. Bowling first, Camp Hill restricted Aston to a competitive 146 for 7 with Vikash Chavda picking up 3 wickets and Usman Yasin bagging 2. Shams Samar and Nadeem Sadique also chipped in with a wicket each. However, following a mid-innings rain delay, Camp Hill’s innings never really got going as the team slumped to an horrendous 32 all out registering 6 ducks in the process; a disappointing end to an otherwise good season.

It was great to see all players improving as the season went on and some even making the step up to the 1st XI; hopefully this will continue next year. Special thanks must also be reserved for Mr. Duncan for umpiring and transporting the team, as well as for his mid-innings advice.

Priyank Parikh

U15

As the summer term started, the U15 cricket team was full of optimism with the promise of another successful season. We started against a team whom we had played only once before, Stratford, and a victory was very much on our minds. We batted first and struggled to find the form of old, only hitting 100, of which Kaldev Bhogal, captain, hit a blistering 41 including four sixes! Still a challenging score, we were confident we could go on and win the game and with two quick wickets, the game was fully in our control, but a 50 partnership by their middle order gave them a flattering 7 wicket win.

Five Ways came next and once again we failed to post a challenging total and a 5 wicket loss was inevitable. Harris Hussain’s 1-13 off his allotted four overs was the only real performance of note.

With no-one wanting a third straight defeat, Mr. Bettison shuffled the batting line up and with instant effect. With 36 from me and the season’s highest score of 60 from Harris Hussain, we made a solid start, ending up with 157 from 30 overs. This gave us great confidence heading into King Henry’s innings and an energetic fielding display followed limiting them to just 83 all out. The plaudits must go to Harris for an excellent innings and James Rogers for an economical 2-10 off four overs.

Rather hurriedly our first Cup game arrived against a Small Heath side that we had beaten comfortably in our run to the Cup final the previous year. Restricting them to just 109-9 off 20 overs gave us great hope with Mohammed Asaf, Harris Hussain and Gavin Bhangal all posting economical bowling figures. After a nervy start, Harris and Mohammed steadied the ship, but with the loss of both these key players suddenly the game swung in Small Heath’s favor. A batting collapse then left us with 56 all out and a sad end to our cricket season.

Even though the team wasn’t as successful as last year, they must be praised for an amazing team spirit and creating an atmosphere any team would be proud of. Further thanks must go to: Joht Chandan, Kasim Mirza, Suraj Sisodia, Mulla Samra and Waris Ahmed for turning up regularly to training and matches, as well as Alex Taylor and Nathan Brown who both...
kept wicket ably and chipped in with useful runs. We can all be pleased with our years together and we now look to senior level where we will all be vying for a place. A special thanks must go to the parents for always supporting us come rain, come shine and Mr. Bettison who made it a pleasure to step out onto the field every week, and for letting us support rather loudly.

Raj Atkar

U14

The weather has had a major impact on the cricket season this year and so the number of matches and their distribution through the team has not allowed the boys to generate any momentum and consistency to their performances.

The season started well with a pleasing victory against KE Stratford. We batted first and Sunbir Randhawa (17), Akeel Hussain (15) and Saad Anwar (19) were the major contributors to our total of 104. In reply Stratford began slowly, but they accelerated nicely in the middle of their innings. Andrew Stevens was the pick of the bowlers, breaking their strong partnership and ending with 3 for 12. He was ably supported by Sohail Nazir, Rajan Bhambra, Akeel Hussain, Jack Atack and Michael Koppel, as the boys bowled Stratford out for 90 runs, giving us the perfect start to the season.

The next match saw us take on a strong Saltley side in the first round of the cup. Veer Mann, Sunbir Randhawa and Rajan Bhambra all made it into double figures but we failed to bat our 20 overs and so set a target that was probably 20 runs below par. Saltley had two strong opening batsmen and were able to chase the target with two overs to spare.

It was at this point in the season that the weather started to turn against us and we only managed one more fixture, against King Henry VIII. Sohail Nazir and Andrew Stevens bowled superbly, creating huge problems for the batsmen with left arm deliveries that were swinging massively. They took 4 and 3 wickets respectively and this should have laid the foundations for an excellent victory. Unfortunately, we did not apply enough pressure in the middle of their innings and they ended with 115 runs, about 40 runs above what we had hoped to restrict them to. In reply we never got started, losing 6 wickets in the first 6 overs. Jack Atack and Pritesh Chohan rallied well at the end with Jack getting 21 runs but it was not enough to win the game for us.

Then the season rather petered out although members of the squad made significant contributions in the house cricket. The U14’s have a strong bowling attack but they must apply themselves a little better if they are to set out and chase down challenging totals when batting. We would like to thank Mr. Bruten for coaching us throughout the season and guiding us in the few matches that we played. Hopefully next season we will improve our batting and bowling and maybe play more than three games in a season!

Veer Mann

U13

Following last season’s success of winning the Stacey Jackson Cup, this was going to be a tough season. Putting aside our dreadful summer weather, the U13’s still managed seven games, which was the most out of any age group.

We started our cup campaign with the first match of the season, against Washwood Heath. Our performance showed that we were slightly rusty following a long break, and unfortunately gave
away 61 extras as Washwood Heath scrambled up to a very competitive total of 89\(\text{r}9\) off 20 overs. We had to win this game because: we were the reigning champions, we couldn't get knocked out in the first round but most importantly, we were going to get an ear full from Mr. Duncan if we lost! We began our reply with a solid start before wickets started to tumble. Asim Shoaib made a promising 17 before he was badly run out. This in fact started the collapse. It was left to Aman Sahota, who was the star of the bowling taking 4 for 19, and Adam Khan to see us home in the final over.

Our next opponents were Stratford. We did not play them last year so we didn't know what to expect. A top order collapse meant that it was left to the debutant Josh O'Donnell to make a quick fire 22* to get us up to 108 \(\text{i}9\). Their reply was threatening to overturn us, if it was not for a superb spell of 4 for 14 from Sukhvir Lyall.

King Henry's were next on our list and proved to be a tough side. We batted first and posted 128 \(\text{i}9\). Chris Curtis made a solid 20 but the real star was Alex Weir with his maiden half century. Our fielding was below par, which gave Henry's the advantage. They reached the target with one over to spare.

The next round of the cup was against Queensbridge. This match was quite special, as the team and spectators were given a treat, because Asim Shoaib rattled up a magnificent century. We ended up on 172 \(\text{i}2\). This was well beyond the reach of Queensbridge and they were skittled out for 58. Basit Malik taking 2 for 0!

Queen Mary's were next but weren't really much of a threat. They were bowled out for 43 with Sukhvir taking 3 for 6. Chris and Asim knocked off the runs with ease. The climax of the cup was building as we reached the semis. We had met Saltley in the quarters last year so we knew them well. The weather was atrocious as heavy showers ruined the pitch. The pitch was flooded, so as a result heavy groundwork was required to get the game started. The pitch in the end was a disgrace and so was the outfield. Asim made a good 23 considering the circumstances as the team finished on 82 \(\text{i}5\). Fortunately we bowled extremely well with a wet ball and bowled them out for just 48. Adam took 4 for 10, he was denied five as Sukhvir dropped a sitter on the last ball of Adam's spell!

We'd done it, for a second year in a row! We made it to the final! This time it was against Holte. On a slow dry wicket Asim won the toss and put the opposition in to bat. The pitch proved to be hard handle, as the Holte side were bowled out for 62, this was assisted by excellent and accurate bowling. So the rest was up to us. Mr Tranter gave the team some advice – A good side should win this with eight wickets to spare! He was not disappointed! Chris made a fine 21 before giving his wicket away with 5 runs required. We reached the target with eight wickets to spare. CAMP HILL WERE THE WINNERS OF THE DENNIS AMISS CUP!!!

An end to another successful season. Many thanks should go to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Tranter who led us through the season fantastically. Thanks must also go to: Chris Curtis, Sukhvir Lyall, AlexWeir, Oliver Palmer, Robert George, MilanVashi, Adam Khan and Aman Sahota who were the regulars in the team. Also to all the debutants: Lawrence Welch, Bassit Malik, Jaipal Gahir, Josh O'Donnell and Jamie Taylor. The boys I have just mentioned deserve the most credit as even though they did not always play, they stayed strong all throughout the season and relished every opportunity.

Asim Shoaib

U12

A very convincing introduction to competitive cricket for year 7. We first began by practicing in the new nets in the sports hall, though these practices were not too promising.
Nevertheless, the first game demonstrated a marked improvement on early days. It went very well, with the team reaching 86-6, with Umar Ahmed hitting 23* with two 4s and one 6. The Wheelers Lane reply was not particularly strong, with them reaching just 54-7, with Sanjay Nath taking 3/9. This set us up well for the rest of the season.

The team’s best performance followed this. After reducing Stratford to 97-7 from 25 overs, captain Rory Luscombe and opening batsman Ben Palmer then put on a magnificent 75 together, with Umar Ahmed coming in to steer us home with 8 overs to spare.

Our other winning performance was an extremely close contest against K.E Five Ways, with them falling 5 runs short of our target of 85. However the weather then took its toll and many cancellations were made. The lack of practice then showed when the team traveled to Coventry to play King Henry VIII. We fell 10 short of their target of 90, after we were bowled out for an unpleasant 80. Another poor performance led to us being knocked out of the cup at Bishop Vesey’s, though Umar Hanif ended up with brilliant figures of 4/6.

So all in all, a mixed first season from the team, but with a promising future. Congratulations to all players, and a special thanks to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Tranter for running the side.

Rory Luscombe

Athletics

Another athletics season, another hot, balmy summer! Despite the atrocious conditions this year, the athletics teams have astounded many.

The matches burst into action with the Senior Foundation Match at KES. The hope of winning the senior relay was the main target, but soon into the competition it quickly became obvious that greater success could follow. In the 6th form team, Jared Warmington, Jon Harding, Omar Khan, Josh Olomolaiye and Ben Simon all won their events and the year 11s surprised many with wins by Dorian John, Max Harrison, Billy Welch, Callum Miller and Cameron Fraser. In the relays not only did the senior team win but the year 11 squad were also victorious. As age groups, the year 11 team placed 1st and the seniors 2nd but the overall result gave a tie with KES both scoring 302 points. This was, by far, the best result, possibly in the history of the competition. In the following match against KES and Solihull, the teams also achieved another best performance. This time the competition was stronger yet year 11 continued their domination by winning again and the 6th form came 2nd. Overall Camp Hill placed second to KES by only 5 points.

This same week was a hectic one, as the junior teams were involved in back to back matches. The first was the Solihull match against Warwick, Aston and Solihull. This competition usually involves the format of athletes doing one track, one field and a relay. Unfortunately we discovered, only on the day, that it should have been either 2 track and 1 field + relay or vice-versa. The boys as usual accepted this and rose to the challenge by volunteering to do extra events, as a major reorganisation took place on the coach journey. It was also the first outing for year 7 and they responded with enthusiasm. Nick Wilson, James Gibling, Sidhu Umapathy and the relay team all came first, which in addition to other impressive performances from Sanjay Nath, Josh Bridgeman, Rory Luscombe, Will Higgins, Jake Thomas, Howard Jones and Gilad Grant helped them win their first outing. Year 8 continued with their winning ways from last season, scoring 155 points with Aston second on 115. Remembering that this was without full teams makes it more remarkable. Similarly the depleted year 9 squad competed aggressively with wins from Jamie Blakeman, Jordan Clarke, Rajan Bhambra and Andrew Stevens, and year 10 also impressed with first positions from Damien
Bishop, Kaldev Bhogal, Gavin Bhangal and the relay team. Kaldev and John both won all 4 events they competed in! Final results placed Camp Hill 2nd with 502 points to Solihull’s 513 and this with an incomplete squad.

The following day was a little too soon to field a complete and fully fit team for the Junior Foundation Competition. Year 7, however, managed another win as did the combined year 8 and 9 team, but year 10 came third. One of the more memorable performances of this match was Harris Hussain in the 400m. Harris kicked from the start and consequently took an early lead. He maintained this down the back straight but the KES runner knew the track and responded. As both entered the final 60m Harris was struggling to stay ahead but he gritted his teeth, punched his arms and surged on. He knew that if he slowed slightly he would be caught, so he continued, but his arms and legs were losing form as the KES runner closed in. The last few metres Harris legs gave way; he stretched for the line but fell. Covered with grit and in a daze he looked up from the ground to be congratulated, for his tremendous effort by his fellow athletes. He had given his all and had won. He was then carried to the toilets to be sick. Overall results placed Camp Hill second with 145 points to KES 154.

The next match was the English Schools’ Track and Field Cup where each athlete has to compete in 2 events. Usually a most enjoyable affair was conducted yet again in dismal conditions; with no cover for athletes or spectators meant that performances should have been below expectations. Despite this, both Junior and Intermediate teams came 1st; again another record! Results are based on a points system and highest scorers were Damien Bishop 44, Gavin Bhangal 43 and Kaldev Bhogal 42 in the Intermediates and John Lutwyche 53, Ankit Bhatt 36, Ben Smith 35, Josh Distin 36, and Chris Williams 37 for the Juniors. Both teams qualified for the Regional Final at Tipton and although this coincided with exams and the year 8 residential in Prestatyn, it was decided to make rearrangements and proceed. The top 8 teams from the Midlands were in this round, so it was extremely competitive. The Intermediates improved their overall total from the previous round and Damien Bishop maintained his unbeaten season, on the track, with a win in the 100m. The Junior Squad knew from researching the web that if they competed to their highest standard they could possibly win and so qualify for the National Final. Well they didn’t win but they did qualify as one of the highest scoring schools with a total of 448 points, 41 points better than the first round.; so to the Final in Chelmsford, Essex on Saturday 7th July (Please see ESAA article).

The match we host is always another high point of the term, due mainly to the efficient organisation of Mr Duncan and the expertise and enthusiasm of the staff who act as recorders, time keepers and field judges. Dazzling performances from many already mentioned helped the school achieve an excellent standard of winning 3 age groups. Well done to Fairfax, however, who despite not winning any individual year, managed to pip Camp Hill overall by just 1½ points.

The West Midlands Championships offer individual talents, the chance of competing against the best in the region and congratulations must go to the following for qualifying; Callum Miller, Kaldev Bhogal, Gavin Bhangal, Rajan Bhambra, Ankit Bhatt, Josh O’Donnell, John Lutwyche, Andrew Stevens, Jacob Hanvey, and Jamie Blakeman. Kaldev placed 2nd in the Triple Jump, Gavin 4th at Shot, Ankit 3rd in Discus, Andrew 3rd in Javelin, Josh 2nd in the 1500m yet John won his 200m and Rajan won the Discus to become West Midland Champions. Rajan and Kaldev were selected to compete for the county in the Mason Trophy, and Rajan placed a very impressive 2nd (the only time in the season he was runner up!).

In the final school match, the junior teams competed against Solihull, Aston and RGS Worcester. Despite year 7 and year 10 cricket cup matches coinciding on the same day and therefore the athletic teams being slightly under strength, Camp Hill finished the term in true style. The year 10s came 3rd; the year 9s had their strongest performance placing 2nd, even without Jamie Blakeman due to illness; year 8 won comfortably by 39 points and, against the odds, the year 7 managed to also complete an unbeaten season, easily winning by 16 points. The surprise, yet pleasing, overall result was Aston 330, Solihull 456, Worcester RGS 472 and Camp Hill 523.
To beat Solihull and tie with KES, at senior level is considerable yet the pinnacle result of the season must be reaching the English Schools Track and Field Final. Congratulations to all athletes for their endeavours, however the achievement of many athletes is due to hard work and dedication after joining local clubs, where they receive expert coaching together with quality competition. Prospective athletes should look towards these clubs and take advantage of the opportunities they offer.

Chris Grant

The National Schools Athletics Final 2007
Chelmsford, Essex

After a very successful and exciting athletics season, the U.13 team reached the final of the national schools athletics competition held in Essex. The competition has been running for about thirty years and is now classed as one of the most prestigious events in the junior athletics calendar. The team managed to reach the final through two prior rounds of competition. The first at Warwick University was a local(ish) event, which we won reasonably easily. The second round was at Tipton Sports Academy in Wolverhampton. This proved to be a much tougher test, but despite some earlier worries, we finished second in our category, but reached the final by being one of the highest scoring teams, who didn’t win their regional trials.

So to the final. The team consisting of thirteen year 8 boys in addition to one year 7, met at school, on the evening of the event to be taken down my mini-bus to a location much nearer the stadium we were going to be competing in. We seemed to reach the hotel reasonably quickly, and were then treated to a fantastic preparation meal at McDonalds. This quality preparation continued into the next day when we drove around Chelmsford trying to find a place to have breakfast. We eventually stopped at ASDA and most had a full English breakfast. This disappeared very quickly and before we knew it we were on our way to the stadium. We reached our destination with plenty of time to spare so, after receiving numbers and finding our seats in the stand, we completed a few circuits of the track as well as stretching and warming-up and also taking part in the essentials: photos, photos and some more photos!

The competition was based on times and distances so placing didn’t matter. Also competitors were only allowed to take part in one track event and one field event or one of them plus the relay. The day started at a brisk pace as boys and girls events alternated. There were early signs of a successful day with Chris Williams taking third in his hurdles heat and Aaron Hsu also in the hurdles in only his 2nd race and his 1st over the distance, performed well. This was followed by a breathtaking run by Josh O’Donnell running excellently to finish 2nd overall in the 1500m. This success was doubled as Nikesh Parmar ran again superbly to finish 17 seconds under his PB. Next were John Lutwyche and Alex Weir in the 100m. Alex in the first heat was up against bigger opponents but ran well in a very good time. But John stole the show not for the first time this season who dashed to joint 1st in the whole competition in a time of 12.3 seconds. After them were our 400m runners Ankit Bhatt and Ben Smith who both ran the same time of 62.8 in strong performances. The next event was the 200m. This was undertaken by Wai Ming Yap of year 8 and our youngest runner in the team Nick Wilson of year 7, who despite his age ran maturely against stronger opposition. Both ran well with both dipping under 29 seconds. The final solo running event was the 800m. Our two competitors, Robert George and David Wen finished off our track events (excluding the relay) with two solid runs under the 2.35 mark.

It was then our turn in the field events with Alex Weir, Chris Williams and Josh O’Donnell setting personal bests in their events. This was added to by strong performances by Howard Chew and Ben
Smith with all of our other athletes performing under increasingly pressurising circumstances. But, once again, the limelight was hogged by John Lutwyche who set a new PB as he won the triple jump competition by more than a metre in an amazing jump of 11.95m. This turned out to be only 11cm off the English Schools record. The final event of the day was the 4x100m relay: our team consisting of Howard Chew, Robert George, David Wen and Nathan Cornwall who finished our day on a high as they came second overall.

The next activity was the medal ceremony and soon it turned out to be the junior boys section. We had high hopes of a medal after hearing that we were only 1 point off a bronze at the half way stage. But, this was not to be as we were credited with 7th in the country. Not bad really. But, the whole process of entering and getting to the final could not have possible was it not for the fantastic help and support of Messrs Hardy and Duncan as well as Mr. Caves who came down to support in Essex at the final. Another thank you must go to Mr. Darby who paid for our overnight stay without any contributions from the athletes. But the last say has to be to the athletes whose hard work and determination got us to the final. They are again: Josh O’Donnell, Robert George, Alex Weir, Chris Williams, Nick Wilson, Aaron Hsu, Howard Chew, Nathan Cornwall, Ankit Bhatt, Ben Smith, Wai Ming Yap, Nikesh Parmar and David Wen. There is special mention to John Lutwyche who managed to total 55 points alone and stood as the joint second-best athlete at the competition. And lastly, to Josh Distin, who unfortunately couldn’t go to the final due to other commitments, but was an important member of the team all the same.

Chris Williams

Basketball

U16

This year, the league was organised on a district basis. With 10 teams in our division we hoped to have a reasonable number of matches. Sadly this was not to be; in the first 3 weeks, 2 teams had withdrawn! The team consisted of mainly year 11 pupils. Dominating the scoring and the boards have been Cameron Fraser 94 points, Dorian John 27, Ross Jones- Morris 16, and Suraj Sisodia. The guards who have developed the play and defended with alacrity are Atta Khan 16, Mikal Chawdry 22, Reece Bennett, Philip Terry and Aaron Suen. The season started with a close encounter with Kings Norton. They took an early lead which we eventually eroded to win 39-30. The match against Dame Elizabeth Cadbury came a little too soon; perhaps by a few decades? They compete in the national competitions and are consequently a bit good! Cameron said that some of them play at the Bullets(with him), and it showed. A defeat ensued but not as bad as last year’s against Aston Manor! Wheelers were next and gave us possibly the closest competition. The score was tight throughout, until one of their players was fouled out after making a comment to the referee. Fairly soon after this, Mikal scored a number of baskets from fast breaks and this turned the tables; final score being 44-33. In the last game before going to press, it was a real pleasure to play a team which, although competed hard, were not of the same standard. All players had a reasonable time on court resulting in a convincing, yet not embarrassing, 46-19 victory. Dorian was fortunate to receive some coaching tips in this game from the opposition teacher!

The second half of the season was almost a complete wash-out. In all the years that can be recalled, this one was the most disappointing. Camp Hill, despite being available and even travelling to other schools, played no games. All the other schools failed to play for various reasons. We therefore ended the season with 3 wins and 1 loss, which was sufficient to qualify for the semi-final against Arthur Terry School. Due to lack of games and practice, it turned out to be a one way affair. Arthur Terry dominated from the start and won 51-28.

The highlight of the season, however, has been the pleasure of playing in an outstanding arena. There can be a better school facility for many miles. Once we have perfected the climate control system who knows what we might achieve. One player said it is better than where the Bullets play!
Cameron Fraser

U14

The U14 basketball was quite successful, and although we did not qualify from the group stages of the league, the players were dedicated to the team throughout. Our first match against Bishop Challoner was a disappointing start to the season, losing 18-42 to a strong, well-prepared team. Jordan Clarke performed well, scoring 10 points. Our next match against Ninestiles was very pleasing, as we won 54-22. It was a good team performance with Jordan scoring 16 points and Veer Mann and Jamie Blakeman scoring 12 points each. Another strong performance against Baverstock, winning 28-19, lifted our spirits considerably, with Jordan, Jacob Hanvey and John Eraifej all getting on the scoresheet.

Against Wheelers Lane we lost in what was a very close contest. The score in the end was 25-26 to Wheelers Lane, and although we had many chances to win the game, we could not convert the shots into points. Our final game against Hall Green was a convincing win 37-15, Jordan Clarke scoring 14 points and Mohammed Azam scoring 8.

Overall we played well throughout the season. Pavan Harnal, Garen Khaira and Veer Mann played all 5 matches, while Keshav Gupta, Josh Tibbetts, Akeel Hussain and Edward Wallace all made constant appearances. Jordan Clarke was the top scorer with 48 points, followed by Veer Mann with 30 points. I would like to thank Mr. Duncan for coaching us throughout the year and would like to congratulate the team on what was an excellent season.

Veer Mann

Chess

2006/7 was not a year of enormous progress in school chess, but we did have some fun.

We started off with our individual competition, which attracted 104 entries: a scientific process of elimination knocked it down to 90, and the seven rounds went ahead. A few players caused themselves to be exterminated by not turning up, but 58 made it to the end, and the winners gradually became obvious. The crunch match turned out to be between Joe Sheldrick and Aled Walker, and Joe won (on time, I think!) to claim the School Championship.

We also started our usual Year 7 ladder, and many boys joined. The ladder then entirely failed to perform its usual function: positions 1-3 changed hands a few times, but nothing at all occurred between positions 4 and 13. We had to find another way, and did so by offering free tutorials with Bob Walker, promoting those who came. At that stage, a clear order developed, and we were able to select a team for our first match and win it 1-0 against K.E.S.! Then the ladder went completely back to sleep, and I have no idea why. As senior management might say, the situation is under review for 2007.

Our first tournament of the year was the Invitational at Solihull School. There were seven teams there, and we hoped that the draw would keep us away from Nottingham High School as much as possible. It duly obliged, and we finished in second place. Then, we returned after a year’s absence to the grandly-named Millfield International Tournament. This was great fun, or as much fun as something which starts at 6:15 a.m. on a Saturday can be. We did far too well in the qualifying rounds, and ended up in the dizzy heights of the Championship Division, with Haberdashers’ Aske’s (watch those apostrophes), St. Olave’s and their lady, R.G.S. Guildford, etc. etc. In this company, we came a close last, but Kieran Child still managed to win a board prize and beat the Grand Master in the simultaneous.
In our own Under 18 tournament, we actually did rather well. The apostrophes and the lady turned up, as did K.E.S. and Nottingham High School. Our B team did very well and beat K.E.S. B, but Haberdashers Aske B team turned out to be rather better than several of the A teams there, and won Best B team. However, their A team didn’t win the championship, which was reclaimed by Nottingham: their biggest obstacle turned out to be us, as we almost beat them in one of the rounds, ending up losing narrowly 5:3. We finished third overall, easily retaining Best in Birmingham. Aled Walker won a board prize for his performance at Board 6.

Then, in January, we hosted the Under 12 Quickplay Tournament. At the closing date for entries, there were two teams, but soon there were five. Wolverhampton made the long trek over to this tournament for the first time, and were rewarded by coming last. Camp Hill were winning after the first round, but we have a knack for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, and this duly occurred, with Five Ways the surprise winners. And finally, on a fine Saturday in March, there occurred the Under 14 Quickplay Tournament, this time at Solihull School. Once again, we were installed in the room with the automatic lights. I suggested that everyone sat very still to try to make them turn off, but nobody seemed interested: instead, they went off to play chess, and did rather well until drawn against Haberdashers Aske in Round 3, and then Five Ways in Round 4, who by this point were proving to be rather less surprising winners. We did win in Rounds 1, 2 and 5 though, to finish in a mid-table position. Tom Perkins turned up for the reserves tournament, but there wasn’t one.

I shouldn’t mention the E.C.F. national competition, but I feel contractually obliged to do so. This involved two matches against K.E.S. The first, against their B team, we won 6 : 0, but the second involved an extremely embarrassing loss at home against their A team. I can’t now remember who scored our ½ a point.

The mainstay of our season is the set of regular local matches in the venerable Birmingham and District Junior Chess League. The B & DJCL (as it is affectionately known) has been gradually easing closer to retirement in recent years, and when the number of schools fell to nine in 2006, it became clear to us that it was no use fielding as many teams as we used to, so we have gone down from six to five. The first team came second in their division, but please do not ask how many teams it contained. The second team won Division 3, and the third team won Division 4. The Year 8 team, some of whom spent the year perfecting to the nth degree the art of playing chess while keeping up an uninterrupted stream of chat, came third in their division, and the Year 7s managed to jointly win theirs after winning one match, drawing another, and winning the third by default. The highlight of our League season, such as it was, was undoubtedly the match against Wolverhampton Grammar School, whose interpretation of a non-uniform day seemed rather different to ours. Shaggy from Scooby-Doo turned up, complete with Scooby Snacks; there was also a rather fetching-ally attired pirate, and a carrot. Shaggy didn’t last very long, but the pirate held out longer, and the carrot was at one stage threatening to draw with Jack Atack. However, human did eventually triumph over root vegetable, which deprived me of a good line for assembly.

There was also House Chess. The smart money was on Seymour, but in the first round they were beaten by Tudor, who went on to win the whole thing rather convincingly. No team captain could quite rise to the stress levels evinced last year by Andrew Moxley, but Seymour did introduce the concept of the Random player, a boy plucked from the library or lobby to fill place 8 at the very last minute. Tansu Yilmaz redefined some chess-playing concepts (for example, mate in one became mate in one hour) but eventually intelligence won through, and he earned a place in a school team. So did Karl Lu, who now has a 100% playing record for the school.

As well as Bob Walker, we now have a new chess tutor for the serious older player, Russell James, whose amazing sessions have gone down well. (I watched, in awe, from the back row, as Russell played what appeared to be simultaneous games in his head with several people at once.) And as
usual we had to say goodbyes: Kamran Hussain, Joe Sheldrick and Petros Mylonas were stalwarts of school chess since all those years ago in 7K when we used to occupy form periods with compulsory chess-playing. I thank them all for their enormous contribution, and wish them success in the future.

And suddenly it was almost July: Tony Blair stepped down as PM, and we celebrated by going to Pontin’s Brean Sands for the grandly-named UK National Schools Chess Championships. We took five Under 14s, five Under 16s, and Mr. Jackson. He felt that we should see a traditional English seaside scene, so we stopped for tea at Winston’s Fish and Chip Shop on the seafront at Weston-super-Mare. This proved to be excellent, and Andrew Briggs, Nathan Brown and Clive Ke won certificates for achieving the Moby Dick Challenge, which involved eating an enormous cod. As for the chess, the tournament controller had been recruited at a few days’ notice, and was rather fierce, threatening to dock points from teams for all sorts of offences, such as breathing too loudly. The competition was also fierce, with Magdalen College School almost unbeatable at Under 16, and Torquay Boys’ Grammar School similar at Under 14. But Camp Hill did very well, finishing third out of eight in both sections (for comparison, K.E.S. came sixth at Under 16) and Clive Ke (7/7) and Andrew Pearson (6½/7) did exceptionally well, winning board prizes. We also received visits from Captain Croc and Zena, while Kieran Child was triumphant at the air-hockey table.

We look forward to more success and fun in 2007/8, especially with the return of Matthew Dodd and Mr Oliver Anderton!

AMR

Cross-Country

Camp Hill runners achieved a degree of success in the South Birmingham Schools Cross-Country Championships this term. The Year 7s in their first competition placed an encouraging fourth. James Giblin ran well to come in 6th place and Josh Bridgeman impressed also in 12th. The combined year 8 and 9 maintained their outstanding performances from last year and won comfortably. The top four to score were Josh O’Donnell 2nd, Robert George 3rd, Nikesh Parmar 9th and Anthony Wood 10th. Sadly the combined year 10 and 11 team, as a whole, disappointed. They failed to have 4 finishers and so didn’t complete the competition. The 3 runners that did finish ran well; especially Callum Miller. Following his impressive triumphs last year he placed second with Kaldev Bhogal 6th.

All the boys above qualified for the South Birmingham team in the West Midland Trials in October. From this competition, Josh and Callum qualified for the West Midland team itself and have represented the county at a number of high profile inter-county matches including the Nationals. This is a commendable achievement and bodes well for the athletics season in the Summer.

GH

Football

1st XI

In the previous season, the football team failed to register a single win. So this year we began the season intent on making it a successful one. We took this positive attitude into our first match against Coleshill. We weren’t solid enough at the back, but provided a threat on the attack. With only a few minutes to go, the score was 4-2 to Coleshill, with our goals coming from Jared Warmington and Khuram Tejrar. After a Coleshill defender put the ball in his own net, Tom
Houston completed the comeback, with the match ending 4-4. This was a promising start, with man of the match Jared's pace too much for the opposition to handle.

Our next match was against Arden. We took the lead in the first half after Ben Baker slotted the ball home from newcomer Arob Bol-Deng's neat through ball. In the second half, Daniel Cottam thumped the ball into the back of the net. Unfortunately, it was our own net. Arden then completed their comeback with a deflected free kick that found the back of the net, making the final score 2-1 to Arden.

Still on the trail of that first win, Camp Hill set out to face King Edward Aston. Aston traditionally have strong teams, selecting from the whole 6\textsuperscript{th} form, not just from non-hockey and non-rugby players. The last time these two rivals met, Camp Hill were hammered. But this time, Camp Hill had clearly not read the script. Aston struggled to get past Camp Hill's solid defensive line, with the centre-back pairing of Arob Bol-Deng and Andrew Hodgetts proving to be a formidable one. Goalkeeper Scott Fennell was also fantastic between the posts. In the second half, influential skipper Chetan Mistry stepped up to smack the ball into the Aston goal from a free kick. After great pressure, Aston found an equaliser, but Camp Hill managed to hold out for a 1-1 draw after full time. However, this was a cup match, so a result was needed. Camp Hill tired, and eventually fell to a 4-1 defeat after extra time. However, this was a performance to be proud of, and we left the pitch with our heads held high.

The next day, we had a match against Ninestiles. However, coaches Mr Garrod and Mr Speake wanted to rest a number of the first team players who had been in action the previous day. So, the team was predominantly made of second team players, with a handful of first teamers. The team dominated the match nonetheless. We won 3-1, with goals coming from Chris, Jared and Razaullah Ahmed.

In the next match, Camp Hill travelled to Baverstock, where we learnt what it feels like to beat a side 9-1 (to those of you who don't know, it feels good). Jared and the sensational Tom Houston scored a hat-trick each, and Ben Baker and Razaullah Ahmed scored a goal each too. One of the highlights of the match came when Chetan, again leading by example, finished off a superb team move. After great commitment and hard work, this was a result that the team thoroughly deserved.

We were confident going into our next game against Hamstead Hall. However, it turned out to be a very different game to the Baverstock match. Hamstead Hall had a handful of very skilful players, and we struggled in this match, losing 4-2 in the end. One of our goals was a Hamstead Hall own goal, and the other came from Tom Houston.

After terrible weather had denied us any recent fixtures, the next match finally came against Old Swinford Hospital School. Camp Hill struggled to make an impact on a match dominated by Old Swinford. The final score was 4-0 in Old Swinford's favour, but this would have been a lot more if it were not for Camp Hill's committed defending and fine goalkeeping from Scott Fennell.

It appeared that other teams were too scared to face the Camp Hill squad; no-one seemed to want to play against us. Therefore, we had to go back to playing teams that we had already played against. The first of these teams was Arden. We were determined to beat Arden this time, and Tom put us on the right track with a brace, but Arden managed to pull the score back to 2-2 when their fans came to watch. This was disappointing, as we should have won this match.

Our final match of the campaign was against Baverstock. We knew that they would want revenge for their demolition at our hands earlier in the season. But we were not going to grant them their wish. With an impressive team performance, we won 5-2. Unsurprisingly, the consistent Tom netted twice, and Chetan once.

Overall, the season was a success, with some great results, and performances to be proud of. Jared was a lethal weapon on the left wing, and Chetan led by example throughout the whole season. The experience of players like Andrew Martin and Scott Fennell was also integral to the team. New
players to the team also proved important, like the prolific Tom Houston (9 goals in 7 matches), the creative Chris Wallace, and the strong centre-back pairing of Andrew Hodgetts and Arob Bol-Deng. The team spirit was magnificent, and one of the vital factors of this exciting season. Let's hope that we can build upon this with another fantastic season.

Andrew Hodgetts

2nd XI

Labelled as the best season in the history of Camp Hill, our footballers, firsts and seconds alike, enjoyed much success. The 2nd XI played five, yes a whole five games against Baverstock (twice), Arden, Ninestiles and Old Swinford.

In the first fixture the Camp Hill 2nd team outshone opponents Arden in a magnificent 12-2 victory. Noteworthy were the performances of Razaullah Ahmed and Ravi Davda, each of whom contributed four goals, with debutants Anes Mansouri and Gurs Khakh adding to the scoreboard. Much credit has to go to the defence and goalkeeper Luke Hallahan, who conceded a mere two goals.

With a comfortable victory in hand and one training session later came the second match against a Ninestiles team that had a clear height advantage. Nonetheless Camp Hill played to their strengths and managed to create a few good chances thanks to incisive play. Despite a lively first half which witnessed Jared Warmington penetrate the opposition's defence on several occasions, the stalemate could only be broken in the second half: Razauallah utilised a Ninestiles mistake to dazzle their keeper and place the ball into the back of the net. What happens when the unlikely star of the previous match, Ravi, crosses the ball deep into Ninestiles territory? What else? Jared scores! Though our defence, comprising Abu-Bakr, Andrew Hodgetts and Fergus Morris, was generally sound, a moment of confusion led to the score changing to 2-1. Perseverance pays was the lesson learnt when Chris Wallace latched onto a through ball to score and clutch a convincing 3-1 victory.

On the 1st of the dreary month of November, the 2nd XIs travelled to Baverstock. Their attacks led to much last-ditch defending, testing the resilience of our defence. However, Baverstock hopes were momentarily crushed when Khurram Tejrar went on a fine run past two rather round defenders to coolly net the ball. We took the lead only for it to be lost again when a free shot from the left managed to slip past goalie Luke Halahan. Perhaps it was the unthinkable prospect of losing, perhaps it was pure skill or maybe it was just luck that drove Khurram to produce an unusually fine cross (that was then converted into a goal by Bhaj Sokhey) shall always remain a mystery! The final score: 2-1.

Then came the inevitable Day of Infamy. With old rivalries running deep, we traveled out of Birmingham to crush Old Swinford. Alas, crush them we could not. Camp Hill were unable to successfully penetrate the Old Swinford half, allowing our opponents to ease to a 2-0 head start. Crucially though, Camp Hill kept knocking on Old Swinford's door, and Khurram's powerful drive after Islam's pass saw us go into half time with a goal to our name. Straight after the interval, excellent link up play between Anis Robben Mansouri, Harshad Eto Rajgor and Ravi Lampard Davda led to Omar taking the ball round the keeper and slotting it home with great panache. Unfortunately, he was denied a potential hat trick as his lightning quick pace meant the referee thought he was offside yet again. However, the true star of the show was man of the match Parminder Cannavaro Bhomra – his well timed tackles and interceptions kept us in the game. Unfortunately, despite Parminder and Umar Ferdinand Farooq's strong tackling, the line of the defence was not held throughout the game, which converted a potential victory into a 6-2 defeat – which sounds worse than it actually was I honest!
In what promised to be a thrilling game against rivals Bayerstock, Camp Hill were determined to secure a second victory. Self-proclaimed star Khurram Tejrar clinched a praiseworthy hat-trick and fellow Shammus also managed to score. Captain Islam Issa contributed to the scorecard to end the season on an unprecedented high. All in all, the 2nd XI enjoyed an illustrious season, which marked the dawn of a new trend in Camp Hill.

**Pradeep Janardhanan**

**Swimming**

After 30 months with no pool, what a joy to be back in the water. The House Gala at the end of the spring term was a great success with superb performances from many pupils. Pride of place went to the Beaufort 6x25m Intermediate relay team of Vinson Yeung, Nick West, Andrew Bentley, Andrew Jeskins, Nathan Hehir and Dominic Fitzgerald who finished a length clear of the other teams, and equalled the record of 1min 25.6sec set eleven years earlier. None of the individual swimming records were threatened, so the junior Free, Breast and two Fly records of a certain ‘A. Caves’ were safe for another year. The competitions for age group Victor Ludorum were intense, nowhere more so than among the seniors where only fractions of a second separated Ian Trzcinski, Fergus Morris, Ian Cheetham and Alex Evans. Well done to Ian Trzcinski who eventually emerged victorious, and also to Vinson Yeung (Y10), Ben Smith (Y8) and Daniel Szucs (Y7) who were each Victor Ludorum in their respective age groups. Congratulations also to the Beaufort men for taking the overall shield.

Regular Friday after-school swimming training recommenced, and it was good to see Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club back using the Pool again. With a number of inter-school fixtures coming up, prospective team swimmers should be recommencing regular training. Those aiming to do really well should try out for membership of a top club such as Camp Hill Edwardians.

**PRJ**

**Tennis**

In late November, the U.15 Tennis team comprising Cameron Fraser, Cameron MacInnes, James Rogers & Stefan Harries took part in the Nestle Tennis National Quarter Finals at the David Lloyd Tennis Centre in Great Barr. This is a nationwide competition which in its initial stages involves over 30,000 pupils playing in local area leagues.

To reach the final stages of the competition, the team had to win a tough area league last summer, in which they were competing against KES, Arthur Terry & KE Aston. As area winners they proceeded into regional rounds where they were successful against other winners from Shropshire, Wolverhampton & Staffordshire.

In the Quarter Final the team faced a difficult match against Loughborough GS, national winners of the competition at U.13 level. One look at the ratings of their players, informed us that we were facing formidable opposition and so it proved. The team battled for every point, but were comprehensively beaten by some very talented tennis players.

The two Camerons, James & Stefan were philosophical in defeat and took comfort in the knowledge that they are the first Camp Hill Tennis U.15 team to reach the last 16 in the country in the Nestle Competition.

An early exit from the Glanville Cup against Bishop Challoner limited the Senior team’s matches this term, but the other age groups have had a busy term despite the unpredictable weather.
The U.15 team were one match away from emulating last year’s team who reached the regional stages of the Nestle competition. The team (Cameron Macinnes, James Rogers, Tony Song and Sean Miller) achieved good wins against Kings Norton Boys 5-1 and KES 4-2, before losing the crucial league decider against Arthur Terry 2-4.

The U.15 B team (Kaldev Bhogal, Garen Khaira, Guy Morton and Harris Hussain) also had a successful term, beating Hall Green 6-0, Bournville 4-2, Bishop Challoner 4-2, but like the U.15 A team, had to settle for second place after losing the league decider against Arthur Terry 0-6.

Both Junior teams were able to go one better than the older players. The U.13 A team (Kameran Ali, Ollie Palmer, Chris Williams, Josh Bridgeman and on one occasion Ben Palmer) beat Kings Norton Boys 5-1, KES 5-1, Arthur Terry 6-0 to set up a league decider against Bishop Challoner. In a thrilling match, both teams struggled to gain the upper hand, but after two sets of doubles and four sets of singles, the score remained 3-3. In the event of a draw in Nestle league matches, games won in all the sets decide the winner. Camp Hill won through by the closest of margins 29-28 and will represent Birmingham in the regional stages of this year’s competition.

The U.13 B team (Luke Pritchard-Cairns, Lawrence Welch, Ed Thompson, Nick Wilson and Ben Palmer) also won their league beating Bishop Challoner 5-1, Bournville 4-2, Arthur Terry 6-0 and Sheldon Heath.

A Year 7 & Year 8 team also played KE Five Ways. By the end of a long evening, honours remained even with the Year 7 narrowly losing 2-4 and the Year 8 gaining a convincing 5-1 win. Special mention must go to David Warren who stepped in at the last minute to make his debut and went on to win both his singles and doubles matches.

In addition to these league matches, a Year 7 team (Josh Bridgeman, Ben Palmer, Nick Wilson, Ed Thompson, Rory Luscombe and James Giblin) won an area competition against local schools and went on to play in the Warwickshire Slam Finals at the DFS Classic at the Priory. The team did exceptionally well against schools from across the Midlands, narrowly losing the final to Arden School, and also had the opportunity to watch some of the world’s top women players in action in the main tournament.

The school has secured the services of Nigel Smith LTA Coach at Weoley Hill Tennis Club. He has run two sessions a week during the summer term; a Year 7 Club for non-team players and coaching for team players. His involvement will undoubtedly help the development of players at all levels.

CMJ

Camp Hill Rugby Football Club

A difficult season for the 1st XV culminated in relegation from Midlands Division 2 West. As is periodically the case with amateur clubs, the senior side is in a transition period with a number of new players joining the squad and we are looking forward to playing at a level more suitable to this development period.

We started the season with a South African coach, Heinre Jacobs but this didn’t work out and for the second half of the season recent former 1st XV player John Corr took over and JC’s influence was reflected in improved performances in the latter part of the season. John remains at the helm for the 2007/08 season.

As ever, old boys were well represented in the club’s senior sides, notably School captain Ian Briggs who received his 1st XV tie and who also received the Victor Saville Award, presented to the pupil who has done most to foster links between the Club and the School.
No less than 12 Camp Hill players represented the full Greater Birmingham side including current pupils Ian Briggs and Matt Webster together with old boys Sam Mucklow and Andy Caves. Two players who are products of the club’s Mini & Junior section, Chris Goddard and Alex Richmond, as well as representing Greater Birmingham also represented the full North Midlands at Under 20.

The Club’s activities off the field were recognised. We were runners up for the Dunsbee Award (having won the award 2 years ago) presented to the Club of the Season by the North Midlands Society of Rugby Football Referees. Former pupil Martin Crutchley was nominated for the North Midlands Club Volunteer award.

Graham Scutt, also an old boy, received a special long service award from the North Midlands RFU to recognise no less than 60 years’ continuous service to the Club in numerous capacities, most recently as Fixture Secretary for nearly 20 years.

The Women’s team finished top of Midlands Division 1 for the third year running and gained promotion to National Championship 1 (North), effectively the second division of women’s rugby in England. This achievement was recognised when they were named as Greater Birmingham team of the season.

Mini & junior rugby continues to provide rugby to well over 200 young players ranging from the Micros (ages 4 & 5) through to Under 17s. 19 players from the junior section represented Greater Birmingham and Solihull at various age groups including three Under 17 players who made the considerable step up to represent Greater Birmingham at Under 19 level.

With the recent introduction of girls’ teams at Under 14 and Under 17 Camp Hill can now offer rugby to both male and female players of all ages. Male players ending their junior rugby careers at Under 17 are looking forward to joining the club’s senior ranks in the Colts (Under 19) side.

As ever, pupils, old boys, staff and parents are welcome to Camp Hill RFC as players and supporters. We are proud of the strong link between school and club and I am very keen to maintain and strengthen it yet further. We are fortunate to have Mr Andrew Caves acting as the main link between school and club. He is perfectly placed to fulfil this role as an old boy, member of staff and current Club 1st XV player. Andrew will be more than happy to act as first contact point for anybody wishing to join Camp Hill RFC.

Dave Maiden
Chairman

Camp Hill Old Edwardians Cricket Club

Probably the worst summer in living memory, which hit the Club as hard as anybody.

The ground at Rumbush Lane is one of the most picturesque in the Solihull area, but for a large part of June and July the outfield was under water and the square sodden. This had a big influence on the season overall as the early challenge for promotion to the Warwickshire Premier League which saw the Club in the top 3 for much of April and June faded as the weather worsened.

At the end of the day, both 1st and 2nd XIs finished comfortably in mid-table Division 1. This is a very competitive level of cricket being only 2 steps away from the Birmingham League and the Club had done well to maintain this position over a number of seasons with limited resources.
Sunday cricket has also returned to Rumbush Lane with the social side CHAVs (Camp Hill All Varieties) playing a number of enjoyable friendly fixtures. It is hoped that we can expand this fixture list next year.

Unfortunately, the weather put paid to the School game this year which is always a great pity as we seek to get as many Schoolboys and leavers as possible interested in playing for the Old Boys.

There is a strong contingent of Old Boys playing regularly at the Club and there is still a strong Camp Hill feel and tradition although the Club has been "open" now for some years. All new players will be welcomed at the Club and whilst we understand most Camp Hill leavers will be off to University, it's a long summer holiday and there is nowhere better to play and keep in touch with Camp Hill banter than Rumbush Lane.

Steve Terrace
Chairman

Camp Hill Old Edwardians Golfing Society

Founded in 1951, C.H.O.E.G.S. meets three times a year for golf, dinner and a catch up with old friends. Handicaps and ages vary considerably and all are welcome to apply for membership. Our meetings include:

A spring meeting, where we play individually for the Philip Holden trophy - a very nice (very valuable) piece of silver and the Crosbie Holden silver salver. A mid-year match against Aston Old Edwardians for the 'Old Friends' trophy. An autumn meeting, where we play in pairs for the Bert Leech (founding President) putters.


If you are interested in becoming a member please drop me a line (warren@tinkertaylor.tv) or speak to Mr A. Caves at school.

Warren Taylor
Hon. Secretary
**House Championship 2006/2007**

The House calendar allows for wide participation in no less than 12 areas of activity during the year. The majority of pupils will play a part at some stage and in fact all boys in Years 7-10 are actively involved. This year has been an exciting one with, Beaufort ultimately wrestling the Championship crown back from Tudor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tudor</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Seymour</td>
<td>40</td>
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The summer transfer window has seen the signing of ex-Seymour pupil Mr Caves to take over the reigns of Gold from the retiring Mr Bruten. Thank you to PAB and good luck to AJC.

2007/2008 is the Centenary Year for the House System and plans are afoot to mark it in a suitable manner. We are indebted to the foresight of the Reverend Jamson-Smith, first Headmaster of CHB, who instituted the system 100 years ago.

**MWD**

**Beaufort**

For the second time in three years, Beaufort carried off the House Championship by, in the end, a very comfortable margin. With so many good Junior and Intermediate boys in the House we should have a very decent chance of defending our title in 2007/8.

Beaufort’s House Championship began strongly with a winning performance in the Soccer competition and emerging unbeaten from the Intermediate Rugby tournament. However, the winning start could not be maintained, as we slumped into last place in the Table Tennis, Basketball and Badminton competitions and failed to get anything out of the Senior Rugby. Even a stunning victory in the Cross Country, where our Senior team occupied eight of the first ten places, could not prevent us from sinking to a lowly position going into the Easter Term, a position quickly consolidated by our fourth place in the Chess.

And then the sun began to shine and the world turned red. If the Senior Ruby was weak, a magnificent six victories out of six in the Year 7 and 8 competitions gave us the Rugby championship and, once again, for the third (or is it fourth?) year running, our swimmers were unbeatable. By the time Easter came with 2nd place in Hockey and the senior Cricket title under our belts, we were in the lead and ready to beat off a potentially strong challenge from Tudor.

The sun now largely stopped shining but still the world remained red. We scrambled a few points from the Junior Cricket, but it was a superb performance by the Intermediate Cricketers, who went into their competition as no-hopers, that clinched the Cricket competition for us. However, by the time the Cricket had been decided, the overall championship had been won. While Tudor caught up a little in the Tennis, in Athletics, a fine team performance put an end to Tudor’s hopes.

So an outstanding year, which, significantly, saw us win all the big, mass participation sports; only in Basketball did we fail to do our talent justice. Much of our success was down to strong and enthusiastic leadership from the Senior members of the House, and especially from the Captain and Vice-Captain, Tom Beardmore and Omar Khan. They were jointly awarded the Vivian Bird House Trophy, not just for their great efforts in 2006/2007 but also for seven years of committed service to the House. Well done to them and indeed to the whole House.
I look forward to 2007/8 with great anticipation and I hope that, by retaining the titles we already hold and improving our performances in other areas, we will once again be House Champions come the end of the year.

Daniel Derbyshire

Howard

After yet another year where, perhaps, results might have been slightly better on occasions, we find ourselves in a last minute contest with Year 7, Year 8 and intermediate Cricket final matches to be played. The results of these could possibly influence the final standings in the overall House Championship but only time will tell. Nevertheless, the results, if not always successful, have displayed once again that Howard boys are resolute and determined and will challenge to the last. Our performances may not always be match winning, but despite the odds being stacked against them on occasions, they have shown that the spirit which often asserts itself when the chips are down is always ready to be re-kindled. In the recent Athletics finals contest, for instance, many competitors gave very brave performances which probably went unnoticed by many, but, rest assured, those unselfish endeavours were noticed and very much appreciated.

Many thanks to all those boys who have generously and frequently given much to the House over the past year and particularly to House captain Joe Pick, who led by example and was a fine leader backed up by some outstanding senior boys. The Vivian Bird Trophy was awarded to Josh Kretzmer for his commitment during his time in school, well done Josh.

Whatever the final outcome of this year’s House Championship, I feel that we have made progress and that we have in place the potential to enjoy a good year ahead under the wing of the 2007/08 House captain, Ben Simon. He will be relying on the support of all in the House during another challenging year so we all wish him every success.

Mr P. Carman

Seymour

This was not a great year for the gold of Seymour. The strength in depth of the other houses meant that first and second places were hard to come by and as a result we struggled to impose ourselves, particularly in the major events.

The highlights of the year were undoubtedly the winning of the badminton (thanks to Grant Su, James Lee, Venkhat Bhamidipati and Duncan Hodgetts), the excellent victory in the senior basketball and the second places in chess and swimming, where Ian Trzcinski gained the senior Victor Ludorum.

The younger age groups will need to find something extra next year if Seymour are to return to winning ways in the near future. In the past the boys have always responded well to a bad year, hopefully they will the same again this time.

As I conclude my final year as housemaster; I hand over to Mr Caves from September, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the house, both past and present, for their enthusiasm and commitment to the house system. They have made the role an enjoyable and rewarding one. Congratulations to Fergus Morris in securing the Vivian Bird
trophy for his excellent contribution to the house and to Ian Trzcinski for securing the role as house captain for 2007/08. Good luck to all the boys and Mr Caves for the future; I'll still be watching and cheering for the gold of Seymour!

Mr P. Bruten

Tudor

After the Green Machine's spectacular triumph in the House Championship 2005/06, the big question coming into the year was whether Tudor could manage to go one step further and hold on for back-to-back successes. Unfortunately, what followed was a solid but sadly unspectacular second place. No, not even Mr Nash's truly inspirational team talks and house assemblies could make up for what was a rather mixed year and bring the trophy home again. Perhaps he should try missing out the poetry next year?

There were, of course, many highlights in the 2006/07 campaign for the men in green. Most notably, our chess players managed to grab the first place in chess from under the noses of Seymour for the first time in living memory. Under the captaincy of Joe Sheldrick, much to the amazement of Mr Rogers, Tudor finally ended Seymour's six-year reign as chess champions quite comfortably, winning one match in less than four minutes.

The autumn term got off to an up-and-down start for the Tudor boys, as we enjoyed a very clear victory in the table tennis, only dropping nine points out of a possible forty-five across three age-groups. This couldn't be matched with the ball at our feet, though let's just say that we came joint third, not last, in the football. We continued our long-standing lack of success in Badminton with another third place and failed to convert promising cross-country standards into success in the finals, ending up second to the dominant Beaufort.

Until the hockey, which we won't mention, the spring term seemed to be going quite well for Tudor. Our victory in the chess was followed by a close second place in the rugby, where a few close matches going our way would have made a big difference. However, with a more conventional circular ball in hand, Tudor enjoyed more success, with victory in the Basketball; wrapped up by the Juniors holding on for a tense 20-18 victory over Seymour. In the swimming gala's long-awaited return to Camp Hill's own pool, Tudor did not disgrace themselves to finish third overall.

This really left us too much to do in the summer term. Despite Mr Nash's infamous never-say-die enthusiasm, an excellent victory in the tennis and solid second places in athletics and cricket could not stop Beaufort from powering to their second house championship in three years.

Finally, thanks must go to all the team captains and volunteers who were invaluable in keeping the Green Machine running over the last year. Special congratulations must go to House Captain Rob Obeng-Manu and Vice-Captain Dave Lee who worked tirelessly for the house.

Mark Davies