



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this, we are nearing the completion of the Summer Term and although we are all looking forward to the summer holidays, a little part of me doesn't want this term to end! What a wonderful climax to the academic year it has been. We had our first international trip (Year 10 Battlefields) for over two years, and we look forward to more coming soon. To say that the border crossings, COVID testing, and health passports were complex is probably an understatement so particular thanks must go to the History team for this gargantuan effort. We have had two rugby & hockey tours, two year groups going on their residential trips to the Conway Centre in Anglesey, multiple RS trips to local places of worship, Chemists down the mines, Geographers on the hills and in the rivers, students climbing rock faces, trips to Careers Fairs, trips for hopeful Cambridge and Oxford graduates, Artists going to see the Ikon Gallery, physicists visiting a fusion reactor, students winning a politics competition, mural painting in the Careers room, the choir singing at Hagley Road Village, the spectacle of Sports Day, the Team Maths Challenge, and the student-led Culture Week celebration. It has been stunning!

My thanks to all of the amazing staff who have given huge amounts of time and energy to organise and support these events. Our staff are a wonderful, giving, selfless group of people who go above and beyond to support the students, and it is an honour and privilege to work alongside them.

This academic year has seen a lot of positive things and we are delighted to be heading towards some sort of "normal" again, but the last three years have taken their toll on people across the world. School staff have worked tirelessly to support young people despite the challenges we have faced, but many are exhausted, and many are leaving education as they re-evaluate their lives and their priorities. Even CHB is not immune to this and some of our talented staff have secured promotions in other schools and a couple are retiring. Whilst we are always sorry to say goodbye to these wonderful people, we are also excited to welcome our new staff who will be joining us in September.

So we say goodbye, thank you and good luck to Mr Garrod, Mr Palmer, Mr Nash, Mr Taylor, Dr White, Mr Syed, Mr Eckley, Miss Li, Mr Deauville and Mr Iqbal. At the same time we welcome for September Mr Page, Ms Gore, Mr Donnelly, Mr Watters, Mr Munoz-Britton, Ms Cave, Ms Mackenzie, Ms Toogood, Ms Espinosa, Ms Marston, Ms Khan, Ms Reynolds and Mr Morris! Recently

our new staff spent an induction day in school and we are all very excited to meet them properly in September.

My thanks also go to the students – we have received report after report from the places they have visited, praising their exemplary behaviour and attitudes and marvelling at their engagement and curiosity with the various places they have visited.

And that is not all. Student leadership has been at the heart of many more superb events, from Culture Week and Cultural dress day, to cooking classes, parents welcome evenings, and an array of Charitable events, culminating in the fantastic Walk to Ukraine, where we raised over £2000 for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent. This money will go towards supporting people across the world who have suffered loss as a result of the appalling conflicts that we are currently witnessing. We even had a personalised message from the Secretary of State for Education (as he was then!), Nadhim Zahawi, congratulating Camp Hill students on their sensitive and inclusive leadership. The Charity committee recently organised an interesting and informative assembly on sight loss awareness. Some staff are currently wearing visual impairment simulation glasses around school to help develop awareness of debilitating sight conditions!

Finally, a word about the Association of Friends of the School. The AFS are our parent, teacher, staff, alumni and general friends of the school association. Anyone can join, but all parents are automatically members. The AFS do two important things: they build and support a programme of events that build the wider Camp Hill community ethos, and they raise money for the “extras” for our students. They have been extremely busy recently: with committee meetings; inspecting the mural that they funded; providing refreshments at charity events, concerts and parents evenings; running treasure hunts at welcome evenings; supporting Sports Day; and running the annual quiz night! Please do have a look at their pages on the school website, and consider joining the committee or volunteering to help at events. An excellent recent AFS development is the launch of their “pre-loved” uniform sales. This important service offers good quality used uniform at affordable prices and supports the recycling of out-grown uniform. Everyone loves an eco-bargain! If you have any old uniform that you would like to donate to the AFS please get in touch at afschair@gmail.com. Equally if you would like to purchase some pre-loved bargains then get in touch! My sincere thanks to this excellent team of dedicated volunteers!

So, as I sign off, I realise that I have achieved my ambition of writing a newsletter introduction without mentioning the word COVID more than once. Pedants will now point out the implied failure in that last sentence, but nonetheless, I hope that, despite the pandemic, the school continues to grow and to recapture all that diversity and magic that is the Camp Hill way.

Wishing you all a restful and safe holiday, and looking forward to seeing you all again soon in the Autumn Term!

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen
Headmaster
July 2022

English

As always it has been a busy year in the English Department. The autumn term was Readathon focused, while in the spring we focused on Public Speaking and the competition took place right at the end of the term. Competition was fierce and the standard was high, but eventually Lemuel Adjel from 8B won the Junior prize and Shrikannan Selvaganpathy from 10J won the Senior Prize. Congratulations to them both. They will be awarded the prizes formally at Prize Giving in December.

Staffing news, we are really excited to welcome Sean Donnelly to the English Department in September and we are sure that he will prove a real asset to the team.

We hope that all students and their families have a restful summer break. We would obviously encourage you to read – we are the English Department after all...And we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Year 10 Modern Languages Presentation

On Monday 26th June, Year 10 were visited by Dr. Edward Boothroyd from the University of Birmingham. We had the exciting opportunity to find out about taking a language for a university course.

Dr. Boothroyd initially discussed the many languages that could be taken as a degree, and to our surprise, there were 9! Among these degrees were languages such as Japanese and Russian, that have a completely different alphabet to English. We also learned that a student could take a language and another subject (for example History or Business) as part of their course. However, the highlight of studying languages at university is the year abroad, where students travel to a country where their language is spoken natively in order to immerse themselves in the culture and develop their language skills further.

It was fascinating to discover the benefits of learning languages, including making better decisions and in some cases helping people avoid Dementia. He also pointed out that learning a language at university can improve an individual's employability because you learn a lot of transferable skills.

Some of the careers we explored that utilise a language degree were the civil service, translation and interpretation, as well as teaching. Additionally, it was interesting to learn that by studying a language, you had a wide range of career paths to choose from.

Overall, Dr. Boothroyd's presentation was very insightful in what languages can offer, both in terms of advantages to one's health and future job prospects.

Amaan Ahmed and Ayan Butt



Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Carding Mill Valley

In the first week of the Summer Term, on the 26th and 27th April, the Year 10 classes studying Geography had the exciting opportunity to visit the Carding Mill Valley, which would form part of our rivers fieldwork.

After our coach-driver skilfully evaded a reckless individual on the M6, we arrived in a small town called Atcham in Shrewsbury. The initial, far shorter part of our trip involved stopping and viewing the River Severn (the longest river in the UK) in all of its middle-course glory. As we gathered next to the river, our Geography teachers Mr. Butcher and Mr. Eckley constantly reminded us that there had been significantly less rainfall this year compared to previous years, which was why the water level seemed really low. They also didn't hesitate to mention that if this part of the River Severn had flooded, we'd be 3 metres underwater where we were standing! The teachers allowed us to spend 15 minutes exploring and studying the area around the river, and we quickly discovered that the rocks lying about were smooth and had quite rounded edges. The more sharp-witted amongst us also realised that these rocks made great skipping stones.

So, having enjoyed the first section of the field trip, we sat back on the coach and looked forward to arriving at the "main attraction", the Carding Mill Valley, in Shropshire. We would be studying the

upper course of the river, focusing on one of its tributaries. When we reached there at around 11:30am, there were two things that we noticed straight away. The first, most obvious detail were the huge hills (AKA interlocking spurs) that were on either side of us, which is where the location gets its name from - the Carding Mill Valley. The second, more subtle observation was the sheep dotted around the picturesque landscape. As we stepped off the coach we were met by an important looking fellow, who gave us a run down of all the rules we needed to follow. However, I think it's fair to say that the most important thing we learned during this introduction was to always keep our heads down as we were walking, in order to keep our shoes away from sheep faecal matter.

We began our fieldwork at approximately 12:30pm, and this involved visiting four different locations along the same river, which were hundreds of metres apart. After an explanation of the methods by Mr. Butcher and Mr. Eckley, we were under way in groups of 5-6, in order to distribute the work. We collected various bits of data at each location, such as measuring (i) the depth of the river, (ii) the rate of flow using the high-tech flow meter, (iii) the types of rock found there, and (iv) my personal favourite, timing how long it takes an orange peel to travel down the river - seriously, this was part of the investigation! Our hypothesis was that these measurements would change as we travelled downstream (the Bradshaw Model); we were pleased with ourselves, when we found out that our results supported this and that our efforts were not in vain.

Overall, the trip to Carding Mill Valley was highly enjoyable and was definitely a fascinating experience. Not only did it improve our fieldwork skills, we were also given tips regarding how to evaluate the effectiveness of these methods for our exams. A win-win situation! A special thanks to the Geography Department for organising the field trip, as well as the members of staff that helped us on the trip.

Ayan Butt





On the 26th/27th of April, Year 10 set off on the first field trip of their GCSEs to the Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire, and the atmosphere beforehand was animated after almost 2 years without a school trip. Following an hour or so of travelling, the coach paused for a break at the middle course of the river Severn at Atcham, where the boys identified the parts of the river they had discussed in lessons. After a few photos, it was off to the valley, where everyone could have lunch, and a sense of relief was cast over all getting off the coach. In the wake of a few close calls in the stream, the classes were split into groups of roughly 6 and took all their equipment to the stream, where they received a demonstration from Mr Butcher and Mr Eckley. Each group set off to their first site, where they recorded the depth, speed and angle of the river and rocks nearby. After all four sites were done, it was apparent that many had fallen into the stream at some point, from just damp trousers to Aditya's trainer, which looked like it had been in a peat bog. Mr Eckley took some team photos, and then it was back on the coach for another one and a half hour trip back to school. I know first-hand that all of Year 10 had a great time that day and can't wait for their other field trip in Year 11, so thank you to all the teachers who organised the trip.

Harvey Murray 10K

Year 12 Conway Trip

Geography students set out for Anglesey on the 13th June. After reaching Edgbaston Cricket Ground, issues with the engine forced the group to turn back around and switch minibuses. A short while later the students set off, for real this time, for their 3 day trip on a journey that would last over 3 hours. The group arrived at Criccieth Beach on a relatively windy day to start their A Level fieldwork.

Albeit a bit late, the students got to work straight away measuring how rock sizes diminished along the beach due to longshore drift. As well as characterising the rocks into different groups, the group used new instruments to measure the different sediments. After this exercise, Mr Eckley then talked to the group about the different coastal defence systems along the shoreline dating back to the Victorian era and weighing up the pros and cons of each one. After a short drive to the Conway Centre the boys decided on their dorm rooms and set out for their group dinner. A 2 hour lesson in the classroom followed where the group analysed the data they had found in different ways including box plots and pie charts led by Mr Butcher and Mr Brear. After a strenuous day, a fiercely competitive football match on the field commenced- the start of a 3 day series. The PS4 was set up in the common room for some Fifa doubles matches and Love Island was watched by some students before lights out at 11pm, The next day, the group woke up somewhat rejuvenated for their eventful day ahead. After breakfast, Mr Eckley led a lesson based on the coursework element of the trip, designing questionnaires that the group would ask the members of the public in Llandudno. In the scramble onto the minibuses , one unfortunate student was left at the Conway centre and the van had to turn back, but other than this, the days events rolled out smoothly, with the questionnaires being completed early, giving the students plenty of free time on the pier. Shortly after leaving Llandudno, the group began an ascent up the Great Orme, and on reaching the top, the astounding view revealed that the minibus' uphill struggle had been worth it. Some students went to explore an old quarry whilst others simply enjoyed sunbathing and looking out over the ocean. On return to the Conway Centre, after dinner and another of Mr Eckley's short classroom sessions, the fierce football series recommenced with a game that not even Mr Butcher or Mr Brear could turn down the opportunity to participate in; one highlight included Mr Butcher scoring from behind the halfway line. After such a tiring day, everyone slept well, preparing them for their final day in Wales. The morning's events began with breakfast and the loading of bags into the minibuses in preparation to leave the Conway Centre for the last time. However, there were still two last stops to make before arrival at school, and the first one of these was the Maltraeth Saltmarshes. The group followed Mr Eckley into the marshland where they learnt all about wetlands as an ecosystem, and looked at the resident flora and fauna, which included some black crabs of particular interest. Another short drive took the group to their final study site, the Aberffraw Sand Dunes, where the third and final football game occurred on the beach. This was shortly followed by a study of what species were present in the sand dunes and how they varied based on distance from the coastline. After the short walk back to the minibuses, the students set out for the 3 hour journey home, arriving back at school at around 5pm.

Taran Dhaliwal and Dawud Mustifa, Year 12





St David's rock-climbing trip 2022

On Wednesday 29th June, 21 boys from Year 9 and Year 10 set off on a five-hour journey to the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast, to enjoy a fun-packed trip.

The first thing we did on arrival was put up our tents, making many of us wish we had paid more attention in our DofE training sessions...

After this arduous task was completed (and after helping some of the teachers put up *their* tents), we were taken to the harbour and shown where we would be climbing the next day. We then walked back to the campsite, where we enjoyed a great dinner cooked by the teachers and went to sleep in our beautifully made tents.

Our group woke up to yet another great meal, consisting of cereal and a cooked breakfast, that would sustain us for a tiring day of climbing. We subsequently gathered in the field and were given our climbing kit for the next few days. Then, we walked to the cliffs.

This was my first time rock climbing and it was a thrilling experience – the adrenaline rush from abseiling down a vertical rock face and the exhilaration of heaving yourself up with your fingertips in a tiny crack in the wall were amazing and unique feelings. We were given the opportunity to attempt all of the climbs and given plenty of time to relax on the cliffs and admire the spectacular scenery.

A nourishing lunch followed the climbing, and after relaxing in the field, we went to Whitesands Bay, where we joyfully waded in the freezing cold sea. The first day ended with an evening of various sporting activities and another great BBQ dinner.

Friday started with some more rock climbing further down the coast, at Porth Y Ffynnon, another picturesque location. The climbs were quite different from those we had done the day before, and many of us found them more challenging. We concluded the climbing by jumping off the rocks into the sea (Mr Rees joined in as well!) and headed back to the campsite. In the evening, we were taken to the historic city of St David's, where some of us explored the ancient cathedral (and most spent their time in the supermarket, purchasing snacks). After enjoying a dessert of ice cream with fruit, we all returned to our tents to rest.

On Saturday, we climbed at Craig Caerfai, a little further down the coast and had fun on the nearby beach. We were given more time to explore St David's (and stock up on snacks for the return journey), before returning to the campsite to a delicious barbecue dinner.

I loved this trip and would strongly recommend it to anybody with the opportunity to go, as the rock climbing and other activities are highly enjoyable, and the students are given a large amount of freedom.

A huge thank you to Mr Bruton, Mr Cookson, Mr Burgess, Mrs Bourne, Mr Downing, Mr Rees, Mr Brear and Mr Hardy for making this amazing trip possible.

Summer Art News



We were delighted to take our current GCSE and A level Art students to the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham in June. Making the most of the sunshine we did some on-site sketching around the city and took the opportunity to take plenty of photos so our students can work from them in their projects back in school. We met the Ikon team in Victoria Square where we began our tour and workshop at Hew Locke's 'Foreign Exchange'.

This is a reimagining of the Queen Victoria Statue, which is Locke's first temporary public sculpture. Hew Locke is a British-Guyanese artist and his first interest in the power of historical statues started during his childhood, growing up on Guyana where he walked past a statue of Queen Victoria every day. Since then he has always wanted to use an existing statue from history to express an important message but he has never been given permission to do so until now!



Back at the Ikon Gallery we saw a collection of exhibitions that are part of Ikon's Arrivals programme for Summer 2022, which explores the international movement of people and ideas, which has been organised to coincide with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth games explored the theme of migration. The work was really inspiring and our year 10 art students had loads of ideas on how we could use the work we saw to inspire our own creative project in connection with the 'Common Ground grant' and the Commonwealth games and have since been creating cardboard relief sculptures of their portraits in response to the work of Abdulrazaq Awofeso, a Nigerian artist who has recently migrated to Birmingham.



A creative and relaxing afternoon during our mono-print workshop ended with two of our students work being selected for the Ikon's 'Student Showcase' exhibition from 20/07/22 – 31/07/22, so please go and have a look if you can and explore the work on display within the Ikon Gallery this Summer.

<https://www.ikon-gallery.org/exhibition/schools-showcase>



RS

It has been a very busy term in the RS department! Following our Year 9 Synagogue trips and Year 8 Mosque trips earlier in the year, our Year 7s, Year 10s and Year 12s have all been out and about engaging with lived religion.

Year 7 visited Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick where they saw active worship and were welcomed into the langar to share lunch with the community of observers. The students learned about key Sikh beliefs and practices and showed themselves to be respectful and interested learners.



Year 10 undertook Camp Hill's inaugural visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor Year 10 undertook Camp Hill's inaugural visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford, a manor house bequeathed by late Beatle George Harrison to become the headquarters of the International Centre for Krishna Consciousness. Here, students enjoyed a cart ride with some of the community's oxen, and met the cows who are reared and cared for. At lunchtime, we enjoyed a delicious meal including paneer made with the milk from the Manor's own cows. We were treated to a session on classical Indian dance and watched the arti ceremony in the very impressive shrine room. The students were described by one tour guide as 'the best school group I've seen in ten years here', so we will surely be welcomed back again next year.



Finally, Year 12 supplemented their A Level study of Buddhism with trips to three separate places of worship to explore the diversity of Buddhist observance in our local area. In Moseley, we visited the Birmingham Buddhist Centre and learned about the Triratna Buddhist Order, a key group in popularising Buddhism in the West. We travelled to Hockley to hear from the senior monk in a Sri Lankan Theravada order, and finally to Malvern to meet some Pure Land Buddhists who challenged many of our A Level-limited assumptions! At every turn we were met with a warm welcome, and the final group were very forgiving when the students struggled to maintain concentration for five minutes of meditation. It's not as easy as it sounds!



Music

The summer term is always busy and difficult to manage with public examinations, school examinations and a huge number of trips and activities. Even so, school musicians have continued to practice hard and prepare for a variety of events.

After the excitement of *Oliver!* at the end of the Spring Term, we looked forward to preparing for new challenges. Even so, it was great to look back at the wonderful photographs of the show taken by Adrian Ifrim:



Very early in term we held The Senior Concert. This is a special event, as it is the last school concert for our talented Year 13 pupils. The evening began with one of our established smaller ensembles, the Lower Strings Ensemble. They got us off to a really good start with a *Waltz* by Shostakovich. During the first half we then had percussion ensemble, flute ensemble, clarinet ensemble and brass ensemble, all playing with precision and musicianship. The first half finished with rousing performances by the Concert Band, demonstrating our senior musician's technical skills. The second half began with the Chamber Orchestra than Connor Huss had formed and conducted. They played the *Allegro* from Schubert's Fifth Symphony most stylishly, and Connor looked in full control, directing with consummate ease. In the second half we also had a guitar ensemble and saxophone ensemble both of which played with confidence. Sadly, one of our most talented Year 13 musicians, Rufus Hall, was unwell on the day. This meant that the Clarinet Quintet could not perform their first movement of the Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*. Rufus was also a bass in the Barbershop Quartet – and because "the show must go on", SFP stepped into this role (picture at the bottom of this report!). Choirs from both schools sang with great conviction and style, and the concert finished with a lively version of The Dambusters March performed by The Concert Orchestra. Just before the end of the concert Charlie Moore gave a generous speech thanking me and Miss Hawthorne, and giving us gifts. The leaving Year 13s then sang – and acted – the song "so long, farewell" from *The Sound of Music*. I was directed to sing the final "goodbye"!





'So long, farewell' (The Sound of Music) performed by the Year 13 A level group

We have had an outstanding group of A level music students this year. Not only are they all wonderful musicians, they have also been a tremendously cheerful, reliable and supportive group, keen to contribute to school music. I want to thank them all for being so helpful in developing school music this year. Here is a picture of them on their final day in school:



Our Year 13 A level musicians on their last day (some with a 'Peaky Blinders' theme!)

The Summer Soiree was held in the Girls' School Hall, as our Hall was being used for examinations. We are very grateful to CHB AFS for agreeing to help and provide refreshments during the interval.

An opportunity for our Intermediate and Junior musicians to perform, we got underway with assured performances from the Intermediate Orchestra under the baton of My Hay and then the Training Band closed the first half with lively versions of *Summer Nights* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. *Rather be* by Clean Bandit was an exciting way to start the second half, performed with enjoyment by the String Orchestra. In between these large groups, we had a variety of smaller ensembles, which included oboe ensemble, string quartet, jazz ensemble and flute choir, all playing with great musicianship. There were a few solos, and it was good to see the variety as we went from a Jimmy Hendrix electric guitar solo *Hey Joe* (Aditya Krishna) straight into the *Waltz in C# minor* for piano by Chopin (Catherine Villabroza). Just before the last items – which were exciting versions of *Mission Impossible* and *Hawaii Fove-O* played by Wind Band there were some very nice presentations to me organized by the Year 10 pupils: gifts, flowers, and all the pupils in each band and orchestra had signed cards. We were delighted with the very large audience for this evening event.



The Summer Soirée (June 2022)

Over the time of Covid-19 the ‘grade examinations’ organised by The Associated Board and Trinity College, London, have moved to become recorded examinations. Some pupils and teachers have embraced these, and quite enjoyed them. Others have not liked them as much. This academic year we have given the choice of ‘live’ with a real examiner, or whether to record the exam and submit it electronically. This has been a good solution, as it seems that some like one system, and some the other. It has been really good to see so many pupils continue to practice hard and enter to take their ‘grades’. Congratulations to all of them:

Name1	Name2	F1	F2	Instrument	Grade	Quality
Samuel	Wiseman	7	K	Euphonium	1	
Nethiran	Mugunthan	8	H	Guitar	1	Merit
Sri	Grandhi	8	H	Guitar	1	Distinction
Zane	Shah	8	H	Electric Guitar	2	Merit
Sathya	Vaidyanathan	8	C	Flute	2	Merit
Lemuel	Adjei	8	B	Trumpet	2	Distinction
Vivek	Gohel	9	S	Tabla	2	Distinction
Arnav	Aphale	10	J	Violin	3	
Aiden	Arul	9	S	Singing	3	
Jedidiah	Beeston	8	B	Clarinet	3	
Pascal	Fernando	7	H	Trumpet	3	
Musthafa	Ahmed	9	S	Bass Guitar	3	Merit
Aditya	Prasad	10	K	Guitar	3	Merit
Zane	Shah	8	H	Electric Guitar	3	Merit
Christy	Baiju	10	J	Guitar	3	Distinction
Alexander	Hopkins	9	J	Violin	4	
Reuben	Howard	9	K	Violin	4	
Haoran	Bai	9	M	Guitar	4	Merit
Jagveer	Bhamra	13	U1	Singing	4	Merit
Nisith	Fernandes	9	K	Violin	4	Merit
Vivek	Gohel	9	S	Dhol	4	Merit
William	Lin	9	M	Violin	4	Merit
Hemakesh	Muddha	8	E	Flute	4	Merit
Benjamin	Little	10	J	Tuned percussion	4	Merit
Ben	Hone	11	M	Violin	5	
Zayan	Khan	10	M	Singing	5	
Elliot	Fernandes	10	J	Jazz Saxophone	5	Merit
Clement	Franklin	10	K	Trumpet	5	Merit
Thomas	Pitfield	10	K	Viola	5	Merit
Kenny	Lau	10	J	Piano	5	Distinction
Harley	Hau	11	S	Violin	6	
Yicheng	Hu	8	C	Violin	6	
Sampanna	Raut	10	M	Drums	6	Merit
Sushant	Shyam	10	J	Violin	6	Merit
Vansh	Pradhan	11	S	Flute	7	
Vansh	Pradhan	11	S	Guitar	7	Merit
Kishan	Sambhi	13	U8	Guitar	7	Merit
George	Hill	12	L3	Piano	8	Merit
Udayan	Nayyar	13	U8	Guitar	8	Merit
Keshav	Najran	12	L6	Classical Guitar	8	Distinction

It is always good to hear of our Alumni continuing to work in music and making a success of it. One of these is Ed Gray who was with us in 2007. He is now a successful and award winning composer, arranger and orchestrator. In June we were pleased to welcome him to school to talk to the combined CHB and CHG Year 10 GCSE groups. He spoke about how he got into his job, what was required, and how to progress in the business. It was then fascinating to watch and hear some of his

compositions. He set the pupils an interesting composing task, and then we all got together at the end to discuss the results of the morning. It was a really inspirational event, and one that we hope to repeat.

Another Alumni doing really well is Ross Garrod, who was in the same A level group as Ed Gray. Both were pupils of Miss Pearcey and went to study percussion at Music College. Ross has devised his own app. called *Practice Pal* which we are now using at school. It allows the instrumental teachers to set their timetables online, and then publish them with an email to pupils and parents. We wish him all success in the future with this. Why not have a look at his work at: practicepalmusic.com



Parents and pupils may not be aware that we now have over twenty Visiting Instrumental Teachers between the two schools. This dedicated and experienced group of professionals not only teach our pupils their instruments, but also support them in their ensemble work. Once a year we hold a morning of INSET for them: a chance for us all to to 'recharge our batteries'. In June we held this event. After a meeting to discuss pupil matters, we had an interesting session from Ross Garrod on *Practice Pal*, and then Peter Buckby of Trinity College explained how 'live' and 'recorded' examinations would be administered in the future. They were very interesting and helpful sessions. Whilst writing about the Instrumental Teachers, I must make special note of Lorne Pearcey. We are so lucky to have Lorne who, as well as teaching Year 8 music and percussion, also undertakes all the administration for the 'grade' exams. She does a fantastic job, and we're very grateful. In the evening we went out for a meal together.



Our Visiting Instrumental Teachers at their INSET.

Each year we host a PGCE student from Birmingham City University. In November Conor Symth-Chakraborty came to us for the year. He wanted to be known as “Mr C”, and over the months he gained in confidence, and became a big hit with the pupils. His teaching developed well, and he became an important part of the department. Always cheerful and willing to help, he was a great colleague. He is now finishing his PGCE academic work, and we wish him all the very best with that. As well as his teaching, he came to play in Wind Band and conducted from time to time. He established and directed a Brass Group, and was supportive in so many school activities. He even came and played in the band for Oliver! when he was teaching at another school! I was pleased when I heard that he had an interview at a school near his home, and then delighted to find out that he had gained the position of music teacher at Harrow High School. We gave him a good send off when he left, including a mug which said “Keep calm and carry on – and pretend it’s on the lesson plan”. Our thanks and very best wishes to Conor for the future.



Mr C (top centre) playing trumpet with The Training Band in The Summer Soirée.

We thought that it might be difficult to re-establish some of the groups after Covid-19, but of all of them, The School Choir has been excellent throughout the year. It was great to hear a professional musician commenting on their high standards at the Senior Concert. I was keen to keep this momentum, and so we continued to rehearse over the summer term despite the difficulties of examinations and trips. We thought that it would be good for the choir to sing to a new audience and get into the community, and so I arranged a concert at Hagley Road Village in Harborne, a complex of flats with its own large Concert Hall. The concert will be in the penultimate week of term, and I'm sure that it will be enjoyed by both members of the choir and the audience.

A SUMMER CONCERT



To include

Spirituals

*Songs from
Musicals*

Folk Songs

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys
School Choir

Tuesday 12th July at 2 pm
Hagley Road Village Hall

Another innovation for the end of this term is that a Year 10 Band will be playing in a marquee on Sports Day. A bit of fun to entertain the spectators, we will be playing tunes with a sporting theme, such as *Chariots of Fire*, *Match of the Day*, *Celebrate* and *Rocky!*

On a personal note, as I write my last termly newsletter after 33 years as Head of Music, may I say what a wonderful time I've had at Camp Hill. After a really difficult few years with Covid-19 I am delighted that we have managed to re-establish our ensembles, and it has been great to see music flourishing once again. This was so evident in the wonderful production of *Oliver!* at the end of last term, and in the two concerts this term. The Senior Concert and the Summer Soirée were both very well supported by parents, and the pupils took part with enthusiasm. We were delighted with the events. Here are some moments from them:



SFP 'standing in' as a bass singer in *The Barbershop Ensemble* at The Senior Concert



SFP conducting *Wind Band* at The Summer Soirée
Some final 'thank yous'

Special thanks to Prue Hawthorne and Lorne Pearcey, wonderful musicians, colleagues and friends, for all their support over so many years. To all the other Visiting Instrumental Teachers who have been so dedicated and loyal, and have served Camp Hill music so well. And thanks to all our supportive staff, receptive parents and enthusiastic pupils who have made my time at Camp Hill so rewarding and enjoyable. Goodbye, thank you, and my best wishes for the future to you all.

Simon Palmer
Head of Music

Battlefields Trip May 2022

The Battlefields Trip took place on 27-30 May this year, it was the first foreign trip that Camp Hill students have been able to experience since the start of the pandemic in 2020 – the battlefields team consisted of Mr Hill, Mr Rudd, Dr Page, Ms Freeman, Mr Downing and Mr Bulloch. We wish to offer our sincere thanks to all involved in the organising and running of the trip. Below are the despatches sent after each day's adventure to give a flavour of the ventures undertaken by 35 Year 10 students (who were a perennial delight).

Dispatches from the Western Front Day #1

Being taken to a foreign field in night-time manoeuvres, accompanied by pals they signed up to serve alongside, disorientated by lack of sleep and unaccustomed to the rations served up when on campaign. Perhaps there is some small equivalence or empathy for what hundreds of thousands of people, barely older than themselves experienced just over 100 years ago.

Our journey to the continent was blessed with good weather and good cheer. An early crossing through the Tunnel enabled us to enjoy some rest and recuperation at the Aire de St-Eloi Services on the autoroute before turning off into Belgium and encountering the bitter experiences of the soldiers and inhabitants of the Ypres salient during four hellish years of war.



At Brandhoek we had the honour of encountering the resting place of double VC awarded Noel Chavasse and the even greater privilege of listening to Alistair Bulloch, now into his fifth decade of Camp Hill ventures to Flanders and the Somme – or should that be resembling Flanders and Swan. Under such esteemed guidance, our students were able to learn about the commemoration of the war dead, the common themes in design and recognition of all being equal in making the ultimate sacrifice.

Military medicine was a key feature at Lijssenhoek memorial, the cemetery of 11,000 souls is a symbol of how far medicine still had to come in the early 20th century. However, the fact that over 300,000 soldiers were brought to the Remy Siding Casualty Clearing Station and 97% made it out shows how successfully it was able to improve life chances through new procedures, technology and understanding of disease.

Onwards we moved closer to the front lines and landed straight into no-man's land and the Hoge Crater Cemetery and Museum, here we could explore the range of weapons, equipment and accoutrements required by soldiers on all sides as they endured four years of challenge in the muddy fields of Flanders. A cemetery full of unknown soldiers made us appreciate the small pleasures of a picnic lunch and a drink.



Into the heart of the Ypres, the symbol of Belgian and British resistance, a town ravaged by the heartlessness of war beautifully rebuilt. The Menin Gate, the last portal leaving a semblance of civilisation for many unlucky soldiers facing down Hellfire Corner, is now a monument with inscriptions for over 50,000 British and Empire troops for whom there is no known resting place.

Our final visit to Essex Farm Cemetery was where John McCrae, the Canadian poet, wrote In Flanders Fields in 1915. Poignantly it also contained the grave of Valentine Strudwick a boy of 15 who faked his identity to have the opportunity to serve.

And so on to Carvin, the hotel and hospitality in the billets of the French commercial traveller, a wonderful welcome after three years of absence. Our students conducted themselves with dignity and humility throughout and even went to bed when they were told to.

Speaking of being humble we wish to make no comparisons between our Logistics Corps of Johnsons Coaches and any similar sounding names; to the best of my knowledge there have been no raucous events in which play equipment has been damaged or inappropriate gatherings, and was assured that there has been no disrespecting or condescension towards the driving staff.

The Battlefields Team

Dispatches from the Western Front Day #2

Not many of you will have read Norman F. Dixon's 1976 classic "On the Psychology of Military Incompetence". Today's visit was a practical observation of how hubris and managerial control can lead to catastrophe. The first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 has gone down as one of the worst disasters in military history, it was certainly the worst day for casualties in the blemished record of British military ventures. With 58,000 casualties and 20,000 killed, ambition turned into anguish and hope into horror.

But could it have turned out any differently? We started our day where there was a glimmer of hope for a positive outcome. Montauban, where the British and French lines met, saw our party stand in the middle of a field, pollen infusing the nostrils and imagining the experience of those standing and waiting to go over the top at 7.30 on that fateful morning. Getting a feel for the lie of the land and the challenge ahead, we then were able to admire the achievement of taking the village and surpassing their Day One goals. In the taken village we saw the monument to the Pals regiments from Liverpool and Manchester, those who joined up together to fight for 'King and Country'.



As the front line on the western front arced to the north, the story became ever more awful. Our next visit was to the Devonshire cemetery, the battalion buried where they lived in their own front-line trench, 99% of the casualties buried there died on 1st July, 1916. In spite of the human cost, their objectives in taking the village of Mametz were successful. This could not be said for the efforts to take control of the old Roman Road from Albert to Bapaume, the stark reality of the force applied to remove the German occupants of the high ground through the explosion of the mine which created the Lognagar Crater is stupendous. Yet still it failed.





Moving north to the top section of the front line at Beaumont Hamel, we saw further sapper activity in the explosion of the Hawthorne Ridge mine, again the shock was more visual than it was practical, soon the Germans could recover their composure and present staunch defence of the line. The tragedy of the Newfoundland regiment, 2,500 miles from home and their enthusiasm to fight for the mother country led to catastrophe which is commemorated in the hallowed Canadian ground of Newfoundland Park, a managed and preserved space for remembrance and reflection.

Venturing back to Ulster Tower and the Thiepval sector, we saw acts of heroism and partial success let down by a failure to push forward on a common front leaving exposed advanced companies trapped by enfilading fire and failures of supply. The Thiepval Monument to the missing of the Somme ended our visit, the scale of the structure in keeping with the scale of this fellowship in death.

Four and a half months later, over half a million casualties, and six miles of advance made, the campaign was called off. Heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers juxtaposed with arrogance and acceptance of the expendability of human life from the commanders, how can we possibly measure the entirety of the Somme. For our students; thoughtfulness, reflection and the willingness to ask questions characterised their engagement with the events as they unfolded, amazingly coupled with a camaraderie and bonhomie of the group united by shared experience, a confined space, a Champions League Final and access to USB ports and Nintendo Switch.



Mentions in despatches to those particular supporters of one of our party who injured their knee (playing football): those being a human crutch, pushing the wheelchair (thanks Canada), and carrying an injured comrade. Those who helped with lunch, distributing food and helping to tidy up, and encouraging positive nutritional choices in others. Those who showed the courtesy to thank school staff, the hoteliers and our driver for their commitment over the day.

The Battlefields Team

Dispatches from the Western Front Day #3

It is still a matter of wonder how fluid the boundary between France and Belgium is, the ease of Schengen Area borders, a few short kilometres (or am I only allowed to talk these days in miles) from the motorway in France, a country road and – lo! – a sign with an EU Flag to mark a political boundary and all the road signs change. The countryside makes no distinct change, the houses look similar but all of a sudden we are in Flemish-speaking Flanders as opposed to French-speaking Département Nord (59 for Number Plate fans...). Out of France and into Belgium for another day exploring the Ypres salient and the battles of 1917.

Following a short stop to buy tickets in the beautiful village of Kemmel, we visited the Bayernwald trenches on the Messines Ridge, a stronghold for the German army at the start of 1917, it is said that Hitler himself was stationed in this sector as a Corporal in the Bavarian Army. Here we could marvel at the challenges presented by the terrain and the underlying geology and the adaptability of the Germans in making resilient defences against their enemies. Steered by the steely hand of Mr Bulloch, the Battle of Messines was laid out for the students using a contoured map of the area forged in bronze. Meanwhile, others looked at the trench design and the challenges of mining and counter-mining in an area with an exceptionally high water table. Across the field was Croonaert Wood Cemetery where we learnt about how the war kept killing even after the armistice and the story of the Chinese Labour Corps employed to clear the battlefield of live ordnance, often with fateful consequences.

Onwards to Spanbroekmolen (best translation – Tight Trousers Mill) where now sits the Pool of Peace. Here the heavens opened and we abandoned hopes of an early picnic lunch. Still we could see the sight of one of the great mines which went off on the Messines Ridge to disrupt the Germans and enable the securing of the southern sector of the Ypres Salient in anticipation of the big push further north.

With hopes of a break in the weather we ventured further towards Ypres and the railway spoil heaps of Hill 60, another site of mining operations and one of the areas on the whole Western Front which changed hands more than any other, with front lines only metres (or should that be yards?) apart. In spite of looming skies, the weather held long enough to get out the trestle tables and set up the wholesome fare for another lunch.

Then to Ypres itself to admire its medieval splendour of Ypres (albeit rebuilt after the traumas of the Great War). Ypres presented an opportunity for the students to buy chocolates and waffles – they really wanted to ‘gauffre’ it - then we all met back at the Menin Gate in good time to hear Dr Page’s moving lament on the bagpipes under the arch of Lutyens’ great monument to the fallen.



Onwards north into the Passchendaele sector, first visiting Vancouver Corner where the first gas attack of the war was orchestrated by Fritz Haber against allied troops, only for the Canadians present to repel the German advance in 1915. The under the oak-leaved canopy, we visited the sombre site of Langemarck German war cemetery, a small space evoking an atmosphere of loss, defeat and the awkwardness of interlopers on occupied land. Students were visibly moved by its contrast with the muted triumphalism of allied memorials.



Our final visit was where we poignantly bid adieu to Mr Bulloch (and also to Mrs Bulloch) –thank you once again for his wonderful knowledge and inspiring delivery - our students offered kind words and round of applause on his departure. Here was Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest cemetery in the Ypres Salient yet with only a quarter of the graves of Langemarck. Mr Bulloch told us of former Camp Hill students whose final resting place was here before we walked the beautiful site and reflected on the thousands who died for this small patch of land.

Back to the hotel then for dinner, a bit of light exercise and time to pack prior to Monday’s departure.

The Battlefields Team

Dispatches from the Western Front Day #4

A day moved at slow pace north-westward towards the Tunnel and reflect on the truly global nature of the war in this small part of France...

Sitting on the front seat of the coach (and what a coach – Johnsons and its drivers have done us proud over the past few days) as we caress our way through the Kent countryside admiring the M20 lorry overspill contraflow, we can celebrate our successful return following another full day in the field. We packed up in good time after a hearty continental breakfast and left the Parc Hôtel behind with words of gratitude from the management (read that as you wish to read it) and headed off to Arras. In the stellar capital of Artois we visited the monument to the missing airmen of the Royal Flying Corps and RAF, including the name of a Camp Hill alumnus who was still at school when the war started in 1914 but had risen to the rank of sergeant and served as an observer flying with an American pilot when he was shot down. Arras Cemetery, with over 30,000 inscriptions to the missing and 3,000 graves, brought home how the war was about a constant grind of minor yet fatal encounters and not the sweeping ambitions of the big pushes. One of the missing was Walter Tull, professional footballer and first black officer in the regular British army, we used this as an opportunity to reflect on the roles played by diverse peoples from all over the empire.



Beyond Arras we went to the high ground overlooking the mining basin of Northern France around Douai, Lens and Lille – the ridge was fiercely contested as it could provide either a buffer for the Germans or a point of aggressive action for the allies. Here we visited Notre-Dame de Lorette, a French cemetery and memorial lantern which now has a commemoration in the shape of a ring, the inside of which was inscribed with over 500,000 names of soldiers who died in that region of the Pas de Calais. Listed in alphabetical order, the panels named the dead with no reference to rank or nationality – equality in death not seen in the more formal monuments.

Following further along the escarpment we moved on to Vimy Ridge, site of a fiercely contested sector of the western front where in parts the front lines were mere metres apart. Efforts by the Moroccans in 1915 to take the ridge were ultimately unsuccessful, actions by Canadians in April 1917 amounted to their most significant operation of the war until 1918. The visitor centre was a pleasure to visit as it gave us the opportunity to enjoy our final picnic lunch – courtesy of the boulangerie next door to the hotel and then a visit to the restored trenches and tunnels used in the assault in 1917.



From the story of the assault on Vimy, we moved on to the memorial, an imposing edifice in white marble overlooking the settlements and pyramids of the mining plain. Dr Page treated the assembled nations to a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace on the pipes in the shadow of the sculptures and sheer faces of the monument.



The afternoon moved further towards north with a visit to Fromelles where we looked at the contribution of Australian soldiers in an oft forgotten encounter in 1916, the story made more moving by the discovery and recent re-burial of hundreds of soldiers killed and buried in a mass pit by the Germans holding their position. Then on to Neuve Chapelle where the war dead from Imperial India were commemorated in stone. Designed with style cues from Asia, it sought to bring a dignity and harmony to the missing through common use of white Portland stone adapted to the traditions of the subcontinent.

With a final visit for dinner to City Europe just outside Calais, we then boarded the Shuttle and headed home.

The students have relished their chance to explore and experience new sights, tastes and smells, finding a good balance between erudition and entertainment as they used their valuable time to enjoy each other's company and to be party to a profoundly moving shared experience. We have been commended for the interest and politeness shown throughout the tour from those we have encountered: members of the general public, hotel staff, custodians of the historical sites have all commented on the pleasure of meeting our students. We extend our thanks to all who have volunteered for this tour and their role in making this Battlefields Trip of 2022 a vital and revitalising experience.

The Battlefields Team

Sport

Senior Cricket Article

A stop start season is a fair summary of the 1st XI cricket session. Fixtures kicked off in early May only then to be hit by the examination season, which puts an ever increasing amount of pressure on the sport of cricket for our young adults. However, I'm extremely proud of the 1st XI team this Year. Joe Day has led the team admirably. It was a joy to see tall Joe standing at slip next to our not as tall Year 9 wicket keeper Haaziq Wani. They were laughing a joking away as if it was a pretty normal Saturday afternoon. This season I also granted our youngest ever 1st XI debut to Year 7 Mushaf Mir. A truly special talent batted well above his years to secure a draw against a strong MCC side at Harborne CC. The season kicked off with a 15 run win vs local rival Five Ways. Areeb Tayyab produced a match

wining 54 not out to see Camp Hill home. A comprehensive 84 run victory followed against Broadway in the regional cup. Ismail Feraz blasted the ball to all parts with 83 helping us on our way to a huge target of 200 in a T20 game. A close encounter with Queen Marys took place next. Unfortunately, Camp Hill fellow to a nail-biting two wicket defeat. Easa Nadeem was outstanding with the ball to give Camp Hill a glimmer of hope. Ali Jawad also contributed magnificently with the bat to help Camp Hill post a respectable score. Princethorpe was the opposition in the semi-final of the area cup. Again, Camp Hill fell on the wrong side of an 8 run defeat. Ajay Shingadia carried his bat to end 56 not out, stranded at the non-strikers end. Not before, smashing a window in our vintage pavilion after smashing a huge 6. The penultimate fixture of the Year was the highly anticipated annual game against the MCC at Harborne CC. The 1st XI battled hard in the field to restrict the MCC to highly respectable but gettable 302-5 declared. In reply Camp Hill were in with a chance of winning for the first 20 overs. This was until Ajay Shingadia held out for a splendid 60. Old Boys Owais Akram and Year 7 Mushaf Mir were there at the end to bat out the last 10 overs for a very respectable draw- as ever a spectacular occasion for all involved. The final fixture of the Year takes place on the penultimate day of the Year- Staff vs 1st XI. Staff Captain Burgess is gunning for a win, which I'm sure will be another excellent day for all. Thank you to all who have been involved in the 1st XI this Year. A special mention also needs to go to Year 10 Hassan Soonsara who held his own comfortably throughout the season.

TJB



Athletics Report

After a long layoff from competitive Athletics due to Covid, it was fantastic to have some athletics matches back in the diary for the summer term. As per tradition, the first match of the year was the eagerly anticipated Senior Foundation Match hosted by KES. This would be the final time the senior boys would represent Camp Hill and the boys were keen to leave their mark.

Joe Day was responsible for assembling the team and we headed to KES with a star studded line up. It was fantastic to see attitude the boys shown by ensuring every event was filled and stepping outside their comfort zone to stand in for events which weren't their wheelhouse. The boys performed brilliantly across the board with top three performances in the majority of the events as well as two first places finishers from Chude Ndozi in the 100 metres and Joe Day in the High Jump. Joe also manage to break his 1.80m high jump personal best with a fantastic performance of 1.85m. A fantastic final effort in the 4x100 metre relay meant Camp Hill finished overall winners. It was a fitting way for the year 13 leavers to end their time at Camp Hill.

Up next was the annual Norman Green Junior athletics match at Tudor Grange. A special mention must go to the CHB staff who help to officiate and make the match easier one for the seven other schools competing. CHB performed incredibly well finishing in the top 3 in year 7,8,9 and 10 and therefore winning the event overall. A big thank you to all the boys who competed.

The Junior Foundation Match saw a tough afternoon of competition for the year 9 and 10 boys against some very strong opposition. There were notable performances in the year 9 100m from Zion Osoalase and Harith Kadir as well as an impressive 1st place win for Edward Cheung in the year 10 100m with an impressive time of 12.11 seconds.

In the Junior Foundation Match the year 7 and 8 boys showed plenty of promise and potential with some very strong performances from Adam Bashir, Anson Tang, Mauwiyah Abdi and Raaes Latif. I want to encourage all those athletes to consider joining a local athletics club so they can access high level coaching all year round.

Sports Day will be covered separately in the end of year House Reports, but it must be said that the event was a roaring success. It was fantastic to see so many boys proudly representing their houses with flags and face paint in their house colours, as well as the fantastic new inclusion of Mr Rees's 'Fun Event's' which saw the boys compete in array of events from the tug of war, slow bike race, egg and spoon race to mention a few. It is fair to say that the future is bright for athletics at Camp Hill and we are excited to see how our athlete's develop in the years to come.

Year 7 Cricket – Summer Newsletter

The Year 7 cricket squad have had a fantastic summer. Considering this is their first year playing together, and for a lot of them, their first year playing hard ball cricket, they have done outstandingly well.

The season opener against Bishop Vesey proved to be one to learn from, as our nerves and lack of experience showed. This was one of only two losses we had this year! After the disappointing defeat, we then went on a run of 7 victories in a row, including getting our revenge on Vesey. The running between the wickets proved to be our strong point, putting pressure on opposition fielders constantly during games. As well as this our bowling attack showed itself to be difficult to face. Batting wise, we have had a mixed bag, but every game, someone steps up to the required standard.

Everyone deserves a mention in this article, but special mentions should go to Mushaf Mir for his cricketing skills and captaining ability, who also scored 3 separate half centuries in these games. As well as Rafe Sullivan, Sebastian Robotham, Zane Shah, Zak Khalid, Ayaan Chaudry, Ollie Smoldon, Usman Ali and everyone else who took part. Another mention needs to go to Ibrahim Uddin, stepping up as wicket keeper with no prior experience. By the end of the season, Ibrahim is dealing with bowlers that have years of practise over him, like it's nothing. Well done all of you!

We finished the season with a league victory and cup final win over King Edward VI Aston, to make it even more obvious that the season was a success.

The overall record was 16 played, 14 wins and 2 losses.

Year 8 Cricket – Summer Newsletter

The Year 8 cricket squad have had an excellent season, improving on the previous year's performance, as well as growing as people and players. With only 2 losses, 9 wins and a cup final victory, this season has been a success.

We started the season with 4 wins on the spin against the likes of Five Ways and Bishop Vesey. After a couple of narrow losses, we picked ourselves back up to win 5 on the bounce to finish the season, the last game being the cup final of the U13 Hundred Ball Tournament. Our bowling appeared to be our strong point, with almost all of our players putting up an argument to be one of the opening bowlers – not very often does this happen! Our batting has also been very strong and we have continued to grow as mature cricketers with an understanding for the game.

Aadil Kapasi deserves a special shout out for the best figures of the season, with a spell of 2.2 overs, 5 wickets and 6 runs conceded, this is truly fantastic. Adam Bashir also had a go at creating some sort of record by picking up 4 wickets in 4 balls! Something that not many people will ever replicate! Spencer Hazzell, Raees Latif, Terrence Sutton, Abdul Rahman Ammad, Isa Naveed and Parth Trehan have also proved to be brilliant bowlers. Rayan Latif and Mustafa Ahmed have contributed fantastically well with the bat and in the field, providing a much need steadiness to the batting order. Last but not least we have Ben Law and Hrish Narayanan. These two have battled consistently well for the wicket keeper position, using the competition to drive each other for improved, but also celebrate each other's victories. This is what the team spirit is all about and why this team has, and will be so successful.

The overall record was 11 played, 9 wins and 2 losses.

Year 9 Cricket – Summer Newsletter

The Year 9 cricket squad have done very well this season, pushing the league and cup runs to the final stages before unfortunately falling short. The building blocks for next year's season have been laid, with a clear understanding of the game being developed amongst the whole group, rather than individuals.

The season opener was a victory against Bablake & King Henry VIII School, which proved with concentration and effort, this team can achieve great results! Unfortunate losses to QM's and Five Ways seemed to spark something in the squad and put us on a run of 3 wins on the spin! Beating

Arden, Washwood Heath and Old Swinford Hospital. It was a shame that a few more fixtures were cancelled due to weather this year, but on the whole it has been a good year.

Special mentions to Haaziq Wani for scoring his second ever Camp Hill century in a Hundred Ball game against Arden academy and Ishan Gautam for picking up 5 excellent wickets in a close victory over OSH.

The overall record was played 7, 4 wins, 3 losses.

Year 10 Cricket – Summer Newsletter

The Year 10 cricket squad have enjoyed a lot of cricket this season and played excellently, although the results may not reflect this. A few very tight games and a couple that were thrown away cheaply, meant that our season wasn't as successful as it could have been.

Nevertheless, out of the 9 games played, 3 convincing victories were forged against Langley, Kineton, and to finish off, King Edward VI Aston. Fixtures against Small Heath and Saltley were certainly learning curves for the tactics and understanding of how to play the game in a different way, and these lessons will be valuable to take into the senior squad.

Hassan Soonsara and Elliot Fernandes stood out with bat in hand, as well as Jai Varaich, Dhanvin Narendra and Adam Iqbal chipping in with the odd stint at the crease. Muhammad Sikander, Adam Iqbal, Hassan Soonsara, Elliot Fernandes and Adith Raghava were all excellent with the ball in hand.

The overall record was played 9, 3 wins, 6 losses.

House News

Tudor House

Well, what a busy and exciting year it has been on the Tudor house front, we have had a year to be proud of come what may. I, as Tudor House Master, can firmly say that even though some of the results haven't gone in our favour your efforts have given me great pride. It is a pleasure to be associated with the 'Green Machine' when seeing your endeavours throughout the year, even when the chips have been stacked against us. As a house you have never given up the challenge and have always conducted yourselves with the dignity expected of a Tudor house member, long may this continue.

Can I say a big thank you to the year thirteen lads, who have now moved on to pastures new, without their help and support then, it would have made the running of the house a far greater and onerous task. Thanks must go to Jack Johnson and Joe Matin for their help and support as House Captain and Deputy.

I must also say a big 'thank you' to all of the House Year Captains, who have regularly worked tirelessly to arrange teams at short notice due to schedule or format changes.

At the time of writing there are still two competitions to be concluded, the tennis and Sports day, which I am sure those representing the house, will have given their all in the hot and humid conditions. All members of the house who participated in doing their athletics standards enabled us to be in joint second place - one point behind the leaders.

As Tudor house master for the last nineteen years, it now comes for me to hand over the reins to Mr Rees. I hope that he finds the task as Tudor House Master as enjoyable as I have. It has been a pleasure to be acquainted with such a great bunch of young men over the years and in my days of retirement I will look back fondly on the moments shared with you all over the years.

Have a relaxing summer, you all deserve it, and come back in September ready to lay the foundations for the year ahead.

AJN

Howard House

Basking in the sweltering heat of a Saharan summer, it seems hard to reflect back on the developments of a year which has been white hot in terms of Howard's contribution to the firmament of House Events. With an expanded school and an expanded house system incorporating new events alongside the old stalwarts, Howard were ready to seize the moment and embrace the new. We need to offer our profound thanks Mssrs Burgess, Rees and Norton (and countless others) for their management of such a range of activities and the use of SOCS to bring all the results together. I also wish to offer thanks to Mr Nash who I will be replacing as the longest serving Head of House in September, he has been an institution throughout his time and worked tirelessly to get the best out of the Green Machine.

So we can be humbly happy with the way the year has gone, victories in the autumn term in Football, the Cross Country Camp Hill Mile (thanks to strength in depth), badminton (joint) and basketball. We can also be very proud to have garnered the most House Points during the first two terms to add to our tally of successes. Victory in chess and rugby followed in the spring term – however we were somewhat derailed in the quiz and swimming. Having garnered a commanding lead in the House Championship by the midway point, it was only ours to lose. In the last eight competitions to register, Howard achieved victory in only two, the lesser-pointed table tennis and handball; hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis and volleyball all showed promise and sectional victories but not to be fully sustained. Our sports day team flirted between third and first all afternoon and we should be proud to finish with a creditable second – alongside good performances in music against tough competition – it is fair to say we have done the Demigods of Howard Past proud.

It leaves me to reflect on a brilliant year, our new venue enabling for more entertaining and manageable House assemblies (though few and far between this term), huge thanks to Sam Morris and his team of accomplished seniors for the House captaincy and helping to steer us towards success, well done to Will Taylor for winning the House Trophy and Seth Turner for winning the Simon Fenn award for contributing towards House activities. Huge congratulations to Yuvanash (who sounds like he should be in Tudor) Nirantharakumar for taking on the mantle of captaincy – you will have a lot to live up to...

As far as our overall performance this year, only Thursday will tell.

GNH