



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Autumn 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the current academic year. I would like to wish a warm welcome to our new staff and students and their parents. Camp Hill Boys is often described as a Family and whilst joining a new family can sometimes be a nervous and uncertain experience I really hope that you are all experiencing the warm welcome that we are known for.

I don't feel I can write this without mentioning the weather. We were blessed with warm and generally dry weather up to the half term break, but it seems that this term is truly a game of two halves and as I write the weather has definitely turned wintry. Before half term the students were able to enjoy running around the school fields at break and lunchtime and it has been a pleasure to see them enjoying themselves in the sunshine. More recently I had to admire the tenacity and determination of many of our students as they continued to try and play football or cricket in the rain.

Speaking of a game of two halves, the World Cup has delivered a suitable spectacle of entertainment and one or two surprises, and it just goes to show that you should never give up hope. Mr Bruten recently reminded us of this in an assembly about the importance of deliberate practice and he encouraged us to consider Mathew Syed's claim (in his book about his rise to be the No.1 Table Tennis player in England) that built in "talent" was possibly a misunderstood concept, and that perhaps what was more important was hard work, careful planning and deliberate practice. In short, you can achieve what you want, if you are prepared to work hard enough at it.

One thing that we, the Camp Hill Family, have been working hard on is getting back to "normal". Many of you will remember that we had an extraordinarily successful year last year in our mission to bring back all of the wonderful array of "extras" – the sport, music, art, drama, clubs, societies and trips that are an integral part (and not an extra) of Camp Hill Life. Already this year we have had RS trips, mega quizzes, science evenings, chamber concerts, careers and mock interview evenings, rugby and football fixtures, parents' social evenings, AFS meetings, Geography field trips, driving safety courses, trips to the Cadbury's research library, maths Olympiads, RAF visits, Student Climate Conferences, Enterprise Days, and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

We even hosted our first physical Open Evening for three years and we also celebrated our fourth House Festival – an event originally conceived to celebrate 100 years of the House System, which we now run every five years. What a spectacle this was – with brightly coloured costumes, and good natured but healthy competition between the Houses in activities such as Capture the Flag, pancake making, eating Oreos, manga drawing, origami, chemical titrations, karaoke, periodic table jigsaws, portrait painting, rocket launching, earthquake testing, and so much more. Congratulations to Seymour House who surged ahead to first place, leaving an extraordinarily close battle for 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

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. 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.

This time of year is also a nervous one for our Year 13 students who are preparing for the biggest competition of their lives – securing a place on a prestigious university course or apprenticeship. Our staff have spent much time preparing them for entrance tests, helping with personal statements, and helping to prepare thoroughly for interviews. The first cohort to enter the fray will be our Oxbridge and Medic hopefuls – I would normally wish you all good luck with this but Mr Bruten has reminded us that you won't need any luck because you have already prepared thoroughly and practiced extensively. Of course if it is a bit of luck that helps to tip that fine balance, then I wish such good fortune upon you as well!

I want to remind everyone about an excellent recent Association of Friends of the School (AFS) development: 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 and you can find out more here:

<https://www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Pre%2DLoved+Uniform&pid=148>

If you have any old uniform that you would like to donate to the AFS please get in touch at afsuniforms@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!

I would like to make you aware that the latest edition of the Chronicle is now online. The results of our recent survey showed that many of you would prefer to receive an electronic copy. This is available on our website:

<http://camphillboys.ovw10.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=The+Chronicle&pid=11>

I will sign off with the pleasing announcement that we have recently opened our first ever Development Office, ably managed by Mrs Beckett. The main objective of the Development Office is to promote and strengthen relationships with our alumni, through a series of events for Old Boys of the school, such as Summer BBQs, sports matches, musical events, reunion meetings and tours of the school. Whilst this might not yet have a direct bearing on you and your families, I am hopeful that all of our current students will stay in touch with the school after they have left, and I extend a warm welcome to all former students to engage with all of the events that will be coming soon. Our first event was a Class of 2012 reunion on Saturday 3rd December when we welcomed back both former students and former staff to reminisce whilst enjoying supporting the students' rugby fixtures, and of course enjoying hot soup and warm mince pies.

So, it remains for me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas Holiday. I hope you all manage to enjoy some peace and happiness, and some quality family time, perhaps even both at the same time. The world is changing apace with war on our doorstep, political uncertainty swirling around us, and economic pressures all coming to bear but I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to being with you again in January.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen
Headmaster
December 2022

Geography

Schools Climate Assembly Trip - October 20th 2022

Seven students had an excellent day at the School's climate assembly in Sheffield on 20th October where they heard talks from Chris Packham and Scarlett Westbrook (an 18yr old Birmingham school girl who claims to be the world's youngest writer of government policy) The students took part in a workshop with Henry Greenwood from the Green School Project where they put together a plan for climate action within the school.

Ayan Butt and Muhammad Sikandar managed to persuade Chris Packham to give them two of his t-shirts (that you can see hanging behind them in the picture on the rail).

Sam Brear

After an early wake-up, a 7:15 meet and a three hour journey, we eventually pulled up to the destination, a magnificent building in the outskirts of Sheffield. The day started as all British events do, with thunderstorm warnings. However, after a quick talk from the founder of the assembly and the Headmistress of the host-school, there was an expertly-selected panel, hosted by wildlife TV presenter, Megan McCubbin. The panel included Miriam Turner, Executive director of Friends of the Earth, Maxwell Ayamba, a self-proclaimed climate academic, Mikaela Loach, podcaster and writer based in Surrey and last but not least Scarlett Westbrook, the youngest policy writer in Parliamentary History. After that incredible panel, we headed to a group activity focused on making our school more climate-friendly and following some brilliant ideas, it was time for lunch! The group conversed for an hour whilst watching a documentary, as the crowd built all waiting for one man. Chris Packham. Before though we got some excellent Spoken Word from Sile Sibanda, host on BBC Radio Sheffield. The proceedings were interrupted with the news that Liz Truss had been outlasted by a lettuce, causing thousands of young adults to erupt into cheering. Following that it was time for the main man. And he did not disappoint. Somehow, he kept the crowd engaged and entertained whilst making sure we were all informed about some incredibly important issues that aren't often spoken of in the news, like the imports of fur and foie gras, a trade that was supposed to be banned, however reversed by Liz Truss's Government. When that speech came to its end, we left for another smaller group activity with Scarlett Westbrook, about the importance of teaching students and even teachers about climate change. As that concluded, so did our day in Sheffield. Another eventful bus

journey ensued and as the evening fell, we said our goodbyes and an incredibly informative day for all of us ended. Many thanks to Mr Brear, for walking half an hour in the rain to get the minibus, driving us there and organising it all!

Muhammad Sikandar



Year 11 Geography Field Trip **Stratford Road**

On Wednesday 23rd November, the Year 11 classes studying Geography had the exciting opportunity to conduct a transect study along Stratford Road, from Shirley to Sparkbrook, which would form part of our urban fieldwork - the second of our GCSE field trips. We studied six different sites, interviewing locals, and collating their opinions of the area (qualitative data). In addition, we looked at the environmental and housing qualities of each location, ranking them on numerical scales (quantitative data).

In the morning, as we huddled in the KFC Shirley car park, we tried our best to escape the rain. Luckily though, the weather cleared up, and once our teachers gave us our final instructions, almost 100 students were let loose on the high street. Some students realised that they had a hidden talent of speaking to passers-by on the street, whereas others discovered a new phobia. Nevertheless, after collecting our data in Shirley, we hopped onto the number 6 bus and made our way to subsequent sites.

Prior to visiting Stratford Road, we had researched the six sites, which shaped our perceptions of the areas. During our fieldwork however, we learned that some of our opinions differed from those of the locals. Many of them commented on the sense of community and diversity within their areas, something that we had not considered beforehand. It is quite interesting how one's perception of a place changes, especially positively, once they have actually visited it.

By 2:30 pm, most groups had completed their data collection, and were shortly dismissed after meeting up with their teachers at the final point on Farm Road. The day proved to be eye-opening and was definitely a memorable experience. Whether it was stopping by at MakHalal for a meal, or simply talking to the locals, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A massive thanks to the Geography department for organising the trip, as well as to all the members of staff that helped out!



Ayan Butt - 11J

Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze expedition

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme is a programme the school offers students from year 9 and upwards. The programme involves completing three sections - Skills, Physical and Volunteering. And finally, after all the sections have been completed, the students will take part in an expedition for two days and a night. The DofE scheme aims to improve the students' skillset to help give them a competitive edge over their peers, providing them with vital experiences that could prove critical later on in their school and professional careers.

For the Bronze award, we were required to complete a minimum of six months on one of the sections and three months on the remaining sections. All of the members had - supposedly - completed an hour of activity every week (not my words). So over the course of the bronze award, we spent a total of forty-eight hours each refining our chosen skills. Many of us were already doing these activities, so an opportunity to write "DofE Bronze" on our UCAS applications from doing what we normally do is definitely a plus.

After a few games sessions spent planning out route cards, meal plans and first aid kits instead of lifting weights in a room filled with sweaty boys, we were finally prepared.

Equipped with my freeze-dried curry and gourmet Tesco crêpes I was finally ready!

After a short drive to Swanshurst park, it was us against the great outdoors. We stuck to our planned route and navigated our way around the vast nature trails and canal system of Birmingham and then, after a gruelling walk up the hill on Cartland road, we finally arrived at school. We had to work fast to put the tents up before the darkness crept in. Before long, it turned pitch black and we were trusted to make dinner without burning ourselves, which MOST of us managed. After a quick dinner, we went to sleep, ready for the day ahead.

On the final day, we got up at 7 am and drove to the Lickey Hills. After getting lost a couple of times and asking locals for directions, we managed to get to the first checkpoint. In the distance, we could see the massive hills, which were on our planned route. After losing our way a couple more times we finally arrived at the foot of the hills. This proved to be the biggest challenge of the entire expedition but after eating a few energy bars, we slowly made our way up the hills and after reaching the summit, made our way down to the minivan that was conveniently located at our destination.

I would like to thank all the teachers that had given up their weekends to help us with the expedition. And Mr Brear for organising the expedition, and making sure we were all ready for it. All in all, I think that the DofE programme is a wonderful opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and do something you would not normally do. Yashaswin Nukala



English

We are sad to say that Mr Puzey will be leaving the Department at the end of this term. He first joined Camp Hill way back in November 2001, as a maternity cover. Having had a very successful year, he was immediately snapped up by Camp Hill Girls in 2002, but when given another opportunity of working with us, it really was an offer he couldn't refuse and duly returned in September 2003. Mr Puzey left us for a second time in July 2007, having gained promotion at Bishop Challoner School, and this looked like the end of a beautiful partnership. However, having answered the call to cover Ms Buckley's maternity leave in January 2021, he returned for what must be an unprecedented 3rd time. An excellent teacher and a consummate professional, it is evident that both students and staff will miss him enormously. However, given his penchant for teaching at Camp Hill, you never know whether he'll be back for a fourth time, ready to inspire a future generation of students...



However, it seems John Milton must have been right and that clouds really do have silver linings. In saying goodbye to Mr Puzey, we are of course welcoming back Ms Buckley from her maternity leave and look forward to her re-joining the English Department.

As always, debating at both Junior and Senior level, forms an important part of the English Calendar. Mr Wilkins is in charge of Senior Debating and here reports on the Senior Debating Society's first competition:

The KEVI Camp Hill Boys' Senior Debating Society has reconvened for another year of fierce discourse and rhetorical flourish.

The first outing for the team was the ESU Schools Mace debating competition, in which Camp Hill competed against a number of other local teams for a place in the second round.

Tom Colleran, Muhammad Sikandar and Rasan Wasfe opposed the motion 'This house would ban the production and consumption of meat', in their debate against KEHS.

The boys made some compelling arguments against the motion and have won a place in the next round. This year we hope to rotate the teams slightly to give more students a chance to represent the school in this national parliamentary-style contest. A huge well done to Tom, Muhammad and Rasan. DJW.

So onwards and upwards to next term and the Public Debating competition – one of the highlights of the year.

JLP

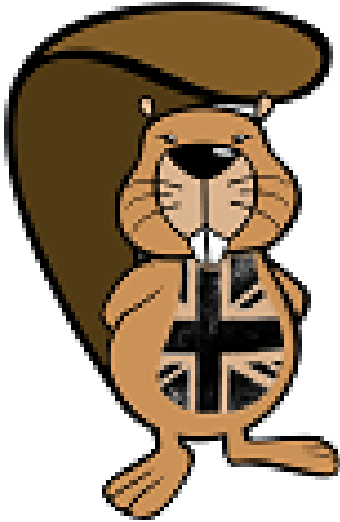
Book Club Visit

Our three book clubs were invited to KES on Wednesday 7th to attend the inaugural Two Cities Book Award. The award was created by KES and Wolverhampton Grammar School to celebrate four excellent books written for young people this year. Jamila Gavin was the eventual winner and some of our students got the opportunity to meet her. We look forward to taking part again next year.



ICT

Bebras 2022



This year's Bebras competition saw more than 550 students taking part. The competition involves solving puzzles based on computer science problem solving.

There were 4 age-related competitions - details of the national scores, etc, are in the table below (all marks are out of 200).

The top 10% automatically qualify for a higher-level competition in January.

	Entrants	Average score	Top 25%	Top 10%	Number qualifying for TCS from CHB
y7	106 589	76	97	129	44 (y7)
y8/9	185 560	72	97	128	25 (y8) + 54 (y9)
y10/11	37 317	100	127	151	16 (y10) + 22 (y11)
y12/13	11 730	100	122	144	6 (y12) + 3 (y13)

Special credit should go to the following, but well done to all those who took part:

- Y7 - Henry Bloomer (194/200) - the highest of 4350 students in the West Midlands
- Y8 - Miqdad Atta-Ur-Rsaul (188/200)
- Y9 - Isa Naveed (189/200)
- Y10 - Amal Abraham & Taheen Islam (189/200)
- Y11 - Thomas Pitfield & Malachi Powell (200/200) - joint highest of 37317 students in the country
- Y12/13 - Amogh Shetty (178/200)

MFL

European Day of Languages

Many of you may not have known, but on Monday 26th September, it was European Day of Languages. To celebrate, the Languages Department held a food tasting session, where students could come and try different foods from around the world. The most popular foods were the cheeses, going just a mere ten minutes after the food tasting started.

In addition to this, 8K made famous monuments using spaghetti and marshmallows. The Eiffel tower was very popular, as were the Petronas Towers and the Pyramids of Giza. Some groups had more success than others, with one Eiffel tower leaning at about an 60° angle, but others were more stable, albeit less detailed.



In conclusion, KEVI Camp Hill Boys celebrated in a multitude of ways, which were enjoyed by all.

By Nikhil Gilliam

05/10/2022

Farewell to Mrs Butler

Christine Butler started with us in 2019 as a student teacher. She was immediately a perfect fit in the department and an absolute pleasure to work with. She has contributed to the department in many ways. We always expect NQTs to be full of fresh and new ideas and it is fair to say that Christine had them in abundance. What really impressed me though was her commitment to research led teaching and her investigation of pedagogy. I must also stress that such was her commitment, that much of this work actually took place on her two days off!

Her pupils have undoubtedly gained from her expertise as a native German speaker and many pupils have benefitted from her German club. It is not unusual to see her members rushing towards her room and the buzz created in there is one of genuine enthusiasm and curiosity about German culture and the German language. She also always helps out with other extra curricular activities, even if this means giving up her own time. It says a lot about Christine that before I have had chance to thank her for her help, she thanks me for organising an event.

Christine is a passionate teacher and a consummate professional. I know her to be dedicated, resilient and thoughtful. Her students find her kind, caring and approachable. Not just the department, but the entire school is losing a valuable asset. She will be much missed, but we wish her all the very best for the future.



Elizabeth Wells

GCHQ Challenge

Early in August 2022, the GCHQ launched a new competition for Year 9 students across the UK - a new initiative, 'The National Language Challenge'. During late October, notices were posted on Google Classroom about this competition which convinced us to take in this challenge as a team. All four of us took up the hardship of attending daily calls, burning the midnight oil racking our brains out to try and win the chance to visit the GCHQ headquarters.

Our team consisted of 4 intrepid linguists - Affan Aamir, Adnan Lohawala, Levi Dandy and Sathya Vaidyanathan. Before the event officially started, on a late Sunday evening, the team pondered over a zoom call how to decipher the format of the event and decided we were ready to give this challenge our best.

At 8am on Monday the 7th of November, the competition officially opened. We knew the week ahead was going to be strenuous managing routine school work during the day, then homework and extracurricular activities in the evening, along with working on solving the puzzles in the competition. However, we were quite excited and enthusiastic to take part in this challenge. There were 64 challenges and 8435 points in total up for grabs. All the challenges were of varying levels of difficulty- 23 easy, 17 medium, 15 hard and 9 extreme. The competition's aim was to introduce us to different languages and to improve our skills in logical thinking. The goal was to capture a 'Flag' - a coded message in a different language, which then needed to be translated for full credit.

A variety of different languages were incorporated - some of these were languages that are commonly taught in schools - French, German, Spanish and Mandarin, as well as very obscure ones - Amharic (Ethiopian), Malay and French slang! To make it even more challenging, there was Binary, Morse Code, Braille and several made up languages, such as stone tablet drawings and number systems in base 5. There was even lip reading to decipher!

By the end of the first day, we had solved about 40% of the challenges, and had amassed 2500 points. We knew that the harder ones were coming, but did not let that deter us. Our brains were already fried by the second day and we only managed to solve 4 challenges, however, we had some breakthroughs on solving a few others and decided to go back at it with a fresh mind the next day.

Wednesday and Thursday were by far our most productive days. We were steadily climbing up the leader board which was a boost to our morale but unfortunately, or possibly for the better, the competition organisers decided to disable the access to the leader board for students and the teachers as well, so teams could pull out all the stops to win. We knew that we had to up our game at this point. Concerts and after school activities had interfered with our progress up until Wednesday, and we had got up to 64% completion of challenges, as well as 4500 points. On Thursday, we had gathered another 2600 points, bringing us up to 7100 points.

By this point on Thursday night, we had completed 58/64 challenges and only had Friday remaining to get the rest done. We got one challenge done in the morning and another at lunchtime, leaving us with 4 remaining to do in the 1 hour before the competition closed at 5pm. Tensions were high as we were racing against time fervently trying every possible combination for solving the problems - abandoning and going back to them constantly. We had almost solved 2 others, making use of the hints - and just as we were about to hit submit on a final answer for a question, the time ran out, stripping us of 80 points.

At the end of the competition, we had successfully solved 60/64 challenges and had raked in an amazing 7435 points, ranking 33rd in the country out of 2000 entrants - considering that other schools gave their students time off from lessons the entire week to take part in this competition, we felt we had done pretty well and this was a great score.

The competition was a thrilling experience and other teams in our form enjoyed taking part in it too. Lots of new skills were learnt along the way. It was a great week, and regardless of the result, we had had loads of fun.

'Famous Stormy Mandrill'

Sathya Vaidyanathan, Affan Aamir, Levi Dandy, Adnan Lohawala

Quiz News

In November we were able to enjoy the delights of Senior House Quiz, the event took place in the triple classroom after school with two teams representing each House. The occasion was completed in high spirits with positive engagement from all competing houses. With rounds including food and drink, TV and cinema and World Cup mascots, the competition was able to go right to the wire with Beaufort winning overall closely followed by Howard. Later in the month, two teams made their way over to the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham to participate in the Lord Mayor's Sixth Form Mega Quiz, a scene of past heroics. Our teams of Camp Hill Lambda (Year 13) and Camp Hill Mu (Year 12) were both competitive and able to succeed in finishing third and fourth in a competition comprising over 30 teams. Well done to the teams from KES and Bishop Vesey who finished in the top two places.



Politics

Trip to Westminster

On 27 September this year, the Year 13 Politics group, alongside Camp Hill Girls' students, embarked on the long journey to visit Parliament, Whitehall and the Supreme Court. It was a remarkable start to the day as our train left on time and we were able to arrive in Parliament Square in good time prior to our visits to the Supreme Court and the Palace of Westminster. We had the opportunity to travel up Whitehall and catch a glimpse of Downing Street though unable to see either Larry the Cat or the other incumbent of Number 10 that week (Liz Truss in the days following the politically catastrophic 'mini-budget'). Wandering to Trafalgar Square and onto The Mall where the flags were being taken down following the State Funeral, we hoped to catch a glimpse out of HM Treasury entrance of Kwazi Kwarteng, but to no avail.... Our first visit was to the Supreme Court, the seat of Highest Justice in the UK and for some overseas jurisdictions, we could look around the chambers where decisions are made on matters of Brexit legality, Proroguing Parliament and (more recently) the rights of Scotland to hold a new referendum on independence. From there it was a short trip over Parliament Square to the Palace of Westminster, here neither the House of Commons or the House of Lords were in session – it being conference season – so we almost had the run of the place to ourselves. We visited the Royal Chambers before proceeding to the House of Lords in its finest Burgundy and on to the Commons swathed in green, students were given the opportunity to stand

at the despatch box (for almost as long as Liz Truss) and have a Prime Ministerial moment. The final part of the visit was to Westminster Hall, William Rufus' greatest legacy with its magnificent hammer-beam roof and saw where Queen Elizabeth II lay in state and where Charles I was sentenced to death for treason. We then followed this with a workshop on protest and reform in Parliament before heading back to Euston Station via 55 Tufton Street, Pret a Manger and Buckingham Palace. Catching the tube to Euston we had enough time to visit the British Library, catching sight of Magna Carta and other iconic documents before looking forward to the train back to Birmingham, only to discover that our booked train no longer existed, thank you to Avanti West Coast for bumping us onto the next train and meaning we were only an hour late getting back.



ECO Committee

The Eco Committee has been re-established with the aim of achieving the Bronze Eco School Award by the end of this academic year. So far, we have introduced mini Pen Recycling bins to every classroom to make Camp Hill more sustainable. We've had a couple of meetings this term. First, an introductory catch-up in early November and then a second more formal meeting, where we selected the key topics we will be working on. Keep your eyes peeled for posters in the hallways, a display in Room 1 and projects related to Waste, Healthy living and Litter. We'd like to thank Miss Marston for organising everything and letting us use her room and Mr Butcher for his ongoing support over the past year. If you'd like to take part in any initiatives with the Eco Committee, you are more than welcome. Please speak to your Geography teacher or pop to Room 1!

Muhammad Sikandar + Ayan Butt Y11

RS

Year 7 Religious Studies – Visits to All Saints Church

In support of their study of religion in modern Britain, the Year 7s took a walk up to Kings Heath high street to visit our local church, All Saints. A warm welcome from the vicar, David, and some friendly members of the congregation, were followed by an explanation of the church's role in the local community, and lots of excellent questions asked of the vicar by the students. Ranging from All Saints' attitude to diversity in the congregation to Christian beliefs about Jesus, students were able to gain the unique insight of someone whose life is dedicated to religion and spiritual wellbeing.

We thank All Saints for having us, the volunteer Prefects who helped escort the students safely, and all of the very patient Year 7 teachers who gave them up for a lesson! We hope to visit again soon, and invite members of the school community to join us at All Saints for our annual Carol Service on Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm.



PSHE and Careers

Each term we will be getting a different insight from PSHE and Careers given from a student's perspective. This term this is provided by Rupert Bowler from 9B.

Despatches from Year 9 PSHE

So far this year in PSHE we have mainly been focusing on our finances and the importance of protecting it from fraudsters, money mules and scammers.

We began the term by looking at the difference between debit and credit, also looking at the different types of banking. For example, credit cards can serve as short term 'mini loans' while debit cards draw money directly out of your bank account. We then moved on onto how people can become prey to fraudsters and scammers. This can happen phishing emails and identity theft, to name a few, however our knowledge extends to further topics like why people choose to do this in the first place.

As we continued through the topics we moved onto looking at payslips and understanding their formats, terms such as gross and net income.

We looked at how to stay in control of the money to avoid accumulating significant debts and why creating savings accounts is something we should aim to do to improve our financial habits (if inflation like this ever occurs again) and seeing if what we are buying is a need or a want. This brought us on quite nicely onto consumer rights in which we learnt about how and how not it is illegal to sell things and when one can claim for bought items that are against our consumer rights for example the food safety act. As the penultimate part to this topic we learnt about how to balance the budget, the chancellor of the exchequer (currently Jeremy Hunt) and the types of taxes like VAT and NI to name a couple. Wrapping up this topic we discovered the endless possibilities of crypto currencies and Blockchains for example, the first crypto currency, bitcoin and Blockchain which is a very complicated chain of 'blocks' that store information like passwords for example.

Finally, towards the middle of this half term we have begun to learn about relationships and what makes them healthy/ unhealthy.

On Tuesday 29th November, Year 7 students were visited by a panel of representatives from Digital Careers for a Q&A session.

Year 7 Digital Careers Panel

By Fred Belcher 7H

Year 7 were addressed by a number of people working in digital careers. There were many questions that students had the freedom to ask the panel of, ranging from Games Designers to IT Professionals. I found this opportunity very valuable as it gives an insight into how jobs work (e.g. apprenticeships etc.) but specifically the jobs in technology. All of the speakers said they liked their jobs and answered some very interesting questions, such as: 'Have you ever worked for/with a celebrity?' Sadly, nobody had, but they did have many excellent insights into the world of work.

Overall, it was beneficial for all pupils as it showed students different facets of employment, what working conditions are like, working hours and much more. This really was a really good opportunity and will help lots of people find jobs or pick them when they're older.



Music

Autumn Term in the Music Department has been characteristically busy! I am very grateful to the school for the warm welcome I have received and the continued commitment to music-making from the pupils. I am also very grateful Simon Palmer for his kindness through the transition and the wonderful legacy he has left here.

Assembly Performances

We started our annual calendar of performances earlier than expected this year due to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. I was impressed by the speed at which a string group was able to put together the National Anthem and 'Nimrod' from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* in preparation for an event marking the late queen's passing. Dr Page also gave a moving performance of *Flowers of the Forest* on the bagpipes in the event. We have been fortunate enough to have regular assembly performances with some excellent performances by Caleb Wilton (piano), Joel Skaria (violin) and Hun Kang (piano), Vansh Praden (flute), Kevin Cao (piano), Kumayl Vanat (voice) and Garjun Ho (piano). Ibrahim Miah and Shaun Chacko also performed their own composition for guitar duet. A special thank you must also go to Clement Franklin (trumpet) and Ben Scott (French horn) for their playing of the Last Post in our Remembrance Assembly.



'A Life of Service' Assembly

The school's ensembles and choirs have continued with the same fervour that they left off last year. We still run 20 groups with significant involvement across the school population. At present, roughly one in five boys in the school are involved in extra-curricular music in some way.

Chamber Concert

Our first joint event of the year in conjunction with the girls' school was the Chamber Concert which took place on Tuesday 8 November. The concert featured performances by the String Orchestra, Senior Lower String Ensemble, Senior Guitar Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Flute Quartet, Oboe Ensemble, Electric Guitar Ensemble, String Quartet, Jazz Ensemble and Training Wind Band. Particular congratulations to Babar Zaffar and Ryan Vafaei who both gave highly sensitive and moving piano solos.

Carols at Queen Elizabeth Hospital

We were delighted to be able to continue our connections with Queen Elizabeth Hospital by singing carols there on Thursday 1 December at the beginning of the season. As always, the choir sang with true dedication and vigour, and was a real credit to us all.

Prize Giving

A day after carols at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Prize Giving featured two excellent performances by school pupils: Alex Hand (piano) played Gershwin's *The Man I Love* and the school's String Quartet (Joel Skaria, Harley Hau, Thomas Pitfield and Rhys Jamieson) played an arrangement of *Waltzing Matilda* by Nicholas Buc.

Christmas Concert

More recently, Monday 12 December marked the annual Christmas Concert in conjunction with the girls' school. We were treated to performances by the Intermediate Orchestra, CHB Choir, String Ensemble, Intermediate Wind Band, Clarinet Ensemble, Concert Band, Lower String Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. The programme culminated in a performance by the Concert Orchestra, in which we were also fortunate enough to have Father Christmas making his annual appearance during *Sleigh Ride*!



Carol Service

The school's annual tradition of the Carol Service takes place this week with CHB Choir taking on a programme of carols and Christmas favourites, including: Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, Leontovych's *Carol of the Bells* and *Gaudete*, alongside a programme of carols.

Thank you to everyone for your support throughout a busy and music-filled term. On behalf of the Music Department, we wish you all a restful holiday filled with music for the season!

Josh Watters

PE

Senior 1st Team Rugby:

The 1st XV have had an outstanding start to the season. Played 9, won 7, lost 2, amassing 225 points in the process. The senior squad have shown impressive commitment this season with over 60 students putting themselves forward for 1st, 2nd and 3rd team selection. Training has been an important part of the team's success, this was particularly influential in early September. The first game of the season saw the 1st XV claim a 55-21 victory over KE Aston, with Sam Ankrah running in an unbelievable 5 tries! Up next was a exhilarating last minute 22-21 win over local rivals KES. This win allowed the 1st XV to progress to round three of the national cup. Somto Achusiogo was the try scoring hero in the last minute. Up next saw a superb defensive display against Princethorpe, allowing for 14-5 victory. Achusiogu, Nirantharakumar scored tries from the few occasions Camp Hill entered Princethorpe's half. A tough away cup draw against Hereford Cathedral School, saw the 1st XV bow out 14-0. A hugely spirited performance wasn't enough against a very well drilled opposition. Captain Toby Taylor, Vice Captain Hasan Syed x2 and Sam Ankrah x2 were the try scorers in the highly anticipated match against Camp Hill RFC to take a 33-12 victory. Winning ways continued against KE Aston. 53-12 Rana, Hoffman, Taylor, Hogan, Ankrah (3), Nirantharakumar, Dhaliwal all chipping in with tries. Hard fought victories over Queen Marys and Shrewsbury School kept the spirit in the 1st XV high. Ankrah(3), Rana, Nirantharakumar again scored crucial tries in these games. The final game before the Christmas break saw the 1st XV travel to KE Five Ways full of confidence. Unfortunately, it just wasn't

to be. A late try from Five Ways allowed them to take a 21-12 victory. However, what a start to the season it has been! Captain Toby Taylor has been immense, Vernon Kenworthy and Tommy Fakeye have been instrumental in the forwards and Jobe Simpson has marshalled the troops excellently from fly half. All students who have represented the 1st XV so far this season have done themselves proud. Bring on the second half of the season.



Senior Rugby 2nd Team

The 2nd XV have from the beginning of this year shown that they want to play at their best, no matter the conditions and no matter the opposition. New talent streaming from the younger years, and new sixth formers have allowed us to experiment with different squads to great effect, with players such as Henry Feeney, Jack Hogan, Malachi Powell and Christy Baiju making a noticeable impact on the pitch from the start. Alongside these players, year 12s such as Arthur Breakwell, Emile Lone-Ebrahim and Hamish McGhee, and year 13s such as Ibrahim Dadabhoy and Harvey Collett have demonstrated a clear ability to play beyond the 2nd XV, with some already proving themselves in Toby's 1st XV.

As for matches played, I could describe any of them; however, our game on the 16th of November against Haberdashers' Abraham Darby was an incredibly well-contested match that saw a jaw-dropping last-minute break from our try line, culminating in a try from Prasanna Sivakumar to secure our 31-24 victory. It's in these moments of teamwork, where our players are supported from the second the ball finds its way into a teammate's hands, that I am the proudest of how far we've come in the last few months. For me personally, playing with this squad has been one of the greatest honours of my time at Camp Hill, as we have finally converted that hard work we have always put into matches and training sessions in the past, into scorelines that reflect our efforts. Thank you to Mr Burgess, Mr Rees and Mr Norton who have helped make this possible, and here's to the rest of the season! Well done everyone.

Matthew Holland

Year 10 Rugby:

The U15 rugby team have fought tirelessly throughout the season so far. Commitment to training has been excellent and it has shown with vast improvements on the pitch. Narrow losses against Camp Hill and KE Aston showed how competitive the team could be. Captain Matthew Dainty has led the team superbly both on and off the pitch. Luke Dolan has stepped into fly half admirably, allowing the team to play some really fluid, attacking rugby. Harith Kadir is the leading try scorer with six tries. The highlight of the season was the fantastic 26-24 victory against Queen Marys in the first round of the national cup. The team gave it everything and thoroughly deserved the win. Adeniran, Osolase, Kadir(2) scored the tries on the day. The team continues to improve week on week and have so far been a delight to coach. Everyone who has represented the team has been a credit to the school. We look forward to a well earned break and will come back strong in the new Year. TJB



Year 9 Rugby:

At long last we have reached the end of a long year, and with this achievement comes the halfway point of the U14 rugby season. This year has brought a lot of unexpected twists and turns and - in terms of our rugby team - it is certainly no different. Prior to a below par debut season in year 8, which followed a single-game season in year 7, the U14 team was keen to get back to business on the rugby pitch.

Our first game was a tough one, against Greater Birmingham title holders, KES. And we got off to a bad start. It was clear that the rugby rust was still there, and if it wasn't for a sleek solo run by captain Lemuel Adjei, the game would've ended in an even uglier fashion. 47-5 wasn't the scoreline we hoped to start the season on, but the worst was still yet to come.

And it did, in the next match against a very strong Princethorpe College team, boasting numerous talents. The extremely one-sided affair finished 61-5, however, during the final play, our number 8 Joel Fletcher put his body on the line to stop a certain try, at the cost of a rough injury, preventing him from playing for many months. Joel is still suffering from the injury now, so we wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.

After two successive losses against Camp Hill RFC, KE Aston School, and a fifth place finish in the Greater Birmingham Tournament, the team was given a gift of a game against Newcastle-under-

Lyme School. Following the frustrations of last year's last-gasp defeat on their turf, we were keen to get revenge and win our first game of the season. The lads had five games in just three weeks, and had to start the run with a win. Brilliant running from Raees Latif and Lemuel Adjei secured the scoreline at 24-0 by halftime. Keeping up the momentum from the first half, brilliant defensive work from Dawud Husayn and Hassan Malik didn't allow the pack to crumble under Newcastle-under-Lyme's pressure, whilst another two tries from Muahwiyah Abdi and Adam Bashir held Camp Hill far in front at 34-0. However, the 0 on the opposing side of the scoreline didn't last the whole game after a hole in the Camp Hill defence allowed for an easy try for Newcastle. Ending 39-5, the team won their first victory.

Another three one-sided losses would follow against Queen Mary's, Haberdashers' Abraham Darby, and KE Five Ways, before a match against Prince Henry's High School. A very equal game throughout, Camp Hill took the lead early on thanks to Raees Latif, but went down after being caught on the back foot twice, taking the score to 12-5. Just before half-time, another run from Raees took the score to 12-10. With a sideline conversion to score to level the game, Karlo Heydary stepped up and scored perhaps the greatest conversion to date, only 3 metres out from the touchline. In the second half, brilliant tackling from Mutee Shah, Dawud Husayn and the rest of the team prevented a certain try after 15+ phases, before Prince Henry's lost the ball to touch, showing the mass of effort put in by the team. Before the final moments, a try from Ashton Okello put Camp Hill 22-17 up to end the game. Great effort from the boys!

With the Christmas holidays upon us, the U14 team boasts a 20% win rate, with 2 wins, 8 losses, and a fifth place tournament finish. A few unexpected exits have been topped up with new arrivals to the squad, and we hope to be back to full power in the New Year. Many thanks to Mr Norton, Mr Burgess and the team for an eventful rugby season so far.

Happy Holidays!



Year 8 Rugby:

The Year 8 team have made a terrific start to the season, continuing with the expansive style of rugby that they developed in Year 7 and continuing to develop their skills. They've had a decent set of results so far, including a thrilling game against Camp Hill RFC where they scored some terrific tries through Ankrah (2), Said, Walker and Robotham (2). For Robotham's second try regained the ball at the restart and ran half the length of the field, fending off tacklers and showing a turn of pace to get to the line. Unfortunately, despite some dogged defending from the school team, Camp Hill RFC scored in the last play of the game to bring the scores level at 30-30.

Next up was the Greater Birmingham tournament where they had a narrow loss against Five Ways, followed by convincing wins against Fairfax, Sheldon Heath and Aston. They then played KES in a match where both teams were playing a wide running game, however the defences proved too tough and the match finished 0-0. The final fixture was against Bishop Vesey which again resulted in a draw. It was great to witness an outstanding return for Alex Innocenti who was returning from injury. He made numerous turnovers and showed what a skillful player he is in both attack and defence, working hard alongside his partner in crime Seb Robotham.

Fixtures against Queen Mary's, Five Ways and KES ended in defeat. However, a convincing win against Haberdashers' Abraham Darby and some mature and physical performances from the likes of Mushaf Mir and Basheir Said, plus the continued skill level and control of the game from Rafe Sullivan and Ollie Smolden at scrum half and fly half, mean that the players can look forward to next term's fixtures with confidence.

Mrs Jermine & Mr Dowling



Year 7 Rugby:

Year 7 have had a fantastic start to their Rugby careers at Camp Hill. Considering that the vast majority of the players have never experienced any Rugby before joining the school, we now look like a fully functional team with a bright future.

The term started off with a tough introduction to Rugby against Princethorpe College, followed by a close game against Camp Hill Club. In these games we showed how threatening we could be, but the rub of the green just wasn't quite on our side.

Our first win of the year came in a couple of the games in the GB tournament where lots of lessons were learnt, which spurred us on to victory against Newcastle-Under Lyme. Rahul Sinha received a well deserved Man of the Match award after scoring 4 tries in one game! Kingsley Moss was exceptional once again, leading from the front as Captain, as he has done all the term. Dexter Guest and Ollie Hancock emerged as a dynamic duo at Fly Half & Scrum Half and are forming a partnership that sets the team up so well. None of these players would be able to score our tries or show their skills if it wasn't for some of the boys doing the hard work up front. Muhammad Alderwish, Karim Berair, Preston Umanah, Esa Azeem, Vrishank Kodi and many more have made big impressions on other teams, letting them know that they will not be tackled easily!

It has not been all about the A team however, constantly making us make difficult decisions regarding selection are the other 3 sides we are able to put out! 75 students have represented Camp Hill in Year 7 Rugby this year and all have improved over the few weeks they have had. The likes of Jack Coombes, Jacob Hnaratty, Aditya Manu, Mohammed Abdi, Mateusz Grzesik and so many more are proving that the A team is not set in stone, and each student in Year 7 can represent Camp Hill in Rugby with the right attitude and effort in training and games afternoons.

In 8 games this term, we have scored 95 points and won 2 of our games for the A team. There is much room for improvement but as the wins against Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Haberdashers' Abraham Darby show, there is lots to come from this Year 7 team on the Rugby pitch.



Mr. Rees.

Senior Tennis:

Although it sounds strange to be playing Tennis in November, Prasanna Sivakumar, Milan Dawson, Cyrus Maleki-Toosserkani & Darius Maleki-Toosserkani all braved the fresh weather to represent Camp Hill in the Regional Round of the LTA Youth National Cup. We played all 3 fixtures on the same day against KES, Old Swinford Hospital and Leicester Grammar. Old Swinford Hospital faced us first and we beat them convincingly, beating them in all singles and doubles matches. We then faced KES, followed by Leicester Grammar and the boys could not have made it more dramatic if they tried. Over the 6 sets of Tennis played in both these matches, we narrowly lost out on a tie break in both. It was an agonising loss to take, as it would have secured our progression to the next round, had the tiebreaks go the other way!

We play our B team fixture against the same teams before the Christmas Break, but unfortunately not before I write this article, so the results of that you will have to wait to find out!

Well done to all involved in Tennis so far this year and I look forward to a strong summer of Tennis!

Mr. Rees.

Senior & Junior Badminton:

We have just started our Badminton Fixture this term, with the majority of the fixture yet to be played, however, we have had a couple and the results have been positive. The Senior teams travelled to both Rugby and Bromsgrove, 2 excellent schools for racket sports and we came out with one victory and one loss. This is a good marker to lay down early on, before the return fixtures in January and February.

In the Senior Team, we have lost 2 big figures in Adarsh and Zak who left last year, but the likes of Jingxi Bai (still only Year 10), Ethan Philippe Tumbos, Pranoy Nishanth and Ankur Ramesha, amongst a few other, look ready to step into their shoes.

The Junior Badminton Section is also looking strong with a white wash win against King Edward VI Handsworth earlier this term, setting us up nicely for the upcoming fixture in the new year.

Badminton popularity and performance levels are improving year on year at Camp Hill and the attendance at the extra curricular club is off the scale.

The future looks bright and the expectation for next term is high!

Mr. Rees.

House Events:

House events have come thick and fast this term, with a number of inter house events taking place throughout the years. Football was highly anticipated and keenly contested across several games afternoons and lunch times. Out of the five age groups, Beaufort won two but the overall house football champions is Tudor with three wins to their name. All students in Year 7-10 took part in the Camp Hill Mile (used to be cross country) in an attempt to earn points for their house. Beaufort earned the most points in Years 9 & 10, Howard in Year 8 and Seymour in Year 7. Therefore Beaufort took a slender lead into the Camp Hill Mile Finals. The fastest runners qualified for the finals which were contested at junior, intermediate and senior levels. Dexter Guest won the Junior contest with an impressive 7

minute & 45 seconds for a mile. Eddie Kosina claimed the intermediate title with a stand out 15 minutes & 3 seconds for 2 miles. The senior race took part in and around the school site totaling three miles. Tom Dainty fought out tough competition from Vineet Rao & Shrikannan Selvaganapthy to win with a superb time of 18 minutes & 22 seconds. Two sports events are to take place in the final two weeks of term, Basketball and Badminton. Senior basketball has already been played. Howard ran out winners, only on points scored over Beaufort. Multiple events are due to take place in the new year. The appetite for house events has been superb so far and the competition is as healthy as ever!



House Festival

Camp Hill Boys house festival took place on the 11th October and it truly lived up to all expectations. The day was a huge celebration of colour whereby the whole school dressed up in costumes that were representative of their house. From costumes of the Joker to inflatable Thanos outfits, many of the 6th formers went above and beyond in the making of their choice of clothing. The House Festival only takes place once every 5 years and the day always plays a huge part in deciding the house championship for that year. Students of all year groups participated in events throughout the day ensuring every pupil played a part in achieving points for their house. Activities such as Where's Wally?, Capture the flag and staff karaoke were all events that will live long in the memory of students as they go on through their education. The staff did a great job at organising events that linked to their subjects in a fun and inclusive way. The eventual winners were announced in a final whole school assembly where all houses sat in their respective groups. The roar from the Seymour corner was as loud as ever when they were read out as eventual winners and students were celebrating down the drive as they left school. All in all, the house festival was a fantastic day for everyone involved in camp hill. Costumes, ridiculous activities and questionable singing performances from teachers means House festival 2027 has a lot to live up to.





Art

Art Club Poppies for Remembrance Day

The first activity we have done in art club this year has been to sculpt and model some beautiful clay poppies for Remembrance Day back in November. The students did brilliant in making and glazing them. Next year we will be making more Poppies so we can add to what we have made this year and create a large scale installation.



House Festival



We had great fun in October for the House Festival. The Art department hosted our very own 'Camp Hill Portrait Artist of the Year'. We had competitors from each



house who were challenged to create a portrait (from a live model!) in just 1.5 hours! Everyone did absolutely brilliant, working in their own individual styles.

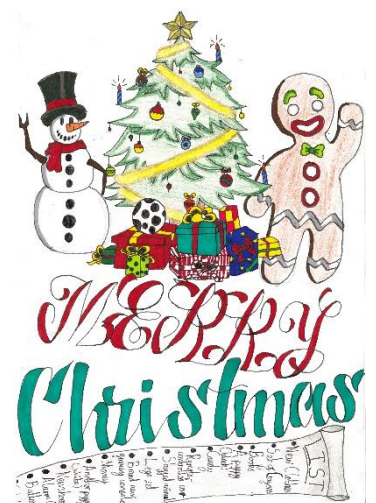
Pineapple Road Station

Both our students and students from Camp Hill Girls have been busy designing a series of hexagons which will feature on the hoarding that is going up around Pineapple Road Station while they work on it over the forthcoming months, so please look out for it when it goes up!

Christmas Card Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Uzair in 7C who won our Christmas card competition this year! His design is being printed as our annual school Christmas card and can be seen here! Congratulations also go to Kinza Lone (Y8) and Sami Osman (Y7) who were also commended for their entries.

Upcoming events:



Photography club will be starting in the New Year and we will email students who have expressed an interest in joining – there were 48 in total! We have decided that we will run this with half of the

At the end of March in 2023 we will be returning to Berlin with our Art, RS, History and German students from years 11-13. We are very much looking forward to this!

In April 2023 we also have our annual Year 8 trip to the Warner Brothers studio tour – The making of Harry Potter! This is always a brilliant day out with a fantastic insight into the creative industries.

Gemma Smith

House News

Howard House Report

It has been a higgledy-piggledy sort of term for Howard. Flush with success in the 2021-2022 iteration of the House Championships, perhaps there has been a resting on our laurels so far in 2022-2023, particularly with new upstart Heads of House snapping at Mr Hill's heels. We have been able to compete in most events successfully but there has been the lack of a killer instinct in front of the posts which has put paid to the suggestion of a renewed golden generation. Football has been a historically successful field of dreams for Howard but this season drew a blank, even among seniors outdoors – not the most auspicious of starts. In the Camp Hill Mile cross country after a surprise victory last year, there was a more commonly seen return to form with another final ranking, though congratulations to Eddie Kosina in Year 10 for winning the intermediate race. In Basketball, it was a runaway success for Beaufort, though it was pleasing to see Howard compete and gain a promising joint second overall with a shared victory in the Seniors and second place with Year 10. The Blue Wave has also set itself up well for a high return in Rugby and Quiz following successful encounters so far. There needs to be honourable mention of our impressive second place overall in the House Festival, plenty of hard work went into organising teams and activities which the students revelled in participating in. Thank you to all who have made the effort this term to participate and hopefully we can build on the enthusiasms of youth to make the best of our next two terms' work.

GNH

Prize Giving 2022

Prize Giving provided the opportunity for past and present students' efforts to be celebrated and it was pleasing to see so many of last year's cohort return to be presented with prizes and certificates. The evening was well supported, and a full hall watched the staff and dignitaries, including the Lord Mayor, process into the hall in all their splendour. The Headmaster led proceedings with his report of the year remembering the Head Prefect's attempts to bowl at his head in the staff v student

cricket match. The deputy head prefects followed this by reviewing the plethora of activities that students had participated in, including their academic endeavours, sport, music and drama.

For the second consecutive year, the Bailiff of the King Edward's Foundation was Mr Wheeldon, former head of KE Five Ways. In his speech he reiterated his description of the Bailiff's original role, for those not fortunate enough to have heard it the previous year.

The evening was punctuated by performances from Camp Hill's talented musicians. We were entertained by the string quartet of Joel Skaria, Harley Hau, Thomas Pitfield and Rhys Jamieson and their rendition of 'Waltzing Matilda', while Alex Hands charmed us with Gershwin's 'The Man I Love'.

The evening was rounded off with the Head Prefect's vote of thanks. Taran Dhaliwal eloquently thanked the governing body for all their hard work, whilst depicting their meetings as jocular parties with tea and cakes and more cakes.

A thank you must go to Mrs Crutchley for all the hours spent organising the event and without whom the evening would not be possible.



Mr Bowen with Lord Mayor Councillor Maureen Cornish and Mr Malcolm Cornish