



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Dear Parents and Carers

This feels like a historic document. A newsletter sent during term-time, but nearly two weeks after the school closed. I trust it won't happen again in any of our lifetimes. This experience is certainly writing in giant illuminated letters that education isn't just about learning stuff. This newsletter, of course, says the same thing. It tells the life of the school without mentioning learning stuff. There are trips and visits (including residential ones), there's curricular sport and extra-curricular skiing, there are competitions, puzzles and quizzes – all these are the lifeblood of Camp Hill.

It's hard to think back over the term without concentrating entirely on covid-19. The impact of that has been extraordinary and, somehow, these two weeks throw a giant shadow backwards as well as forwards. I'm so glad that this year's ski trip went to Austria and not to Italy. Auschwitz was our final overseas trip, with four boys making the life-changing journey this year, travelling back on the last day when trans-European travel was still possible. And then came the cancellations – the senior rugby tour and the Battlefields trip having fallen victim to the virus.

My calendar for last Friday says, "I'm going to Senior Drama." How sad. I do feel the senior boys have been particularly hard hit, especially the rugby players. No senior drama, no prom (how I hate that word), no rugby tour, no proper end of the year and final assembly, and, in a strange way, no real closure on A Levels.

I don't want this to be a miserable introduction, but I must acknowledge that this term has had another shadow over it. Those who didn't know Mike Southworth are unlucky. You would have been the richer if you had. Those who did know him, understand that it isn't the quantity of his service that we're all remembering with gratitude, it's the quality. We go on about his 50 years in the classroom and yes, that's an extraordinary number, but that's not what made him so special. The nature of the man was his gift to us; his good humour, his extraordinary abilities in so many spheres, his generosity of spirit and his gentle kindness. 50 years in one institution allowed him to bring those qualities to bear on a striking range of activities – hockey coach, cricket coach, drama director, history teacher, Head of History, House Master, playwright. He was dearly loved in the staff room for his unfailing cheerfulness, dazzling wit and ability to bring projects to perfect fruition whilst pretending never to be quite in control. Mike wore his wisdom lightly. His unexpected death in January hit the Camp Hill family hard.

It's strange to sit in my office looking out at an empty car park, knowing that my only company now is the reduced cleaning and caretaking team – there are no teachers or front office staff on site, although at 4:15 on a Thursday the place is normally still buzzing with sporty boys, bustling teachers and busy administrators. (I say 'empty' car park; actually there are those wretched Canada geese – is human to goose transfer of covid-19 possible?)

Today's activity has included Dr White coming in to collect goggles from the science departments and visors from DT. The visors (35 screens and 100 headbands to which they can be fitted) were made by Mr Singh, our tireless DT technician. Dr White's sister, a doctor at the QE, has said they are exactly what she and her colleagues are crying out for.



As always, my hope is that the school's newsletter will bring you a flavour of a busy and happy school – which we were until 20 March, at least; now we're more of an echoey one. I hope that it finds you well in a busy and happy home, but I am realistic enough to know that that won't necessarily be an accurate description for all. I am aware that some in the Camp Hill family are having a tough time at the moment; I do want to give my very best wishes to you all and I want to thank especially those who are working their socks off for others at the moment.

Stay well.

Martin Garrod

Chess

It's been an interesting term for our chess players this term. Over the past few months our teams have been battling away against a number of schools in the local area with various degrees of success.

As mentioned in previous articles, the local chess leagues have transitioned into an online competition. Our players met regularly on a Friday afterschool to play other schools, via the computers in the library. Whilst this has been mostly successful, many teams ready to play when we were, it has had a few downsides, especially when technical difficulties reared their heads. It has also meant that the style of play has changed, which has not suited everyone. Also, all schools involved have not always been able to field a full team, including Camp Hill on the odd occasion. Sadly, a number of schools have dropped out during the course of the year and our students mostly ended up playing against various teams from KES. Looking back on the scores for the various fixtures, many matches have been very even in terms of play with the winning margins very close. Other matches have been more clear-cut, and our teams have done very well on a number of occasions.

The season has been cut short due to the Covid-19 and a number of matches still need to be played. As you can imagine this is unlikely to happen now, especially as a significant number of players were in Year 11 and 13. When I hear more about what will happen with the results, and the teams final positions, I will report back in a future newsletter article.

Despite the move to online play for the chess league, there have been two tournaments played in the flesh, with CH players able to scrutinise their opponents every mood, often by looking for those tell-tale signs in their opponent's eyes.

On Friday 7th February 4 teams of intrepid chess players traversed the long distance to KES to fight for the honour of being crowned Chess Rapid Play champions. The teams were the Dark Knights of Chess, Chessmegadon, Carrot Crushers and Movistar Planet.

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

Over 5 rounds the players battled it out, considering whether to move their rook to D5, or was now the time to sacrifice the Bishop, going for the long game. It was a tight affair, positions changing regularly. Moving into R5 the Knights were 2nd, Movistar 3rd, Crushers 5th and Chessmegadon 9th. Each team faced some tough opponents in the final round. Our Dark Knights of Hemal, Devesh, Vish and Deniz against the best from KES, Movistar against the might of Hallfield. Though young, many of Hallfield's team could represent Team England.

Ultimately the Knights lost, but the Crushers won. This meant that the Carrot Crushers of Daniel Chen, Ryan Alexander, Ethan Ho and Akshay Suglani came 3rd, beating the Knights who came 5th via a tie break. Movistar 6th and Chessmegadon 8th. Congratulations to the Crushers for their 3rd place.

Honourable mentions go to Mowahid Shahbaz, Shrikannan Selvaganapathy, Ryan Alexander and Viswamedha Nalabotu for being the best in their teams.

The other main tournament in the calendar was the House Chess at the end of January. This was an interesting tournament, Seymour the defending champions and coming in as strong favourites. Initially all looked promising for Seymour, taking a quick 4-3 lead. However, an intense battle between Cian O'Dwyer and Imaad Zaffar, led to the players running out of time. As the balance of the match depended on this game all the Chess House captains were called together and unanimously decided that Cian was in the stronger position and was likely to have won the game, and so the points were given to Seymour, making them 5-3 victors on the day.

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

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

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

With 7 games played the score stood at 4-3 in Tudor's favour. In the final match, Maninder Kallay vs Humza Irfan, the winner would not only determine this particular game but the whole tournament. A tight, strategic game, this one could have gone on for quite some time, and it exceeded the 1 hour time limit for only the second time this tournament. However, as so much depended on this one match the time limit was waived and play continued. Ultimately Maninder forced Humza into an error, and with it Humza lost the match, giving Tudor the win against Beaufort. It also meant that Seymour won the tournament overall. Congratulations to them!

Chess is likely to resume in the Autumn. Any students interested in representing the school on the chess teams, or to take up the vacant role as Chess Captain should speak to me on our return.

Stay safe everyone.

Mr Oggelsby

Computing Updates



First Lego League competition

On the 22nd of February (yes, during half term!) the CHB team went to the University of the West of England (Bristol) to take place in the national finals of the First Lego League (FLL) tournament. While the competition was basically a repeat of the regional one we did before Christmas, this was altogether bigger and more intense, with 66 teams competing, live video-streaming by a film crew, lots of pumping music, etc.

We had redesigned the front end of the robot and worked on its reliability, as well as completely revamping our presentation in the light of feedback received. Even so, we found the competition serious, including several teams of engineering apprentices.

Despite the work of our robonauts, we never quite managed to get everything to work perfectly on any of our 3 competition runs, and hence undersold ourselves. We did, however, see some excellent robots and learned lots of techniques that should help us next year.

Everybody competed in good spirits and despite an early start (meeting at school at 6:15am during the holidays) were still full of energy on the way back.

Thanks to Ms Pearcey for helping on the day, and to Sarah's parents for providing doughnut encouragement!

Other competitions this term:

CyberFirst

Just a reminder that the main CyberFirst competition, which started in December, is still running with many already taking part and learning more about Cyber-security.

Bebras competition

Eight boys were invited to the national final of this competition in Oxford during February.

Reaching the final of the Seniors (14–16) or Elite (16–18) age groups is an impressive achievement, as 22,722 and 7,085 students respectively entered the first round for these age groups. Proshanto, Kevin M., Kevin X (Elite) and Ben, Raunaq, Peter, and Tingyi (Senior) were among the highest achieving students invited to the final round in their age groups, and were presented with their finalist's certificates at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College.



TCS Oxford competition

This competition is invitation only but more than 600 pupils qualified across the two Camp Hill schools. Always logistically difficult to organise, things were even harder this year as each school was closed for a day in the week of the competition. In the end 106 CHB students took part in the 60 minute individual programming competition.

Of those 106, 6 boys: Taheen (7M), Shubham (7K), Pruthvi (9K), plus Alex, Keven M. & Saksham (all Y13) qualified for the national final, which was scheduled to take place on March 25th. As we all know, Covid-19 meant that the boys competed online from home.

I'm pleased to announce that:

- Taheen finished in 6th place nationally in the Junior category, with Shubham in 11th place.
- Pruthvi placed 27th in the Intermediate age range.
- Saksham placed 7th nationally in the 'Elite' competition, with Kevin snapping at his heels in 8th place.

Given that more than 250 000 people took part, this represents a substantial achievement!

Perse programming competition

This is a team programming competition for Y7-11. Following a successful first round 14 teams qualified for the final round (10 from CHB and 4 from CHG). We brought this forward to compete before the Covid-19 closures were announced but this meant that only 6 of the CHB teams could take part.

The top team (P. Kippax, K. Sambhi & M. Sharma) got a score of 54.36, with the 2nd placed team (B. Brown, P. Chandar, P. Shrikaanth) scoring a creditable 43. Again, it is great to see so many demonstrating their skills and competing at a national level, particularly under the difficult current circumstances!

... and finally...

British Informatics Olympiad 2020

Saksham (Y13) has been invited to the final of the above competition, which would have taken place in Cambridge at the end of March. We wish him luck, whatever form it now takes!

EES (Engineering Education Scheme)

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

EES Eaton Team

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

The Eaton team has definitely seen this project as an incredible challenge, especially the fact that it is more software oriented. However over the past months, we have managed to create models from these engineering drawings, by using inkscape to edit vector images then putting them into modelling software such as fusion, completing the model from there. Or by using code to turn the engineering drawing into a black and white image, then using a tool we developed to allow us to choose which part of the drawing we want to model, that section is then turned into a series of coordinates by differentiating between black and white pixels, which are then finally graphed. By superposing multiple faces and choosing like coordinates, or by revolving the coordinates around an axis we can complete the entire model.

Both methods have their benefits and disadvantages, however we are proud that we have managed to make something of this unique brief. With the help of Dr Ali Hassan and Dr Richard Hood from the University of

Birmingham we have managed to take our project further to more complex shapes so we are very grateful for their help.

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

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

EES Rolls-Royce Team

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

The Rolls-Royce team saw this project as challenging, but incredibly interesting as we learnt a lot about control theory and how we can use it to return an unstable system to equilibrium, in our case using a ball on a seesaw-type beam, which must be returned to the centre of the beam by our control system.

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

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

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

Rolls-Royce Team: Siddharth Bagchi, Rajiv Nailadi, Khrishan Solanki, Dhruv Trehan, Mohammed Uddin.

English

We are sure this will be echoed elsewhere, but this has been an interesting and stressful term. On a positive note, we were pleased to be able to live stream a Royal Shakespeare production of 'Macbeth' to all our students in Key Stage Four on Thursday 5th of March. As Macbeth is one of our set texts, it proved to be essential viewing and has provoked some interesting discussion in lessons.

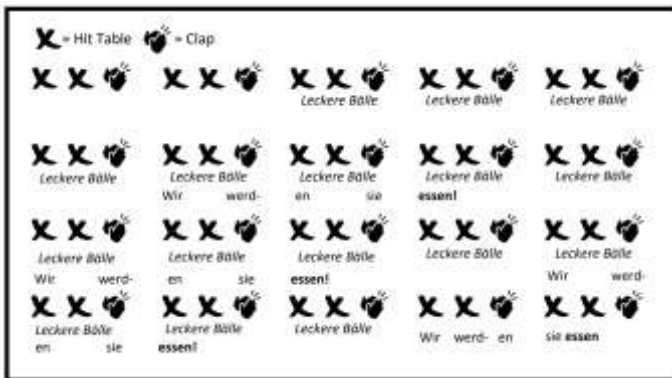
In addition, we are in the process of preparing our students for the Public Speaking Competition – the final of which is due to take place at the end of term. And Ms Buckley has organised a trip for Year 9 students to see 'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill on the 1st of April – though we are not sure if this will go ahead.

As a Department, we had planned to provide workshops on Public Speaking for Year 6 students at Colmore – but this event is been postponed till the summer, when hopefully it can go ahead.

MFL

Business Language Day

On the 10th March, Y9 were off timetable for the day for Business Language Day. The day proved to be an insightful and motivational day, not only to improve our language skills but also to see where languages can take you. First we had Stu, an old boy of the school, talk to us about his experiences with languages in school and how they influenced the career he would later be involved in. In school he had chosen double languages (French and German) for GCSE. After passing **both** exams with **full** marks he later got a job in marketing. Within his job, using French, he has travelled to a lot of countries for work and within the 2 week period after the language day, he would be travelling to 4 different places. He also talked about how using French, he helped 2 boys from Tunisia who spoke no English join his football club by speaking French with them, which would not have happened unless Stu had his language skills. He also reiterated (which is becoming increasingly relevant) the arrogance that Brits have with not learning languages and expecting everyone else to speak their own language. After Stu's talk we were set our first task.



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

Then we designed our packaging and leaflet by using as many of the items on the vocabulary sheet as possible.

After adding colour, one person in our team just couldn't resist making a life size box with the gum ball design that we had incorporated. After finally putting together all our items, everyone in our groups presented their product. We had seen some 'Okay' products (inside joke) and some really good pitches and then we presented. After performing a jingle and then seeing a surprise appearance from the mascot 'Hans der Hamster' we explained our product. We won the in class round, which led to us presenting to the whole year group. However, the competition was just too high. After seeing outstanding language and presentation skills from the other groups we just couldn't meet the standard. I think all in all, it was a really great opportunity to expand our knowledge in languages but also learn some of the more casual language used by French and German people. The insightful experience has been great for all of us providing a useful day of fun and learning.

After lunch, we had two language taster sessions from year 12s. The first one gave us an insight to Mandarin Chinese and some of its basic words and characters. We also learned some Chinese greetings and then spent the remainder of the half-hour trying (in most cases, fruitlessly) to write them out and putting together the most inappropriate sentences we could. On the practise sheet there was also the character for a type of Chinese noodles, which was apparently the hardest character in the language. Precious few rose to the challenge, and unfortunately it got the better of me.

The second taster was a crash course in Italian. We were saved the trouble of learning the alphabet, so we made considerably more progress with the actual language compared to Mandarin, but it was as fun as the Chinese nonetheless. We started off with a game of Italian bingo after learning the numbers from one to twenty and spelling our names in Italian. We then continued to blitz greetings, food, things in a restaurant, clothes and hobbies. For our last session we had a translation workshop, translating some interesting tweets from celebrities. All of year 9 would like to thank the MFL department for organising the day and Stu for volunteering to come and talk to us.



The Winning Group

Caleb Wilton, Sam Nouhov

Dr Ian Roberts of Warwick University Visiting Camphill Boys' German A Level Students

On 16 January, Year 13 German students were fortunate to have the opportunity to have a lesson taught by Dr Ian Roberts of Warwick University about the film "Goodbye Lenin", which the boys are studying as part of their A Level course. This was a valuable experience to the boys as not only were they able to obtain a greater insight into the film and the context in which it is set (Berlin at the time of reunification), but also to ask Dr Roberts about studying languages at university, and his experiences as a professor. We would like to thank Mrs Thomson for arranging the visit.

Rory Price U3

Music

At the beginning of the Spring Term it is good to look back at all the musical activity of the Christmas period. It's a most enjoyable time, but also a very busy one for school musicians.

The Associated Board and Trinity Examination went well, and we were pleased to have another very good set of results with a majority of 'merits' and 'distinctions'.

Forename	Surname	Form	Instrument	Grade	
Christy	Baiju	8J	Guitar	1	Merit
Kenny	Lau	8J	Violin	3	Merit
Leo	Chen	8K	Orchestral Percussion	3	Merit
Benjamin	Little	8J	Orchestral Percussion	3	Merit
Michael	Carson	8S	Orchestral Percussion	3	Distinction
Thomas	Pitfield	8K	Viola	4	

Vansh	Pradhan	9S	Guitar	4	Distinction
Chaithanya	Gowda	U8	Alto Saxophone	5	
Siddharth	Bagchi	L8	Guitar	5	
Viswamedha	Nalabotu	11J	Guitar	5	
Kishan	Sambhi	11M	Guitar	5	Merit
Jack	Mistry	8K	Trumpet	5	Distinction
Adam	Rarko	11K	Viola	6	Merit
Shangqing	Yang	L7	Tuned Percussion	6	Distinction
Saksham	Shah	U	Rock & Pop Drums	8	Merit
Qiyuan	Chen	L5	Flute	Diploma	Merit

We were delighted to be invited to sing with *The Midlands Hospital Choir* in their charity concert in Birmingham Town Hall. The charity was particularly appropriate: *clicsargent - young lives vs cancer*. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all. I was happy to receive this note from the *Hospital Choir* accompanist, Melissa Morris, a professional musician: "I'm so impressed with the choir, they sound amazing, and the work ethic of such a large group of young men really will have such a positive impact on their lives and their peers. Congratulations on your success!"

The School Choir were pleased to support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity again this year by singing carols for an hour in the lobby of the hospital. As well as entertaining the passing patients and their visitors, we raised over £200. After the event the hospital contacted us, invited back again in 2020, and wrote: "Thank you so much for coming in to perform last week in the hospital atrium! You raised an amazing amount and spread some lovely Christmas cheer!"



The School Choir sings in the atrium of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

On the last Monday of term, we held our Christmas Concert. As always, it was a packed evening with contributions from our senior and intermediate groups, many excellent ensembles, and both school choirs. Wind Band gave a very good account of themselves, performing first *Apache* – a piece first made famous by *The Shadows*, but now known to most because of a famous advert! There followed an exciting arrangement of James Bond tunes, followed by the seasonal *It's beginning to look like Christmas*. The School Choir's contribution was particularly accomplished this year. They began with the lively *Pastime with good company*, followed by two carols: *Mary had a baby* and *The Holly and the Ivy*. In the latter carol the flute was played by Connor Huss, and the piano by Godfrey Leung. I was very happy with our excellent smaller ensembles too: the senior String Quartet, Wind Quintet and Guitar Ensemble all played with great skill and conviction. I was very pleased that Sam Gray took a major part in a Sixth Form choir too. They performed a difficult Christmas carol arrangement with great musicianship. Concert Orchestra played three pieces at the end of the concert. They were disciplined and brought out the contrasts in Brahms' Symphony No 4 (Mvt.III), then more relaxed in the 'James Bond' tune *For your eyes only*. As is traditional, we finished with *Sleigh Ride*, during which Santa came out and distributed sweets to delighted younger pupils in the audience.



Jazz Ensemble



Christmas Concert

The last Wednesday of term the day for an important event in the school calendar, the school Carol Service, which is held in All Saint's Parish Church, King's Heath. This year the choir was large, with fifty singers, and particularly good, with many experienced and able singers. The service began with a lively version of *Riu, riu, chiu* a 16th century motet, after which Haziq Wani sang the traditional 'Once in royal David's City' most beautifully. There was then a balance of the old and new: John Rutter's attractive *Candlelight Carol* was sung with feeling, then the West Indian piece *Mary had a baby* was performed with enthusiasm and gusto, with solos from Dirugan Senthilvasan, Sam Gray, Thomas Pitfield, Sicheng Li, Harry Lownes and Jonathan Anderson. As we thought of the three kings, the choir performed *Lullay my liking* by Gustav Holst *a capella*, with excellent solos from Noah Lloyd, Sam Gray, Matthew Anderson and Sushant Shayam. Following the last reading there was an exciting performance of *The Holly and the Ivy* arranged by June Nixon (with flute solo played by Connor Huss). It was also good to have a pupil playing the organ voluntaries this year: Cian O'Dwyer in Year 13 played a short piece before the service and then the famous *Toccata* by Widor afterwards, at the end of which he received rousing applause from choir and congregation! We were delighted to have a full church to support this event, and they played their part well, joining in lustily with the singing of the carols. Well done to all choristers for all their hard work towards what proved to be a really musical and atmospheric carol service.



The School Choir at the Carol Service

Just a few weeks into the term, our Concert Orchestra performed in a prestigious Choral Festival organised by The Royal School of Church Music in Birmingham Cathedral. We have taken part in this event for the past five years now, and it gives the pupils the opportunity to play in the wonderful acoustic of our Baroque Cathedral. The event went particularly well this year. Here is what Mark Lawrence, Director of Music at West House School (and a past parent at Camp Hill) wrote about the event for the Royal School of Church Music event, Church Music Quarterly:

"An annual fixture in the Birmingham RSCM scene is the 'come and sing' Choral Evensong held in Birmingham Cathedral (St Philip's) on the last Sunday of January when the cathedral choir is by tradition singing elsewhere in the diocese. Simon Palmer directs an amassed choir from RSCM affiliated churches and schools, accompanied by the

very proficient Concert Orchestra of the King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools (Girls' and Boys') which he directs, with Darren Hogg playing the organ. This has been a popular event for several years.

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

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

With 90 minutes of intensive rehearsal and a short break for refreshment and robing, the 3.30 pm service soon arrived, and we were supported by a full congregation of families and supporters. The popular vote of the congregation was that it was an inspiring and worthwhile service. Many thanks to cathedral Precentor, the Revd Canon Dr Josephine Houghton, for leading the service and to Simon Palmer for organising and conducting."



King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools' Concert Orchestra in Birmingham Cathedral

On Monday 3rd February we took all the Year 7 pupils to hear the CBSO (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra) perform in Symphony Hall. The orchestra put on a concert designed for KS3 pupils, and it is free to pupils from all over the City. This year the concert was called *KS3: CBSO Dissected* and the programme covered music from 1830 right up to 2012. The boys listened really well and said that they enjoyed the event. I think they particularly enjoyed Berlioz's exciting *Marche au supplice (March to the Scaffold)* which has a 'programme' (story) accompanying it, which tells of a man going to his death, and in the end his head is chopped off by a guillotine and bounces into a basket!

Our experienced and dedicated team of seventeen specialist visiting instrumental teachers teach instrumental lessons every week, and many of them direct an ensemble too. Once a year we organise an Instrumental Parents'

Evening when parents have the opportunity to meet their son's instrumental teacher and discuss progress. This year the meeting was held in the Girls' School Hall, on Tuesday 10th March. It was a popular event, and many parents commented how useful it was to meet with the instrumental teachers and discuss their sons' instrumental lessons and how they are getting on.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mike Southworth in February. Mike and I worked together for over 30 years at Camp Hill, producing memorable musicals, plays and concerts. He was an inspirational teacher, and always supportive of the music department, and appreciative of the standards that we achieved. Thus, I was pleased and honoured that his wife, Carol, asked us if the School Choir would sing at his funeral. The funeral was on Monday 2nd March at 1 pm in St Alphege Parish Church, Solihull, and we asked Year 8 pupils and older to attend. In *The Lord is my shepherd* by Howard Goodall, Wilf Kane sang a calm and memorable solo treble line, and then the altos, tenors and basses performed the beautiful anthem *If ye love me* by Thomas Tallis in its original low, rich key of C major. A selection of First World War songs from *Oh! What a lovely war* was most poignant, and a reminder of the many fine shows that Mike had directed at Camp Hill. The service finished with organ music, tunes from *Les Miserables*, another great show that we put on together. It concluded with a rousing version of *Do you hear the people sing?*

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

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

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

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

The House Music Competition

GCSE Performances

Associate Board and Trinity 'grade' examinations

Senior Drama (with 'Always look on the bright side of life' & 'Men in Tights'!)

When we realised that the school was going to have to close, I told all the boys to take their instruments home, and reminded them that they now have lots of time to practise. I hope that this is going well!

We all look forward to the time when normal musical activities can resume.

SFP

Widening Access Activities

During the spring term we continued our Primary School Steam ACE sessions in association with CHG, with events taking place on February 8 and 29. The first session focused on science and technology with the boys producing slow-marble runs and building crystalline tower structures out of cocktail sticks and marshmallows. Making origami stars also proved to be a hit. In the second session a few weeks later, the focus moved to Arts and Humanities. Alongside modelling castles out of fruit boxes (which they could take home) and the taking of a treasure hunt around the school building. Usually this was done outdoors but the February weather and condition of the pitches meant that the dragon hunting was forced indoors for the first ever time. The activities proved to be very popular and the

boys were left with a very positive impression of the school, especially from our Sixth Form helpers who were as excellent as ever. Thanks to Jagminder Hundal and Katy Hodges for their enthusiastic leadership in these events. Alongside these sessions we have been running a SuperMaths club on Saturday at Camp Hill Girls on 14 March with activities run by our Head of Maths, Janaki Garg. We have also been communicating with local schools about our admissions and, in particular, we were welcomed by Colmore School where we were able to run an information session and talk individually to parents during progress evening. We hope that our regular run of summer activities and support can in some way be continued over the next term in order to enable more students to join us from the local area.

GNH

Sport

Badminton

A season that has unfortunately come to an abrupt but understandable pause.

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

I sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to play later in the year. The Badminton England organisers would like to run the event in the autumn. Until then, best wishes to you all.





MWD

Year 8/9 Basketball

The year 8/9 basketball team has gone from strength to strength this year. Numbers attending Tuesday lunch time sessions has massively increased on previous years, with many students coming along to learn new skills, compete against their friends and have fun. All of this has been under the guidance of year 11 basketball players Sam Morris and Zach Hobson-Taher. Both students have given up a huge amount of their free time to help coach the younger students, passing on their experience.

In competition, the boys have come up against well-established schools in the local area on 2 different occasions, firstly during the annual 'round-robin' which took place before the Christmas break. On this occasion, the squad found it difficult to compete with schools who have trained and competed regularly for many years. From their 6 games Camp Hill drew 2 and lost 4 games, lots to improve upon and work on in training.

More recently, a different mix of boys took place in the School Games local qualifiers, competing against some schools from the previous tournament and some new faces. This was a much improved showing from a squad which consisted of younger students overall. Although the squad did not qualify, they did compete extremely well, winning, drawing and losing along the way. In the final game against eventual winners UoB, the squad's progression over the year was evident, narrowly missing out on a win by a couple of baskets.

The squad's overall effort, determination and improvement was evident from coach Morris at the end of the tournament, 'I'm proud of you all'. Some of the players will now move up to the year 10/11 team next year, with others taking their experience with them into the new year 8/9 squad in the 2020/21 campaign.

U16 Basketball

A frustrating end to the season for the U16 basketball team with two out of three matches being forfeited by the opposition. However, Camp Hill did manage to get a game in against Kings Norton Boys. It was one of those days where everything clicked for us, meaning we triumphed 45-18. Sam Morris (14) and Mustafa Shoukat (16) were highly influential on the day. Emery Uzoma and Omaree Johnson both scored four points each, showing superb athleticism throughout. Joe Day, Zach Hobson-Taher, Omar Ismail, Toby Taylor, Harley Hau and Chude Ndozi also chipped in with some valuable performances. Three 'victories' to end the league campaign meant Camp Hill finished with six wins and two losses. This was enough to see them through to the Birmingham Schools finals to be played against Aston Manor. Unfortunately, this scheduled just before Easter, but with school closures, we wait and see as

to when the final will be rearranged. Whatever the result the U16's should be proud of their efforts and progress made throughout the season. My thanks to Captain Sam Morris who has not only lead from the front on the court but has also helped coach the team superbly.

TJB



Under 16 Basketball Team Photo

1st & 2nd XI Football

This season has seen the most disruption to fixtures in Camp Hill's illustrious footballing history. With the state of pitches all around the region being so poor since November and lack of match and Wednesday games action it has been a credit to the players that they have performed so well in the 4 weeks available after Christmas before the shutdown of all fixtures and Cup Competitions.

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

An excellent win away at Princethorpe College against a slightly weakened team allowed us to come away with a 4-2 convincing win with a superb goalkeeping display from Aditya and the backfour defenders including a masterclass from Sam Hope, Patrick and Philo and Taran. The Seconds also played very well winning 5-1.

The Seconds then travelled to Bablake narrowly losing 1-0 after Bablake requesting the first team not to travel!

The standout performance of possibly the whole season then came in what proved to be the last game of the season on the 12th February. Always a physical test and having lost there for the last 2 seasons the firsts put in an outstanding display of team unity and spirit. Again Aditya, Bilal, Sam, Patrick held on and stopped a barrage of attacks, Henry cleared two off the line and Camp Hill held their nerve. Then 2 wonderful goals from Ciaran and one from Richard Amoshe who has emerged as a powerhouse of a football player led a 3-0 win. This stunned the Swinford players and referee who awarded a soft consolation penalty which Aditya duly saved. This goes to show the amazing work ethic and team spirit the boys possess.

The West Midlands Cup game was cancelled and this clearly was our year to add some Silverware to the cabinet. Apparently Sandwell Academy were delighted the competition was cancelled

Henry has led the team superbly well in the most difficult season on record and his organisation and performances have been commendable. Ciaran has been the top goal scorer and overall star player with some magnificent goals

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

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

Mr Speake

U14 Hockey

Despite starting and ending with losses, the U14 hockey team have had a brilliant debut season. We started out on 15 October 2019 as fourteen players of mixed experience waiting to play for the first time on AstroTurf, and 20 weeks, 6 matches and 8 goals later, we had proven ourselves against a range of schools, from OSH to Five Ways (some more than others). We've survived all 6 matches without injury; a match without a goalkeeper (even though the kitbag had been checked twice), which we also won; some really good play from other schools; Mr. O' Malley's questionable choice of music and, most inexplicably, Mr. Taylor's driving- we we're as strong and experienced as ever. We would like to thank Mr. Burgess for coaching us and Mr. Duncan, Mr. O' Malley and Mr. Taylor for getting us to the venues and giving us tips, as well as umpiring. We look forward to the 2020-1 season - bring it on!

Caleb Wilton- Captain

2nd XI Hockey

The season managed to complete before school was closed and we were grateful for the final fixture (more later). A pity House Hockey did not happen though.

In September 2018 we had a senior squad of only 21 players. A year on and that number had risen to 38, perhaps partly due to Mrs Bourne's recruitment skills in bringing in half a dozen boys to Year 12 who could play. Also due to the enthusiasm of the Year 11 who had enjoyed themselves in the junior years.

This season's statistics do not make for stunning reading, at least not in terms of winning games. However, we must believe that we have laid ground for next year in terms of skill, commitment and enjoyment. The challenge may still be goal scoring. Defensively the boys have improved a lot, but up front it has been hard to hit the back of the net. Hence, a fair number of narrow losses were suffered.

What joy then to finally taste victory in the last game, against Bablake, and to score not once, not twice, but thrice! Thank you Ben Brown (2) and Zain Rizvi for bagging those.

I have enjoyed taking the team on Wednesday afternoons, the squad have been good company and a pleasure to coach. I am grateful to James Thomas who has captained with a calm assurance and set a fine example to his side. Johns Noble will also be missed, if only for his tight fitting black trackies and his falling over! Connor Huss and Devesh Aggarwal both played 12 of the 13 matches and made significant contributions. The indomitable Humza Irfan made 11 appearances, new signing Tom (the careers master) King 10. Hemal Aggarwal, William Yang and Andrew Lim also deserve mention and perhaps compete for the most improved player of the season award.

Thanks to all who played, enjoy the summer and I hope to see you all on the pitch again in the autumn.

MWD

U12 Rugby

The new year brought with it plenty of rugby for the U12 sides, with matches coming thick and fast in January and early February. The A-D teams each started the term with matches against Adams (10th Jan), KE Stratford (17th Jan)

and Bishop Vesey's (24th Jan) and it was very pleasing to see that they had continued to build on their performances in the autumn term. High numbers at training, from every team, meant that new skills were put to good use and every team improved their rucking and tackling, as well as general game awareness. The highlight for the C and D teams was their closely fought win at KE Stratford (both 25-30). February started well with the A and B teams recording their first victories of the season at home against Queen Mary's in two very competitive games (15-10 and 25-20 respectively). Saturday 8th February saw the A team play against CHRFC for the second time this season. The match was closely contested and the development of the school team was clear; they really have come a very long way since that first match in October! Waterlogged pitches meant a break in matches and training on grass, but it was very pleasing to see that didn't put anyone off coming to training. It was great to see that (even if our contact was a little rusty) our handling skills were still up to scratch at the Greater Birmingham tournament on Friday 13th March. Well done to all the students who were involved in this very enjoyable season and thank you to the parents for your support at matches.

SMB



Under 12 Rugby Team Photo

U13 Rugby

The weather always seems to play a part in Camp Hill Rugby seasons during the Spring term and this year has been no exception. Persistent heavy rain has led to most of the fixtures being cancelled, but we did manage three matches which very much reflected the season as a whole. A 20-20 draw v Adams GS (the team's speciality, as it was their third draw of the season), a loss to Bishop Vesey and a second commanding victory against Camp Hill RFC 50-15.

The atrocious weather did relent enough for the season ending Greater Birmingham Tournament to take place at KES. Camp Hill achieved 3 wins on the day beating: Kings Norton, Bishop Walsh and KE Sheldon but played their best rugby against Bishop Vesey (the eventual winners) losing narrowly 0-5. Indeed, the team were unlucky not to score after sustained periods of pressure, but eventually succumbed to a break away try.

The U13 playing record this year has been encouraging, P12 W4 L5 D3. The team managed to score 60 tries and conceded 59! Seven players in the squad have played in every match but a few players deserve a special mention and were presented with certificates: Christie Baiju was named Best Forward, Ayaan Butt Best Back, Karl Rodrigo for

his try scoring (23 tries) and Edward Cheung Most Improved Player. Matthew Ransbotyn also received an award for his role as Captain.

Mr Duncan and I have enjoyed taking the U13 team this year. They have trained enthusiastically and in consistent numbers on Tuesday nights. This enthusiasm has been maintained on Games days and on Saturdays. They have considerable potential as a team and we look forward to seeing them develop next year as they experience the 15 a side version of the game.

Well done the U13s!

CMJ/MWD



Under 13 Rugby Team Photo

U14 Rugby

The U14 have made great strides in their rugby capability this term. The improvement in their handling skills and game awareness has enabled them to enjoy some lovely free-flowing rugby at times. A number of games were not played due to waterlogged pitches, however we did enjoy competitive encounters with Bishop Vesey (Lost 34-19) KE Fiveways (Lost 29-19) and Camp Hill RFC (Lost 34-19). On Thursday 5th March we travelled up to Carlisle on many of the boys' first rugby tour. The first fixture, against Cockermonth School, on the Friday afternoon was a very physical one. The boys played their hearts out but unfortunately, as the scoreline suggests, the opposition were simply too strong for us and we were beaten 50-0. On the Saturday morning the boys produced a superb display to secure their first win of the season against William Howard School. Notable performances include four tries from Ibrahim Tahir, a superb work rate from Ismail Rahman, and key interventions from newly-appointed kicking coach Philip Krone. On the Sunday we travelled home via our final fixture at Wigton RFC. On a dreadful pitch, in very windy conditions, with little sleep and playing in their third match in three days, the players did themselves proud. The game was close throughout but Wigton edged it 31-24. Well done to all involved.

RCJ



Under 14 Rugby Team Photo

U15 XV

The New Year started with a tough block of fixtures against Adams GS, Five Ways and Bishop Vesey. Adams GS was a great game of school boy rugby, both sides looked to play from every opportunity. Even from their own posts, which allowed Shabir Ahmed to run the length of the pitch and score the try of the season. To their credit, Adams showed the same endeavour and scored some wonderful tries to secure a 31-7 victory. Antonio Velasquez worked his socks off and took the well earned man of the match award. Up next was KE Five Ways, a closer game than the 36-10 scoreline suggests. Tries for Camp Hill came from Sam Ankrah and AJ Velesquez. Bishop Vesey also proved to be a tough encounter. Although Camp Hill were resolute in defence, they couldn't cope with the constant pressure from Vesey, who went on to record a 38-10 victory. Two tries came from captain Emile Nguiesy (including a kick, chase and gather from a hooker) and a man of the match award for Toby Taylor who slotted into fly half admirably. The U15's then took on Camp Hill RFC in a highly anticipated fixture. Both sides did not disappoint, allowing for an enthralling contest. Vernon Kenworth, Toby Taylor, Hasan Syed and Shabir Ahmed got their names on the score sheet, but it wasn't quite to be for the U15s as they lost out in the end 28-20. After a tough season, not just in terms of results but also the injury pile up, the end of season tour would provide some well-deserved enjoyment. Three very good tour matches took place. A 13-7 victory kicked things off against Cockermouth. Then two close game against Austin Friars and Wigton. Although these games didn't go our way in terms of the score line- they did show how much the side has developed and improved throughout the year. Well done to all the lads on your efforts throughout the season. I wish you all the very best in senior rugby.

TJB



Under 15 Rugby Tour Photo

1st XV Rugby

Well it wasn't quite the end of the season that any of us had planned for!

Spare a thought for those boys who have had their Camp Hill rugby careers cut short by Covid-19. The virus has laid waste to fixtures, tour, and a whole host of end-of-season rituals. But this year's squad have taken the whole situation in their typically good natured way – a true sign of what a great bunch they are.

We have played *some* rugby in 2020. And whilst the results don't make for especially pleasant reading, the passion and style with which the boys have played has been exemplary. I think that they have been consistently tremendous ambassadors for the school and have always competed hard and fairly, and have never allowed a negative score line to trouble them unduly. It seems like they have enjoyed their rugby and they deserve to have done.

Defeats against Adams Grammar and KE Stratford (13-10 and 26-5 respectively) were closer affairs than in recent years and we really ought to have beaten the Shropshire outfit. The Bishop Vesey game was a heavier defeat but even there we made them earn it and were still well in the game up to about three-quarters of the way through.

It was certainly nice to see the team register a well-deserved win against Camp Hill Colts. They played some of their best rugby of the season and hit the club side well a well-disciplined and dominant performance, running out 29-5 winners. And as it turned out, this was to be the last ever 15-a-side match for the team. So, it was a fitting way to end and a nice way for the Year 13s to bow out. They have been excellent contributors to rugby at Camp Hill and we wish them all the best for their futures; rugby and everything else.

Oliver Ebenezer has been a superb captain this year, easily gelling the squad into a cohesive and competitive unit and getting the best out of all of his players. We bid fairwell to some Camp Hill rugby heavyweights in the form of Moreau-Smith, Birch, Sula, Clark, James-Thomas, Williams, Dixon, Ali and Gupta. Let's also acknowledge the role that Tommy Ransbotyn has played in 1st XV rugby over his time in school, although, due to injury, unfortunately not this season.

I am very hopeful that we will be able to recognise the contribution of all of the senior boys in an appropriate way just as soon as life gets back to some sort of normality. I will make no promises as to what that looks like yet but we are determined to do something to mark the end of their school careers.

As ever my thanks go to my fellow coaches, to the whole squad of players, and to the parents who have supported us through rain and shine this season (and indeed over the last seven years!)

AJC



1st XV Team Photo

2nd XV/ U16's (Development XV)

A somewhat frustrating second half of the season for the 2nd XV/ 16's (development XV). A number of matches were cancelled due to the unbelievable amount of rain that fell in January and February. However, the boy's attitude throughout all the rain has been magnificent and we did manage to complete two fixtures against Adams GS and Bishop Vesey this side of the New Year. Adams GS was an excellent game of rugby against two well matched sides. George Lanham finished off a superb team try and Joe Day contributed with a fine individual score and two conversions. Simeon Humphries took the man of the match honour, filing in admirably in a number of positions. However, Camp Hill left themselves too much to do in the final third and lost out 25-14. Bishop Vesey was unfortunately a different story. The 2nd XV came up against a very strong outfit and had to defend relentlessly for large parts of the game. The final score line was 41-0 to Bishop Vesey- Zak Ahmed was man of the match, having made a number of vital try saving tackles. To finish the season, the U16 took part in a 7's festival hosted by KES. Adams GS, KE Stratford, KES and Camp Hill all played each other with some fantastic rugby on display. Results were not recorded during the festival, which allowed for some very entertaining rugby to be played throughout. My thanks to Louis Peters and Sam Morris, who have captained the team superbly this year, as well as all the lads- whose attitude and application has been excellent.

TJB



Under 16's Rugby KES 7 Team Photo



Under 18 Rugby KE Stratford 7's Photo

Ski Trip 2020

During the February half term, forty-two boys and six staff went on the much anticipated ski trip to St Anton, Austria. We were blessed with gorgeous weather (if a little chilly) and beautiful scenery throughout the week, with sunshine all bar one day which was a total white out. All boys enjoyed the excellent array of ski slopes the vast area of St Anton, has to offer. The beginners progressed quickly and were soon able to take the gondola, allowing the boys to tackle some more challenging slopes, under the expert guidance of their instructor. The intermediates (especially the older boys) were desperate for challenge and somehow managed to make their way down a black run after not many days of skiing tuition. The advance group, led by the superb skier Max Russell had a blast, exploring many miles of the immense St Anton region. Not only was the older boy's application to skiing superb, but the way they helped the youngsters in the group with equipment and instruction as a delight to see. As a teacher, this made me extremely proud of our lads. Musa Ahmed, was adopted by the advanced group as their little bother for the week, Krishan Kaushal started to eat again by day four, stalwart Mr Bruten showed his class on the slopes and a great time was had by all. My thanks to the superb hotel staff and coach drivers who helped the trip run so smoothly. My thanks also to all the boys and staff for their contributions throughout. Lastly, my sincere thanks the parents for supporting the trip. Roll on next year.





U18 Water Polo

A season to remember for the U18 Water Polo team. After preliminary rounds, Camp Hill qualified for the national middle tier competition which was one higher than last year. Predominately independent schools compete at the finals and we found ourselves competing against St Peters- York and the London based; Queen Elizabeth, Dulwich College and St Pauls. First up was a thrilling 5-4 victory over Queen Elizabeth. Scorers for Camp Hill were Matt Dixon, Krish Kaushal 3 and an own goal. This was followed by a superb 13-4 win over St Peters. Kaushal 4, Dixon 2 and Lorcan Halstead an impressive 7 were the scorers. The toughest two matches remained. This proved to be the case as Camp Hill were beaten by a very strong and eventual winners Dulwich College 6-1. Second place was up for grabs in the final game against St Pauls. Camp Hill matched their opening throughout but unfortunately St Pauls scored some late goals to take an 8-5 victory. Matt Dixon again scored, as did player of the tournament Krish Kaushal who chipped in with another 4. A mention should also go to goal keeper Simon Halstead who was excellent throughout. Overall, Camp Hill U18 finished 3rd on the day which places them 9th best nationally. The following boys deserve immense credit for their efforts this year: Matt Dixon, Simon Halstead, Krishan Kaushal, Michael James-Thomas, Sai Potluri, Jason Yeo, Leon Zhang, Lorcan Halstead, Ross Evans, Rufus Hall, Joe Day, Daniel Robinson. Captain Matt Dixon has been inspiration this season on and out of the water- my thanks to him for all his efforts.

TJB



2020 Results Summary

TEAMS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
RUGBY						
1 st XV	14	7	1	6	297	280
7's	4	0	0	4	17	91
2 nd XV	5	0	0	5	67	163
U/16	3	0	0	3	25	95
7's	3	1	0	2	37	47
U/15	14	5	0	9	237	374
B	1	0	0	1	20	25
U/14	14	1	0	13	233	517
B	3	1	0	2	65	75
U/13	12	4	3	5	300	295
B	2	0	0	2	25	60
C	1	2	0	0	30	25
U/12	9	1	0	9	95	275
B	7	1	1	5	55	210
C	4	3	0	1	175	65
D	4	1	0	3	75	110
HOCKEY						
1 st XI	13	4	2	7	20	54
2 nd XI	13	1	3	9	11	31
U/15	10	6	0	4	36	14
U/14	6	3	1	2	8	8
BASKETBALL						
U/16	6	4	0	2	130	67
U/13	6	0	2	4	46	20
FOOTBALL						
1 st XI	9	6	1	2	31	22
2 nd XI	5	3	0	2	11	13
WATER POLO						
U/18	11	7	0	4	101	62

U18 Waterpolo- National Plate Finals 3rd Place

Badminton U16- National Finalists

Tennis U15- Regional Winners

U16 Table Tennis- South Birmingham School Games 2nd

U15 Handball-South Birmingham School Games 2nd

House News

House Rugby Teams



Beaufort



Howard



Seymour



Tudor

Beaufort Report

The Spring term was a productive one for Beaufort. Seymour had made significant gains over the other houses in the Autumn term and it looked like Ms Puri's golden army were set to storm ahead.

A few good results for Beaufort levelled the playing field, though, starting with Junior Quiz and Chess.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOM

Howard Report

This will be a long-remembered term for many reasons, but I fear that Howard's contribution will not be high on the list of memorable experiences. The highlight of the term was the swimming gala, always a mighty fine event and one in which many Howardian heroes of the past have been made. We started in second place following some impressive standards, year 8 in particular performing exceptionally consistently to lead the way. The question was, could we hold on to this position or even improve it? The afternoon soon demonstrated that Tudor would disappear into the distance and the real battle was for second place. It was between Beaufort and ourselves and we managed to hold a marginal advantage all the way through to the very final race – as relays counted double, it was up to us to beat Beaufort (or hope for a disqualification) or be pipped at the very last. We were pipped at the very last. Nevertheless, it was a great afternoon for all but Mr Hill's blood pressure. Particularly noteworthy performances from Anthony Demitry who co-won the intermediates in spite of being in the lower age bracket in the section and to Adam Birch, already proving himself to be future House Captain potential, through a strong win in the year 7s and leading his squad to relay success.

Out on the rugby pitch our year 7s and 8s performed valiantly in spite of the tough competition and, in spite of gaining few points, made each fixture a challenge for the opposition. Where we had high hopes in the senior competition, we have been unable to fit in the fixtures, likewise for table tennis, hockey and music. Seymour's romp through the House Quiz competition has fallen at the penultimate hurdle, the last two rubbers unable to take place thus far. Howard, having recorded a win in each section thus far are looking likely to finish in bronze. Chess though was able to take place and it was surprising to see the way it ended up with our hopeful charge to victory curtailed by a resurgent Seymour chess team, a big thanks to Karan Kukreja for marshalling the enthusiastic juniors throughout.

We said our truncated goodbyes to years 11 and 13 before planning and it was great to award the VB Trophy for Howard to Josh Birch who has been a magnificent competitor throughout his seven years in Howard House. Bravo! A huge thanks to House Captain, Belal Stitan, for his efforts and I wish to also thank those others who have been great stalwarts for Howard over the past years and wish each of you all the best for the future.

GNH

Seymour Report

After ending the Autumn term on a high, Seymour had a high reputation to maintain, and... read on to find out!

The Spring term was jam-packed with house events, first up was the Junior quiz. The selection of the quiz team was made by Joel Foster, who wrote a 'wicked [preliminary] quiz in order to separate the wheat from the chaff', he obviously did a very good job of this, as the junior team, led by Omar Al-Zubair won every single round, with fantastic performances from Raphael Mahgerefteh, to continue Seymour's success in the house quiz competition.

Next came chess. The team was organised by Vish Nalabotu. The organisation was no mean feat as it involved coordinating boys from every year in the school, and making sure we had full teams for all of the three after school events (by week three of three, Vish had this sorted!). The first event started with a bit of a panic as we were one competitor short, however Omar Ismail stepped in at the 11th hour, and helped us secure an initial win. Round two of three didn't go as well, and Seymour started the final round on the back foot. I must admit, I saw no way through the competition, but Vish and his team did not share my pessimism, gaining 6.5 points out of a possible 8, and securing an overall win of the chess competition for Seymour. Well done to all those who competed!

The junior rugby competition was made up of separate tournaments for years 7 and 8. The year 8s were organised and led by Matthew Ransbotyn and Math Misghina, we had an incredibly strong team, made up of most the Year 8 A team, the boys had a very successful competition and finished in first place. Reuben Howard and Yahye Badeed organised the year 7 team, for a lot of these boys it was their debut event representing the house, they played very well and ended finishing in a well deserved first place (well joint first with Beaufort). Combined with the Year 9 and 10 results from last term, these successes put Seymour in a very good position for the overall rugby competition this year.

The swimming standards and swimming gala followed. Swimming has notorious been a weaker event for Seymour... we ended the standards in third place. Teams organised by Sicheng Li and George Hill fought hard, but, alas, the swimming competition wasn't for us, and Seymour finished in last place.

The second half of the Spring term promised much more in terms of house events and competitions. Teams had already been prepared for house events which were mainly in the last few weeks of the term. Unfortunately, due to the school closure these events could not happen, but nevertheless I would like to say well done to Kevin Xu, Haseeb Arif, Abnash Sian, Praneeth Udathu, Ollie Ebenezer, and Nikhil Gupta for your efforts in organising teams for these events.

Good luck to all of the Year 13 leavers, and thank you for all of your help in organising house events, especially our Captain and Vice-captain Nikhil Gupta and Henry Moreau-Smith. I am looking forward to seeing the rest of you when we are back and cheering on your many successes!

ANP

Tudor Report

It has been a strange term to say the least, but I would like to say a big thankyou first off to every member of the house for their efforts. The term started with the chess team staying behind to play their competition, they persevered, but could only manage to win one of the rounds. I would like to say thank you to Mowahid Shahbaz for his efforts in organising the team.

The Inter house quiz team had started off their competition winning the only two rounds played, I hope that they will be able to complete the final round on our return, whenever that may be.

The House Swimming competition was the highlight of this term for Tudor. Being one of five biggest house events in the school year (the others being Athletics, Cricket, Cross country and Rugby), the competition involves contributions from the majority of the school. It was fantastic to see all the Junior and Intermediate members of Tudor house giving it their all in the swimming standards, with this collaborative effort allowing us to secure a lead going into the House Gala. On the day of the Gala, Tudor proved to be capable not only on average across the house through standards, but also through the competency of its best swimmers in each age group. Multiple individual races were won by Tudor swimmers, including Felix Iliff for the Year 7 swimmers in the breast stroke, Shrikannan Selvaganapathy and Karl Rodrigo for the Year 8 swimmers in the breast and back stroke respectively, Sam Nouhov for the Intermediate swimmers in the breast stroke, Leon Zhang for the Senior swimmers. Special mention going to those swimmers who stepped up to fill absences and Shrikannan Selvaganapathy joint winner of the Year 8 Victor Ludorum and Sam Nouhov joint winner of the Intermediate Victor Ludorum. All swimmers also performed brilliantly in the team relays, allowing Tudor to maintain the lead carried forward from the standards to win the competition, along with a joint-victory for the relay cup.

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

As it might be the only time I can have a chance to say a big thank you to the older members of Tudor, for your efforts during your years representing the house. I would like to thank Leon Zhang and Joe Clark for their help in running the house this year and behind the scenes cajoling and organising. Over this time of self-isolation please remain safe and whenever we return I look forward to seeing you all.

Leon Zhang / AJN