



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of another successful Summer term and as we bring the academic year to a close, there are so many things to be grateful for. I often talk to the students about gratitude and how important it is not to take things for granted, and this newsletter is as good a place as any to lead by example.

The community we have at Camp Hill Boys is a wonderful place to be, and it is a privilege to work alongside the amazing students and staff. Together we have experienced scores of school trips, clubs, societies, drama productions, and musical concerts, and the sporting calendar has been as broad as it is deep. Truly there is something for everyone at Camp Hill, and where a gap in provision appears, it is all too quickly plugged by students and staff volunteering to launch a new club.

I therefore pay tribute to all members of the community: the students, the teachers, the support staff, the parents, the governors and the Foundation staff who all work tirelessly for the good of the many. Selflessness is a key attribute that the staff display in huge doses and it rubs off quickly on the students – the communal spirit of giving has never been so strong.

It is important that I go on record to express my deep gratitude for the service given by this year's staff leavers: Mr Bruten, Mr Norton, Mr Rees, Ms Buckley, Mr Brear, Mr Demell, Mr Kenworthy and Mr Azam have led the way in their spirit of generosity and kindness and we will miss them greatly. Whilst some of these wonderful people have earned a much deserved retirement, the rest are going on to greater things having secured new opportunities to carry on making a positive difference in the world.

However, I could not let this moment pass without focusing on one particular individual who has served the school for 35 years and who has left an indelible impression on every member of the community. Mr Bruten has taught thousands of maths lessons to hundreds of students, he has led the maths department, he has led countless school trips including "danger sports" such as rock climbing or skiing, he has coached sports teams, taken part in school drama productions (even agreeing to wear dubious costumes), and more recently, as a senior leader, he has made a huge positive impact on the wellbeing and success of our staff. There is no simpler way to put it than he is both loved and respected by everyone, and we will miss him! I will add my personal thanks for his friendship, support and wisdom during my time as Headmaster in this wonderful school.

Mr Bruten would be the first to say that no one is indispensable and we should not worry about his departure but instead retain hope and optimism for a bright future. As I write these words we are witnessing the birth of a new UK government and whatever our political leanings we must retain hope that life in the UK and in Birmingham will continue to improve. Schools will continue to play an important part in developing social cohesion and promoting optimism and at Camp Hill Boys we will continue to play our part.

To this end I am pleased to say that the exam season went well and although there was the usual jangling of nerves, most students looked excited, relieved, happy even when they came out of each exam. We know that they have worked hard to prepare properly for their exams so they don't need any luck, but we wished them the best of luck anyway and we look forward to seeing lots of happy faces on results days.

You will be aware that the school continues to invest in our facilities, and although the all-weather pitch project has experienced significant delays wrapped up in planning permission challenges (we are still awaiting responses from various local and national consultees), I am pleased to announce that the second phase of our capital investment programme has made significant headway. The building of the new Camp Hill Community Hub has received approval from the King Edwards Foundation Governing Body, and I have managed to secure £3.6m of investment towards the required total of £4.5m. We have recently launched our fundraising campaign to secure the final £900K that will allow us to complete both building and pitch. If you can support our campaign through a personal gift or business sponsorship then please contact our Development Office Manager, Leanne Beckett on l.beckett@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk as this important project will provide new classrooms, new toilet facilities, new changing rooms and a multipurpose area that will facilitate music & drama performances and additional dining space. I cannot emphasise enough how important this project is for the wellbeing and success of the students, and I urge you to support us in any way you can.

The school continues to work towards ambitious sustainability objectives. This year we installed LED lighting across the estate and next year we look forward to the installation of photovoltaic panels on our roof space. This new equipment will be much more efficient and we look forward to enjoying lower ecological impact and lower energy bills. We are also promoting sustainable travel by installing electric vehicle charging facilities – I would love to see the staff driving to school powered by sunshine! This was topped off by our excellent Active Travel Ambassadors campaign to get more students (and staff) to walk or cycle to school.

We have enjoyed meeting the new Year 7 students and our new Year 12 students in our induction events this July. It can be both exciting and daunting joining a new school (even if you are moving from Year 11 to Year 12 in the same school) and every year we work really hard to facilitate new friendships and build a welcoming community. We have delivered several primary school taster sessions aimed at reaching out to local primaries and supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This important work ensures that our school plays its part in promoting social mobility and is a clear statement that we are open to all able students from all backgrounds.

I wanted to thank the attendees at our recent Parents Focus Group meetings where we focused on topics such as school security, pastoral care, communication, behaviour policy and homework. Your feedback is helping us to formulate our policy and practices, and it also helps us to strengthen and protect all of the good things we are already doing. Your latest feedback on safety and security has led to important reviews of our systems, practice and policy.

So I will sign off by wishing you all a wonderful holiday with all the peace and happiness you deserve. I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well, and I look forward to being with you again at the start of the Autumn Term.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Bowen
Headmaster
July 2024

English Department News

It is so nice to see the summer sun shining – however, whether it is still hot when this article is published...is up for debate, as unfortunately, the term 'summer' holidays can be a horrible misnomer.

As I reflect on this year, I am amazed that we manage to get so much done in such a short time. In the Spring term, we held our Public Speaking competition and the final took place before Easter. King Edward VI Camp Hill School is a competitive environment and this meant that the standard, as always, was high. However, Eesa Latiff from Year 8 won the Junior Public Speaking competition, while Afnan Muhammad from Year 10 won the Senior competition.

This event always builds on our proud debating tradition, with our school hosting the ESU Mace in the autumn term and three teams from Year 7, 8 and 9 attended the King Edward School Foundation Key Stage 3 Debating competition. This competition was attended by schools across the Foundation, including Lordswood Girls, Handsworth Girls and KES obviously. The day was hot and sticky, the thermometer registered a muggy twenty-three degrees in the classrooms, with all the windows open. Our boys did very well considering they are inexperienced debaters. There will be more about this in The Chronicle.

In sadder news, the amazing Ms Buckley is leaving us. Sian has been with the Department since 2017 and has brought a life and vivacity to English teaching which will be really missed and her article, proper, will also be in The Chronicle. However, we will be joined by a new member of the English staff in September, Mrs Charlotte Bicknall. She is an experienced member of staff and has taught at both Camp Hill Girls and Five Ways and we are sure that she will be an excellent addition to our Outstanding Department.

We wish you all an excellent summer, with some nice weather hopefully.

The English Department

Year 7 Trip to Paris

On Monday, 20th May, a group of excited Year 7 children from Camp Hill Boys set off on a trip to France with three of their teachers. The trip had an early start as the coach left for the Eurostar at 5am. Arriving in France between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the coach then proceeded on towards the city of Versailles where the children were to be picked up by host families (that would, look after them and provide dinner and bed for the boys). Dropping the boys off at 6pm, they were treated to a calm and relaxing evening before their Paris adventure truly began.

The following morning the students were picked up at an agreed meeting point near where they were housed, and once everyone had gathered, they were driven to famous city of Paris. Leaving at 8am, they managed to arrive by 9am and their first visit was to be the legendary Catacombs. In case you don't know the catacombs are underground ossuaries in Paris and they hold the remains of more than six million people! Exploring it in two groups it was certainly an enjoyable (and terrifying!) experience. The second stop of the day was previously one of France's most controversial buildings, (not anymore) the Montparnasse Tower. This is a Parisian Skyscraper with 55 floors and a lot of history behind it! The boys were given a tour of the upper floors and some free time to explore the building followed by a late afternoon boat cruise which would briefly stop at the incredible Eiffel Tower before turning back. The children were once again picked up, (this time at 7pm) by the host families and took home for dinner and bed.

On the third day the students walked up to the Palace of Versailles and got to learn about its history while getting to see and enjoy its beauty. It was a LONG WALK! This was followed by a visit to the palace's famous gardens which was so big the boys were given 2 hours just to explore it and that still wasn't enough time! They then took a trip to the local park for a late lunch and a game of football. This was followed by another long walk back to the coach which drove them down to one of Versailles biggest shopping malls. The pupils enjoyed some free time here to shop, to explore and get some snacks, before heading back to the meeting point and going back home. Interestingly one of the boys missed out on the shopping experience because he fell asleep on the coach!

Thursday, in most boys' opinions, was the best day. It was the day everybody had been waiting for, a trip to Asterix theme park! Arriving at 10am the boys enjoyed a fun, action-packed day going on rollercoasters and enjoying the atmosphere and entertainment there. Several students enjoyed the water rollercoasters, saying they enjoyed the thrill of the rollercoaster and also how the water cooled them off from the heat on the other hand others say that the rollercoasters with the loops gave them the most enjoyable, thrilling and nerve wrecking experience, while a small selection of students found joy in the shops and smaller less exhilarating rides. However, the wonderful day had to end, and so it did, at 5.30pm when all the students were told to regroup at a rendezvous point at the front of the park and they were then driven back to the meeting point in Versailles where they were set to be picked up and sent home for the last time.

Finally, on Friday the trip came to an unfortunate end as the children were dropped off at the meeting point nice and early at 8am and drove to Carlisle where they boarded a ferry at 2pm which took them to Dover. Unlike the trip on the Eurostar, the children were allowed out of the carriage and given permission to explore. Arriving in Dover, they then proceeded with a 4hr coach journey back to Birmingham, which a lot of students said they found quite tiring and the most boring part of the week. They were then picked up by their parents outside the school and went home, bringing the Paris trip to an end.

Kaif Ali - 7E

Year 9-11 French Trip to Rouen

The 2024 Rouen/Disneyland trip was highly anticipated due to the unfortunate 5-year gap between this one, and the previous excursion, because of COVID-19. So the many year 9, year 10, and the few lucky year 11 students were definitely very excited.

After arriving bright and early at 6:45 for a long coach journey ahead, the coach decided to hold us hostage at school for a few more minutes before taking us to Folkestone to catch the Eurotunnel — a few minutes turning out to be an hour. Nonetheless, we got onto the certi double-decker coach and after no longer than half an hour, we were already sweating. After stopping at the services, the air-con started to work again and the rest of the journey was smooth-sailing. Upon arriving in France at around 7pm local time, we were introduced to our host families, who we'd be staying with the rest of the 5 days. Whilst they were all lovely people, some of us pulled the short straw in terms of transport, having to take the metro and the bus to the meeting point, while others got a short car ride every morning. Differences from the UK were immediately apparent, with new plugs and different cuisine; however, we all seemed to adapt quickly into our new homes, and after our first sleep we were rejuvenated for the next day of activities.

The next day (our first day in Rouen) we toured the city — being guided round the Rouen Cathedral and Le Gros Horloge, visiting many shops and eating chocolate, plus going to the market to try oysters and fresh prawns. Unfortunately, the British weather seemed to stick to us like fly spray, and heavy rain showers limited our touring abilities. Nonetheless, we still learnt a lot about the beautiful town we stayed in: its history and architecture, as well as the role it played in the development of modern France. The complexity and great height of the Rouen Cathedral is really what captivated our attention, with tall gothic spires and roofs, and intricately designed walls showing depictions of religious figures, all telling a story. The inside was even more spectacular, with the high ceilings and ambient lighting creating a mysterious feel inside the building. Afterwards was food tasting, and the food we tried was an experience to say the least, with the chocolate definitely ranking above the wet, slimy oysters. Next up was visiting the famous French artist Claude Monet's gardens in Giverny. Monet was a pioneer in the impressionist movement and the development of modern art, and that was clearly seen by his bright green house, which we were able to go into, and the aesthetic and picturesque art pieces. He was also fond of gardening, and in tandem with his half-decent art skills, he created the most beautiful gardens in France.

Day 3 was all about Honfleur (aside from the bowling in the evening and short visit to Saint Sever shopping centre). Despite planning on going after visiting the Saint Sever shopping centre, the teachers wanted to capitalise on the limited weather opportunities, so we went straight to the Honfleur beach. As far as beaches go, it was very solid. 8/10. There was not a lot of people there, probably due to it being a Wednesday morning, and the weather was in the nice "Goldilocks zone"; however, the absence of the sea took away from the moment. Whether it was building sandcastles, playing volleyball, or collecting crabs from the ocean, everyone had a great time. The Saint Sever shopping centre was not very much, though. Imagine Birmingham city centre, with half the shops, and you have to pay to use the toilet. Sprinkle in about 50 security guards and you're bang-on. We moved on to bowling, which wasn't even the main attraction of the night, with the Bullring punching machine in the corner of the arcade, stealing over 100 euros of our money as people tried to break out the highest scores, because sometimes in the life you have to be competitive. Our bowling skills were not much better: no bumpers presented a challenge for a lot of us, but a challenge we all accepted, racking up high scores. We needed an early night to get ready for the 7:15 meet time the next day, and luckily Ollie Watkins prevented us from staying up to watch penalties again.

Disneyland. Every primary school child's dream holiday destination. I think I speak for the majority of the people there, when I say that our main goal wasn't to see Mickey Mouse and Moana, but to go on the rides, and they sure didn't disappoint. Even on a Thursday morning, the queues for the best rides (Hyperspace, Hollywood Tower, and Flight Force), were no shorter than 45 minutes, which was apparently pretty quick for Disneyland rides. As thrilling as they were, the queues really added to the experience, building suspense before entering. The food was average. The Disney Parade was a movie no word of a lie, even though I didn't know who half the characters were, but the loud music, bright colours and mad dance routines made me understand why people call it the "Children's Glastonbury". Eventually, the queue times died down, prompting many of us to repeat multiple rides, whilst some of us decided to repeat the same ride more than 5 times consecutively. Many butterflies bugged people's stomachs, plenty of euros were spent on gifts and souvenirs for loved ones, and overall it was definitely the best day of the trip, especially since the sun decided to show its face.

On day 5, we woke up bright and early to depart France, waving our final goodbyes to our host families who were so accommodating and hospitable to us in the few days we had stayed there. The coach journeys were proving to be an event by themselves, with the rain leaking all over the coach, as well as the teachers testing how long we could "hold it in". As always, getting out of France proved ever-difficult, but after waiting an hour, we managed to get to a near-empty customs, and got onto the ferry with moments to spare. The ferry was a much more pleasant experience than the Eurotunnel, with people still managing to cough up more pounds to use at the on-board arcade, and the rest of the coach journey home followed.

Many thanks to all the teachers who came with us, and to Mr. Renault and Mme. Balkham for putting on the trip we were so desperate to not miss out on, and we hope that many after us will enjoy it as much as we did.

Lemuel Adjei - 10E



Music

The Summer Term in Music has been both busy and immensely fulfilling, with two large concerts in partnership with Camp Hill Girls, the choir singing evensong in Exeter Cathedral and 28 pupils sitting graded music examinations. Of course, that is not even including the amazing production of Bugsy Malone, put on in conjunction with Camp Hill Girls, with hours of hard work from Mr Dowling, Ms Garvey, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Palmer, Mrs Philpott and Miss Toogood.

Senior Concert

The Senior Concert took place on Tuesday 30 April and was our penultimate joint event with the girls' school this year. This was an opportunity to say a musical goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 musicians. The concert featured performances by CHB Choir, Clarinet Ensemble, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and the Lower String Ensemble. The pupil-led Swing Band also made an impressive appearance. It would not be a Senior Concert without a 'surprise' item from the Year 13 leavers, who, for this year, managed to persuade the music staff to sing Elton John's 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' - apologies to all who had to listen...

Summer Soiree

Our final joint concert with the girls' school, the Summer Soiree, took place on Tuesday 18 June. The concert featured performances by the Electric Guitar Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Horn Quartet, Intermediate Orchestra, Intermediate Wind Band, Oboe Ensemble, String Orchestra and Training Wind Band.

Evensong at Exeter Cathedral

Camp Hill Boys' Choir was fortunate enough to be able to sing evensong at Exeter Cathedral on Wednesday 10 July. The service included Rejoice in the Lord Alway and Weelkes' Short Service. We were lucky enough to have a large congregation in attendance due to the service being in celebration for the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood – approximately 90 female clergy from the diocese were in attendance. For many pupils this was their first opportunity to sing in a cathedral. Pupils stayed in Exeter overnight – which, for most, included watching a particularly popular sporting event - and were treated to a tour of the cathedral the following day. As part of the trip, pupils were also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with Timothy Noon, Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral.

CHB Choir after choral evensong at Exeter Cathedral



Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils who successfully attained graded music examinations:

Tristan Bishop-Park	7E	TCL	French horn	Grade 3	Merit
Leo Castillo	7H	ABRSM	Viola	Grade 4	
Prithviraj Ghosh	7H	TCL	Saxophone	Grade 1	Merit
Henry Hughes	7C	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	
Aiden La	7B	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	
Zijian Zhang	7E	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	Merit
Bastian Åberg	8H	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 4	Merit
Baryalai Bangash	8H	TCL	Guitar	Grade 3	
Jacob Hanratty	8E	TCL	Clarinet	Grade 3	
Khushal Jain	8E	TCL	Violin	Grade 1	Distinction
Rohan Koiri	8C	TCL	Guitar	Grade 1	Merit
Joshua Moey	8H	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 2	Merit
Shawn Sen	8H	ABRSM	Singing	Grade 4	Merit
Kaushalya Senarath	8H	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 1	
Nicolas Hotzel Escardo	9E	ABRSM	Theory	Grade 5	Merit
Josh King	9K	ABRSM	Piano	Grade 8	Distinction
Iam Lam	9K	TCL	Baritone horn	Grade 3	Distinction
Manavv Sethuraaman	9E	TCL	Guitar	Grade 3	
Yusuf Sultan-Qurayshi	9K	ABRSM	Theory	Grade 5	Distinction
Xu Wang	9H	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 2	Distinction
Lemuel Adjei	10E	TCL	Singing	Grade 6	Merit
Musthafa Ahmed	10K	TCL R&P	Bass guitar	Grade 6	
Yicheng Hu	10K	ABRSM	Violin	Grade 7	Merit
Sathya Vaidyanathan	10C	ABRSM	Flute	Grade 5	
Zayan Khan	L3	TCL	Singing	Grade 7	
Harvey Murray	L3	TCL	Trumpet	Grade 6	
Kumayl Vanat	L5	TCL	Singing	Grade 7	
Vansh Pradhan	U1	TCL	Flute	Grade 8	Merit

Congratulations to **Will King** (7B) who passed the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Bronze Award with a 'commended' result which was taken at Lichfield Cathedral.

Well done to pupils involved in musical performances outside school: **Vivek Gohel** (11C) who performed in Symphony Hall as part of a tabla ensemble, and **Kumayl Vanat** (L5) who was one of 35 students across the UK chosen to participate in the Oxford Choral Experience weekend at Worcester College.

Please do remember to let me know if your child has musical achievements outside of school, so that we can celebrate them.

It has been a great year for music-making at Camp Hill, with one in four pupils involved in extra-curricular music in some capacity. Well done to all pupils for their contributions throughout the year - I look forward to another music-filled year starting in September!

Josh Watters
Head of Music

Year 13 Biology CSI Day

All of us who have an affinity for crime novels will have imagined being the detectives in those stories, piecing together clues, analysing the evidence, and revelling in the thrill of the denouement. While for many this remains nothing more than a fantasy, this year's A-Level biologists found themselves ducking under the police tape and entering B3 to test their detective skills against a real-life murder case from 2007.

The moment we entered the (now forensic) laboratory we were warned that every decision we made could win or lose us several thousands of points, and up to 30,000 points were available for observations alone. We had to choose our teams wisely.

Having known about this day for a handful of weeks, many of us had already formed overt and covert alliances, and now looking around the room I took stock of the other teams, all named after famous detectives like Holmes, Columbo and Fleming.

Our first order of business was to form a team structure - two detectives who would primarily focus on the case files and suspects' motives and alibis, two forensic scientists who would spearhead the attempts to match DNA and blood from the suspects, victim and criminal, and a leader who would delegate the tasks and oversee the investigations, having the final say on any disputes and presenting our version of events to the jury of our classmates. Even how quickly we decided this carried points, and immediately our team was at a slight disadvantage as we discussed the matter for longer than we should have. I cannot speak for the other teams, but we had a fairly flat structure and all dabbled in the various aspects of the investigation - all five of us being very competent critical thinkers and lab workers.

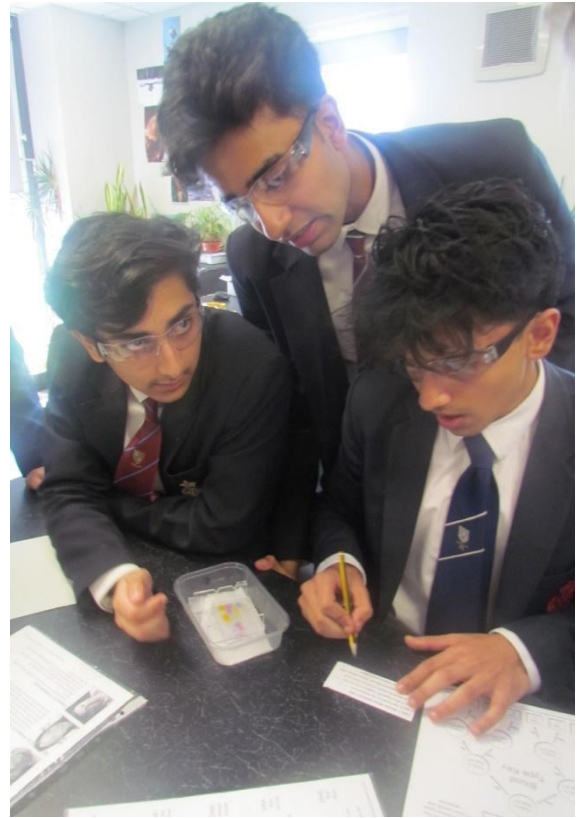
Having the details of the case laid out in front of us - the dead body in the car, the bloody handprint, the messy love affair and so much more - our detectives started pulling the strands together and compiled their notes as my fellow scientists and I carefully transferred our mock DNA samples into the gel block we were given. This (gel electrophoresis) was something we had recently learned about in our biology lessons so we had a firm grasp on the theory, but in practice it is *unreasonably difficult to transfer the sample without spilling it or poking the gel, which would decrease the validity of our results, and more importantly* lose us points! Thankfully we got the 6 samples in with minimal defects and moved onto the next part of the case - blood tests.

So far the detectives had a few working theories but not enough data to start definitively ruling out suspects, and the gel electrophoresis would take another 30 minutes at least before it could produce usable results. Thankfully a far faster test was available - agglutination using antibodies to determine ABO blood groups! But while this was faster, it was also harder to interpret, with testing for B antigens producing almost imperceptible results. Nonetheless we pushed forward, and subsequently lost 2000 points for misidentifying one of the suspects.

It was at this point that our DNA results came back, and despite the minor flaw our results probably came out as the best from any group, a fact that propelled us forward for the rest of the case. You see, as half of our team had been intensely focused on the practical science, the other half had been just as doggedly solving the mystery and incorporating the new evidence into their ideas. They had our answer, and we now had a prime suspect we were 87% sure was responsible for the death. Just in time for the court case.

Despite appearing a few centuries distant from our modern day, the phones we were given were very efficient at recording our knowledge of the case. This was the final round of the challenge - each of us

had to answer multiple choice questions in relation to the case we had been presented with or pertinent aspects of A Level biology. Our individual scores - and speed - would be recorded and displayed on the dynamic leaderboard, but any dissent amongst the team's answers would lose the whole team points. This was without a doubt the most intense round of the competition and at times the teams devolved to shouting out any wrong answers they could think of to throw off the competition. But despite this, my team had two of the highest average scores in speed and accuracy, our "slow but not too slow and very accurate" strategy seemingly paying off. But we didn't realise quite how much it had paid off until we were announced as the winning team overall not just in the room, but as the new record holders for the CSI day challenge worldwide - beating even the last reigning champions the 2023 cohort from Camp Hill Boys! The catharsis felt at completing what we set out to do and to such an excellent extent - despite all the challenges - was wonderful. And taking our prize of medals, lollipops and chocolates, we thanked the organisers and left.



Wisteria Chatterjee - U1



Art News

We have had a very busy term in the art department! Here are some photographs to share the wonderful experiences our students have had!

Year 8's: Visit to the Warner Brother Studio Tour – The making of Harry Potter

This year we visited the studios on two separate dates and on each day there was a different theme. Our students who visited on the second day got to see a 'Prisoner of Azkaban' special, with the studio having new features around the studio tour. Both groups got to participate in a behind the scenes lesson exploring costume design and they got to distress a piece of fabric that may be part of a garment where the character has been attacked by a dragon! As always, our students were absolutely fantastic ambassadors for our school and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the creative careers that are involved in the film industry and within the UK.



Year 9: Artist Talk with Mohammed Ali

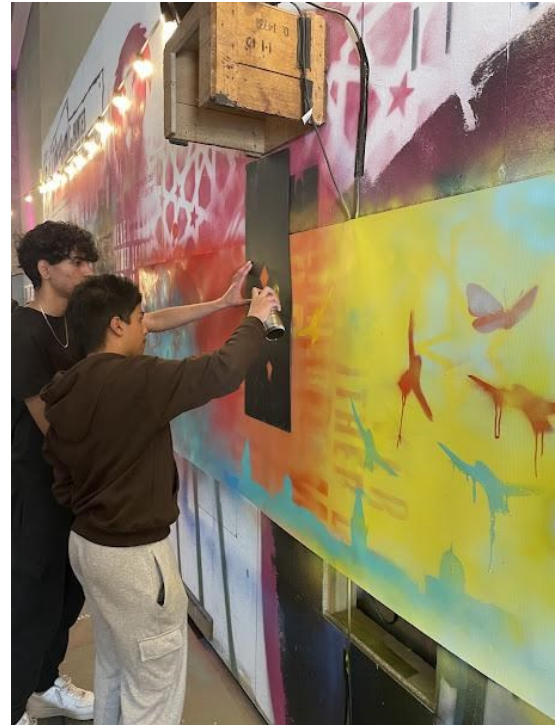
Our future GCSE Art students were lucky to have a session with local artist Mohammed Ali who talked to our students about art as a career and also as a way of bringing together the local community through the large scale murals that he has created locally and also globally.



Year 10 and 12 Artist Workshop with Mohammed Ali and the Stronger Together Festival

Following Mohammed's visit to school some of our year 10 and 12 art students experienced a one-day workshop with Mohammed Ali at his Birmingham art studio. This was a hands on session during which students learned how to create a design for the Stronger Together festival, being held at Queensbridge school, early July. The students explored how lettering and fonts could be used creatively to capture the idea of stronger together, along with use of imager such as chains, birds, kites, figures and cultural patterns. They generated ideas individually on smaller banners and then created three large banners to be displayed at the festival. For this they got to use large cut stencils and spray paint, learning how to blend and overlay colours to fade designs for a professional finish.

One of the banners was brought back to school and a small group of students completed it by adding three figures to the centre of the design. All three banners were displayed at the festival, which was a celebration of our local community through music, dance, performance and art. The banners will be back in school for September for all to see and enjoy!



Religious Studies Trips

This term, Year 10 RS students took a visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford, to learn more about Hindu practices in the UK. Students supported their GCSE Religious Studies via the medium of feeding the Manor's lovely cows and oxen in the ahimsa dairy, as well as walking around the extensive Manor in the sunshine, meeting worshippers, hearing devotees singing during the lunchtime arati worship, watching classical Indian dance and eating the fabulous food offered to us all.

A Level RS students visited Birmingham Buddhist Centre at the beginning of July, to focus on the Triratna Order, which they will study as part of their A Level Buddhism content. The Centre gave us an insight into Buddhist ways of life in the UK, and provided an interesting contrast with a visit we took earlier in the year, to the Kadampa Meditation Centre in the city centre.

JSF



GCSE Geography trip to Carding Mill Valley

On Wednesday the 1st of May, half of the GCSE Geography students went on a trip to the Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire. The trip was a part of Rivers Fieldwork topic and focused on the changing river characteristics and flood risk of the local area.

At 09.15 we began our journey to Atcham where we would apply our knowledge of rivers to the middle course of the river whilst completing a few map skills questions. After taking in the views, we made our way to the Carding Mill Valley.

Upon arrival, we headed straight to our first site, around a 20-minute walk, where Mr Butcher explained to us what we had to do for the day. Our task was to measure and record many characteristics of the specific part of the stream such as width and depth, velocity, gradient and rock samples. This was repeated for each of the 5 sites. The groups were able to work through each site with a quick pace and (relative) ease. After all the sites had been completed, we had a chance to go to the café and enjoy an ice cream or a dessert, before heading back to the school.

All this “fun” was repeated for a second day for the other groups to enjoy. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip and found it informative and useful for my geography lessons. I hope others felt this way but it couldn't have been done without the organisation and supervision from the geography teachers such as Mr Butcher, Mr Brear, Miss Marston and Mr Cox.

Ayaan Ali - 10H





Battlefields Trip

Despatches from the Western Front Day 1

With a mid-evening start and a witching hour crossing of the English Channel, our admirable cohort conducted themselves capably and confidently on their first day on the Western Front. With sleepiness yawning out of every pore, it could have been a long day for staff and students alike. Buoyed by a gloriously reflecting full moon over rippling waters and a glorious sunrise to welcome the dawn, we moved from France into Belgium and started our venture outside Ypres with an exploration of Brandhoek New Cemetery Number 3. United in death, the uniformity of the headstones and the calm and dignified nature of the surroundings, helped us to understand the purposes of commemoration and the ways in which those who fought 110 years ago on the Western Front.

With Mr Bulloch joining us for his 42nd tour of duty, we were all able to benefit from his encyclopaedic knowledge of individuals and actions which made an impression on the students as they absorbed the information and diligently utilised their workbooks. It was particularly notable to explore the fascinating life and war record of Noel Chavasse, the only double Victoria Cross winner of the war. Particularly poignant during our visit was a chance to reflect on the lives of former Camp Hill students, Second Lieutenant Alexander Buchanan, Corporal Ernest Allen and Sapper John Arthur Rennie Durnell. Three of our current students placed small wooden plaques made by Mr Cattermole to mark our visit and to show how they are still remembered.

We then moved on to the much larger cemetery of Lijssenthoek where over 10,000 soldiers were buried at the site of a medical facility, the Casualty Clearing Station of Remy Siding, where the light rail tracks from the front-line further east were met by the ambulance trains to take the wounded to the Base Hospitals on the French coast, remarkably over 300,000 wounded from the Ypres Salient were processed through here. Beyond the many servicemen honoured, one woman, Nurse Nellie Spindler. She was buried following her death by shelling at Brandhoek, the burial in 1917 was a full military funeral the next day. The "Last Post" was sounded and in attendance were General Hubert Gough, Head of Fifth Army, three other generals, the Director of Medical Services of the Army, the Surgeon General and over 100 other officers.

It was time for some lunch so we moved eastwards towards Hooge, the high point on the Menin Road and the furthest eastern point on the salient for much of the war. Here we visited Hooge Crater Museum and the accompanying cemetery for 5,000 souls, many of whom taken from local smaller burial grounds after the war was over. Following a revitalising lunch we could explore the fascinating artefacts and traipse through the replica trenches of both the British and German forces bedecked in the poppies of everlasting memory.

Speaking of poppies, our final port of call at Essex Farm Cemetery was where the poem In Flanders Field was written by Captain John McCrae evoking poppies blowing in the breeze among the rows of the fallen. Another cemetery next to a medical facility, it was fascinating to see the conditions in which they would have to operate.

Then finally the long trail to the hotel through the Friday rush hour traffic of Lille, we were warmly greeted and well-nourished on omelette and French fries and the students were ready for a well-earned sleep...

Despatches from the front Day 2

A historic day for the Battlefields today, unintended as it was, we visited the day the a Newfoundland unknown soldier was given to Canada to be repatriated to St John's to commemorate the contribution of this relatively unknown part of the British Empire which was not even part of Canada at the time. Next up we almost missed our dinner as a result of a riot at a motorway toll booth between Paris St Germain and Olympique Lyonnais fans on the A1 which resulted in the burning of two coaches (not ours thankfully) and the closure of the main artery from Paris to the Hauts de France. The plume of smoke and rolling news coverage would not detract us though and, with an understanding catering staff at the hotel, we could still return to dine in comfort and style.

Anyway, back to the business of the tour of the Somme battlefield which took us from the southern-most part of the British sector at Guillemont where we honoured an old student from Camp Hill and reflected at the grave of Lieutenant Raymond Asquith, son of the Prime Minister at the time of his death in 1916. At Montauban, we stood in a field. And marvelled at the achievements of the Liverpool and Manchester Pals who made their first day objectives where, across the rest of the battlefield, such ambitions proved to be little more than a pipe dream. At Mansel Cospse, the heart-breaking loss of life of the Devonshire regiment who were buried in the trench from which they sought to advance – at Lochnagar Crater, the great mine was meant to be the prompt for an onward advance which floundered all too soon – at Beaumont Hamel a first day target resulted in devastating losses for the Newfoundlanders and other units, the village was finally taken four months later at the end of the battle.

A hearty picnic lunch was enjoyed by all where apricots turned into a surprisingly popular choice, we even found the time for an ice cream and cup of tea at the Ulster Tower before a small self-selecting group took the walk to Mill Road Cemetery to pay respects to Private G. S. Thompson, a former Camp Hill Student, office clerk, husband and father. Mentioned in despatches offered to the nine students who joined us. Thank you.

Our tour finished at Thiepval, where there is largest memorial to the missing for the fallen of the First World War, those with no known grave. Over 70,000 names, all named on the walls of the memorial who died in the Battle of the Somme. A chance to explore and absorb the sheer scale of loss of life in beautiful and sombre surroundings – and for what? About six miles of advance in four and a half months with hundreds of thousands of deaths. Lest we forget.

Despatches from the Western Front Day 3

On a day when National Service reared its head as a topic of hot political debate, it was worth noting the ripples from the Year 10s among us, especially on a day visiting the Ypres salient and exploring the battles of 1917. Such matters are put in perspective when you are present where 12,000 British soldiers are laid to rest at Tyne Cot near Passchendaele or the Comrades Grave at Langemarck, the German cemetery, in which 24,000 are buried in a space little bigger than a tennis court.

It can feel like heavy going when you consider the sites visited today, but the students were able to lighten the burden through their good humour and interest. We started at Bayernwald to the south of Ypres on the Messines Ridge to explore this rather unexplored battle, here we could experience the life of German Frontsoldaten in their muddy messy trenches and concrete clad dugouts, it is said that Hitler himself served here. In a soggy spring, it is very clear how much standing water would make an issue for any soldier – we didn't quite need wellies but we weren't far off. Reflections about laying huge subterranean mines and the dangers of underground operations when the water table is so high were made present with visits to Spanbroekmolen's Pool of Peace, Hill 60 and the Caterpillar Craters, huge wrenches in the earth but also costly in so many lives.

At Hill 60, the rains started with the insistent rumble of thunder acting like a distant echo of the shelling experienced during the Great War. Not ideal for having a picnic lunch but we made do, as is the spirit of

the early 20th Century, with the coach hold doors as a makeshift awning as we laid out the food for lunch. After a storm which would impress Noah, we ate on the coach and made our way into Ypres to visit the Menin Gate and to explore the heart of the Flanders textile town. In the shadow of the Cloth Hall, every cloud has a silver lining, especially in the guise of silver reflective bags from the local Belgian Chocolate Purveyors, maybe some might be coming your way – there was so much malleable chrome that the coach luggage racks looked like they could be a scene from Terminator 2: Judgement Day.

The Menin Gate in Ypres, a memorial to 50,000 British and Empire soldiers, was clad in scaffold but an outdoor exhibition gave a flavour of what lay beneath and the meticulous process of restoring such an important monument. The small Indian memorial on the ramparts was a chance to reflect on the service of Indian regiments and the heroism of VC laureate Kuhdadud Khan, Mr Dyson discussed his heroism in 1914, and pride his achievement made to his rural community in modern day Pakistan, he was the first recipient of this accolade from the subcontinent and the first Muslim.

With all safely returned to the coach, our afternoon focused on the northern sector with a visit to the brooding soldier at Vancouver Corner, the 2nd Battle of Ypres and the use of gas in warfare. Then on to the aforementioned Tyne Cot and Langemarck, the collective fellowship in death and how it has been remembered by those who emerged victorious and those who were defeated. We honoured Camp Hill veteran at Tyne Cot Arthur Long – shot by his own side in a misunderstanding, our current students expressing their respects and empathy. The role of conscientious objectors was highlighted by Ms Freeman using the example of James Sangster, a Quaker, going onto the battlefield after previously being imprisoned for his principles showed that heroism comes in many forms.

Quite a day, ended by penne and apple pie – comforts of home well received after a busy tempestuous day.

Despatches from the Western Front Day 4

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.”

Lawrence Binyon’s evocative lines in his poem “For the Fallen” written on 21 September 1914 at a time when it was impossible to conceive the industrialised slaughter of the next four years. Hopefully, our four-day adventure has been able to capture a small sense of remembrance for all those caught up in the turmoil beyond their control.

the turmoil beyond their control. Today’s lesser-known sites are off the beaten track of the regular British battlefield tourist but make the whole tapestry more complete.

The tapestries of Arras made it one of the richest towns in Flanders, its town hall and belfry is one of the most loved buildings in France, it became a centre of British operations for much of the war. The Faubourg d’Amiens Cemetery next to its famous citadel is a beautiful monument to the fallen in the sector between Ypres and the Somme, it was so quiet that one could chance upon a red squirrel rushing among the gravestones. Our visit allowed us to pay tribute to Walter Tull, professional footballer and the first black officer in the British army whose life and career was eloquently described by Ms Freeman, his name among the 30,000 names on the memorial to the fallen with no known grave. Mr Bullock allowed us to pay tribute to three former Camp Hill students buried here, two of whom lived on the same road and now share a row in the graveyard – a small marker put on each to show our remembrance. A Russian grave, Indian graves for Hindu, Sikh and Muslim members of followers’ and camp regiments (cooks, drivers, porters) who all were killed after the war was over in November 1918, German graves, an American grave from World War II. Next to each other were two young men who were shot at dawn, Pattison and Barnes for deserting, both with a history of PTSD yet still executed – perhaps to encourage the others? We also commemorated the airmen of the war, a thousand names of the pilot

adventurers and their wingmen for whom there is no known grave, among them two awarded the Victoria Cross and one former Camp Hill student. In the world, over 40,000 laid to rest and next to the visually striking ring of commemoration, a monument which has collected the names of 580,000 killed in northern France from all nationalities and arranged in alphabetical order. Nearby was the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge, one of the most contested heights in the war, which the Canadians took in 1917, and now site of the most spectacular memorial on the western front, its white marble pillars raised above the tree line. The Moroccan Memorial at the same site for an earlier battle gave us a chance to discuss the African dimension in the Great War. We also visited and lunched at the Canadian museum and restored trenches, encountering parties of Canadians in Europe for the D-Day commemorations next week. Thanks to them for their commemorative pin badges to mark their visit. Lunch was again a somewhat soggy affair with a squall disrupting the usual buffet and resulting in another coach-bound chomp.

Our final visit was to Neuve Chapelle, the Portuguese Cemetery and the Indian Memorial to the fallen, particularly in the eponymous battle on this site in 1915. Its evocation of Indian architecture and still in the style and spirit of the other British Empire monuments is a wonder to behold. And so ended our tour, a chance to explore a pivotal moment in history, a rupture in the concept of progress. Those who lived through it and those who died for it deserve our attention, as Churchill said of the project to honour the British and Commonwealth dead in 1920:

“There is no reason at all why, in periods as remote to our own as we are ourselves from the Tudors, the graveyards in France of this Great War shall not remain an abiding and supreme memorial... We know the mutability of human arrangements, even if our language, our institutions, our empire have all faded from the memory of man, these great stones will preserve the memory of a common purpose pursued by a great nation in the remote past, and will undoubtedly excite the wonder and the reverence of a future age.”

As the sun sets (and wow we had some amazing ones over the tour), we hope our students will remember them and pass on the beacon of hope to others.

GNH

Year 12 Parliament Trip

On the 18th of June 25 year 12 students mainly made up of politics and history students but also for those interested in our institutions made their way to Westminster. We did not get off to the most auspicious start when our train from New Street to Euston was cancelled and we had to get on another train without any seat bookings, after a rather hectic and cramped commute into central London we were all happy to be able to stretch our legs and over the day we surely did so with a step count reaching over 25,000 for the day.

In the capable hands of Mr Hill and Mr Dyson, our intrepid explorers of the capital, (many of whom had never been to London before) were able to walk some of the most famous streets - firstly going past UCL and the British Museum before heading towards the West End and the headquarters of the BBC. From there our adventures took us into Mayfair and down some of the most prestigious shopping streets in the World before passing St James's Palace and walking onto The Mall, through St James's Park and Horse Guards Parade - all being prepared for Trooping the Colour - finally, we were able to stop at Trafalgar Square to ensure everyone's feet could have a rest. Well, someone went in such a food others took them more cultural turn to admire the delights of the National Gallery.

We then walked down Whitehall past the Cenotaph and Downing Street to Parliament Square. Here we visited the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom where we were able to see the site of some of the most famous rulings of recent years including those on Brexit we were able to sit in the Courts where the judges could deliberate and pass judgement we even the very chairs where Baroness Hale and her fellow judges ruled out Boris Johnson's Prorogation of Parliament in 2019. For some reason the highlight for the students was Mr. Hill getting told off: number one for talking too loudly in a working court building and secondly for accidentally stealing a laminated sheet of flags!

From the Supreme Court to the Mother of all Parliaments. It was a strange time to visit as the building was deathly quiet due to the election and there were no MPs anywhere to be seen. Having gone through airport scanners and surrendered our phones we were then taken on a fascinating tour through the mock Gothic fun Palace; from admiring the splendour of the Royal Robing Rooms and Chambers to admiring the finery of the House of Lords with the throne in which the King gives his speech outlining the governments legislative program for the year. The highlight was standing on the floor of the House of Commons being at the dispatch box (for almost as long as Liz Truss) or behind the Speaker's Chair which really brings the nature of British democracy in all its eccentricity to life - it is amazing just how small and intimate the Commons chamber is! The final part of the tour took us back through the lobbies and into Westminster Hall the part of the building that is properly mediaeval, here we saw where many famous speeches, trials and lying-in-states have taken place.

As a bonus we were also given a learning session in which students were able to practice parliamentary debating on the topic chosen of VAT on private schools. We also had the privilege to meet a member of the House of Lords, Lord Balfe, he was able to take questions from the students and it was refreshing to see him answer with candour and speak his mind (when so often the adults the students hear are more guarded in their political opinions).

From Parliament, we headed back to Euston via Victoria and Buckingham Palace, getting on a rush-hour tube in order to ensure we got back to the station in time... which was quite an experience in herding 25 teenagers, but we all made it unscathed. It was a valuable experience for all involved and hopefully inspired some of our students to become more politically engaged and active.

GNH



Vote 2024

In the spirit of democratic engagement, we hosted yet another Camp Hill Election to run alongside the national poll on 4 July 2024. From the outset it was an exciting opportunity to consider the issues, pledges and priorities given to different causes and groups within school, and also the more pertinent role of personality at play within modern political discourse. With the help of the Year 12 Politics A Level cohort, ideas were put underway to devise a system and set of rules for the poll to take place. Then it was the turn of members of the school community to put forward their hopes to register as a candidate in the election for one of the five approved parties (itself a bone of contention).

Through a rigorous application process in which candidates were asked to espouse their political philosophy and what they could offer as MP for Camp Hill School for Boys, the five were chosen for the Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform UK parties to stand. Each candidate and their team then had less than a week to put together a manifesto, posters and Party Election Broadcast. Each candidate was then grilled in a well-attended hustings event at lunchtime and Oskar in Year 7 particularly impressed with his erudite and eloquent responses.

And so on to polling day.... A huge thanks to all who helped set up in the library and those responsible for good order and ensuring voting rules were complied with – it was a pleasure to see our polling clerks standing up to senior prefects and dismissing them for a failure to have sufficient ID! The candidates and the whole school community then had to wait until assembly on the morning of 5 July for this historic announcement to be made:

I Giles Hill Returning Office for the Camp Hill constituency declare that:

This vote with a turnout of 80.5%

The total number of votes given to each candidate was as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Owen Lau	Conservative	78
Oskar Pineau	Green	94
Ahnaf Rahman	Labour	64
Sachit Sharma	Liberal Democrat	85
Ayaan Shaikh	Reform	273

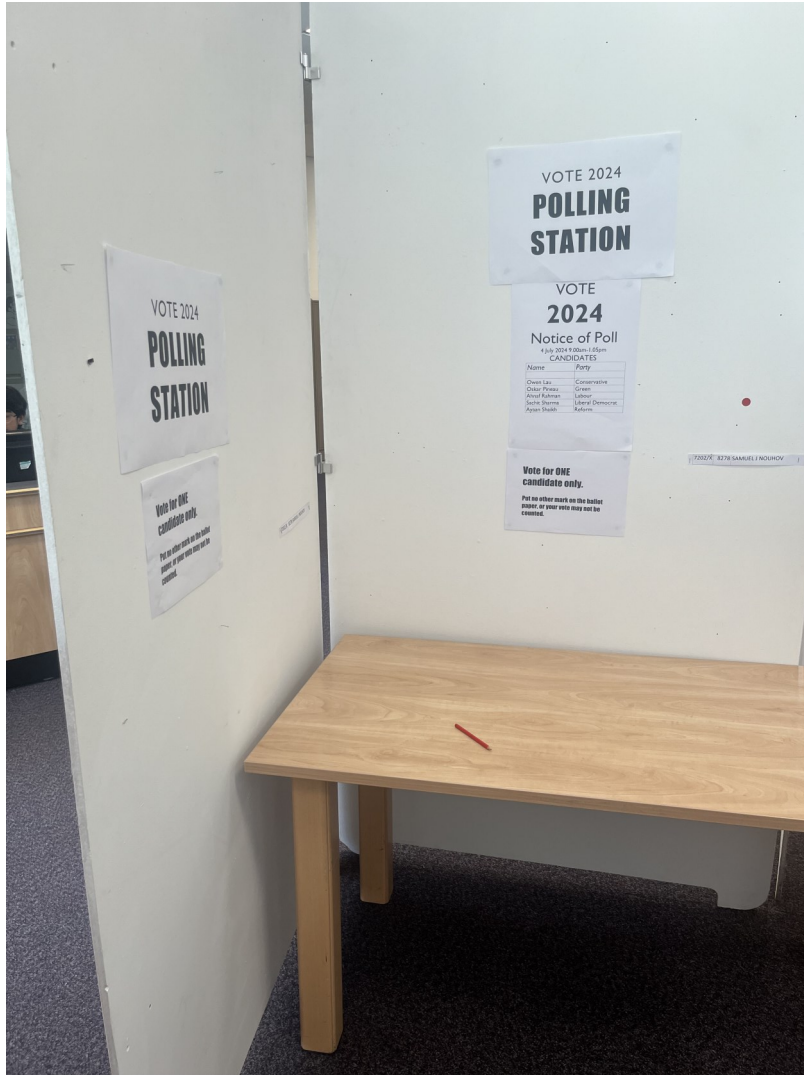
Therefore, I give public notice that Ayaan Skeikh is duly elected as the Member of Parliament for the Camp Hill constituency.

The total number of votes cast across Camp Hill Boys at the UK Parliamentary election on 4 July was 624.

The total number of ballot papers rejected was 30

In Camp Hill tradition, the most radical offering on the ballot paper was the one which the students went for, interestingly staff voting went Green.... The following assembly asked us to reflect on the process and outcome of elections, the power to make a change and, perhaps, time to take the frivolousness out of political engagement and be steeled to make more considered electoral choices when able to vote in national and local polls.

GNH



Summer Sports Newsletter 2024

Senior Cricket

A frustrating year of senior cricket with a number of games being called off due to poor weather. However, year on year the standard of 1st XI cricket is improving. This was demonstrated with a commanding 5 wicket victory against local rivals KE Five Ways. Eesa Nadeem led the team exceptionally well and bowled with serious pace. Mushaf Mir and Areeb Tayyab saw the team home with an unbroken 50 partnership.

The highlight of the first 1st XI cricket season was the annual MCC fixture played at Harborne CC. This year like many before Camp Hill earned a losing draw. MCC 252/8 declared, CHB 210/9. Eesa Nadeem and Amogh Shetty batting out the last 4 overs to earn a draw. Rayyen Khan and Eesa Nadeem have been nominated as two of the best young cricketers across the country who have played against the MCC this year following their performances yesterday. This means they could face England U18s at the end of the season. It's very rare that state school students get nominated so it goes to show how talented they are. Thank you to the staff who came down to support the students. It is such a lovely occasion with many senior students, staff and old boys returning to support the team. Thank you to Joe Day, Yuvinash, Ajay Shingadia and Owais Akram for coming back to play for the Camp Hill badge.

The final official game of the season came in the newly formed Foundation XI fixture vs KES. Unfortunately, KES were too strong on the day earling a 60 run victory. Amogh Shetty, Mushaf Mir and Parth Trehan represented CHB with distinction. Captain on the day was Rayyen Khan. Rayyen batted beautifully, hitting the ball to all parts scoring 52 off 26 balls whilst opening the batting.

The game that everyone wants to be involved in is the staff vs students game. This takes place on Thursday 18th July. The staff will be seeking revenge for a comprehensive victory from the students last year. It will also be a final appearance form Mr Norton, Mr Rees and Mr Demel who will be taking up new roles in different schools.



Junior Cricket

Junior Cricket this year has been a season of nearly's this year when it comes to the leagues and cup competitions entered, with one final reached and one semi final reached across the four age groups. Along the way, we have taken some scalps of big cricket schools with plenty of standout individual performances along the way.

Starting with the U15's, this season has been tough, but looking back over the four years of commitment from these students, they have been a fantastic group of cricketers that have stuck together since Year 7, providing memorable performances over the years, beating big teams and having people represent county and district.

The U14's had a slightly better season, reaching a County Cup Semi Final against Solihull School and falling just short in a tightly fought game. Everyone has contributed to the team, and much like the U15's, they have had a core group that have stuck together over the three years. Mushaf Mir has been a stand out performer for the U14's, putting in big performances every game and still representing the 1st XI strongly, despite being much younger.

The U13 season has also been strong, beating the likes of Princethorpe, Bishop Vesey and Aston. As a team they are moving from a group of individuals to a proper team, understanding the game more and more with each match played. Xai Sandhu and Omar Slatter have been stand out performers with the bat, and every bowler has shown strong capability to stick to a tight line and length, making it difficult for the opposition batsmen. There is much to come from this team!

Finally, the youngest and most successful Junior Cricket Team this year in the U12's. No only have they beaten the likes of Princethorpe, Five Ways and Bishop Vesey, they reached a County Final which unfortunately they fell short in, but nonetheless, they showed grit and determination through the game and the rest of the season to collect some great results for the school and big things are to come from the group of cricketers!



Athletics

First up on the calendar was the Birmingham Schools Regional Indoor Competition for the Junior Boys. After winning the competition last year, hopes were high to retain the crown this year. The year 8 team of Muhammad Alderwish, Dexter Guest, Kingsley Moss, Aditya Manu, Rahul Sinha and Jacob Hanratty performed brilliantly across all the events, placing either first or second in every field event and top three in every track event. This meant the boys were run away winners and progressed to the Great Birmingham Finals taking place at Birmingham University.

This competition was clearly going to be a jump up in standard, but the boys were ready for the challenge. After a gruelling and long day at, the boys dominated across the board, most noticeably in the field events finishing eventual winners and Greater Birmingham Champions.

The Junior Boys continued their fine form, winning the Junior Foundation Match hosted by KES. Muhammed Alderwish stole the show with standout performances in all his events.

Junior colours were awarded to Muhammad Alderwish, Dexter Guest, Kingsley Moss, Aditya Manu, Rahul Sinha and Jacob Hanratty.



As per tradition, the first match of the year for the Senior Boys was the eagerly anticipated Senior Foundation Match hosted by KES. This would be the final time the senior boys would represent Camp Hill and the boys were keen to leave their mark. Chude Ndozi was responsible for assembling the team and we headed to KES with a star studded line up. It was fantastic to see the positive attitude shown by the boys and they ensured every event was filled, stepping out of their comfort zone to stand in for events that would usually be in their wheelhouse.

The boys performed brilliantly across the board, with excellent performances from Chude Ndozi in the 100m, Simon Mabratu in the High Jump. A fantastic final effort in the 4x100m relay was a fitting way for the Senior Boys to sign off their time at Camp Hill. Full colours were awarded to Chude Ndozi and Simon Mabratu.

Football

Senior football has been an overall success this year. The introduction of year 11 has added not only strength and depth to the squad but it has allowed the boys to represent Camp Hill with more fixtures throughout the year. The start of the season started with a 4-3 win over Handsworth Grammar, with goals coming from Ali Jawad, Kira Shalagin (2) and a debut goal from Reuben Howard. There were strong wins over Bablake, Kings Worcester, Solihull and OSH. This was particularly pleasing as these have been fixtures we have struggled with in previous seasons. The team performed extremely well in the Regional cup but lost to eventual winners Arden School in the earlier rounds. A special thanks from Mr. Hill (Coach) and Mr. Maxwell went to Eesa Nadeem, Ali Jawad, Ren Zhi Howse, Jack O'Brien, Kira Shalagin and Charlie Hill. All of them have been a massive part of pushing the senior football teams standards and expectations up over the course of the year.

Camp Hill 1st XI vs Marylebone Cricket Club

The first 1st XI cricket team did the school proud, earning a losing draw against Marylebone Cricket Club on Wednesday 26th June.

MCC 252/8 declared, CHB 210/9. Eesa Nadeem and Amogh Shetty batting out the last 4 overs to earn a draw.

Rayyen Khan and Eesa Nadeem have been nominated as two of the best young cricketers across the country who have played against the MCC this year following their performances. This means they could face England U18s at the end of the season. It's very rare that state school students get nominated so it goes to show how talented they are.

Thank you to the staff who came down to support the students.



Foundation Cricket Match vs KES

Rayyen Khan, Amogh Shetty, Parth Trehan and Mushaf Mir represented CHB in the Foundation Cricket Match vs KES.

KES were too strong on the day posting 270 from their 45 overs. The foundation team started well with Rayyen Khan hitting 50 off 25 balls. However, wickets fell regularly leaving the Foundation team 50 runs short in the end.



Staff V Students Rugby - Match Report 25/04/2024

Staff 6

T.Watkins (2)

V Kenworthy (2)

Maxwell

Rees

4 Students

C.Ndozi (2)

E.Lone-Ebrahim (2)

In this lunchtime's staff vs students touch rugby fixture a dominant staff team ran riot in front of a roaring crowd, coming out victorious 6 tries to 4. Pre-match, a confident staff team applied to the match official for the pitch to be widened ("*other than Chude, they've got no gas!*") and immediately made most of the additional space available to stretch the defence and open up an early lead with scores from T.Watkins, V.Kenworthy, and A.Maxwell. The students stuck back with scores from C.Ndozi and E.Lone-Ebrahim (2) but they were unable to stem the tide of the staff attacks as the staff team raced to 5-3 half time lead with Watkins and Kenworthy adding to their tallies and playmakers T.Burgess, J.Norton, N.Demel and A.Caves leaving the students looking like they were still stuck in the post climate-conference swamps of November. Concerned that he'd made no significant contribution to the first half, G.Rees put things right in the second half running half the length of the field to dive in and get himself on the score sheet. A distinctly slower paced second half suited both teams and despite a late second for Ndozi (and Demel getting mad after being stepped by H. McGhee) the staff team ran out convincing 6-4 victors.

Staff

T. Burgess, G. Rees, J. Norton, T. Watkins, N. Demel, A. Maxwell, A. Caves, V. Kenworthy

Students

A, Husayn, T. Isaacs, H. McGhee, C. Ndozi, E. Lone-Ebrahim, L. Mykhnenko, P. Sivakumar, H. Hau, TJ Cai, T. Fakeye, P, Krone, T, Dainty

Match Official

S.Brear



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Year 9 Expedition

On the 16th of May, 6 groups of roughly 7 people embarked on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The expedition was over a span of two days which entailed walking approximately 40 km through the Clent and Lickey hills. Although it was a gruelling experience, it filled us with joyous memories and we had loads of fun.

In order to complete the award, we were required to do this without the help of phones or any navigation system, unless you count the maps we were given. We were required to be self-sufficient, meaning all your clothes, food, drink, sleeping bags, and tents needed to be carried in an enormous bag on your back. Our group found it quite useful to talk to locals who lived there, whom without the help of, we probably wouldn't have found our way around. Navigating around the Clent and Lickey hills by yourselves in the rain is much harder than it looks! Our group (and many others) made some wrong turns and ended up walking the wrong way. It all turned out fine, but nobody really wants to realise they are 2km away from where they are supposed to be and have to walk back, through mud and bogs and rain just to get back to camp. After walking nearly 25 kilometres on the first day - which included a 4km detour - we were looking forward to eating a ready cooked meal, and sleeping in a comfortable bed. But no, instead we had to cook our own meals, and set up our tents, and our own sleeping bags. After waking up the next morning, cooking breakfast, and putting away all of our stuff, we set off to check point one of Day 2. By this point we had got the hang of things, and after reflecting on what went wrong the day before, we were more confident and navigated quickly through the Clent hills. The expedition ended at about 4 in the afternoon, after which everyone was dying to finally reunite with their phones. Everyone was exhausted after such a tiresome two days, but in the background, there was also a faint feeling of satisfaction knowing we had just completed our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition. The expedition was a great success; it had its ups and downs but we got to see some amazing reservoirs, forests and the one none of us forget - a bird's eye view of Birmingham. Slipping in the muddy bogs of the Clent hills wasn't the most pleasant of experiences, but it was definitely better than learning the conditional tense in German at school.

All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the expedition; it was an amazing experience and a big thanks should go to Mr Brear and all the other teachers that helped us on the way. DofE is a great opportunity to do something different, in the outdoors and away from school, which is why I would encourage everyone to do it if they have the chance.

Hussain Zaman - 9E

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Silver Qualifying Expedition – Peak District

We arrived at the famed Peak District at 10am on the first day, a little groggy and met by slightly wet and miserable conditions, but our spirits were high nonetheless. The first day was definitely a baptism by fire, starting out with a long climb to the top of what seemed like the never-ending Win Hill, which had all our calves on fire. By the time we eventually reached camp at the end of the day, we set up our tents and managed to cook some questionable looking couscous that was eaten half-heartedly, before heading in for a game of uno and an early night. The highlights of day 1 were “flicking up” (posing for photos – for anyone over 18 years old) with an abandoned excavator, stopping for lunch on the side of Lose Hill, greeting everyone we saw with a different accent and surveying the kingdoms atop Mam Tor. All in all we covered just over 15km on day 1, which was our shortest and steepest day with nearly a kilometre of elevation.

We awoke bright and early on day 2 for a sharp 8am start. Breakfast consisted of warm porridge and nutella- a delicious DofE staple. Day 2 started off slightly turbulently, somehow getting lost immediately which cost us 30 minutes

looking for the right route. Once we found our bearings it was mainly smooth sailing, although we ended up relaxing a little too much and got to camp slightly late, but with all the more memories for it. Our evening was much the same as the night before, but we had an infinitely nicer meal of instant noodles and enjoyed a shower before bed. The highlights of day 2 were discovering a mineshaft in a sheep field, having lunch in the beautiful Hay Dale, being helped by a lovely old farmer when we got lost, crossing the Wye river, almost being run over by a bull and watching green team traipse in at 10pm. All in all we covered nearly 17kms on day 2 and gained about 400m in elevation.

Day 3 started the same as the previous morning, although the walk began pretty excitingly. We were met by a roaring, 50 car entourage of bright blurs and engine oil right outside the campsite, which we got us quite worked up. After such an exhilarating start, the rest of the day was relatively mellow. The highlights of day 3 were watching the grumpy faces of drivers going past brighten when we waved at them, stopping in Lathkill Dale under a massive tree for lunch (we definitely didn't climb all the way to the top and one of us certainly wasn't still up there when Mr Brear came by to check on us, as that would be very silly), catching up to green team after giving them an hour's headstart, then finding blue and purple team as well at the river crossing, before forming coalition teams of green and yellow (us), versus blue and purple in a showstopper race to the end. Unfortunately blue and purple ended up edging out a marginal victory, thanks to the useless green team slowing us down. We were greeted by samosas upon our arrival at the vans and the sweet relief of rest. In total we covered just over 16kms on day 3, and ascended approximately 250m.

In summary, this experience taught us lots about the value of friendship and the very useful skill of manual navigation in 2024, but mostly just that walking sucks and cows are scary. The best memories of our expedition were all the ones I can't write here, and the hard photos we took along the way. Overall would definitely recommend, 10/10.

Layth Younas – L1

Walking Competition

Over the week commencing 24th June, the Eco Committee launched a “Walk to School” competition, in order to encourage more sustainable and active travel. Every morning, participating students made their way to the foyer, where Eco reps were stationed to note down distances walked to school. Some students used smartwatches and others used tracking apps to provide evidence. We were pleased to see so many students taking part and were also amazed by their dedication to travel such long distances over the week, with some having walked over 10km on some days!

Well done to the following students, who ranked top 5 in the school and will be awarded £20 Amazon Giftcards.

- Karim Abdelmaksoud
- Zain Iqbal
- Chris Moore
- Jude Kochakkadan
- Adeel Abdullah

The following students placed 6th to 10th and will be awarded a skip the queue pass!

- Rahul Sinha
- Joud Boujamaa
- Ishmail Khalil
- Ihsan Mohit
- Malachy Hayes

And those in 7C, 8C and 8K, will be given a special breakfast during a form time for collectively having travelled the furthest distances to school.

I'd like to thank all the students involved with the project for their time and effort as well as Miss. Mars-ton who has helped immensely with organising everything!

Ayan Butt - L4

Happy Summer, Beaufort family!

Thank you for all of your hard work across this academic year and for welcoming me in as your Head of House. It has been a delight. From Barbie to Movember to family history to birdsong and meditation, we've had a range of assemblies, and on top of all of this we've smashed it with House Events too! I hope you have a well-deserved rest, with plenty of fresh air and quality time with your family and friends.

Before a run-down of the events this Summer Term, I wanted to say a huge thank you to our incredible House Captains: Harley Hau (C, Juniors), Eesa Nadeem (VC, Intermediates) and Arthur Breakwell (VC, Seniors). I am sure you all agree with me that their contributions to Beaufort have been excellent – from spurring you on during House events to presenting assemblies on success and mental health, to running around forms in the morning to gather teams. We wish them all of the success in the world with their futures at University and beyond...!

At the time of writing this (25 th June), we are paving the way to greatness. I popped to watch some of Intermediate House Cricket yesterday afternoon in the sunshine and enjoyed witnessing some incredible bowling and catching from Zain Shah, Seb Robotham, Adam Bashir, Bhavya Gohil and the rest of the team. Despite having bad luck with our Captain Ollie breaking a finger (prior to the match), luckily all was not lost as Nikhil's famous hat was retrieved after being temporarily lost. We still have Tennis this week (but I am predicting we achieve 1 st position and Tudor come last). Thank you to our Captains for Tennis and Cricket for being so splendidly organised: Tennis - Ibrahim, Zain, Mustafa and Matthew and Cricket - Xai and Ollie. We also have Athletics Standards and Sports Day to look forward to.

One of the highlights for me this Summer Term has been the Camp Hill Boys Swimming Gala. This was such a fun event – despite the bizarre nature of 'The Plunge'...I still don't really get it! Beaufort triumphed in 1 st position for the Y7 Freestyle, Intermediate Freestyle, Y8 Breaststroke, Y8 Backstroke, Intermediate Backstroke, Y7 Butterfly, Intermediate Butterfly and Intermediate Relay. A few particular mentions to Jonah Kippax (for ensuring we didn't get any fouls!), Terry Sutton (for being the fastest swimmer I've ever seen and achieving the fastest individual in his year group) and Abhi Naveen (for being such a role model of a Y7 student and also achieving fastest individual award). You have all done Beaufort proud! Unfortunately, at 395 points, we came 3 rd (but only by 0.5 points to Howard!)

Alongside all of these sporting events, we have had the first House Photography competition. A special thanks to Mrs Smith, Miss May, Mrs Hodges and Mr Thompson, for facilitating this and

judging the entries. We have had some beautiful entries – including Prabhav's ducks and Satvik's nest reflection. You are all so creative and talented, well done for getting involved.

If you have found that there is still a gap for competitions that represent you and your passions – then please do let Heads of House and Mr Burgess know, so that we can put competitions on for you! At the start of next academic year, I will send around another form for recommendations on assemblies and house events, so have a think. It would also be lovely for more of you to present assemblies so that you can hear from each other.

In the meantime, have a lovely summer break. Once again, thank you so much for your continued supports and efforts.

Your "House Mum" as some of you say, Miss Marston :D

Tudor House Article 2024

This year has been a brilliant one for Tudor House. We have dominated or been in and around the top spot for practically every single house event or competition, putting us in contention for winning the House Championship.

There have been so many factors towards the success of this year, and it's been brilliant to see the buy-in from each member of the House.

One of the biggest factors to the success this year has been the House Captain, Prasanna Sivakumar. Prasanna has done an excellent job in organising the senior and junior teams across a range of sports and led Tudor House so well to hopefully what will be victory for us this year!

Beyond the House Championship, the representation of Tudor students in Senior and Junior Teams for Camp Hill has been brilliant. The likes of Jack Hogan, Tommy Fakeye, Tom Dainty, Emile Lone-Ebrahim, Hassan Soonsara, Karl, Rodrigo, Rishi Chauhan, Rahul Chauhan, Samar Khan, Malachi Powell, Krishna Nair and Layth Younas have all represented the Camp Hill 1st XI Rugby on a regular basis and done Tudor proud. Prasanna Sivakumar, House Captain, has finished his 7 excellent years of representing Camp Hill Tennis with a final win against Bromsgrove School, knocking them out of the National Cup. Taha Karim and Sathya Vaidyanathan represented Camp Hill at the Chess National Finals for the second year in a row! Ismaeel Feraz, Ali Jawad Ibrahim and Hassan Soonsara were ever-present in the 1st XI Cricket for Camp Hill, as they always have been. Abdul Rahman Ammad and Parth Trehan made their debuts for the Senior 1st Cricket Team, despite being only in Year 10. Shrikannan Selvaganapathy and Samuel Nouhov amongst plenty of others, led us to victory in the House Swim Gala. Jacob Hanratty, Preston Umanah and Aditya Manu in Year 8 won 3 athletics competitions for Camp Hill which is never a usual occurrence! There is so much talent in this house, it is fantastic to see and hard to mention everyone who deserves it!

I am hoping that the end of year result for the house championship will be a positive one for Tudor, and finish with Prasanna lifting the trophy, but regardless of the result, being House Master of Tudor for the past two years has been a privilege, and I hope it continues well with Mr. Rudd taking over.

GR

Seymour House Article

'Where no hope is left, is left no fear.' So wrote the poet John Milton in 1671 and though I doubt he had the performance of Seymour's 2023/24 cohort in mind when he conjured these words, I couldn't find an expression more apt for how we finished our campaign this year in the house championship. It was without hope that we emerged from the pool in April, having plunged into last place in the swimming gala, despite the best efforts of our intermediates led by Arthur Hill and Ben Luong. And so we looked down the wicket to house cricket, where Spencer Hazzell faced off without a hint of fear in his eyes, so much so that even after he was bowled out for a platinum duck (first ball of the innings), he stayed at the crease. Being dispatched a few balls later didn't deter him from finding his range in the following innings, where he smashed Beaufort around the park to set an unassailable lead and to rescue second place overall for the house. This was to be our best showing in the summer term, as we fell to last place in house photography, a new event, which was well received by students and staff alike. Some staff were so supportive that they offered to help out with judging, others offered their own entries, whilst one member of staff, who shall remain anonymous to save the red blushes of his house, was so supportive of the competition that he entered a photo, sat on the judging panel and was awarded first prize – rest assured, I have sent a request to Private Eye for further inquiry and hope to publish the truth of this scandal in next year's Chronicle. We finished the term with a humble showing at sports day, but can be proud of the efforts of Lemuel Adjei and Rahul Sinha, who were both victorious in the 300m, as well as newly appointed house captain Matthew Ransbotyn, and his vices, who showed that Seymour is the funnest house by winning the senior leap-frog, certainly something to write home about. It will be a hard task for Matthew and the team to rekindle hope in the hearts of the young Seymour faithful, but I have every confidence in his leadership skills and the motivational power of Rhys' banana.



Howard House Report

At the setting of the Seymour sun, we will struggle to remember them as the Blue Wave marched to overall victory in this year's House Championship. It has been quite a rollercoaster this year and Howard have been able to benefit from high levels of consistency and participation which meant that in spite of not always coming out on top in every cohort and every event, we were solid. Only in Tennis did we finish last of the pile, in every other event we were able to carve into the advantages of our rivals.

There are too many highlights to mention from across the whole of the academic year but I wish to thank all of our departing Howardians – ably led by Ethan Tumbos as House Captain – and to say that our Year 13s have been a Cerulean Generation in so many ways – special mention to Caleb Wilton and Dylan Mbichire for their excellent efforts and sorry you were unable to take part in a last House Music competition, also to Ankur Ramesha who has won the House Cup for his outstanding contribution across his seven years in the Howard. Well done too for Ayan Butt in become yet another Head Prefect from the Howardian stable. Final congratulations to Musa Ahmed for becoming our new House Captain after a spirited election where Daniel Oluyeye, Hadi Mumtaz, Wilf Kane, Gian Khera and Elliot Fernandes (Vice-Captain) all would have made a suitable and impressive advocate for the student body.

On to summer 2024, the summer that never started if the weather was anything to go by – it made it very hard to finish off the spring term events and move onto summer competition. We ended rugby in joint first with Beaufort and were unable to make good progress in the tennis. We had high hopes in Cricket and were able to come second in most competitions and, because of the fluctuating fortunes of others, this meant that we were able to come out on top. This put us in pole position with only the athletics to be completed. Well done to all participants in standards, and thanks to all the PE staff for working around weather, trips, fixture backlogs to ensure that enough students were able to compete and (even better) to bring advantage to Howard going into Sports Day. With the rains thwarting a Tuesday event, it was put back to the very last moment for our crowning glory to happen. In spite of some unfortunate errors by our seniors, strength in depth resulted in us winning the competition through a central commitment to excellence and ensuring our best candidates were tracked and fielded over the course of the last few days. Well done to Rayan Latif for winning the Victor Ludorum in Year 10, capped off by a relay win as well – also to Hadi Mumtaz who won his own unofficial Victor Ludorum by winning three events and a relay but then finding he violated compliance on events entered and saw the relay team disqualified...

What a year and what a win – the future is bright, the future is Howard.

GNH