



## INTERNATIONAL LINKS

### Exchange Visit to China – October 2005



In October a group of sixth form students and Mrs Long travelled to China to visit our partner school in Guangzhou, Southern China. During their time in China the group visited a large number of cultural sites, as well as teaching English to younger pupils in our partner school.

After a long flight to Hong Kong, the group visited the Peak on Hong Kong Island and rapidly became immersed in the local culture. The next morning, we took a series of bus rides to Guangzhou. Four buses and several hours later, we had seen the tremendous building going on along the Shatin / Shenzhen corridor, and experienced the security and customs checkpoints out of Hong Kong and into China. We arrived in Guangzhou later in the afternoon and were collected by staff from the English School. On our arrival at the school, there was a flurry of movement as everyone found their rooms. For the students this meant accommodation in a boarding house – communal living in a block 'protected' by security guards!

On Tuesday, the day began with a 'late' breakfast at 9.00 - late because the Chinese students had

their breakfast at 7.00!! Our students then went into class to teach pupils from Junior 1 [Year 7], and fortunately only taught half a class of 40. One group concentrated on the weather and body parts - teaching a song to the class. The other group concentrated on sports. In both cases the aim was to teach the pupils some new vocabulary and basic sentences and then give them a chance for general discussion in a question and answer session. The classes went well and both pupils and 'teachers' enjoyed them. At break our party had the chance to observe the whole school out on the front square doing exercise together – all 4500! Truly amazing!

The girls were interviewed for the school's television channel and faced a barrage of questions from some very serious reporters from Junior 4 [Year 10], including the perplexing, 'What is your favourite museum in England and how often do you visit?' On Thursday we visited the other partner school at Zhongshan, a rapidly growing city specialising in electronics, IT applications and engineering. The school, although fully built for 2500 has the relatively small number of 850 at the moment.

Further teaching sessions followed and lunch with the staff before we set off for Sun Yat Sen's house and museum.

Friday saw a brief shopping trip into the city and then off with our partners for the weekend with their families. Everyone had a great time and the parents of our partners had arranged for us all to meet up together during the weekend, which was terrific. Everyone was incredibly generous and our bags bulged even more when we left. On Sunday we all met up together at the school, ready to travel by train to Guilin. The main train station at Guangzhou has to be seen to be believed - people everywhere – we even had an escort of two of the guards from the school to 'help us' to get to the train on time!

Thursday saw us bleary eyed leaving the hotel at 5 in the morning, in order to get to the airport for our China Airlines flight to Beijing. On arrival in Beijing we were met by our guide and her flag, and a hectic two days followed, visiting the sights of the capital. The whole experience was fantastic and we packed an incredible amount into a fortnight and can highly recommend it to others. ■

## BABATI 2005

### Extending Links And Developing Futures

This was the second visit to Babati, the first being in July 2003. Unlike 2003, when Kirsty Wilson was resident in Babati, this time all the local arrangements were made by members of Babati Day Staff, coordinated by Elias Iyo. The fact that this was not only possible but generally very effective is testimony to the capacity building that has taken place at Babati Day over the last 3 years.

While the intention was to repeat many of the successful activities from 2003, it was also considered to be important to give the 2005 visit it's own identity, building on the strengths of 2003 while avoiding an action replay.

Possibly the most important if intangible success of the visit was the furthering of our relationship with Babati Day. Friendships flourished between all groups, students, staff and parents. An important change from 2003 was the 100%

commitment to the link by all the management and staff of Babati Day. The Headmaster is to be congratulated for removing divisions within the staff and, with the help of two new deputies, building a very happy and enthusiastic team. In this context it was very easy for good working relationships and in some cases real friendship to flourish between the Five Ways and Babati Day Staff. ■

## LIBRARY

### Birmingham Book Launch



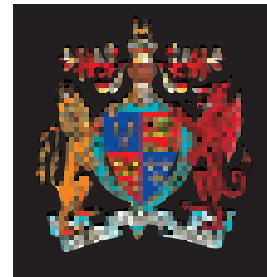
A joint History Department/Library trip on 17th November, saw a party of 36 Year 7 pupils visit Birmingham Central Library to attend the launch of a new history book. Entitled

"Birmingham: a history of the City and its People", it is a Key Stage 3 textbook produced by Birmingham Public Libraries. Its aim is to introduce the long and diverse history of the city to the young people of Birmingham.

The event was staged in the Centre for the Child. The book's author, Dr Malcolm Dick of Birmingham University, presented an introduction to the book and the city and then answered questions from the young people present. Five Ways pupils distinguished themselves with their enthusiastic participation and detailed knowledge of the history of the city. There was also an introduction to the vast

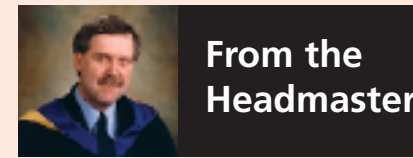
range of Local Studies material available in Birmingham Public Libraries. A short quiz rounded off the afternoon. Three Five Ways pupils, Caitlin Ravenscroft (7CR), Jay Sangha (7PM) and Mark Crawford (7BD) all scored 10 out of 10 and were each presented with a copy of the book by Dr Dick.

Thanks are extended to Mr Golightly who organised the trip and Mr Wojcieszonek for accompanying the pupils to the Library. Praise is also due to all the Five Ways pupils who conducted themselves so well and by their keenness to participate made the event so worthwhile. ■



# focus Five Ways

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## From the Headmaster

As we move to the end of this autumn term we have much to be proud of and much to celebrate. The weather remained good through to half term and a whole range of activities, sometimes curtailed by rain, were able to continue and the pupils were able to use the front field at break or much longer than previously.

Our new changing rooms came into use this term and have provided a very good extension to our facilities, enabling us to have year games once more. All sporting areas for both boys and girls continue to develop and rowing has been particularly successful this term under the dynamic leadership of Mr Howard Wilson; even the Headmaster participated in a team event which saw Five Ways emerge as Birmingham champions in "Concept 2" rowing and had prizes presented by Sir Steve Redgrave.

Our international links continue to grow with Mrs Long accompanying a group of Sixth Formers to China just before half term and Mr McDonald and I visiting Chicago with a delegation of local teachers in early November. Both China and Chicago are likely to be offered as visits for both staff and pupils in the coming years and we are in the early stages, too, of making links with a high school in San Jose, California. This growing "internationalism" has resulted this term in the award by the British Council of "International School" status to Five Ways. My thanks to Mr Bird and Mr Fox for their efforts in putting our successful bid together. Towards the end of this term we have also hosted visits by staff and pupils from our link schools in India and Babati, Tanzania.

As you will know we have been visited this term by Ofsted inspectors, using their short notice brief. Their report should be made public just before Christmas and I will ensure that you receive a copy. The inspectors were

very impressed with our school, our pupils and our staff and I thank all of you who took the time to respond via the inspectors' questionnaire and, I understand, responded very positively in the main. The inspectors were particularly complimentary about our programme of extra curricular activities for which I too thank all of the staff who provide their services fully and voluntarily without extra pay. Other areas they highlighted as strengths were our Sixth Form, our Humanities Specialism, our curriculum and the Senior Leadership Team. There have been significant developments and improvements since the time of our last inspection six years ago and we anticipate even more improvements before our next inspection which will be in only three years time! We are also likely to face a series of subject inspections in the next three years.

Much is happening and the school and, more importantly, our pupils go from strength to strength. The opportunities available to them are second to none and we hope that they take full advantage of these opportunities as they move through the school. I thank you all for your many contributions and for your continuing support for our school and your children.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr Lucas who has been Head of Art since Easter 1974. He has made a major contribution to the school in so many ways and across a range of areas. Whole generations of pupils have cause to be grateful for his teaching, his major involvement in extra curricular activities and, more recently, his wise counselling for higher education. We wish him and his wife a very happy retirement. I wish you all a good holiday and all best wishes for the new year.

D J Wheeldon.

## Keith Oakley



Department by Mark Overton who spent 7 years

Keith started at Five Ways in 1970 and for 26 years was Head of Mathematics. At the end of the summer term he decided to go part time after 35 years loyal service to the school. He is succeeded as Head of

at Five Ways as a pupil and already has put in 16 years in the department. The Mathematics department seems to attract "long servants!" Keith has many memories of his time at Five Ways and the following are a flavour of how things have developed. "On the technical front, in the mid-70's I remember a demonstration of the first photocopier. Staff watching gasped in amazement when the first copy was produced! Our first computer also arrived in the mid-70's, previously to this I had taught computer programming to Lower Sixth students where they had to write programs "long-hand" and I

## Special Congratulations to...

- Priya Deol who was awarded the RGS-IBG Award for Excellence in Geography.
- Mrs P Cooper who has attained Chartered Geographer status.
- Vicky Edgington, Micky Sinclair and Ani Tencheva who had an article published in the ATP Psychology newsletter.
- Staff and pupils who participated in the Steve Redgrave Trust Birmingham Schools Rowing Initiative.
- Alessandro Ruisi who is a member of the National Youth Orchestra for the second year.
- Sarah Taylor who continues to be a member of the National Children's Orchestra and competed in the Leamington Harp Festival gaining two second places and two first places.
- Michael Jones who is a member of the CBSO Youth Orchestra.
- Lucy Seymour who addressed the Labour Party Conference.
- The Red Cross Group who facilitated a day of workshops at the Red Cross YPP Event at Millennium Point.
- The Next Generation Awards teams who attained Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.
- All the school for raising £1250 on genes for jeans day.
- Former Five Ways pupil Tom Parsons who is number 3 in the UK for the High Jump and is ranked number 8 in the Commonwealth and has been selected to compete for England in the Commonwealth Games next March 2006 in Melbourne.
- Gurmeet Bassi whose report on the BCBE Sixth Form programme 2005 appeared in the BCBE newsletter.
- Dr H Smith who has had an article published on Britten's War Requiem.
- Sarah Taylor who was awarded Distinction at Grade 6 Harp. ■

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HUMANITIES

ICELAND 2005



For the first time ever, we set off to go all the way round Iceland, something our guide and coach company had never done before with a school party. We invited students from Cadbury College's Geology Department and King Edwards' Camp Hill Girls geographers. This worked very well and the balance of staff and students proved to be key to the success of the trip.

To cover the 2000 kms in the 8 days meant some long journeys – we reached as far as we had ever gone before within 2½ days – but no-one seemed to notice as there was so much to see and we would often get out for photo stops.

From the outset, we realised that this was to be an exceptional group. The leading air hostess sought me out to (repeatedly) say that our school was the best group she had ever experienced in flying with Iceland Air, commenting on their exceptional behaviour, politeness and helpfulness, and how amazed she was with them. We were all clearly marked out by our black KEFW polo shirts! Later the coach driver said to us that he was so pleased with the group and the way they were keeping the coach clean, were polite and not noisy: he later complimented them on being the best group he had ever driven for.

Here are just some of the things that we managed to do and see. Words and pictures cannot describe the effect of it to the soul of the individual and the group – apart from the specific curriculum learning experiences.

Geysers and at least 7 unique awesome waterfalls

Giant's Causeway type columns, black beaches and crashing white foamy waves

Contemplation (emotional intelligence exercises) of extraordinary landscapes

Glaciers galore from every angle with crevasse development and lakes

Video of a volcano exploding under an ice cap

and consequent flood damage  
Snowmobiling on an ice cap and awe-inspiring colours and shapes of floating icebergs

Fjords with mud flows and landslides on the main road around them

Wildlife such as whales and reindeer

Hydro-electric power station which then released its stored water through the sluice gates creating a waterfall into the river's former gorge

The breathtaking broad expanse of the northern cold desert

Hot pots and smelly pools along the line of the fissuring plate boundary

Walking on a recent lava flow that is still steaming, with thick snow lying all around

Bathing at night in hot open-air geothermal pools in air temperatures of -7°C

Climbing up a volcano to its crater – its immensity and majestic nature overwhelming

Walking through 'Lord of the Rings' landscapes with weird lava shapes and paths

Geothermal power station with mega steam columns rising out of the snow-filled landscape

Visiting a local school to establish links with KEFW

Wild landscapes and wonderful sunsets

The overwhelming sense of the need for us all to take a role in protecting our environments

Spectacular Northern Lights on 3 occasions with brilliant shifting curtains of pulsating colours of emerald green, purples and reds cutting across the cold dark skies

The hot milky waters of the Blue Lagoon set in a lava field

The last night out in the capital, Reykjavik, eating all the pizza we could.

This was more than just a field trip, rather an experience for the whole person – spiritual, emotional and physical. ■

Asian Arts Festival

This multi-cultural, annual concert, displaying the diverse talents of students, was once again a huge success. In previous years, we have invited acts from outside of school to help enhance the show. However, for the past two years, there have been 100% home-grown performances.

This year the show was organised by a group of sixth form students; Jasveer Poonian (Instrumental and Vocal co-ordinator), Neelam Pankhania (General co-ordinator), Selina Soma (Dance and Promotion co-ordinator), Raisah Karim (Fashion Show co-ordinator), Shivang Patel (Drama co-ordinator), Saba Ahmed (Catering co-ordinator) and Laurie Young (Backstage co-ordinator).

The popularity of the event has developed from past shows and so there has always been a high standard to meet and improve upon. The success of this year's show was due to the professional conduct and diversity of the talents displayed. On the night, the audience watched classical, traditional, Bollywood and modern dances – all performed to a very high standard. There were a number of comedy sketches and the school's finest dhol players on show. A fashion show paraded traditional and modern, and intricate Asian clothes were exhibited... not forgetting to mention Mr Marston's special appearance in a baby pink sari. For the first time ever, we also had a vocal performance and a dand yudh (stick fighting) display. Following the show, everybody indulged in some exquisite Indian savouries and watched a wonderful firework display.

An amazing total of £1560 was raised from the event, which was donated to a charity chosen by the students, called Midland Relief Fund. This is the most we have ever raised from the Asian Arts Festival, in all the years it has been running, more than doubling last year's total amount!

The Asian Arts festival is an opportunity for the students of Five Ways to come together and work with each other to raise money for charity, whilst learning to appreciate multi-cultural society by displaying a wide – range of talents. However, we have strived to improve this, by taking the show 'on the road' by performing and carrying out workshops at various other schools. This is a brilliant experience for everyone involved and it so rewarding to see how much everybody enjoys themselves; just as much us, as the children involved.

A deserved well done to everyone involved! ■



SPORT

Rugby Biarritz Tour

The first day saw us play Bayonne who are the strongest club side in France at Under 14 level. The team had done their practice session on the beach and a nice cool down in the sea. On arrival the team were somewhat apprehensive when the Bayonne side came on to the pitch and dwarfed the Five Ways side. On a smaller pitch and playing 12 a side, Five Ways struggled to match the French champions and soon found themselves behind. Five Ways struggled to match the pace and the physicality of the French side and were beaten 15–5 with James Whybrow scoring the Five Ways try.

Game two saw a fixture against Bardos. Five ways made their worse start ever and were behind 20-0 in record time. Some encouraging words had the desired effect. Five Ways started to reduce the deficit with James Whybrow, Stephen Baker, and Nile Dacres all scoring tries. Going in to the final quarter of the match and tries being scored regularly at both ends it looked like Five Ways were going to lose their second game. Darren Lam however put in a man of the match performance and helped Five Ways to an excellent win.

The final game saw us play Biarritz whose senior side play in the Heineken Cup. For the first time on tour the rain came down. Playing in a torrential downpour seemed to suit the Five Ways side as Anthony Cotter, Max Hartman and Nile Dacre gave the Five Ways pack the edge up front. Biarritz looked towards their biggest player who was nicknamed the 'Tank'. At over 6 foot and about 15 stone the 'Tank' needed to be dealt with. Thomas Singleton was up to the task and made sure that the Five Ways defence held firm. Despite the rain the rugby was entertaining and Five Ways ended up winning 20-10 with tries from Whybrow, Baker, Dacres and Lam.

Overall the tour was a great learning curve for the team and it was very much enjoyed by all. ■

Belfast Netball Tour 2006



On the 10th November 2005 the 1st Team Netball Squad headed off on their tour of Northern Ireland. Confident from a highly successful previous season, and with additions to the squad in the form of Navpreet Moonga and Laura Hawkins, spirits were high as they boarded the flight to Belfast.

Day one saw some pre match preparations with a visit to the Spirit Health Club based in the upmarket Continental Hotel. The squad worked hard in the multi gym and fitness room before relaxing in the spa in preparation for their first match against St Macnissus College the following day.

Day two took us on a visit to the world renowned Giant's Causeway, where in gale force conditions we all struggled to keep hold of our hats, money and footing! In true Irish tradition however, we were treated to a practical demonstration of a mythical tale when a dramatic rainbow appeared across the causeway.

From the Antrim Coast we travelled to Larne, where our hosts St Macnissus College provided our first sporting challenge of the tour. The match proved to be very close with several players sustaining minor injuries in our determination to get off to a winning start. Maria Long played a captain's role in driving the team forward, but our legs were not to withstand a late 'St Meg's' onslaught. The team consoled themselves with some post match celebrations and a spot of stargazing at the local leisure centre!

Saturday saw the team hit the city centre to shop for some local bargains and tour the sights. Most impressive were Queen's University and City Hall

Later that evening the team prepared for the second match of the tour against Larkfield Netball Club. Unbeknown to us before the match, Larkfield U16's had won both Northern Irish and All Ireland Championships in the previous season, so it was a tough match to say the least. Five Ways were magnificent however, matching the national champions in every quarter and it was not too disappointing to finally lose the match narrowly to such fine opposition. Post match celebrations revolved around the latest evictee from Pop Idol, with the programme providing a light hearted common interest between the two sides.

After a tough match it was time for some well deserved rest and relaxation, and so it was off sightseeing once more to take in the highlights of Belfast Zoo. In the evening it was time for some intra squad competition as 'Team Phillips' took on 'Team Ryan'. Alas, with the help of the bumper girls and a healthy supply of Irish luck, 'Team Phillips' proved victorious.

On our last day in Belfast we braved the cold to ride the open topped bus around the sights of the city. We heard much about Belfast's industrial past as the birth place of the Titanic and its problems with cultural divides in the city. Many of the wall murals depicting the past troubles in Northern Ireland still adorn houses along the Shankhill and Falls Roads. Finally it was time to squeeze in just one last fixture against Bloomfield Collegiate on route to the airport. Like Five Ways, Bloomfield is a selective grammar school, educating girls from across Belfast. Tired but readied by their clash against Larkfield, Five Ways stormed to a twenty goal victory to round off their tour in style. ■



MUSIC

The musical highlight of the Autumn term was the Concert on Wednesday November 23rd. The event was a huge success, not least in the guest appearance of the Quinborne Choir conducted by Ellis Shortt. This new link with the local musical community was an inspiration for us all. It was also good to welcome pupils from our linked primary schools to our rehearsals on the Wednesday afternoon.

The Quinborne Choir sang a selection of short pieces of a light nature, and then joined with our own Choirs in Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus Natum and the inspired Coronation Anthem Zadok the Priest by Handel. Other choral music included the Junior Choir in the hilarious 'The Day I Got My Finger Stuck Up My Nose' and the Chamber Choir's immaculate performances of

music by Duruflé and Leonard Bernstein. Chris Gray (U6MP) was delightful in his elegant performance of the Finale from Mozart's Flute Concerto in G, accompanied by the Orchestra under Mr Griffiths. The Orchestra also played the Capriol Suite by Warlock. The overall effect of the Baroque Strings was greatly enhanced by the harp playing of the very talented Sarah Taylor, and underpinned the ethereal organ tones of Alan Taylor, as they played the heartfelt Sospiri by Elgar, under the direction of Mr Griffiths. The Training Orchestra was conducted by Dr Smith in Prokofiev and yet more Bernstein. Her Wind Band set feet tapping in Tequila and Walton's Crown Imperial.

The Concert ended with a grand finale in which the combined choirs, the Orchestra, and the

audience joined in Parry's Jerusalem. All performers are to be congratulated on a wonderful evening of music making.

In the final week of term the Carol Service was held once again in the beautiful venue of Newman College Chapel. The singing of both the Junior Choir and the Chamber Choir, the participation of the congregation, and the telling of the Christmas story in the readings was an inspiration to all who attended.

On the final Wednesday of term, sixteen pupils and students were examined in instrumental playing under the auspices of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. The results of these will be published in the next Focus Fiveways. ■