



September 2006

Solihull School

Shenstonian





Mr P Griffiths, MA, Headmaster

From the Headmaster

For the first time in five years there has not been a contractor on site. This year we have been able to enjoy the space and freedom to move around the School without meeting a temporary diversion. The George Hill Building was handed over just in time for the opening of the academic year and it has proved to be even better than we had envisaged, with its social areas and modern classrooms that have state of the art facilities. It completes a major building programme which has seen the School's facilities improve immeasurably over the last five years. Although there will not be another new building in 2006, the Governors have announced that the Chapel organ will have a much-needed refurbishment. It will take eight months and be carried out by the company that originally installed the organ. By 2008 the Chapel Choir will have an organ that matches their excellence.

However, it is people who make schools not just buildings and this year has seen another major change. Girls joined the School not only in the Sixth Form, but also in every year in the Junior School and at age 11. Altogether, 52 girls joined us below the Sixth Form in their distinctive uniform and rapidly became an accepted part of the School. By the end of the Christmas Term the transition to co-education was being described as seamless and the girls were already making their mark by winning the Borough Swimming Championships and coming second in the County Hockey. The girls were there in Barnum, in the concerts, the Lower School playlets, the Junior School productions and they have their own Chapel Choir. They have brought a new vitality and a different dimension to Solihull School and it is a better place for that.

The year began with the best academic results the School has achieved, with 82.5% of all A Level subjects taken gaining grade A or B. Seventeen gained entrance to Oxford and Cambridge and nineteen went on to medical schools. As the year draws to a close and the final external exams are taken, thoughts start to turn to the results in August and the cycle will begin again.

In between, so much has taken place and these pages record some of what has happened. One of the most striking developments is the growth of trips and visits. There have been over 130 trips and visits this year, some to local attractions, but the range of countries visited spans the globe. Tibet, Australia, South Africa, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Spain all figure as destinations and links have been established with schools in Sri Lanka and Chile. The global opportunities seem endless, but so are those available at School. The skill is seizing the opportunity provided and so many of our pupils do this. It can be on the sporting field or on the stage or in the debating chamber or in the concert hall. It does not have to be the big occasion, but instead the informal concert, the studio production, helping with reading in the Junior School as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. Such events will not necessarily be recorded here, but they are equally important and all take place in this thriving community.

Without the contribution of the staff all that happens here would not be possible. Over the year and at the end of the Summer Term several colleagues are moving on and the tributes that follow are richly deserved. In particular I would like to mention Mr Aldis and Mr Smith, who are retiring with 40 years' service between them. They have led the Mathematics and Science Departments with great skill and have steered them through the considerable changes that have taken place in the educational world during their time as Heads of Department. They have made a significant contribution to Solihull School and it is fitting that Mr Smith's interest and support for medical applications should enjoy such success this year and that for Mr Aldis three mathematicians will be going to Oxford in October.

These pages reflect some of the successes over the past year and will recount our indebtedness to leaving staff. However, the crucial friendliness and sense of purpose of this community that is so evident and makes this place so special cannot be so easily recorded. It is the spirit of Solihull School that is not only intangible, but also essential, and long may it exist.

Girls Hit Solihull School!

September 2005 has seen the beginning of a new era for life at Solihull School. The waiting was over and the gates were opened to the new intake of girls. With 29 girls joining the Junior School and a further 22 girls entering the Senior School in the Thirds, Solihull School had now become well and truly a co-educational establishment.

Their introduction and integration into the school community could not have been smoother. In such a short space of time the girls have become fully involved in every aspect of school life... their feet are certainly under the table! It has been a credit to them as to how much they have achieved in their first academic year.

Life in the classroom has benefited hugely from having a female perspective, as has the extra-curricular programme. Their presence has been duly noted in the world of sport, theatre and outdoor activities. Such has been their impact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to remember life as it was!

So how has it been? There is no better way than to hear it straight from the horses' mouth:

"The very first time I stepped into Solihull School I knew I was welcome." *V Weaver (IIIW)*

"My favourite thing is the sport because we all have a place in the teams and the facilities are really good." *F Levey (IIIF)*

"I can honestly say that the whole experience of being the first batch of girls was thoroughly rewarding... In my opinion this being a boy's school is in the past, the girls have arrived!" *H Ryland (IIIP)*

"Now, almost at the end of my first year, I am delighted to say that I feel like a girl in a co-ed school" *H-C Younan (IIIH)*

"The boys don't treat us any differently to anyone else and there isn't any conflict between us, well almost!" *V Weaver (IIIW)*

"I think it's been great being the first girls, as the boys didn't know how to react. Some of them thought that we all loved pink and we didn't play sports like football but we proved them wrong. We have definitely hit Solihull with a bang!" *G Russell (IIIP)*

Well done girls. Let's keep it going!

Mrs C L Black and the Third Form girls



Solihull School

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Editors: Helen Pike and Andrew Powell

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Valetes



David Aldis

David sadly leaves us after a committed and richly varied career in teaching. He graduated in Mathematics from Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, in 1968 and began teaching at King Edward VI School, Southampton. In 1977 he dramatically broadened his horizons; he and his wife Catherine left for Panchgani, India, where David headed up the Maths Department and worked as Sixth Form Co-ordinator at St Peter's School. After this positive, challenging experience, David returned to familiar territory, King Edward's, Southampton. He and Catherine also enjoyed the pleasures of seeing their two boys grow up and become pupils of Solihull School, where David arrived as Head of Department in September 1984.

David is a true academic. Indeed, the Mathematics department informs me that while most mathematicians are strong in either Pure Maths or Arithmetic, David is, to their green-eyed annoyance, an expert in both! More importantly though, he is known for being a strong, supportive head of department and an excellent teacher.

David's involvement and talents have reached well beyond the classroom. He has run the school's Christian Union and has been particularly committed to school sport teams. He is often to be found at the pitch side, supporting the rugby teams. We will not be allowed to forget his Welsh roots! Moreover, he has taken a hockey team every year since he arrived. The school is deeply grateful to David for his unstinting service and he will be missed by many – even those who groaned at his infamous jokes!

Miss H E Pike

Geoffrey Wildman

Geoff Wildman retired in May after 18 years as the School Marshal. He joined the school after a career in the Royal Navy from which he retired as a Petty Officer.

The Marshal is responsible for the security of the School and a myriad of other tasks that allow the

School to function day by day. Geoff will perhaps be remembered as the man with the large string of keys wrapped around his shoulders! His job was all about detail making sure the School was open and closed at the right times and everything was in order.

Throughout, Geoff carried out his duties with attention and great care. He was a character in himself and well known. Over recent years he suffered from indifferent health which he bore with character and fortitude.

We wish him and Pam a long and happy retirement and thank him for his contribution to Solihull School.

Mr C Warren

– Bursar and Clerk to the Governors



Anthony Avery

For many, the Bushell Hall and Anthony Avery are synonymous. Anthony joined us just as the Hall came on line and he has made it his home ever since! There are very few support staff who have given so freely of their time to support students, staff and external visitors alike in their use of the facilities. His knowledge and expertise proved vital in the delivery of technical design theatre offered by A Level candidates as part of their assessments and he remained approachable and calm (mostly!) when deadlines loomed.

He has made significant contributions to virtually every area of School life – running the chess club, livening up assemblies, providing technical support and wizardry for concerts from the Junior School to the Leavers' Service and offering support and advice for local schools. He has developed a lively and well-drilled team of assistants to form the Backstage Crew (not the dodgy rap band that it sounds!) who provide vital backstage help for productions.

Anthony has used his creativity and inventiveness in multiple ways; to work with students to make short films, direct 'Lord of the Flies' and organize the recent Lower School fairy story performances. He can teach individuals, direct plays, provide sound, lighting and set for major productions and still find time to explain the mysteries of Video

editing to me! In addition to all this, he is currently involved in acting at the Crescent Theatre.

On a personal level, his patience and sense of humour have seen me through some major school productions and his genuine interest in the students and in their success has been refreshing. He leaves us to explore new avenues in his career and I know he will prove a success in whichever is his chosen final field. He is generous and talented and we shall miss him.

Mrs L M Fair

Ron Smith

Ron Smith came to Solihull from Rugby School in September 1988 as Head of Science and Chemistry. The department has flourished during his leadership and has attained splendid results in the public examinations. He has prepared countless applicants to Oxbridge and Medical Schools and our many successes must be attributable in large part to his careful guidance of the candidates.

At Solihull Ron has furthered his passion for outdoor pursuits by teaching Canoeing and Lifesaving with the Terriers, has been on CCF camps and Snowdonia School, and has taken part in Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. He has also developed a somewhat alarming interest in make-up! His thespian tendencies have blossomed, and he has shown himself to be an imaginative and talented make-up designer for recent musicals – He certainly went to town on the clowns for Barnum.

It appears, however, that over the years Ron has not been entirely committed to the science department. He has in fact been moonlighting as an honorary member of the Modern Languages Department where his sense of adventure and camaraderie has been very much appreciated. He is a budding linguist and has progressed from his early days of dependency to holding his own while staying with a foreign family – providing, of course, that the food they offer is good enough; he is truly a gastronomic connoisseur. Ron is also the sort of fellow you want with you in times of crisis. Take the Shell form trip to France, where, rumour has it that Ron almost single handedly



rescued tents and pupils who were all but being washed away following severe gales.

Ron has always wanted to be a legend in his own lifetime and many pupils, colleagues and parents would wholeheartedly agree that he has achieved this. We shall miss his sense of humour, kindness and companionship as well as his commitment to all aspects of school life. We wish him a long, happy and active retirement.

Mr R J Melling

Stuart Bayley

At the end of the Summer Term Stuart Bayley retired after nearly 20 years as Refectory Manager. He will be well remembered by generations of former pupils as the man who 'delivered' food.

Educated in Stoke on Trent, Stuart spent time in the Merchant Navy followed by 14 years with various contract-catering companies throughout the West Midlands. He was well in advance of Jamie Oliver in recognising the importance of good and wholesome school food. Under his direction catering was transformed; it flourished.

Lunch is an important occasion at Solihull School and Stuart made it so. The smiling kitchen ladies in the servery were all part of a team that he created and nurtured. In the world of catering much happens behind the scenes to make things happen. Stuart never failed to make it happen.

Stuart was also responsible for catering for the 'high days' of the School calendar as well as cricket lunches, sports team teas and countless other activities. He had high standards and everything was done with flair and enthusiasm often at short notice. Nothing was too much trouble for him.

We wish him happiness and good fortune in the years to come. He will be much missed by the whole School community.

Mr C Warren
– Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

Rebekah Lockyer

Rebekah joined the English Department in 2003, quickly becoming a central figure in the department, specialised in the teaching of the Victorian novel, and modern 20th Century Drama. During her time here, she displayed a genuine passion for Literature and its power to make a difference to people's lives through its humanising effect. Her lessons were fun, imaginative and opened up a world of myth and magic to her pupils. Her teaching of *The Hobbit* was particularly inspiring. That said, she will be remembered most for her contributions to school productions. In her three years, she helped with *The Crucible* (2003), *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (2004), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2004) and *Les Miserables* (2005). Furthermore, in 2003 she single-handedly resurrected the Lower and Middle School Drama



club, which has since grown from strength to strength, and resulted in productions of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* (2005) and *Teechers* (2006). Her budding thespians were recently invited to take part in recording a radio episode for BBC's *Silver Street* programme. All this would not be possible if it weren't for Bex's energy, commitment and vision.

In her final year, she built upon her knowledge and interest of drama through helping to teach Theatre Studies to the Sixth Form. In a short time, she became an authority on Brecht and his methods.

Bex is a very talented pianist, having taken a combined honours degree in Music and English. She now feels it is time to focus on her true love, and wishes to develop more time to playing the piano. She will do this whilst also teaching music part-time at Wolverhampton Grammar School. We wish her the best of luck as she embarks on this new career path.

Mr S A Hart

James Roberts

James Roberts became Head of History in September 1999. He had previously taught at Whitgift and RGS Worcester. James was a graduate of Christ Church Oxford and soon his passion for history became apparent. He was an excellent scholar and the depth and accuracy of his knowledge was outstanding. His years in charge of the History Department were significant; he skilfully guided the conversion to AS/A2 in the Sixth Form and established a solid academic base for a thriving department. He was proud of the first class Inspection Report that the History Department received from Anthony Selden, headmaster of Wellington College and eminent educationalist.

James led several Battlefields trips and his commentaries at each sight were terrific; all pupils acknowledged James as an academic who could really teach – not always an automatic combination.

James's other passion was Cricket and his love of the game was infectious. During the summer term he lived and breathed Under 13 cricket. He was a member of the M.C.C. and an accomplished bowler, and he would claim middle-order batsman.

James loved to compete and this was always on show in the charity 5000 metres which he took very seriously. He now moves in to be Head of History at Oakham School and we wish him, Tina and baby Tom all the very best in the future. Whenever I drink good Champagne – which isn't very often – I think of James Roberts – his detailed knowledge of that subject was impressive too – a true scholar and gentleman.

Mr J C Loynton

Jo Frampton

Jo joined Solihull School in September 1999 and immediately won the hearts of pupils and staff alike. She has made a huge impact on the Department with her commitment, enthusiasm and infectious nature.

Jo is a talented Ceramicist and spent lunch times devoted to passing on her skills. She has also spent many an evening and weekend working on projects with middle school pupils, coaxing them in with donuts and pop!

Jo has always enjoyed trips away with the school; she was a regular visitor to the Snowdonia cottage and will be remembered (largely thanks to camera phones) for her entertaining and fun nature. Invites have never been in short supply for school trips, in particular Languages, possibly not for her linguistic skills but more for her after-tea pool hustling. She also played a vital role in the infamous eight-day sailing trip, reduced to two thanks to freak weather conditions. Sleeping under canvas on a wooded campsite is not terribly conducive to a good night's sleep in a hurricane! The storm eventually brought down trees onto caravans with such force that Jo described them as looking like hot knives slicing through butter. Jo and Mrs. Sanganee made it to the catering tent where they weathered the storm under a kitchen sink while Mr. Sanganee and Mr. Smith rounded up the pupils and herded them into a toilet block for safety. Thankfully, all Solihull pupils and staff survived unscathed.

Jo has not only been an inspirational teacher and form tutor but also a real friend. Whether I remember meetings and make it to morning break in time for the biscuits remains to be seen. I for one will miss her greatly. We wish her lots of happiness as she moves back to Leeds and begins her new teaching job at Harrogate Ladies College. Ta ra chuck.

Miss T J Bryan

Andrew Wild

Andrew Wild came to Solihull School from Bromsgrove School in September 2001 to teach Mathematics and in the last five years has made a huge impact in many areas of school life. He is extremely enthusiastic and is a lively, inspirational and highly idiosyncratic teacher, who has always tried to impart to his students his own love for Mathematics.

He is a very accomplished user of ICT in his teaching, and has even set up his own website which students, and indeed parents, can visit to go

over home work covered in lessons – a very popular innovation.

Andrew introduced the school to clay pigeon shooting and in a short time has developed a very successful school team. He has coached the Sixth Form squash team and has also helped with the running of tennis teams and an Under 15 rugby tour to Italy. In addition, he has been an excellent year group Head for pupils in years 10 and 11.

Perhaps his greatest achievement since joining the school is that he arrived as a bachelor and he leaves us happily married to Dawn. Andrew has been keen to run his own department and we congratulate him on his appointment as Head of Mathematics at King's High School, Warwick. As a school we shall miss him a great deal, but I am sure that he will be returning at lunchtime on Fridays whenever faggots are on the menu!

Mr D R Aldis



Claire Black

I was staggered to research Claire's history at Solihull School, only to learn she has been with us just five years. Such has been her impact both inside and outside the classroom that people regard her as one of the longer servers. As a teacher she has been professional, patient and encouraging. As a colleague she has always been supportive, innovative and hard working. Claire has always given generously of her time. As a member of the Modern Languages Department, she has helped to run film evenings, a visit to a French market and study visits to Paris. She has also turned her hand to the CCF, donning the uniform with great aplomb and getting stuck into the overnight exercises. Solihull School has been fortunate to benefit from Claire's prowess as a sportswoman, running a hockey team, and supporting netball.

Claire, with her sunny smile, has been a popular member of the Common Room; I have almost never seen Claire cross (and when I have done it was very mild!) and I can only concur with passing comments about her: 'a lovely lass', 'the nicest person I know', as well as other less printable comments! I have enjoyed Claire's company and

Claire's professionalism. We wish her all the best as she joins her husband in his business and spends more time with her son William.

Mrs M A Barrett

Tim Edge

Mr. Tim Edge came from Burnham Grammar School, Buckinghamshire to become Head of Religious Studies in January 2001. He quickly established himself as a strong form tutor, demanding exemplary behaviour from his form, yet entertaining them with a range of charming Disney ties and a passion for Charity Week. In fact, members of Tim's form prided themselves on winning the contest for collecting the most jumble, with proceeds going to a range of good causes. He was a motivating figure to his students, as well as being a pioneer of PSHE at Solihull School.

Tim has taken his subject seriously, ever since his Lampeter University days. He introduced Philosophy A. Level to Solihull School and led his department forward very positively. Yet Tim contributed beyond academic life; having moved from 23 stone to the svelte figure we all knew at Solihull, Tim set out encourage students in their fitness, running early morning gym for enthusiastic pupils.

Tim began a new phase to his career as Head of Department at Elizabeth College, Guernsey in January 2006. We envy him as he sits in his office, overlooking scenic sea views, and wish him and his family well for a happy, successful future.

Miss H E Pike / Canon A Hutchinson

Lucy Pearson

Lucy Pearson made a huge impact on Sixth Form life during her three and a half year tenure as Head of Sixth Form. Lucy led by example, and created a mood of confidence and generosity amongst sixth formers. Her comparative youth and boundless energy gave her a distinct advantage in communicating with students. Lucy's informal, friendly manner encouraged her audience to feel she was talking to them as individuals. Assemblies were personable and warm occasions. However Lucy had a clear sense of values and expectations and she reminded the sixth form of these with a degree of frankness that made even the most laid back sixth former sit up and listen. She inspired loyalty from her students and they in turn respected her appeals for decent behaviour because they could sense the justice in them.

Lucy always had an encouraging, bright word for those around her. Junior School pupils, the Headmaster, recalcitrant Sixth Formers were all greeted with a welcoming smile. Her natural sense of fun meant that her lessons were light in tone, whilst her sharp intelligence added weight to the content of her words.

Apart from leading the sixth form, teaching English, coaching hockey, singing in the school

choir, Lucy became the first female to coach the cricket XI. As England's opening bowler, Lucy equalled a 46-year-old world record, by claiming 11 wickets in the second Ashes Test at Sydney in February 2003. She was also voted Women's Player of the Year in 2003. Undoubtedly, Lucy's achievements in international sport informed her approach to teaching and management.

Lucy made the Sixth Form a happy place to be. We wish her every success in what is sure to be an outstanding and happy career at Wellington College and beyond.

Mr R C Farmer

Debbie Searle

Debbie Searle joined the Mathematics Department in Sept. 2004 from North London Collegiate School. Although she has only been with us for just over a year, she has made her mark in many ways. She worked hard and always expected high standards of discipline, effort and academic achievement from her classes. She was rightly disappointed if these were not forthcoming. Debbie also gave invaluable help with Badminton club. She went on maternity leave in November 2005 and baby Isaac was born in December. Now the family are moving to Dauntsey's School, a boarding school in Wiltshire, and we wish them well.

Mr D R Aldis

Emma Holloway

Emma joined the Classics Department in September 2005 and already she is leaving it! I am somewhat worried as to what that might say about me as Head of Department!

Emma has been a fantastic person to work with. She is always enthusiastic about Classics and has been incredibly supportive of the students and the Department. She has been very willing to give up her spare time to teach Ancient Greek GCSE and to run a Classics Clinic to help those confused by the finer points of Latin grammar. Emma has also been a very dependable second-in-command on the many trips the Classics Society has been on this academic year.

Classics is not Emma's only interest. She has also been involved with the dramatic productions that have been staged this year, most notably *The Sea*. I know that the students and staff involved with this production appreciated all her hard work.

Emma has also been a form tutor to I11F for half the year, and again has shown her commitment to the students.

The Department will miss Emma very much indeed. She has been a calming and supportive influence on her Head of Department, and can also bake the best chocolate brownies ever tasted! I'd like to wish Emma all the luck in the world as she moves on from Solihull School and to thank her for her hard work this year.

Miss J Guy

University & College Entries 2005

ABERYSTWYTH

Emma Narroway Law

ASTON

Alexander Smith Computing for Business

BATH

Daniel Clarke International Management & Modern Languages (French)
Economics

BIRMINGHAM

Christian Cassem Law with French
Alexandra Ramsay (left July 2004) Dentistry
Kimya Razavi Medicine
Victoria Smith Law
Russell Warwick Medicine

BRISTOL

William Collins Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe
Clare Hall-Griffin (left July 2004) Dentistry (BDS Pre-Dental Year Entry)
Charlotte Munday Law

BRISTOL WEST OF ENGLAND

Jonathan Ray Business Studies

CAMBRIDGE DOWNING

Simon Thomas Mathematics

EMMANUEL

Jessica Banham History

FITZWILLIAM

Hannah Mansfield History

MAGDALENE

Stephen Webster Music

ST JOHN'S

Caroline Hartley Law

SIDNEY SUSSEX

Neil Graham Medicine

CARDIFF

Richard Crowson Medical Science
Abigail Jebson Zoology
Megan Mitchell Medicine (Entry 2006)
Harkiran Virk Dentistry BDS
Rebecca Wollerton Medicine

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

Kieran Wyldes Business & Marketing

CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

James Morris (left July 2004) Music Performance

COVENTRY

Harriet Nash Physiotherapy

DURHAM

Joseph Baddeley Physics & Astronomy
Lauren Brayshaw Sociology (Entry 2006)
Robert Fanner Biology
Victoria Finch Biology
Nicholas Harkin Computer Science

Robert Johnson
Nicholas Moores

Aeronautics (Entry 2006)
Computer Science
(European Studies)

EAST ANGLIA

Fiona Hurt Psychosocial Sciences

EXETER

Thomas Barber Business & Management
Duncan Cramb Exercise & Sport Sciences
David Lewis Engineering & Management
Sophie Lloyd Biological Sciences (Entry 2006)
Amy Preston Exercise & Sport Sciences
Iain Woodward Business & Management

HARPER ADAMS

Robert Beaty Agriculture

HULL

Catherine Groom Drama & English (Entry 2006)

KEELE

Kieran Butterworth Law & Politics

LEEDS

Daniel Birtwistle Sports Science
Emma Coutts History
Lauren Cressman Law
Alexander Gay Accounting & Management
Jade Hoefkens Psychology
Chetan Kapoor Dentistry
Christopher Lewis Medicine
Thomas Marlow Biology
Nicholas May Accounting & Finance
Samuel Reddish Mechanical Engineering
Kate Renshaw Psychology
Steven Robery Medical Sciences
Gary Sammons Psychology
Matthew Smith Biochemistry
Simon Smith (left July 2004) Psychology
Jessica Walton Economics & History
Mark Weeks Philosophy

LEEDS METROPOLITAN

Aisling Swindells Sports & Recreation Development

LEEDS, TRINITY AND ALL SAINTS

Daniel Birtwistle Sport, Health & Leisure and Media

LIVERPOOL

Rachel Hearn Architecture (Entry 2006)
Sophie Rosier Architecture

LONDON

KING'S COLLEGE

Emma Bain French with Management

ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Hannah Cartwright History

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Hannah Briggs Veterinary Medicine

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Akash Kaul Master of Pharmacy (Entry 2006)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

H'ssein Al-Chalabi
David Hill
Michael Hughes
Robert Singleton

Medicine
Economics (Entry 2006)
Architecture
Civil Engineering

LOUGHBOROUGH

Syed Abidi
Lucy Waring
Timothy Williams

Ergonomics (Applied Human Sciences)
English
English with North American
Literature & Film

MANCHESTER

Edward Connolly
Steven Leach

Accounting & Economics
Biotechnology with Industrial
Experience
Psychology
Psychology
Drama & Screen Studies
Mathematics

Nicola Porter-Smith
Lucy Steele
Victoria Thomson
Stuart Wallwork

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Richard Capstick
Caroline Joyce
William May
Rebecca Mills
Mark Taylor
Benjamin Wallis

Medicine
Psychology
Business Management
Medicine
Medicine
Biology

NOTTINGHAM

Adam Fan
Gemma Morgan
Sarah Morris
Katherine Morton
Zameer Somani
Richard Swain

Finance, Accounting & Management
Management Studies
Management Studies with Spanish
Psychology
Pharmacy
American Studies & History

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Catherine Graves
Adam Griffiths
Matthew Jago
William McIntyre
Halima Panwar
Alexander Rodman

Psychology with Criminology
Sociology
Accounting & Finance
Business Studies
Psychology
Business Studies

OXFORD**BRASENOSE**

David Grant

Physiological Sciences (Medicine)

CORPUS CHRISTI

Rosalind Levins

Physiological Sciences (Medicine)

EXETER

Andrew Williamson

Modern History & Politics

JESUS

Shing Tak (Tom) Law

Physiological Sciences (Medicine)

KEBLE

Mark Brough

Philosophy, Politics & Economics

LADY MARGARET HALL

Samuel Baddeley

Classics & English (& Organ
Scholarship) (2006 Entry)

NEW

Timothy (T J) Hertz

Engineering Science

ST CATHERINE'S

Mary-Anne McEvilly

Modern Languages

ST HILDA'S

Sarah Trueman

Modern History

ST JOHN'S

Omar Abdel-Mannan

Physiological Sciences (Medicine)

WORCESTER

Sebastian Brown

Physiological Sciences (Medicine)

OXFORD BROOKES

William Mottram

Sport & Coaching Studies

**ROEHAMPTON
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**

Sam de la Fosse (left July 2004)

Philosophy

ST ANDREWS

Faye Barrett
Richard Gilbert
Sophie Mander

French & Spanish
English with Linguistics
Psychology (Arts)

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Hannah Jones

Primary Education (ITT)

SHEFFIELD

Lisa Chapman
James Edwardson
Thomas Jarratt
Philippa Louise Jay

Politics
History
Dentistry
Business Management, Account'g
& Financial Management
Economics
English Literature
Accounting & Financial Management
Medicine
Medicine
Law & Criminology

Siân Kelly

Francis Maguire (left July 2004)

Ben McLaughlin

Gordon Sloan

Puneet Tailor

Alison Willis

SOUTHAMPTON

Paul Stevens

History

**SURREY –
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOR THE
CREATIVE ARTS, FARNHAM**

John Hersey

Photography

SWANSEA

Tom Harrower

Sioned Hetherington (left July 2004)

Aerospace Engineering (Entry 2006)
Law & History

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA –
HILLSONG LEADERSHIP
TRAINING COLLEGE**

Andrew Hopper

UCE –**BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE OF
ART & DESIGN**

Christopher Ready

Art Foundation

WARWICK

Christopher Bevan
Jennifer Hamilton
Zelda Hughes (left July 2004)
Theodora Manassieva

History
History of Art
Theatre & Performance Studies
English & Italian Literature
(Entry 2006)
Electronic Engineering
Engineering

Andrew Poulton

Jonathan Wood

YORK

James Badham
Rosie Johnson
Tabitha Marsh (left July 2004)
Michael Thorne

Biology
History
Management Studies
Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Junior School

Artists in Residence Two-Day Mosaic Workshop by Jamtart

When it was first mentioned in assembly –Jamtart - I and a few other pupils had very puzzled faces. What was Jamtart? We were to find out the next week.

Individuals from J4 were taken to the Art Room, in pairs, at different times of the day, to contribute to a large mosaic. My partner was Joe Sinton. Our job was to do the pavement. Are you confused? Well...

Jamtart is a company that makes mosaics. All the J4's had to design what they thought would best illustrate the important event marking girls becoming part of Solihull Junior School on September 7th 2005. Ideas would be taken from our designs and put into the finished design.

Jenny Kiely, our resident artist, came with all the bits and pieces that would be needed to make a successful mosaic. She had hundreds of different tiles in a wide range of colours, and a fantastic creative imagination. The mosaic depicted the Chapel, girls playing with boys, the Junior School and our adventure playground. All the J4's were very pleased and proud that they had contributed to the mosaic. It was a fun activity and the finished design looked amazing.

The next question everyone posed was - where was it going to be sited? Our question was soon answered. The mosaic was to be displayed in the corridor, which leads into the Junior School, where it can be seen by every pupil in the Junior School on their way to lunch. And just to finish off what was an excellent achievement, all the original, brilliant designs were displayed alongside.

James Shorthouse J4S

The 6th J3 Trip to the Centre for Alternative Technology (C.A.T)

The trip that every J3 had waited for since J1 came on 9th June 2006. After taking our 'de-excitement' pills and loading the bus, we were off on a 3 hour trip to



the Centre for Alternate Technology in Wales. In our minibus we were entertained by Harry Busz singing songs. What a crime to our ears! Sorry Harry, did I say entertained? I meant deafened! After our weary journey with a break at a roadside café, we finally arrived in the C.A.T car park where we thought we could just climb out of the bus and very quickly walk to our cabins. No. We had to walk WITH our luggage up 2 or 3 road 'hills' - not very easy when you had one of the largest bags, Mum!

Sixteen children were in Mrs Steele's and Mrs Jenkins' cabin, sixteen were in Mr Swain's and Miss White's cabin and 12 boys were in the Bunkhouse with Mr Barclay and Mr Mitchell. After we had unpacked and 'dressed' our beds, we had a quick talk about C.A.T from our guide and then we were off to the sandy Aberdovey Beach, where we played in the sand and played games. It was definitely one of my favourite parts of the trip on such a warm, sunny day!

Afterwards we travelled with sand in our shoes to a restaurant, which was closed to the public, where we enjoyed delicious meals. Next we had free time where unfortunately, Michael Kiely had to go to hospital after slitting his knee on a piece of slate but he was well looked after by our teachers and the doctors and returned within an hour! Our day ended in the Cabins with a 'teddy talk' lasting until bedtime. After a great day, we were too excited about what was in store for Saturday so we couldn't sleep, but we finally did.

Some of us woke very early the next morning and just couldn't keep quiet, mentioning no names...Harry Morgan, Alex Dixon and Harry Busz! Breakfast was scary! We thought we would die from the look of it, but actually it was quite tasty.

The first of the day's activities was a tour of C.A.T and an explanation of how the alternative technology worked. We made solar-powered

boats and tested them out on a nearby pond. Unfortunately, ours sank pretty much straight away and was never seen again! We had lunch at C.A.T and then headed into the woods for a 'Hooded Adventure Course'. We were blindfolded and had to follow a rope to find our way around, providing great amusement for the teachers as we stumbled, fumbled and ducked into thin air! And all whilst England Slaughtered Paraguay in the World Cup!

In the afternoon, we went off to the Leisure Centre for a big game of tag and indoor 5-a-side football. Hot and sweaty once more we 'slid' into the swimming pool and had great fun.

That night after playing cards and chatting, we all went to bed a lot earlier (I don't mean early as in... early, but at least earlier!) We were exhausted!

Sunday morning arrived all too soon and we all awoke to the sound of the birds singing. We decided to make the most of this last day, so practically everyone was up and dressed in 5 minutes. Our luck was in because Mr Swain and Mrs Steele decided to give the walk a miss and go to the beach instead - Whoopee! There, we did the same as before and had a great time.

Eventually we departed for King Arthur's Labyrinth and when we got there we thought 'It's not as scary as we thought it would be' - but that was because we hadn't seen the scary part yet as our group was off in shopping heaven. When it was our turn and we were in the labyrinth, we saw why it was called scary! It was pitch black inside the cave and whenever we stopped, a light came on and a voice told us a story of King Arthur, but the ending was the most scary where, on the way back, a massive fake dragon was turning its head and roaring at us - and it was such a surprise it made me jump! Then it was time to get back in our minibuses for our journey home.

Harry Morgan, Tom Griesbach and Maddie Lavery



Junior School Charity Week

On Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th of October, the Junior School organised another fantastic Charity Week. There was an enormous copper run all around the Junior School which took ages to make and covered 240 metres of carpet! When we were at break all you could see were people putting sackfuls of coppers all around the school. It's surprising how much money you can make just with coppers!

As well as that, we were selling loads of food, for example; sweets, biscuits, toasties, cakes, popcorn, smoothies and even hot dogs!

We had a fantastic bouncy castle that you could nearly jump to the moon on! There was also a really cool penalty shoot out that was really good for practising your football skills on.



Everyone in the school also brought in brilliant games and donated superb prizes and there were lots of lucky winners! The best bit was the talent show and the karaoke. People sang along to their favourite songs and others showed off their impressive talents, like telling jokes and dancing. It was great!

To add to all the excitement there were also two staff versus monitors indoor football matches. The games were close but in the end the staff triumphed by ten goals to six. On the last day we had a home clothes day and everybody wore whatever he or she liked.

Overall, in just two days we raised nearly £2,400 which is a fantastic achievement ... what an AMAZING charity week!!

Georgina Jones J1W

Dick Whittington

On the last day of the Spring Term children from the Junior School put on a performance of Dick Whittington to a packed audience in the Bushell Hall.

We all enjoyed taking part and it was a lot of fun for all the boys and girls. We started practising back in October last year and we met every Monday after school and on Thursday lunchtimes to rehearse our lines and practise the songs.

Our Director, Miss White, worked really hard and she was brilliant! Our costumes were made by Miss Jenkins, Mrs Davies and Miss White.



The excellent cast was:

Dick	- Sally Farrant
Toodles	- Alex Dixon
Alice	- James Shorthouse
Liza	- Georgia Cherry
Jack	- William Harland
Mr. Fitzwarren	- Sam Foxall
Narrator	- Jonathan Super

Plus the fantastic choir which was made up from all the J1 and J2 children.

The Shakespearean touch was added by James Shorthouse playing a female part – he was a real star!

I hope that the Junior School do another play like Dick Whittington again next year because it was brilliant!

Sally Farrant J4S

Secret Codes and the Enigma Machine

On 9th of February 2006 Solihull Junior School took part in the first of a two-part video-conference with the University of Cambridge. The conference was about the history of code breaking, with specific focus on the enigma machine used by the Germans during the Second World War.

Taking part in the video-conference were St Peter's School, Wolverhampton; Wyedean School, Gloucester; John Kelly Girls TC, London and 20 other schools from the Solihull area. Close to 300 people were present in our Bushell Hall, watching the conference unfold on the very large screen. Clare Ellis, who was the expert on code breaking, delivered the lecture which was beamed live from the university.

Claire showed the schools the inside of the now extremely rare enigma machine. The Germans would set the machine by twisting the three plates inside it, which would link the wires inside the machine. For each letter you typed, a different letter would seem to randomly light up. Then all the enigma operators would receive a sheet of paper that said how to set the plates in their machine for every day. Once they had all set their machines they could communicate in enigma code. We also learned about the Scytale code where you wrapped a strip of paper around a rod, or in our case a pencil, and the letters would read as a sentence. We also learnt about the Caesar Shift code where Julius Caesar changed one letter to another about 12 letters further down the alphabet for his own secret code. The last code we learnt about was the Mary Queen of Scots code where she substituted letters for symbols.



The second video-conference took place on the 22nd March where Claire Ellis talked about how the Enigma Code was cracked and we told her how we had deciphered many different types of codes that she had put on the video-conferencing website. Groups of students from schools around the country explained how they had made up their own codes and presented their ideas live to the video-conference audience.

If you'd like to see the Junior School's presentation you can use this web address: http://www.motivate.maths.org/conferences/conf81/c81_schools.shtml

It was a very informative and enjoyable experience and we continued to carry out code breaking activities in our maths lessons for the rest of the term.

Dominic Reddi J4P



Handbell Group Visit to The Bell Foundry

We set off at 12.30 pm after a quick lunch, with Mr Swain driving the minibus and Mrs Barralet map reading. We arrived an hour later with only one wrong turning!

Our tour guide was waiting for us. He was very friendly and knew a lot about the foundry and bells. He told us about the history of the foundry and gave us information about the size, shape and structure of bells.

To demonstrate this information, Isaac had the chance to hit a series of bells on the wall with a wooden hammer. This helped us to hear the different sounds a bell can produce, but my ears were definitely ringing for a while afterwards. We listened to two bells that seemed to be the same size and played a similar note, but one was a major and one was a minor. Just this slight difference needed a different shape of bell and more metal.

I was volunteered to hold a set of tuning forks, to demonstrate the different sounds that come from different thicknesses of metal – the thinner the metal, the lower the tone of bell.

We went through some very noisy workshops to the tuning room. The buildings haven't changed much since Victorian times and everything looked old and heavy. There were some enormous bells on display which were over 150 years old – I wonder if our hand bells will still be around in 150 years time! In the tuning room, Pravin volunteered to try and make the bell ring by tapping a tuning fork on a table and placing it on the bell. If it was the right tuning fork the bell would ring. These days they use tuning forks, electronic equipment and an automated vertical borer to achieve the right sound.

The highlight of the tour for me was the bell foundry room, where casting of the bells takes place. As I walked into the room, I heard a roaring sound and saw flames leaping out of a furnace. The men were wearing protective clothing and masks because they were close to molten metal. We had a very good view from a

balcony, well away from flying sparks. Once the furnace had reached the right temperature, a mechanical ladle was moved to carry the molten metal from the furnace to the bell moulds. As they poured it out, it reminded me of a volcano. Part of the casting involves using a willow stick to stir the molten bell metal to remove pockets of gas and make impurities rise to the surface. They have been using willow sticks for this, since medieval times! They were casting three church bells on our visit, so we were very lucky to watch this taking place.

We walked through the casting area, once it was safe to do so, and saw the enormous drying oven at the end of the room. It can take 3 or 4 days for a bell to cool. Some of us were given a little memento of our trip. It was a piece of the special loam that's used in the bell mould – my only worry was the fact that this is made from horse manure and I was holding it in my hand! We just had time to visit the shop to buy a small reminder of our visit. I bought a key ring with a little bell attached. Then it was time to start the journey home – only an hour later than planned! It had been a really interesting trip and the min-bus hummed home to the clinking of tiny bells.

Jonathan Allen J3T



House Singing Competition

Seven years after leaving the Junior School, I can still remember taking part in the annual Junior School Singing Competition. I returned to the Junior School this year to take part once again in the Singing Competition, only this time I was playing the piano at the front of the class rather than as a member of the Junior School singing from the back.

There were just over ten members of the Sixth Form who were involved and I don't think there was anything any of us looked more forward to on a Friday break time than heading over to the Junior School to be confronted by a room full of singing (and extremely active) Junior School children! If there was one thing I learnt while doing this it was that there's nothing better than sweets to make Junior School children sing!

Everyone sang well on the day and the competition was full of highlights - the underwater swimming effects acted out by Pole

and the paper aeroplanes thrown out into the audience at the end of Shenstone's song were particularly memorable. Mr Perrins had the near-impossible task of judging the five entries and despite plenty of bribes (as well as threats) from the Sixth Form, he did manage to decide an order for the houses - Pole and Windsor were declared joint winners.



I think I can say that everyone enjoyed themselves and I'd like to thank the other members of the Sixth Form for their enormous amount of hard work (without whom this competition would have been impossible), Mr Perrins for judging, the Junior School Staff for organising and supporting the competition and of course the Junior School Children for their great enthusiasm in making the competition such fun for all!

Edwin Halliday UVI

Junior School Choir

The Junior School Choir were invited to take part in the Chandos Choir's December 2005 annual Christmas Concert. A week before that event, on 7th December, we went to John Palmer Hall where the Solihull Hospital Glaucoma Support Association were holding their Christmas party – it was a wonderful opportunity to try out our songs; they were very willing to hear us and gave us mince pies afterwards!

Then on 14th December the Choir members travelled to Christ Church, Solihull to sing with the Chandos Choir. We sang a variety of Christmas songs on our own and then the two choirs combined to sing the final item "Merry Christmas Jazz" which was based on 'We wish you a merry Christmas'.

Some of the songs we sang were from the musical 'Holy Joe' (telling the story from Joseph's point of view) and they included some solo performances from Jonathan Super and Nadine Nijim. Three pupils accompanied the choir on percussion, namely; Jamie Relph, Tobi Lawal and Simon Turpin, and Simon also played oboe in Elizabeth Sutton's beautiful solo piece. Daniel Chadwick, a sixth-form musician who had arranged and rehearsed the percussion parts, also came along to help.



I think everyone enjoyed the performance and we would like to say thank you to Miss Davies, our 'coach' and to Mr. Perrins for accompanying us on the piano; also thanks must go to Mr. Thomas who kept us entertained after the rehearsal and again during the concert interval, and to those who provided us with drinks after the rehearsal!

Harry Morgan J3S

J1 Video Conference

On Tuesday 21st of March, the whole of the J1 went into the Bushell Hall to participate in the second part of the J1 video conference, along with all of the Year 2's from St Alphege Infant School. Harry Thompstone from J1W and Pratinav Sinha from J1A had been chosen to present their investigation into division patterns, that the children in J1 had carried out, after the first video link. Harry and Pratinav had worked really hard and had practised reading the script together and they were looking forward to speaking, although they were a little nervous! When Mr. Penney had finished establishing the connection, the conference started. Cherry Mosley presented the maths videoconference on behalf of Cambridge University. The other schools involved were Teeside Primary, Milton Hill Primary, and one more in Karachi (Pakistan) called Karachi High School.

We started off with Teeside Primary's presentation. It was very good; their presentation was about spotted and striped ladybirds and how they sorted them out into groups.

Then we went to Milton Hill Primary to see their presentation on an interactive white board about division.

After that we visited Karachi High School and they read us two stories called 'The Remainder of One' and 'One Hundred Hungry Ants'. When Karachi had finished they talked about odds and evens and prisms.

Then it was Solihull Junior School's turn so that meant it was Harry and Pratinav's chance to

shine! The boys presented J1's work about division and remainders of one and they told the other schools about easy ways to divide by three, nine and eleven. The presentation was full of excitement and it made the other schools laugh.

After Solihull it was St Alphege's turn. They did their presentation about dividing in tens using a simple method; some people were able to divide by ten and then find the remainders – all in their head!

If you'd like to see our presentation, you can use this web address:

http://www.motivate.maths.org/conferences/conf80/c80_schools.shtml

That was the end of the J1 video conference; we hope that the next J1's enjoy the video conference as much as we did. We would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Penney and all the teachers who worked so hard to make the conference happen.

Suraiyya Jaffer and Harry Thompstone

My Year in J2B

I started off nervous, Laura did too.
We couldn't work names out, or who was who.
We walked past the door with a frown on our face
And into the class at a very slow pace.
But now the year's ending, it's all gone past -
It went very quickly, it went very fast.
The year has been great, the year has been fun.
I'll never forget all the things that we have done!

Emma Williams, J2B

My Best Friend

My friend is always happy,
She really loves to dance.
We like to play together,
If we get the chance.

My friend is brave and thoughtful,
She's kind when we are sad.
She's always there to help me out,
That's what makes me glad.

Eleanor Brown J2D

J3 Public Speaking

On Monday 26th June, the J3 Public Speaking took place in the Junior School Hall. It was probably one of the best witnessed by an enthusiastic audience, with all the talks being of a very high standard. The six candidates were Sam McCumiskey (on Japan), James Berry (on 'The Berry Kids'), James Jervis (on Ferrari), Matthew Swales (on Manchester United), Louis Roach (on his hamster Spencer), and Jamie

Turpin (on Venice).

Mr Willshire, Head of Lower School, kindly agreed to judge this event for us, and had a very onerous task. Eventually he decided second place should go to Jamie Turpin, with first place going to Sam McCumiskey – a popular decision! Well done to all the candidates.

Mrs C Steele

J4 House



General Knowledge Competition

The 'GK' Quiz is one of the most popular House competitions and is held in the Junior School Hall on Thursday mornings during the Christmas Term.

Two Houses compete head to head in teams of four in front of a very excited but silent audience. This year Fetherston and Pole were the most knowledgeable teams with Fetherston coming out on top as worthy champions. The individual winners were Richard Brown, Sam Foxall and Simon Turpin. Thank you to Mr Barclay for his efficient scoring and to Henry Camm, Jack Powell and Jordan Salmon for organising the sound system and comparing each round.

Mr M K Swain

J4 Public Speaking

On Monday 27th March in the space of an hour the Junior School learned that the smallest shark is the size of a banana, what ICBM stands for, how to smoke bees out of a hive, not to wee in the sea, that if Mont Blanc has its hat on there is going to be good weather and that they should look away from the computer screen every few minutes. What an interesting lesson! Actually this all took place in the Bushell Hall as the J4 Public Speaking final took place.

First was Jonathon Super who did a very interesting talk on beekeeping as his family has been doing this for many years. His Great-Granddad was brave enough to do it in his shorts and T-shirt!

Then William Harland gave us a lot of useful information on how to look after our eyes and glasses. His photos of him in different styles of glasses were particularly interesting as were the survey results he had conducted earlier with pupils from J4B.



Matthew Orme did a very interesting talk on Sharks. His talk was jam-packed with facts and figures and he ended by asking the audience "What do you get from an angry shark? As far away as possible!"

Sam Foxall impressed the audience again with his choice of 'The Top Ten Weapons Throughout History', ranging from the medieval mace to the ICBM (Intercontinental ballistic missile)

Jordan Salmon spoke very enthusiastically about his favourite place in the world - Saint Foy. He recounted all his daredevil activities such as... skiing, snow biking and canoeing. He doesn't ever seem to sit still!

My talk was about sharks and, in particular 10 things you need to know before you go swimming this summer. My friend the orange shark had a starring role and the audience seemed to enjoy meeting him!

After all the talks had been performed, the judges (Mrs Steele and Mr Mitchell) had to decide the winner. Everyone was nervous and we even had a drum roll! Finally the judges decided that Jonathan Super and his bees should come third, William Harland and his glasses second and me and my orange shark were surprised and delighted to come first.

Cameron Botterill J4S

Junior School Clarinet Group

Since September 2005 the group has played on five occasions and the membership includes our first ever girl, Maria Fotiadis-Wild. We played Ebony Blues and Spring in the Summer Concert, as well as Clarinet Cha Cha Cha for prize giving, a jazzy piece with percussion accompaniment. We put our heart and soul into playing really well for the big concerts and Miss Greswold's constant supply of sweets spurs us on even

further! We all enjoy playing and would like to thank Miss Greswold for all her hard work.

James Jervis J3T

Junior School Saxophone Group

When I joined The Junior School Saxophone Group in J4, it was my first experience of playing my saxophone in a group. In the Summer Concert we played 'West Bay Rumba' and 'Kenya Melody'. During Prize Giving we played 'Come Summer', a lively piece. We rehearse with Miss Greswold, and would like to say thank you to her for all the hard work she puts in for us.

Ben Perrins J4B

Junior School Windband

The music enjoyed by Junior School Windband consists of the weird, the wacky and the wonderful. Rehearsals are often chaotic but are always successful and the pieces come together at an astonishing rate - they have to as the Junior School Wind Band feature in many concerts. Other groups revolve around the band such as the clarinet and saxophone groups, both led by Miss Greswold.

Joseph Halbert J4B

The Junior School's First Newsletter

This Easter marked the first ever unveiling of the 'Solihull Junior School Times' with tireless efforts contributed from the entire editorial team and without them, it wouldn't have been possible.

In the eyes of Mrs Brough, the two main people who worked on the newsletter were Sam Foxall (Editor) and Ross Edwards (Writer), that's me, and I missed three months worth of breaks to finish it but the newspaper definitely couldn't have been completed without everyone else.

There were two amazing newsletters published, both very different. The first was only four pages long and printed in A4 but the second was eight pages long and printed in A3 so it was undoubtedly the better of the two.

As the J4's are leaving to go into the Lower School, Sam McCumiskey and Harry Morgan have now taken on the leading roles behind the scenes of the next Solihull Junior School Times and I'm sure the entire Junior School are desperately awaiting the next issue during the Christmas Term.

Finally, we would like to thank the following pupils for their contributions:

Jamie Relph, (Photographer), Sally Farrant, Georgia Cherry, Lydia Jones, Maria Fotiadis-Wild, (Fashion), Toby Lawal, (Story Finder), Ben Newman, (Interviewer), Owen Simpson, Sam McCumiskey, (Games), Jordan Salmon, (Puzzles).

Ross Edwards J4P



Karate

Karate Club takes place in the Old Gym after school on Mondays. It is a contact sport that requires a great deal of physical stamina. We are graded (move up a belt) twice a year. Our teacher, Darren is a very good instructor. Many of us start off almost fainting or shrieking when we are 'attacked' but we soon become confident about protecting ourselves. I have been in the club for all my four years in the Junior School and I have really enjoyed myself, especially this year as I have become stronger and more competent.

Naveen Sivakumar J4S

Monk's Day

On the 25th of May 2006 a class of monks, otherwise known as J2B, climbed aboard a coach and sped off to the monastery otherwise known as St Peter's Church in Wooten Wawen.

We arrived at 10 o'clock and walked up the path to the monastery. We walked up to a wardrobe that contained our black Benedictine habits. My habit felt itchy at first, but I got used to it. Then we heard the door slam loudly and the abbot strolled up to where we were standing. He was tall, round and he had a tonsure on his head. He seemed to have a strict edge to him. I couldn't decide whether to be afraid or excited.

We processed through the church to our choir stalls where we sang 'Be still', and then made a promise of obedience to the abbot. After that we walked through the village to the beekeeper where we split up, some to make candles, others to learn about the bees, then we swapped over - it was good fun! We went back to the monastery for our second service about light and peace. We had to think of a word and used candles to represent our words. The abbot's word was 'hope'.

It was then that we had our Monk's lunch. I had bread, cheese, grapes and apple juice. Then we enjoyed doing a quiz in the church and churchyard. Then we split up again- some did bell-ringing while others did brass-rubbing. My favourite was bell-ringing because you go zooming in the air!

We met the abbot for our last service to say goodbye. I really enjoyed the day as an adventure but wouldn't like to live there because I wouldn't like eight services a day. Also, I wouldn't like not being able to own any toys!

David Clarke J2B

Children's Author Spooks Juniors!

Top children's author Peter Murray brought his spooky character Mokee Joe to life for our Junior School. Pupils.

The former Deputy Headmaster of Cheam School, who gave up teaching to write full time, gave readings and got boys and girls to play characters and scenes from his novel in a spectacular interactive presentation in the school's Bushell Hall.

'Mokee Joe is Coming' tells the story of ten-year-old Hudson Brown's battle, with his friends, against a hideous creature Mokee Joe that is out to destroy him. The book has been such a success that there are even plans to turn it into an animated film.

Peter Murray gave a very enthusiastic and amusing presentation and I'm sure his visit has inspired our pupils to read more novels.

Mr M K Swain

Our Trip to the Sikh Gurdwara

On the 23 June, the whole of J4's set off to the Handsworth Gurdwara. We had to wear something on our head to show respect. As we went in, we heard someone chanting passages from the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book.

First of all we went into the Langar where we took our shoes off and then we went into one of the of the five prayer halls. We had to be silent when we were in the prayer hall and we had to bow in front of the Guru Granth Sahib. While we sat down and listened to a Sikh person read, we had a sweet made out of flour, milk and sugar which was called prasad. Then, we went back into the Langar where our guide gave us Coke and a different selection of biscuits.

After our refreshments, we went upstairs where we had to take off our shoes again and we went up onto the roof where there was a prayer hall. As we went in, we looked up and saw a large dome that was decorated with many glass pieces and a magnificent chandelier. Our guide told us that every morning, many Sikhs come up into the dome and sing a special hymn.

As we came down, we could smell a vegetable curry being prepared in the kitchen for anyone who visited the Gurdwara.

Finally, we went into another hall where we asked questions. I thought it was a very interesting trip and I enjoyed it.

Sam Foxall J4P

The Barber Institute

On May 4th all of J2 went to the Barber Institute Art Gallery at the University of Birmingham. On the trip we had two helpers - Mrs. Webber and Mrs. Lawrence. At the Barber Institute we saw a picture of Lady Barber who was the founder of the Barber Institute. Then we looked at three 'story pictures'.

The first picture was about Daphne and Apollo - two Greek Gods. We acted the story out with Conor as Apollo, Megan as Daphne and Alex as Cupid.

An artist called Stom, did the next painting we saw, 'The Blessing of Isaac'. This was a story from the Old Testament about Isaac, Rebecca and their sons, Esau and Jacob. Stom managed to put all five senses into his painting.

The last painting was of Jason and the Argonauts fighting the Fire-breathing bulls! We acted this story out as well. David was the King, Amran was the Bull and I was the beautiful King's daughter!

This was a brilliant trip because it was more fun to look at stories than read about them.

Giles Lawrence J2D

U11 Warwickshire Hockey Tournament

On Sunday 5th March, Solihull School 'A' and 'B' Hockey teams took part in the U11 Warwickshire Hockey Tournament at Warwick School.

20 teams took part in the tournament, on this sunny but cold morning and they were divided into 4 groups. Solihull 'B' team were unlucky with the other teams they had in

their group and unfortunately didn't qualify for the semi finals.

Solihull 'A' team easily won all the games in their group, taking them through to the semi-finals. We were drawn against Coventry and Warks in the semis and it was an end-to-end close game. Unfortunately, we gave away a penalty flick and they scored from this therefore winning the match 1-0 and knocking us out of the tournament. This meant Solihull 'A' team finished 3rd and Coventry went on to win the final.

Both the teams should feel very proud of themselves as they all put in 100% effort. Well done! It was great to have so many parents supporting us - thank you!

Mrs C Steele

Junior School Games

The depth, variety and success of the Junior School PE and Games programme can be seen during the course of one week during the Easter Term. Ten sporting activities were on offer to Junior School children during Games, lunchtime and after school activities - Swimming, Survival Swimming, Rugby, Tag Rugby, Hockey, Cross Country, Netball, Cricket, Badminton and Football, both Indoor and Out. The Junior School produced 13 different teams in three different sports. 40 fixtures took place, involving children in J1 to J4. 28 were won, 6 lost and 6 drawn. 44 schools and clubs provided the opposition. 115 goals were scored and 23 conceded. 4 personal bests were set in the pool, the hockey team reached the semi-final of the Warwickshire Tournament and the J1 girls won a trophy in a lunchtime competition.

Junior School Football

P	W	L	D	F	A
138	79	37	22	308	112

The 'A' team playing, in the very competitive Borough Big Schools' League, the Police Cup and the Borough 4, 6 and 7-a-side Cups was unable to repeat the league-winning performances of the previous two years despite, at times, playing much more attractive and skilful football. Two excellent goal keepers, Michael Fancott and Jonathan Super, were well protected by Will Baines, Will Harland and Nick Hooper, a midfield of Joe Sinton, Charlie Rowe and Elliott Black with the very skilful and hardworking Albert Davies up front. However, the standard of opposition was often excellent. Good progress was made in the indoor 4-a-side competition where we reached the semi-finals. Joe Sinton played in teams that reached the semi-final twice and the final once, an exceptional

achievement in the most competitive of Borough Tournaments. We finished a very creditable third in the league.

The 'B' team remained unbeaten in their regular fixtures throughout the season, reaching the Finals' Evening of the Borough 6-a-side competition and scoring 30 more goals than they conceded. The U10 'A' team played 22 matches winning 20 and drawing 2, scoring 90 goals and conceding only 4 – an exceptional record that any team in the school would find hard to match. They won the Borough U10 competition whilst the U9 team played well in the Borough Competition and won more matches than they lost, often against much older competition. The U8 team also played most of their matches against older competition, in which they demonstrated both endeavour and ability. They will miss the skills of Cyprian Labouche, who returns to France; we wish him well for the future.

Cross Country

The Cross Country Squad won the Borough competition for the seventh year running, producing a winning team performance of just 63 points, one of the lowest on record. A squad of nearly thirty started training in earnest through Brueton Park. Nobody lost their shoes this year, but the attraction of running up the stream proved too great for most, even the girls. The competition, held at the Old Sils ground, was attended by more than 120 runners, over a 1000m course. Nick Hooper 4th, Matthew Prichard 9th, Will Harland 11th, Toby Wassell 12th, Rory Grogan 13th and Harry Jones 14th, produced an exceptional team performance. The B team finished 5th place with a score of 175 points.

In the Borough Cross Country Relay Competition we provided mixed teams for the first time ever, with two boys and two girls each running one leg of a lap of the Old Sils ground. The A team of Nick Hooper, Will Harland, Sally Farrant and Maddie Lavery finished in 16th place and the B team of Harry Jones, Toby Lawal, Georgia Cherry and Maria Barnes finished in 19th place out of 29 teams. Albert Davis and Olly Haley running with the girls from St Martin's finished in 2nd place.

Athletics

Winning the Borough Sports for the third time was a fitting achievement for a talented group of athletes who competed enthusiastically amongst themselves for a place in the team. Over 30 boys and girls attended the Thursday night training sessions and their enthusiasm should ensure future success. On the first evening of competition, Nick Hooper qualified for the final of the 800m and the J3 and J4 relay teams ran well to win their heats to also make the final. Ollie Haley won the U11 High Jump with a height of 1.18m and Mathew Prichard came 5th in the Long Jump.

On Thursday, Will Harland came 4th in the U12 High Jump, Joe Sinton won the cricket ball and James Shorthouse came 5th in the Long Jump. Nick Sharp and Ben Piggan reached the final of the U11 75m, finishing 2nd and 7th respectively. Tobi Lawal came 6th in the final of the U12 100m. The J3 relay team were disappointed to only finish second in their final but the J4 team ran under 60 seconds to win their final comfortably. The boys' team won their competition easily but, with their score added to the girls score, we won the Overall Trophy by twenty points. For boys who started preparing for this competition in J1, it was a fitting finale to their Junior School athletic careers.



Sports Day

No old records were broken on Sports Day but, for only the second time, such was the standard of competition that only half a point separated Shenstone from Jago at the end of the day, with Windsor 3rd, Pole 4th and Fetherston 5th, again separated by only a ten-point margin.

In the Field Events, Harry Owen equalled the J1 High Jump record of 1.03m and ten of the winning jumps and throws were better than last year. Ollie Haley won both the J3 Triple Jump

and High Jump, Dan Younan jumped 8.55m in the J4 Triple Jump and Joe Sinton threw 48.78m to win the J4 Cricket Ball. Tobi Lawal jumped 4.08m in the Long Jump and Nick Sharp jumped 3.91 in the J3 competition. The level of competition was intense and a huge number of new Personal Best times were achieved. The Egg and Spoon races were as exciting as ever, there were no serious injuries in the parents' races, and the introduction of 'B' team relays produced some excellent races.

Junior School Swimming

The Junior School Swimming Squad reached the National Finals held at Pond's Forge, International Pool in Sheffield after a series of Galas. In the Easter term we took part in the Bromsgrove School Relays and eventually qualified for the National Finals after swimming at the Stetchford Baths in Birmingham. The team of Jonathan Super, Mathew Orme, James Lewis and Nick Clay consistently improved their times in both the Medley and Freestyle relays. At Sheffield, we finished 22nd in the Medley and 18th in the freestyle competitions, with two new P.B.'s. The standard of swimming was excellent and we hope to be back next year.

Swimming Sports

Swimming Sports saw only one record broken, Amy Lewis, J1 in the Backstroke. Pole won the Swimming Standards Competition, a series of five minute swims and timed lengths of front crawl, back stroke and breaststroke, but it was Windsor who emerged clear winners on the day, finishing twenty points clear of Pole, with Fetherston 3rd, Shenstone 4th and Jago 5th. The races were competitive, with the relay races producing some exciting finishes.



Distance Swimming

The Junior School Distance Awards took place at the start of the Easter Term. The following awards were achieved.

5000m Nick Clay, James Shorthouse
Tom Griesback, Harry Busz, Jonathan Allen
Giles Lawrence

3000m Harry Morgan, James Jarvis

2000m Charlie Morgan, Ben Osborne
Alex Clay, George Sadler, Cyprien Labouche

1 mile Carl Lawrence

Cricket

Wednesday night cricket coaching sessions were well attended by boys and girls from J1 to J4. We were limited to entering only three teams in the Borough Competition. The J4 team won two of their three matches, the J2 team, playing against older competition, won two of their three matches. The J1 team showed great promise and a developing understanding of the game, but, playing against older components, could not produce a win. The future of Junior School Cricket looks healthy. Along with the contribution made by the younger age groups, special mention must be made of the enthusiasm of Leticia Salmon, in J1, who attended every practise.

House Cricket

The J3 and J4 House Cricket Competition for both A and B team produced some excellent competition with an encouraging standard of play. The girls grew in confidence over the series of matches and all the teams developed their skills over a series of four matches each. Pole finished 1st, Shenstone 2nd, Fetherston 3rd, Jago 4th and Windsor 5th. Nick Hooper and Ollie Hayley were selected for the Warwickshire U10 team.

Girls' Games

2005/2006

Girls' Football

P	W	D	L	F	A
27	9	10	8	27	29

In World Cup year, it was fitting that the first ever fixture played by the girls was as a football team. A number of firsts followed – the first girls' football report read by Ellie Thomas; the first girls' goal scored by Jess Taylor; the first girls' win; the first girls' injury, Sally Farrant; the first goal scored by a girl in a House Match, Georgia Cherry. Eventually, twenty girls, from J1 upwards, played in the School team on a regular basis. Highlights of the season included a win at Greswold School, who were runner's up in the

Borough competition; qualifying out of our group to reach the final of the Borough Indoor Competition with a team consisting of Jess Taylor, Maddie Lavery, Charlotte Smith, Shona Eaton and Georgia Cherry; qualifying from the group stages to reach the quarter finals of the Borough Outdoor Competition and Rhianna Baldi scoring against Coppice School.

Teamwork and skill levels improved during the course of the season but it was the fitness levels and willingness to work which were often the deciding factors, allowing us to win some matches and keep the score down in others! The individual performances of Maria Barnes, both in goal and in defence, Jess Taylor, as our main striker and Georgia Cherry in both defence and attack, were important, as was the developing skill of Sally Farrant in goal. A measure of the improvement and commitment shown by all the girls can be seen in Sally's injury, sustained playing in goal, in the Torchlight festival against the Boys' A team. In September, she would have screamed and dived away from the ball, in March she screamed but dived towards it! I think we can look forward to the development of girls' football with confidence.

Girls' Athletics

The girls' contribution to our third ever over-all victory at the Borough Sports turned what is, usually, a nail-biting difference of two or three points between success and failure, into a comfortable twenty-point margin.

Shona Eaton set a new J1 record for the 800m during the qualifying competition. Lyndzee Moss came 4th in the Long Jump and the J3 relay team of Grace Williamson, Katie Singleton, Lyndzee Moss and Jess Taylor qualified for the final, with very good relay and take-over technique.

In the finals, Maria Barnes came 5th in the U12 Long Jump, Sally Farrant jumped 1m in the High Jump and Lizzie Sutton reached the semi-final of the 100m. Jess Taylor qualified for the final of the U11 75m and finished in 3rd place. In the final of the U11 relay, Jess anchored the team as they finished in second place, another excellent performance from a team in competition with twenty-five schools and with only eight girls to choose from. It was fitting that the Borough Trophy was presented to the team by Julie Crane – Great Britain International, Commonwealth Silver Medallist and British record holder in the High Jump.

New School Records

J1 800m	3.31.02mins	S. Eaton
J3 4 x 100m	64.2s	
J3 High Jump	0.95m	M. Lavery
J3 Long Jump	2.83m	L. Moss
J3 Rounders Ball	16.2m	C. Smith
J3 75m	12.00s	J. Taylor
J4 High Jump	1.00m	S. Farrant
J4 Long Jump	3.29	M. Barnes
J4 100m	16.4	E. Sutton

Sports Day

Sports day presented the girls with the chance to get themselves on the Junior School record books. In the field events there were good performances from Georgina Jones in J1 Long Jump and Megan Seikell in J2 High Jump. On Sports Day itself the girls showed that they could compete with the boys, with Shona Eaton, Eleanor Brown, Jess Taylor, Maria Barnes and Georgia Cherry becoming our first Victrix Ludorum winners.

Shona and Jess ran in their respective 'A' races and set times that will be hard to beat. Jess was able to beat some very talented J3 athletes in both the 100m and 200m with Shona doing the same in the J1 50m and 200m. All the girls set new personal best times and, as our numbers increase, the standard of girls' athletics is certain to improve.

New Sports' Day Records

J1 Long Jump	2.70m	G. Jones
J1 Cricket Ball	17.57m	S. Eaton
J1 50m	8.66s	S. Eaton
J1 200m	36.57s	S. Eaton
J2 High Jump	0.90m	M. Seikell
J275m	12.87s	E. Brown
J2200m	38.36s	L. Daglish
J3100m	15.16s	J. Taylor
J3200m	32.86s	J. Taylor
J4100m	16.42s	M. Barnes
J4200m	36.09s	G.Cherry/M. Baines

Girls' Swimming

The girls' swimming team involved swimmers from J1 to J4, allowing them to take part in several Galas both at home and away, and trying to qualify for a national competition. The relay squad of Shona Eaton, Lyndzee Moss, Katie Singleton and Georgia Cherry improved their performances each time they swam, in both the Medley and Freestyle races. Good competition was provided by Jess Taylor, Nadine Nijim, Maddie Lavery, Maria Barnes and Maria Fotiadis-Wild.

Swimming Sports

On Swimming Sports Day, the Girls competed effectively at all age levels and in all strokes. Traditionally strong competition was made even more interesting this year as the girls demonstrated their prowess in several 'A' races. Amy Lewis, J1, set a new backstroke record, Katie Singleton won the J3 breaststroke, Lyndzee Moss and Jess Taylor had an excellent private battle in the J3 freestyle, resulting in two new personal best times. Several girls swam in the 'A' team relays and many times were faster than times set last year by the boys' teams.



New Girls' Records

Back Crawl

A. Lewis	J1 F	23.90
E. Williams	J2 W	26:08
E. Thomas	J4 W	22.43

Breast stroke

S. Eaton	J1 J	26.40
K. Singleton	J3 P	23.48
G. Cherry	J4 J	26.05

Front Crawl

C. Parsons	J1 W	24.49
M. Seikell	J2 F	22.80
L. Moss	J3 W	17.88
M. Barnes	J4 J	19.05

The girls also took part in the Borough Cross Country, with Shona Eaton finishing a very creditable 20th out of over 100 runners and Maddie Lavery finishing 35th. Several very good performances came from girls in J1 during the House Cross Country competition, with Shona Eaton, Georgina Jones and Harriett Marshall finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their class at the Inter-form competition, displaying an undoubted talent for the future.

A girls' Netball team played against St Martin's School and St John's College from Portsmouth. Maria Barnes played in the Boys' Hockey Team which reached the semi-final of the Warwickshire competition and the J4 Rounders team travelled to Bromsgrove School, where they scored as many rounders as the opposition but were beaten by the mysterious concept of "halves". Girls took part in the House Cricket

Competition with a growing level of confidence and ability. Maria Barnes played regularly in Jago's 'A' team and Georgia Cherry played with ability in the boys' Borough Competition.

House Matches

The Junior School House Match competition involves every boy and girl in the school in a series of matches ranging from Football, Cross Country, a series of three runs, Cricket for J3 and

J4, athletics, the highlight of the summer term and swimming, certainly our loudest event.

House Matches are an important feature of the Junior School Games programme enabling all standards of performer to take part in competitive matches. Matches and races are graded according to ability, resulting in excellent competition. The integration of the girls into the House Competition has been particularly successful, with them scoring goals in House Football, taking wickets in Cricket and winning races on both the track and in the pool.



J3/J4 Indoor Football
J3/J4 Outdoor Football
J1/J2 Indoor Football
J3/J4 Outdoor Football
Cross Country
Athletics
Swimming Standards
Swimming Sports
Cricket

F	J	P	S	W
2nd	5th	1st	6th	4th
3rd	4th	1st	2nd	5th
2nd	3rd	4th	5th	1st
1st =	3rd =	3rd =	5th	1st =
3rd	5th	2nd	1st	4th
5th	2nd	4th	1st	3rd
3rd	5th	1st	4th	2nd
3rd	5th	2nd	4th	1st
3rd	4th	1st	2nd	5th

School Chapel

Chapel Notes

The life of the school chaplaincy has been interesting and varied over the past year involving many students in our services and musical activities. The Chapel Choir has flourished and grown (augmented by the presence of the girls) under the expertise and leadership of Mr Peter Irving and Miss Pamela Davies, enabling us to promote excellence in liturgy and music throughout the calendar.

As usual, the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was a huge success and has become a highlight in the school diary. One lovely addition to the choir repertoire was a carol, *Dormi Jesu* written by Peter Irving as a memorial to his late father, David.

The Junior School Christmas Carol Service and the Midnight Mass continue to be very popular as was the Advent Service, 'Home for Christmas' – a service of readings and hymns reflecting the Christian Aid theme of homelessness. We were able to send a generous cheque to Christian Aid representing our celebrations.

During the year we gave thanks for the life and contributions of a former Head of Music, Mr David Turnbull. A splendid Mass of Requiem was celebrated in chapel in his honour – a rich feast of liturgy and glorious music. It was especially fitting to mark David's memory in this way since he had regularly shared in the Eucharistic banquet in school chapel.

During the Easter Term we welcomed the Episcopal Commissary, Bishop Michael Whinney, who confirmed twelve pupils and a parent. This was a wonderful service and a significant milestone in the lives of our young people.

The Summer Term saw the return of a 'Pet Service', when the Junior School members brought their exotic and well behaved (!) pets



into our hallowed precincts and we gave thanks for all God's creatures. On the same day we launched our sale of Traidcraft products – something we hope to continue and develop with the kind assistance of two parents, Mrs Smeaton and Mrs Carr.

During the Summer term, also, the Governor's were invited to a Sunday service when we celebrated the anniversary of the consecration of the chapel. Fr Patrick Taylor was the guest preacher on this occasion.

On a number of occasions throughout the year sections of the chapel choir have participated in the daily chapel assembly. They have also led the singing at the Remembrance Day service. This has promoted the status of the chapel choir and been very much appreciated.

Our links with the Anglican Diocese of Katakwa, Kenya, continue and develop and we often hear about the Cathedral and pupils at the Cathedral School. We continue to hold them in our prayers, particularly during this time of famine in Northern Kenya.

Another link, nearer home, has begun to develop between our chaplaincy and a remote parish in North West Wales. The Church of St Hywyn, Aberdaron, was featured in a television series, 'A Passion for Churches', earlier this year. Since, as a school, we receive so much from visiting North Wales it was deemed appropriate to extend some generosity towards that tiny parish (famous as the last spiritual service station for pilgrims journeying to Bardsey Island) for their restoration appeal. Our donation has been recorded on their web site. (www.st-hywyn.org.uk).

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to so many people who have assisted in the life of the chapel. Marcus de Minckwitz and Annabelle Harris have contributed significantly to our music making in the choir. We thank them very much for their contributions and wish them well for the future. Matthew Gooden, Ben Taylor and George

Smeaton have given many years as servers at the altar. We thank them for their tremendous commitment and unstinting support and wish them well in their chosen careers. All of these have received book tokens.

Mr Martin Ayers has continued to support us as Warden, and for this we are very grateful. Thanks are also given to Fr John Bradford who celebrated the Eucharist on Easter Day and continues to be a good friend to the chapel community.

Finally, may I offer thanks for the support and help of Mr Griffiths, Headmaster, and his wife, Belinda (particularly for her hospitality and flower arrangements).

The attendance at the chapel services throughout the year is testimony to the significance and prominence of the Christian Faith in school and our influence in the local community. Many thanks to those who support us with their presence and prayers.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson

Community Service

The Community Service programme has continued to flourish under the guidance of Miss Pike and Father Andrew. A number of sixth form students have made significant contributions to the locality, having visited the elderly on a regular basis, engaging themselves in gardening and household chores.

Many have visited local schools having enriched the academic and social development of children. Particular emphasis has been centred upon teaching computer skills which has been warmly welcomed.

A large number of the elderly visited chapel for the Harvest Festival and received food parcels (items kindly donated by parents, for which we are truly grateful).

Two of our students, Holly Harbon and Jaimee Hollier and their recipient, Mrs Lillian Swan have reflected upon their experience:

Each Monday, we have spent an hour or so, in the company of Mrs Swan at her home in Solihull. We have very much enjoyed this time with Mrs Swan, exchanging anecdotes of our recent experiences, such as holidays, university applications and school life in general. Mrs Swan has regaled us with details of outings with her family and pilgrimages to Walsingham. She has related stories from the war days and informed us about her Grandchildren, James, Charlotte and 'our' Nicola.

Mrs Swan prefers the time we enjoy with her to be spent chatting and putting the world to rights rather than testing our domestic skills! On a few occasions we have met some of Mrs Swan's family, which was a lovely experience. Other highlights during our Monday morning

meetings have been the refreshments provided by Mrs Swan – chocolate marshmallows, orange juice and lemonade!

Mrs Swan says, "I find the conversation with the girls very stimulating. I have really enjoyed their company and look forward to seeing them next Term."

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who make this facility successful.

Canon Andrew Hutchinson

Charity Week 2005

Charity Week got off to an energetic start with the Boys first XV challenging the Girls first XI to a hockey match. The game went to penalty flicks after they drew 2-2. The boys managed to win the penalty flicks to beat the girls' first XI hockey team at their own sport. Tuesday featured the Fun Run, organised by Alex Lambert and Ed Houghton, and the teachers vs. pupil's basketball match. The teachers won the basketball by one point, scored by Mr Thompson on the final whistle. A special mention must go to Jon Harris who ran the furthest in the fun run wearing a lovely pink tutu... suits you Sir!

After school on Wednesday the annual Battle of the Bands took place in the Bushell Hall. Many took part; however Khumbu and his band were the deserving victors. The final day of charity week included the ritual embarrassment of the Staff Cabaret at lunchtime, organised brilliantly by Lesley Rigby, with an excellent performance and adaptation of the Sugar Plum Fairy by Mr Babb and Mr Thompson. Thursday also featured a football competition, organised by Rickesh Chauhan, which was very well attended.

The Junior School once again made a hugely valuable contribution to the Charity Week funds. The usual waffle making and cake selling went on. The highlight for most was seeing Mr Swain in a beautiful apron making toasted sandwiches.



Once again Acorns bags were filled with jumble to be sold in charity shops, and we managed to beat last year's haul, bringing in a staggering 555 bags, adding a further £8325 to our total. In the Lower School the prize for the form that raised the most money went to Shell A, who managed to collect over £200, much of which came from pelting Mrs Lockyer with sponges!



They subsequently enjoyed a free afternoon at Megazone for all their hard work – much to Mr Edge's chagrin! In total the amount raised by Charity Week was a massive £17,229.74. It's hard to imagine that after only 2 days of eating toasties, raffling lunch passes, and paying to have no prep that such an astonishing amount could be raised. The proceeds of Charity 2005 were donated to Barnardo's, Chernobyl, Children's' Project UK, and our partner school in Sri Lanka.

Particular thanks go to the Charity Week Committee, who organised each charity event and the teachers who organised the Charity Week Committee namely, Miss Holden, Mr Farrington and Miss Frampton. An additional thank you goes to Anthony Avery for his help with the Bushell Hall events. Thanks also to all the participants in all events.

Lesley Rigby and Matthew Williamson.



Music

Big Band

It's been another fantastic year for the Big Band, and the year is far from over. The vision of Nicky Bouckley and Tony Godfrey to take a music tour around Austria has directed the Big Band towards learning a far more ambitious repertoire than it has done in the past. Without avoiding the challenges presented by the original versions of many classic numbers from the Big Band era (and perhaps opting for an easier but less authentic school version), the band has continuously improved through the year. In the Commemoration Concert recently, the Big Band arguably stole the show with the upbeat "American Patrol" and "Sing, Sing, Sing", in the latter of which, Tim Page led fantastically with solos from the drums.

Unfortunately, drawing most of its musicians from the Sixth Form means that a considerable proportion will be leaving after the Austria tour: Tim Page, Mark James, Daniel Chadwick and Andrew Pickering are all leaving the school, leaving some spaces for fresh talent!

The Band continues to rehearse, despite the Upper Sixth members having finished school, and works towards the upcoming Austria preview concert and tour. Many thanks go to Mr. Godfrey for his commitment to running the Big Band, and I hope in the coming years that the band continues to go from strength to strength.

Andy Pickering

Concert Orchestra

This year, the Concert Orchestra flourished under the careful and astute guidance of Helen Dolby (for who else could take on such a role), and the strong leadership of Thomas Gregory. We kick-started the year with rehearsals for the St Cecilia Concert which took place on the 24th November in the Bushell Hall. For those of you unaware of the inner-workings of all music groups before the St Cecilia Concerts, it is a mad rush to practise the pieces to a satisfactory level within the narrow time span given. This year was no exception, and as a product of our blood, our sweat, and many tears, we played "March" by Mozart, and "Nun danket alle Gott" by Cruger. The latter finished with thunderous applause by the audience, and both pieces were enjoyed by all.

After this superb performance, we spent just a week recuperating before trying out a few pieces for the Commemoration Concert. Some were good; some were not so good, but Miss Dolby saved the day, by placing in front of us "The Great Gate of Kiev" by Mussorgsky. The piece began to take form by the beginning of the Easter term. We opened the 2006 Commemoration Concert with this spectacular anthem, flooding the hall with the fanfare of trumpets, the rippling of the clarinets and the choir of violins. In doing so, we metaphorically opened the gate for the rest of the Concert. After all, nobody can open a Solihull School Concert but its Orchestra.

Richard Brough

Brass Quintet

This year once again has been very enjoyable for the members of this ensemble. We were fortunate to include a tuba played by Daniel

Thompson that was missed last year and is essential for this ensemble. Apart from this addition, the ensemble remained the same in personnel and we welcomed Mr Johnson as our new Head of Brass. The band loved the variety of music we played throughout the year. In the first concert we played 'Just A Closer Walk' arranged by Gillis. This was the first jazz piece we had played. After the hard work we put in to perform in November we were able to relax and play popular hits such as Beatle tunes as well as classical music. In the Commemoration Concert we played two pieces, 'Love Is Here to Stay' arranged by Holcombe and 'Get Me To Church On Time' arranged by Lowden. These contrasting pieces were a massive success and after the year's work we were very much proud to be included in this ensemble. Many thanks must go to all the members for the work put in with limited rehearsal times and also a big thank you to Mr Johnson in his first year in charge.

Mark James

Girls' Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir leads the Chapel services every Sunday evening during term time. With the introduction of girls into the Junior School and Thirds there have been girls in the choir for the first time. In my opinion, and the opinion of many others, this has been one hundred percent successful.

There are many parts in the choir, depending on your vocal pitch. Therefore the girls and boys practise separately, most of the time. When the choir started in September there were only thirteen girls. We started off learning how to chant and which line of music to follow. In a

matter of weeks we were much more developed and structured; it was easy to see a vast improvement.

Christmas was a busy, important time for the whole choir. Personally the Nine Lessons and Carols service was one of my favourite services. There was so much music to learn, carols to practise and last minute descants to add. The Chapel was set up in a completely different form with the choir stalls in the centre and the congregation either side in "Collegiate" style, facing inwards. One of the things that really made the Chapel have a Christmas-like atmosphere was the darkness, with the exception of just a few candles. The Chapel was also filled with flowers and holly, adding to the perfect atmosphere.

Now, with almost double the amount of girls (25 as we complete the year), a choir practice is a friendlier environment to be part of. The choir now have opportunities to do more challenging music, splitting into more parts. The amount of girls (sopranos) is now even more than the treble section of the boys.

To sum it up, the bringing in of girls to the choir has been a triumph! The choir has drastically changed (for the better). As a whole, the choir have really enjoyed this year and have learned, and hopefully put into use, many useful, great things. Finally I would like to say, on behalf of the choir, farewell and best wishes for the future to Annabelle Harris, our Head Chorister and only UV1th member, and a big thank you to Miss Pamela Davies (choirmistress) and Mr. Peter Irving (choirmaster) for all their efforts towards the success of the choir.

Helen-Cara Younan IIIH

Choral Society

Choral society once again grew in number this year; new members included our first ever lower school girl Amy Whittaker. Since 2004 the 11th of November has become a concert date for Choral Society performing in memory of those that died in all the wars. We prepared for what was very likely to be a schools' premiere of Karl Jenkins latest work "Requiem". The piece is a combination of Japanese death poems (haikus, set to music) and a traditional "Latin Requiem". It contained instruments unfamiliar to most, including the Japanese flute! The piece featured four fantastic soloists, Annabel Harris, Jessica Nevin and Phillipa Gibb singing the Japanese songs and Reuben Robyns- Landricombe singing in a high register above the rest of the choir.

Haydn's "Creation" was a complete contrast to Karl Jenkins's "Requiem", providing a different experience to all involved. The piece contained a number of arias and solos, all well delivered by Marcus De Minckwitz, Sophie Nash, Mark James, Annabel Harris, Jessica Nevin, Jack Halsey, Alex Hurst and Matthew Ralph. The performance once again was a success, enjoyed by all. Our thanks go out to all the members of the

orchestra, without whom the performances would never have been such a success. We would also like to thank all the Upper Sixth leavers, and of course Mr Perrins for all his hard work.

Daniel Chadwick

Horn Group

Horn group has been practising hard this year, and was well prepared for the commanding performance it delivered during the interval of the Commemoration Concert. Under the expert guidance of professional player Alyson Roper, who incidentally arranged some of the pieces we performed, the group has developed a fine ensemble and balance.

Two of our number must now move on, leaving only two experienced players to champion this wonderful instrument. This is the perfect opportunity for you to consider taking up a new challenge, to play an instrument that has had a key role in orchestral writing since emerging in the classical period. Horn players are almost guaranteed unlimited ensemble opportunities because they are in such short supply.

Matthew Ralph

Intermediate Saxophone Group

The Intermediate Saxophone Group meets under the guidance of Miss Greswold. These practices have increased our repertoire and have led to two informal concerts and the Lower School Prize Giving. The second of these informal concerts, in May, was the first ever informal concert in the George Hill Building, hopefully the first of many.

George Haynes

Intermediate Wind Band

Another successful year for the young musical masterminds that make up the intermediate wind band. With two excellent concerts under their belt, consisting of four well-played pieces, the wind band continues to climb the ladder of musical fame. We played "Rock Around the Clock" in the St. Cecilia Concert, and in the Commemoration Concert the audience was dazzled by "Tequila" and "Big Spender", which even got the band up on their feet.

The band continues to grow, as new faces appear each year and the results improve. Thanks go to Christa Greswold, who carries on dedicating her time to conducting and coaching the band, and to the band for the great music and atmosphere that they produce each and every time.

Thomas Holden

Jazz Singers

Again, this year has brought much enjoyment and satisfaction to the Sixth Form members in

this choir. Everyone is truly grateful to Mr Perrins for all his efforts this year. In November we performed at the Saint Cecilia Concert where we sang "The Rhythm Of Life" and "Gospel Train" both arranged by Gwyn Arch. The standard as always was high even though the dialogue in the first piece brought about laughter halfway through. Later in the year for the Commemoration Concert we sang "Ave Maria" arranged by Mr Perrins himself and "Mamma Mia" by 'Abba' - particularly loved by the audience. There were tense times when at the final rehearsal the words still weren't learnt but we rallied together and again pulled off one of the highlights of the concert. Many thanks must go to the Upper Sixth members who are leaving for all their efforts over the two years and I'm sure this choir will be a favourite feature for years to come.

Mark James

Samba Band

Samba band has been running for just under two school years and has improved greatly. It has many new members, which allows the possibility of new instruments and pieces to be added to the résumé. Mr Hunt is truly devoted to this band and through him it has progressed to tackle more rhythmically challenging pieces of music. Samba band is unique in that it involves pupils from both the Junior and Senior schools, which gives it a broad variety of members. We hope to continue improving until finally we are better than the Brazilians!

Andrew Turner IVA

Senior Saxophone Group

The last year has seen the Senior Saxophone Group progress from strength to strength. At the annual Dudley festival we were awarded both first and second prizes. Whether it was at the Lichfield Festival, our contribution at school events or most recently at Reynolds Cross School, we have always received a warm welcome in our custom-made waistcoats which have helped make us so famous. In December, Philip Achille, Andrew Pickering, Winston Yap and myself also held a Saxophone Recital, where for the finale we managed to fit thirty saxophone players from throughout the school on to the Bushell Hall stage. The group has also recorded a CD, which is now on sale. Membership of the Saxophone Group is very rewarding and on behalf of the whole group I would like to thank Christa Greswold for the effort she has put into developing our skills as a group, and without whom none of this would have been possible.

Natasha Santana-Vaz.

Senior Wind Band

This has been another very enjoyable year for the members of this ensemble. As usual, we performed in the two main concerts held in the year, the first being the Saint Cecilia Concert in November. With the new members of the band taking time to fit in and the limited rehearsal

time available, great credit must be given to all the individuals who stuck together and worked hard to pull off one of the highlights of the show playing "Brilliant Beatles" arranged by Kleine Schaars. After this concert we were able to relax more and as well as preparing for the Commemoration Concert we were also able to play famous chart toppers such as "Lord Of The Rings", which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. When it came to the summer concert we played two numbers, "Memory", featuring Phillip Achille on the alto-saxophone and "Pennsylvania 6500". The second piece was especially to the audience's liking as on a number of occasions band members had to shout the words "PENNSYLVANIA-SIX-FIVE-THOUSAND". Again the band maintained its very high standards and was appreciated by the audience. Many thanks must go to the leavers of whom some have been members for five years or so and we wish them all the best in the future. Of course this band would not be half as enjoyable or professional without the great effort put in by our conductor Miss Greswold. Everyone greatly loved the rehearsals we had each week and this proved evident in our performances. Many thanks must go to her and I hope the band next year goes from strength to strength.

Mark James



String Ensemble

The year started with a performance of the "Concerto Grosso in A minor" by Handel in the Saint Cecilia Concert. The piece includes solos in the violin, viola and 'cello sections but unfortunately our viola soloist was ill on the night. Since the whole viola section consists of just the one player, we had to perform without any viola solo! However, Tim Page (violin) and Lydia Stone-Fewings ('cello) played their solos beautifully, so the audience remained happily oblivious!

In our second concert we played a piece called "Concertino", written by Chris Allen. Matthew Ralph played the solo harpsichord part (he had to make do with a piano, though) and Winston Yap played the solo alto saxophone part. This time, all soloists were present for the performance, which was a true success.

Edwin Halliday

Symphony Orchestra

This year has been another successful one for the Symphony Orchestra. In the Saint Cecilia Concert in the Christmas term, we performed "Finlandia" by Sibelius. This rousing piece was much enjoyed by everyone, and was even appreciated at its reprise the following morning during assembly!

In the Summer term, Leonie Rainbird-Tilson gave up her position as leader of the orchestra allowing Tim Page to step into the role, while she performed the first movement from Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E Minor". Her performance was superb and the length of applause she received from the audience on the night clearly showed that everyone really enjoyed it. Thanks must go to Mr Perrins for the work he does with us each week and also to those leaving from the Upper Sixth who have given so much to the orchestra over the years.

Edwin Halliday

Music Tour to Austria 2006

Going on a music tour was a first for the Music Department, which had never before ventured beyond London, let alone to Salzburg. Organisation was undertaken with great gusto by Miss Bouckley, somehow assembling an Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Big Band and Clarinet Group from our coachload of musicians. Despite limited time to prepare the music – only 4 weeks – our repertoire was extensive, ranging from Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" to Benny Goodman's jazz standard "Stompin' at the Savoy".

Fortuitously, 2006 was the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, and this was all the excuse that the music department needed to start plotting. Renditions of Mozart's "Magic Flute Overture" by the Orchestra, and "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik"

by the Clarinet Ensemble were the fruit of these musical musings.

Singling out individual pieces for praise would be divisive, especially given the exemplary standard of musicianship overall. However, Leonie Rainbird-Tilson's rapturous performance of Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E minor" deserves special mention, especially as it was her last with the school before leaving Upper 6th.

All this, however, would have been for nothing without places to perform and audiences to capture...I mean, captivate! Despite planning three concerts, we were able to play only two – at the Schloss Kahlsberg and the town of St. Gilgen, while the third, at Salzburg's Mirabellgarten, had to be abandoned because of malicious weather. Nevertheless, the tour was a resounding musical experience for all involved.

Of course, we didn't only play, rehearse and perform whilst in Austria, even if practice featured rather too prominently in the schedules for most people's tastes. Some of our time was spent on visits to local attractions, such as a Salt Mine, Ice Caves and, of course, Salzburg itself. Historically-minded musicians even had the opportunity to visit Mozart's Birthplace, while others eschewed this in favour of the quintessentially Austrian charms of Salzburg's shopping streets. One enterprising group of singers even went busking in the city-centre, before being moved on by the police, who very kindly spoke in English.

The tour was enormous fun both musically and socially, and I'd like to say thankyou, on behalf of everybody, to Miss Bouckley, Mr. Perrins, Mr. Godfrey and Miss Davies. So, where to next year?

Alexander Hurst



Performing Arts

Academic Drama has existed for just four years at Solihull, but the Drama and Theatre Studies students have produced a bewildering array of original and experimental performances in that time. Many students start the A Level course with little if any experience of drama, yet by the second term are producing public performances for examination. This year we have been blessed with two extremely able and committed year groups who have produced some of the best work to date.

The Christmas term saw three devised productions by the Upper Sixth. These are entirely original pieces of drama, scripted, rehearsed and performed by the students themselves. One group produced a visually stunning and effective exploration of the theme of war, while another experimented with an anarchic, Brechtian style performance based on the concept of 'Sliding Doors', where the possibilities life has to offer us were examined. The final devised piece had a topical, Christmassy feel to it with a Scrooge-type figure learning to accept his mistakes. Pursued by the eerie, hooded figures from the Ministry, he was forced to examine his life in short, stylized episodes. The standard of performances in all three pieces was accomplished and impressive.

In the Easter Term, the new Lower Sixth had the chance to put into practice all they had learned so far and rehearsed for several weeks to produce two public performances. The first, 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui' by Bertolt Brecht, took place on a mock up of a London city street, complete with a Tube Station through which the audience entered. The cast displayed extraordinary confidence in their informal and unscripted improvised interaction with the bemused audience who found themselves in the heart of the action! The lighting, set and costume designs for this piece were all done by the students themselves. The second performance was an edited version of John Godber's 'Teechers' which used the new George Hill building as an experimental performance space. The play was slick, funny and tested the multi-role skills of the cast to the limit.

The Easter Term was also the final opportunity for the Upper Sixth to show what they were made of! The examination requires students to create workshop productions of a published text and the students chose 'Animal Farm', 'Bouncers' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Orwell's 'Animal Farm' produced some of the most amusing animal characterizations – particularly Moses the evangelical raven (played by Christopher Clarke) and the pigeon (courtesy of Jack Williams' hand!). 'Bouncers' was another of John Godber's plays and the menacing yet slightly pathetic figures of four nightclub bouncers examining city night life was handled with real maturity by a cast of four, who were required to play up to three different roles each.

The key to the success of this piece was the careful choreography and comic timing of the delivery. Finally, the adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Dream' provided an athletic and symbolic vision for the audience. The choreography was beautifully observed and the group chose to concentrate on the tangled web of relationships in the play.

In addition to this, the Theatre Studies students found time this year to take part in the School play and Musical and even direct members of the Lower School in original versions of well known fairy tales. A busy year indeed!

Mrs L M Fair



Lower School Production

A new year and yet another new approach to putting on the Lower School play. This year was, of course, going to be different due to the lack of boys in drag and it did interest me to see how many of the twenty-two girls in the Illrds would get involved. In the end, well over half did and the concentration and performance skills that they brought to rehearsals brought everything up to a higher level.

In previous years, a single play has been rehearsed by a member of staff and brought up to a performance. This year the Lower Sixth Theatre Studies groups took on the role of writers and directors, bringing to the stage a multitude of fairy stories, ranging from relatively straight renditions of 'Snow White' and 'Peter Rabbit' to physical comedy in 'Chicken Licken' and the superbly written 'The Very Ugly Duckling Who Grew Up to be a Very Ugly Duck'. Harriet Ryland gave an excellent performance as the witch in 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' featuring Emily Hughes (as a wonderful chavette) also contained very strong performances. The individual plays were held together by the story of 'The Little Match Girl', played by Victoria

Weaver. She brought a powerful, sensitive start to the performance and every time she lit a match a new play would start. All told, over fifty pupils were involved.

What was important, apart from the sense of achievement gained after a successful performance, was that pupils from different year groups interacted positively. The process of evolving a script in rehearsal was given due care and attention; since group sizes were relatively small and under constant supervision from an eager band of Sixth Form students, pupils learnt from each other. The Sixth Form gained confidence and developed practical creative ideas; the Lower School pupils each enjoyed their moment in the limelight, giving them crucial stage experience.

Many thanks to the Lower Sixth involved, especially Edward Leftwich, who took a step forward to stage-manage on the day. My message to all those in the Lower School is to 'stay creative'!

Mr A Avery

Third Form Dance Workshop with Rhiannon Parker

At the start of the summer term, Rhiannon, a qualified dancer came to Solihull to take her first ever dance workshop, as she had only this year graduated from University with her dance degree.

In our first session Rhiannon talked about herself and her dancing, then showed us some videos of her dancing in different styles. She started with a warm up to music and taught us the first of many dance steps. First we did an exercise where we had to do a front kick, then a sidekick and then a back kick; it was quite difficult, but everyone got the hang of it. Then we did jumping and Rhiannon taught us a jump that she called a 'sparkle'. We had to jump on one leg and stretch our arms out to the ceiling.

Rhiannon then talked to us about learning routines and how it helps if you see the routine a couple of times through first, so she did the dance twice for us. It was now our turn to learn the routine and we were all worried that we wouldn't get it. Rhiannon took us through the first moves very slowly and eventually, everyone did it! By the end, we had managed to put it to music and it looked fantastic! At the end of the dance, we were split into groups and we added our own 16 beats to finish off the dance in a personal way.

We all really enjoyed the workshop and so did Rhiannon! It was interesting to find out about all the different types of dance she had learnt. I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and would love to do it again next year.

Emily Hughes

Barnum



It was with some trepidation that in September 2005, Messrs. Melling, Perrins, Hadley, and Holden, embarked upon producing the "Best circus show Solihull School had ever staged" (M.De Minkwitz).



Auditions soon proved that a vast amount of talent was on offer throughout the school, but in particular in the Sixth Form. It was lovely to be able to include so many girls from the Third Form too, whose enthusiasm was infectious.

A hectic and wholly consuming rehearsal schedule was drawn up, to which some paid more attention than others. Much of the production involved dance routines, and Miss

"The costumes and scenery were amazing – so full of colour and energy, just like the show was. It's something that I will never forget."

Annabelle Harris

Holden was presented with a choreographer's nightmare, made doubly difficult by the fact that some members of the cast had two left feet! Individual scenes and songs were rehearsed again and again with the ever-effervescent Mr. Perrins, until it was impossible to get through a day without finding ourselves humming along to 'One Brick at a Time' or 'Join the Circus'

In October we held a circus skills training day, run superbly by Jay Linn. The cast were treated to a display of tantalizing circus skills and were able to try their hand at juggling, the Diablo, unicycling, stilt walking, plate spinning, poi, and for one lucky individual, tightrope walking. It was amazing how quickly some of the cast picked up these new skills although Chris Inns' first attempts on the tightrope were somewhat wobbly! However, so committed was he, that Chris' own home was turned into a circus ring as we delivered a tightrope to his house for the Christmas holidays.

As February half term loomed, it seemed impossible that the production would be ready to stage in just over a month. We had not yet seen the set, and had not had chance to



rehearse with any of the props. After half term, rehearsing became a full-time occupation. The set arrived two weeks prior to the show, and what a transformation! Within 48 hours, Bushell Hall was transformed into a circus that Phineas T. Barnum would have been proud of. It looked fantastic, professional even, now all we needed was a performance to match.

Meanwhile, backstage, Pat Hannant and her team were labouring away tirelessly in a never ending production line of costumes, numbering almost 200, and ranging in size from 4'6" to 9'4" and including clowns, old ladies, period gentlemen, tumblers, strongmen, politicians, and giant beefeaters.

The week of the show arrived about two months too soon, and the staff team started to show signs of sleep deprivation and worry. Not many of the cast appreciated that Mr. Melling is in fact only 23 years old! Last minute adjustments had to be made to the set by the technical team, superbly overseen by Mr. Avery.



Opening night arrived, and Mrs Hadley and Miss Holden shed several pounds racing from dressing room to dressing room convinced that we would never be ready on time. Thanks to a splendid job by Mr. Smith and his able assistants however, a perfectly made up cast were waiting in the wings at precisely the right moment. The opening performance was superb, and whilst of course there were inevitable glitches, it seemed that they were not noticed by the audience who were thrilled with the show. Each of the four nights went from strength to strength, and with almost every evening a sell out, the cast delivered a truly professional performance. It was generally agreed that Friday night's performance was by far and away the best, made more so by Tom Holden's late entrance, and Chris' truly professional improvisations. Our own highlights of the show were Chris' amazing tightrope walk, every breathtaking second of which was genuine, the giant performance by the Evans twins, Adam Mundy's spectacular jump from Tom Thumb's chair, and the visual spectacle of the final number 'Join the Circus.'

Although there were many times of stress, concern, and anguish, it was a privilege to work with such talented students from across such a vast age range, and it can be safely said that Barnum was indeed the best circus show Solihull School has ever produced.

Mrs R R Hadley / Miss F E Holden

"It was so much fun and enjoyable being a part of it all!"

Rupert Dyhouse



Barnum Review 'Ladies and Gentlemen...

...and children of all ages. Solihull School is proud to present in the Bushell Hall, transformed into a Big Top before your very eyes, its thirtieth, yes, that's right, its thirtieth musical extravaganza. You can-canned with Orpheus in the Underworld, marvelled at Wolfgang's magical instrument, twisted with Oliver, and now, bounce with Barnum!



Roll up, Roll up

The entrance to the theatre has become Covent Garden with street entertainers, jugglers, unicyclists, and fire-eaters. A brilliant idea that set the mood for performances ablaze with zest and energy under the dazzling direction of debutante, Rachel Hadley, seasoned impresario, Bob Melling and musical maestro, Stephen Perrins, plus a cast not quite of thousands but certainly nearing two hundred, according to names accredited in the programme. Wow! Let's hear a loud cheer for Anthony Avery and his technical crew too. Hip hip...

Jumbo

Barnum, a theatrical blockbuster with music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Michael Stewart and book by Max Bramble, is based on the life of American showman, Phineas Taylor Barnum. The American production opened at the St James Theatre, Broadway on 30 April 1980 and ran for 854 performances, starring erstwhile Carry-On star Jim Dale and Glenn Close. In London the

show ran at the Palladium from 11 June 1981 for 655 performances featuring Michael Crawford in the title role. In Solihull it played to packed houses four times and starred that well known duo, Chris Inns and Frankie Jackson as respectively, Phineas and his good lady, Chairy.



The Main Attraction

Barnum's life was as full of variety as his shows. Born the eldest of five children to a Connecticut innkeeper, he was a natural entrepreneur cashing in on lottery mania (and you thought it was a recent invention) then turning to publishing. His later autobiography, marketed on a buy-a-circus ticket get-a-book-free basis, was the second best seller in nineteenth century America; the first? The New Testament.

Bankruptcy and law suits were also common emblems before he set out collecting and exhibiting curiosities, often of the human kind: the oldest woman in the world; the smallest man in the world; a mermaid. He met Queen Victoria, engaged Jenny Lind 'The Swedish Nightingale' for an unprecedented thousand dollars a night, and combined with James Bailey to form the definitive Barnum and Bailey Circus before dying in 1891. Larger than life, charismatic, showman, trickster, the very stuff of legend.

"The way that Frankie was killed off without any of the audience realising was a directorial masterpiece!"

Marcus de Mickwitz



The Greatest Show on Earth

Now all of this vitality is ideal for rip-roaring razzmatazz and so it proved. Not strong on storyline, more a series of episodes with a touch of marital tension, a hint of romance, and a tear or two of pathos. You never worry for Barnum though as he stays one move ahead of the opposition and his wife would always save him anyway.

In the title role Chris Inns excelled; he's always walked a figurative tightrope but here he had his chance to conquer a literal one. And he did, in style! Dominating the stage, he sang and strutted through his repertoire never losing control for a second and turning in a consummate performance. As his wife and mentor Frankie Jackson reminded us – if we needed it – just why she's one of the finest actors this school has produced. At times schoolmarmish, at times coquettish, she played the full emotional range. In support were a number of fine cameos: Adam Mundy as the quixotic Tom Thumb; Annabelle Harris as the regal Swedish iceberg, Jenny Lind; Dan Chadwick, the Ringmaster and the Evans twins as.... themselves! Well not quite, but certainly an entertaining duo.



Not a one trick pony

The real stars though were - everyone! The girls and boys in the band played impeccably and infectiously; the dancing showed flair and precision under the tireless and professional choreography of Faye Holden. The chorus, clowns etc etc and we must not forget to mention Leanne Hogg's baton twirling, enjoyed themselves immensely and their enthusiasm transmitted itself to the audience who had a whale of a time. Was the thirtieth musical the best? Certainly the most entertaining and one that would have had that master entertainer, Phineas Barnum himself calling for more.

Encore, encore!

Mr P T Holt

"I was thoroughly thrilled with the end production. It was a pleasure to be part of it and I would definitely do it again."

Emily Hughes



Lower and Middle School Drama Clubs

In September, as the heart of Lower School Drama Club moved into the Lower Fifth, it became clear that something had to be done. Middle School Drama Club was born, whilst the girls brought a new wave of enthusiasm for the Lower School club.

We became involved in a BBC project based on the Asian Network radio drama, *Silver Street*. With the help of an energetic schools worker from the BBC, the two clubs combined to work on their own radio drama. New communities emerged, with their own individual charm and local 'personalities'. Then followed the script, and finally the recording at the Mailbox studio of the BBC. The pupils were exemplary, recording in the studio used for *Silver Street* and *The Archers*. The result was superb: two CDs of great audio drama.



Singular individual success came in the form of George Haynes. At auditions for the cast of 'Great Expectations' at the RSC, George's burgeoning talent was 'spotted'; he played the young Herbert Pocket in a highly successful run in Stratford from October to February.

In the Spring term, we ran a competition for scripting a short fairy tale. This was the origin of the Lower School Production, in the creative hands of Anthony Avery. Even at this early stage, growing talent and wit were apparent. Meanwhile the Middle School auditioned for the forthcoming production of John Godbur's *Teechers*. England games were missed for rehearsals, and the dedication and progress of the young actors was remarkable. The hilarious script was delivered with considered timing and superb mannerisms, leading to a highly enjoyable evening. George Haynes shone again in the lead role of Nixon, a harassed drama

teacher in a 'special priority area' Comprehensive. He was supported by Tom Foxall, Richard Brough and Mycroft Halliwell-Ewen, as the three pupils most affected by Nixon's presence, and by Adam Khimji as Oggy, the school thug. A delightfully extravert Jeremy Mirza shone as the eccentric Headmistress. This was undoubtedly a showcase for considerable talent and a fitting and triumphant end to the first year of the Middle School Drama Club.

Mrs R L Lockyer



The Sea

Somewhat a departure from the traditional theatrical fare of Solihull School, Paul Clarke's production of Edward Bond's 'The Sea' was certainly a demanding task for the actors involved. It can only be said that they did both themselves and their director proud, demonstrating a maturity and understanding beyond their years, tackling the subject matter and complex emotions with assurance and style.

The opening 'storm' scene was particularly powerful: Willy Carson's (Phin Harper) cries of desperation to save his drowning friend merged with brilliant sound and lighting, so that when he emerged from the top of the auditorium to charge down the steps and land at the feet of the drunken Evens (a masterful Chris Inns), the effect upon the audience was electric.

After such a powerful opening, it was going to take something special to re-focus the audience, but in Frankie Jackson this was clearly found. Marcus de Minckwitz, as the draper Hatch, provided a delightfully obsequious character, showing subtle annoyance at the domineering Louise Rafi (Jackson). Jackson's control of the stage spoke of her maturity and confidence as an actress destined for great things. Hatch's descent into madness in the second half was superbly performed by a babbling de Minckwitz, armed with metres of cloth and a pair of scissors.

Perhaps the most enjoyable scenes involved the dark and satirical humour so characteristic of Bond: the wonderful moments of planning a 'theatrical masterpiece' in Louise Rafi's drawing room, in which a vicar (Will Roden), a dog, and much melodrama blended hilariously, and the

later disastrous funeral ceremony, during which the ashes of the deceased are scattered far and wide by hysterical females.

A balance and tenderness was found in the sensitive portrayal of Rose by Meghali Pandey, whose moments of embarrassed romance with Willy were movingly executed. Evens and Willy's conversation on the meaning(lessness?) of life go to the heart of Bond's message: the maturity again shown by the young actors in these moments was remarkable.

The wonderful commitment of the entire cast was encapsulated in such performances as Jess Nevin, playing the romantic Jessica, Kelly Townsend as the hysterical Jilly, and Emma Hubble as the practical Mafanwy. Steph Brien, Pip Gibb and Ruth Webster contributed beautifully to the overall sense of community. The team of male 'workers' (Ed Leftwich, Alex Carr) with which Hatch surrounds himself in his conviction of an alien invasion provided a great sense of the atmosphere of the maritime village, and deeply understood their characters and purposes – particularly the loyal and indefatigable Hollarcut, played with moving sincerity by Will Shipley.

Louise Rafi's vindication in the final scene was an example of the understated excellence of both the play and the production, and the minimalist set design fitted perfectly with this to provide a memorable experience for both company and audience.

Mrs R L Lockyer



Art



John Denaro workshop



Art exhibition in the George Hill building



Allan Fatah



Tom Perkins



Jack Gilmore



Will Renwick

Art



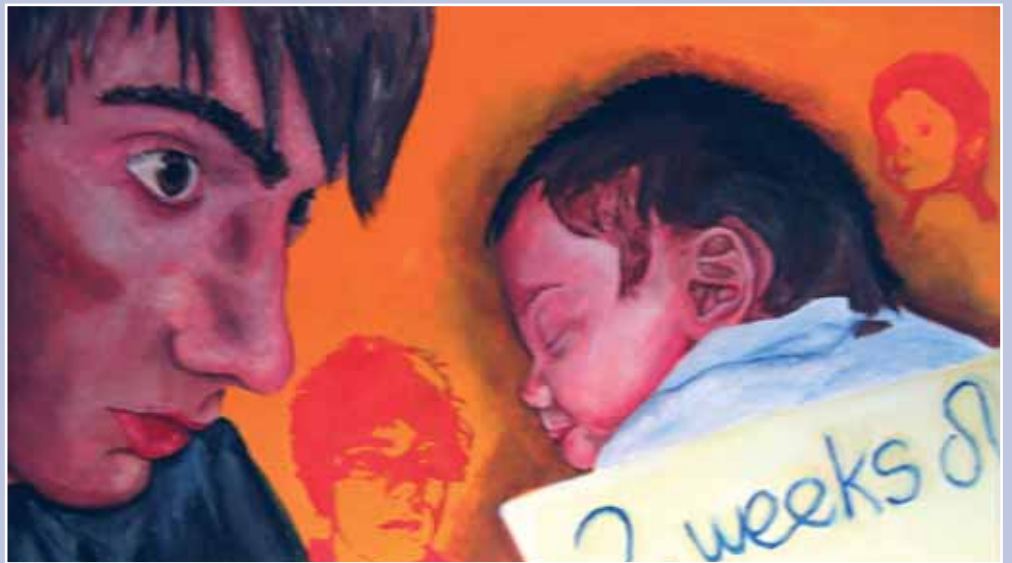
Art exhibition in the George Hill building



Michael Horswill



John Denaro workshop



James O'Connell



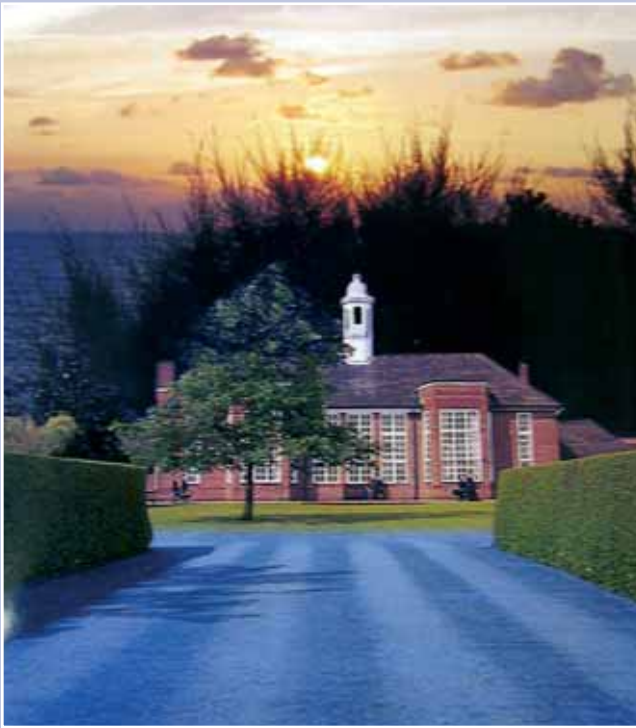
Will Renwick



Kathryn Newman



Olivia Fortune



Chris Evans



Jack Gilmore



Corinna Fyre



Olivia Fortune



Christian Grauers



Reynalds Cross workshops



Snowdonia School

Dos and Don'ts; Solihull School's very own 'mountain goat'.

DO remember to take lots of cakes, biscuits and sweets to supplement the measly army rations provided on the first night. Mrs Labouche provided a delicious Citron Tarte Tatin, which went down extremely well with the expedition members and I understand she is willing to take orders from members of future expeditions.

DO remember to take Father Andrew. As well as being really good fun, he does an awesome fry up. Leave him behind and I'm afraid it's cornflakes.

DO come prepared to tell jokes, rhymes and stories. Mr Bate prefers them clean, not that there is much chance of that.

DO NOT wear new mountain boots for the walk up Snowdon. If you do wear new boots then also take plenty of cotton wool to soak up all the blood. There is a big puddle provided at the top so that you can wash your feet.

DO NOT mountain bike behind a member of staff. Teachers, particularly if that teacher just happens to be Mr Corbett and mountain bikes are a lethal combination, and I have a number of bruises in unmentionable places to prove it.

DO NOT share a tent with the likes of Ant Wilkes and Jackson Bowen who snore. I would also recommend sharing a tent with someone who actually knows HOW to put up a tent.

DO NOT attempt to be nominated for the bravery award. For further information please ask Tom Wintle about blocked drains.

DO NOT under any threat, bribe etc, reveal to your mother anything about your trip. The responses 'yes', 'no' and 'alright' are guaranteed to drive her barmy, which is, after all why we are here.

Between you and me, we all had a brilliant time, and we did lots of things we had never tried before and we made loads of new friends.

Mountain Goat (Aka Chris Hooper)

Mountain Club

This year Mountain Club again visited Radnor Forest, though this time we had much better visibility, which made navigation on the featureless tops much easier. We also made a day trip to the Peak District – again in glorious sunshine – where we revisited Lud's Church and Hanging Stone, and enviously watched the climbers on the Roaches.

Our other day trip was to Shropshire, where we had a fine day walking in wintry conditions. The hills might not be high, but in the hollows on the tops there were three-foot drifts, which, for some reason, our group found quite exciting. Miss Guy did really well on this trip – only falling down about six times.

This year has seen two Mountain Club trips to the School Cottage. In October we walked the Elidir horseshoe, where, on a good day, you can look down from the 3000 foot summit onto the cottage in the hazy distance far below. We also ascended the Glyder peaks via Y Gribin – a knife-edge ridge that took us almost into the realm of scrambling.

The Easter trip saw us on the top of Tryfan as well as Moel Siabod. We also had a fine day practising micro navigation North of Capel Curig.



Many thanks to all those pupils who came along on one or more of the trips, and especial thanks to Mr Garner, Mr Ayers, Miss Hogg and Miss Guy for all of their help and support.

Mr M Worrall

European Youth Parliament

The European Youth Parliament is a team debating competition for schools run by the European Union. The West Midlands regional heat was held the Birmingham Council Chamber on 20th March. The team took part in a series of debates on a range of current issues, such as renewable energy and the Constitutional Treaty, all capped off by a debate in French. We received some positive feedback from the judges and were perhaps unlucky not

to make it through to the next round. Nevertheless, we all had a very enjoyable day and special thanks must go to Mrs Hughes for organising it.

Edward Shelley

The Debating Society

The Debating Society has continued to grow to an unprecedented size over the year, under the scintillating leadership of President Philip Dekker and transcendent secretary Robert Barham.

Weekly Thursday lunchtime debates have become a school showpiece, seeing motions such as 'This House Would Have a Designer Baby', 'This House Would Fight for King and Country', and 'This House Would Throw Away The Television'. For charity, the Headmaster even donned long hair and bare feet, albeit metaphorically, by proposing the motion 'This House Believes in Hippie Culture'. To many however the most important issue was resolved in a 'rugby versus hockey' debate, where the rugby captains left victorious. Tuesday's Junior Debating for the LV and below was ably run by no doubt future President Tom Foxall. I offer many thanks to all the outstanding speakers of these countless debates.

The school also became a big player in regional, national and even international competitions. Robert Barham and Heather Williams progressed to the second round of the ESU Mace competition. LVI students Nick Lunn and Laura Taylor reached the second round of the Midlands Schools Mace competition as well. Less success was found in the British Parliamentary style Oxford and Cambridge contests, with Ed Norris, Anthony Shinton, Nick Meixner and Daniel Strang being knocked out in the first round of Cambridge, and the same happening in the highly competitive and prestigious Oxford version to Philip Dekker, James Cunnane-Neilan, Manisha Lishman and Catherine Parr.



The success was to be best found in the upcoming stars of tomorrow's debating. The U15 ICYD competition saw Joe Worrall and Richard Brough get as far as the Finals Day at

the Oxford Union, a tremendous achievement. It was a tough day with some difficult debates however, and the historic first piece of silverware for the society was to come from John Farrant and Tom Foxall's victories over four close rounds in the U16 Midlands Taylor Trophy competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

We also dipped our toes into the warm water of public speaking, a more formalised affair, with Adam Khinji, Akshay Khanna and Tom Foxall enjoying the ESU public speaking competition as speaker, chairman and questioner respectively. The school also entered teams into the European Youth Parliament for the second year running.

The ruthless world of British Parliamentary debating returned in March when Philip Dekker and James Cunnane-Neilan spent a whole weekend in Durham with ninety-one other teams, debating unseen motions with fifteen minute preparation, a difficult but enjoyable and educational experience, featuring motions such as, 'This House Believes The US and the EU should withdraw funding from the Hamas controlled Palestinian authority', a task which the team rose to. Some talented competition from the UK, Ireland and even Canada unfortunately prevented the school reaching the semi-finals.

Though not strictly debating, the success of debaters Robert Barham, James Benge, John Cousins and Tom Foxall in the University Challenge style Schools Challenge competition should be noted, where the team won the regional stages beating KES in a tense final, before beating Monmouth in the inter-regional stage. The final at Westminster was a very exciting day. The team comfortably beat St Colman's College in the quarter-final, and then progressed to a nerve-wracking semi-final, that resulted in Solihull School 550 Sherborne School 500. The final was equally exciting, although unfortunately the team was beaten by an extremely strong Westminster School team. However, the team came home with a shield for second place and I am confident this activity will continue its apparently inexorable rise.

It is often said that the successors to great men are seldom remembered. Such may have been true for us after the virtual founding of the society by Neil Graham and Andy Williamson a few years back. However in taking up the baton, the concept of free speech, debate and oratory has flourished inside and outside of the gates of Solihull School. Debating is an activity that is controversial, unifying, enjoyable, edifying and surely integral to society. The devotion of Mrs Hughes and Miss Guy to furthering this cause has been truly admirable, and countless memories will endure from this single year in debating alone. Thank you to all who have contributed and helped, and long may debating rise, under the new presidency and for generations after that.

Philip Dekker

Classics Society

Trojan Women

In October, the Classics Society went to see the "Actors of Dionysus" perform the Euripides tragedy "Trojan Women" at the Warwick School Bridge Theatre. For a drama company whose namesake is most famous as the god of orgiastic excess, however, "Trojan Women" was comparatively sombre. Euripides wrote this nightmare of love and war almost 2500 years ago, but the AOD gave it a fresh relevance by recasting it in the Balkan conflict. A play that deals with the causes and consequences of war, it was often harrowing in its portrayal of suffering and stoicism in the face of adversity: if this gives the idea that it wasn't enjoyable, however, far from it. Whether it's the subject or just the company, these trips are small miracles of fun. Each trip leaves me dumbfounded by Miss Guy's organisational zeal, and deafened by the selection of 80s pop she blasts over the minibus speakers. Not even the threat of Wham! stops me. Now that really shows how good they are.

Alexander Hurst

Trip to The British Museum

In November a group of Classicists went to the British Museum to see an exhibition on Ancient Persia. Many of the exhibits on display had never before left the Museum of Tehran, so to the vast majority of visitors these were never-before seen pieces of history. The exhibition presented many different aspects of Ancient Persian life, ranging from their architecture and culture to how the people lived and died. On behalf of all those who went, thanks go to all those parents who came along to help, and especially to Miss Guy and Miss Holloway for organising such a wonderful excursion.

Tom Foxall

Rome on Camera

In February the Classics department was honoured by a visit from the pre-eminent classicist, Steven Harrison, for an engaging talk entitled "How Rome is Portrayed in the Movies". Taking "The Rise and fall of the Roman Empire", "Spartacus" and "Gladiator" in the place of any classical text, Professor Harrison pointed out and expounded a number of trends in the portrayal of Rome, drawing parallels with issues at the time of the films' production manifested in the portrayal of Rome given by each, and continuing the ongoing debate of the comparison of Ancient Roman society with the type of Western Democracy now embodied by North America, from a cinematographic perspective.

The talk was fascinating, much more than simply an excuse to sit around for an hour watching film clips. It freshened our perspective on the grandeur and also the violent, conquering aspects of Rome, and reminded us that for many centuries afterwards mankind has

strived to imitate her. It was interesting to learn that after the release of the film blockbuster "Gladiator", applications for Classics at universities in Britain increased by 25%. On this note, Miss Guy, resident head of Classics, felt inspired to found a school Classical Film society, so that those pagan scientists might perhaps come to the light of true academia in the engaging study of antiquity.

Many thanks to Professor Harrison for travelling down from Oxford University, and for teaching our classics teachers that all-important lesson – even Latin students deserve chilled video lessons!

Matthew Ralph



Classics Trip to Bath

On a chilly Saturday morning, a group of intrepid Classicists set off to Bath, accompanied by Miss Guy, Mr Hart, Miss Holloway and Mr and Mrs Hurst. We were looking forward to searching out a legendary Fudge Shop, as well as exploring the ancient spa and health resort, now a World Heritage Site.

On arrival, we were ushered into an elegant Georgian room, where we were given an informative talk, complete with Latin inscriptions to test our recall of grammar and vocabulary! This was followed by the chance to handle various artefacts found on the site, such as an oyster shell and spoon, flask for olive oil and tweezers.

Next stop was the baths themselves. The stunning Great Bath was at the heart of the complex, and it was very soothing to sit beside the steaming green waters and soak up a few weak rays of March sunshine, imagining the thousands of people who had come to bathe there over the centuries.

There was just time for a trip to the Fudge Shop where tooth-tingling slabs in all manner of flavours were enjoyed. The temperature might have been low, but spirits were high as we boarded the minibus and headed for home. Many thanks to Miss Guy for another brilliantly organised trip!

Miss E J Holloway

Hadrian's Wall

And so we went, in a minibus to the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, South Shields, on a trip that opened minds. The day, however, was on the cusp of being ruined after we became disorientated on a council estate, where a band of local youths threatened to thwart our plans to get to the Museum of Antiquities. We arrived, at last, and were shown round by Andrew Parkin, before heading for lunch overlooking the charming docklands. In the afternoon we once again found ourselves on a council estate, this time at Arbeia Roman fort, which offered us the chance to ponder just why the Romans would build a fort on a 19th century housing estate.

As the sun rose upon our second day, we gazed upon Vindolanda Roman fort. We were even able to watch the leading archaeologist of the age, Robin Birley drinking coffee. The afternoon was spent at Birdoswald, where (Dr) David Eames gave an inspired and often provocative tour. That evening we were given the unique experience of walking along a road in darkness, trying to find a milecastle (apparently).

On the Sunday we headed for Housesteads, the best preserved of all Roman forts and the most exposed. We looked at the fort and the extensive lavatorial remains. We then walked a stretch of the wall, along the famous Whin Sill and past the tree from the beginning of the Kevin Costner blockbuster "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves". We returned the following day, very tired, but extremely contented. Thanks to Miss Guy and Mr Hart for all their efforts on the trip, and making it a success.

*David Eames, Thomas Rowley
and Matthew Keyte*

Chess

The school chess teams have had a year of developing and fine tuning their skills. The Shell Form Team finished half way up the Under 13 Division table with Stuart Bradley and Paul Smith providing solid play right the way through the season. The 11th Form Team were sporadic in their performances throughout the year but, with John Gilbert and Anant Khanna having a good season, this team also finished in the middle of the pack. The Under 18 teams had below par seasons with the occasional standout match. My thanks to all those pupils leaving us who have contributed to school chess over the years.

Much chess was played in the Junior School during the course of the year and it is always encouraging when I wander through to see boards out in every classroom. Many excellent players are coming into the 11th Form. Furthermore, Junior School chess will, I hope, go from strength to strength.

Mr A C Avery



Enrichment

The emphasis has been on trying to introduce more variety into our programme this year and we have had useful new courses added to Mondays, with Japanese Language and Culture, Human Behaviour and Study Skills. The period has also been productively used for preparations for the excellent musical, 'Barnum', and as extra rehearsal time for Theatre Studies, project time for Design and practical work time for Art students.

Our Thursday Young Enterprise groups were more productively successful than in previous years, but they did not achieve the same high standards as last year's groups with their presentations, and did not progress beyond the local round of the competition.

On Fridays we have had the usual range of end of week activities, along with some excellent talks. The most popular of the latter was Dr William Stableforth (OS), who engaged his audience especially well with a description of his epic row across the Atlantic. We had two thought provoking talks on Europe, one by from the Freedom Association and another from Malcolm Harbour MEP about the workings of the European parliament. It was also a great pleasure to welcome back Holocaust survivor Kitty Hart-Moxon with her vivid and highly instructive account of the horrors of the Auschwitz death camp. John Levy brought us up to date with events in the Middle East and our local MP, Lorely Burt was kind enough to take time out from her busy schedule to talk about local and national issues and about the problems of lifestyle adjustment faced by a new member of the House of Commons.

During the year we also managed an exciting new 'first', as a preview of the important new film about the Rwandan Genocide, 'Shooting Dogs' was screened in the Bushell Hall. This helped to build support for an excellent 'non-uniform day' collection to aid both the orphaned survivors in Rwanda, and the local Save the Children 'BUMP' (Befriending Unaccompanied Minors Project), which seeks to help refugee children who arrive in this country without parents to lead as normal a young life as possible.

As always we continue to search for new ways of broadening out the experiences of our senior pupils as a means of preparing them as well as possible to meet the challenges of the outside world. Our students seem to enjoy the variety and lighter academic demands that Enrichment provides.

Mr M R Brough

Chilean Visit May 2006

Nervous excitement faced both groups of students as the coach pulled into Solihull School. Our 42 student visitors were from Concepcion, a large town in the central area of Chile. They were on a thirty-day trip to Britain, visiting sights and landscapes from London to Edinburgh. We were one of their destinations. Wessex School is an international co-educational school catering for children from 3 to 18 years old.

The students disembarked and wheeled their huge suitcases into the refectory where our 23 students were waiting for them. Names were called out and the host students were united with their visitors. First up was Nick Fisher; he was introduced to his two female guests who, unfazed gave him a kiss on both cheeks. The ice was broken and a rather red Nick was given a warm cheer.



On Wednesday the Chilean students joined the LVth students in Chapel and morning lessons, some at maths, others making Bakewell tarts; Marcelo gave us a scare by reacting to the almonds and coming out in an itchy rash! In his English lesson, Mr. Holt discussed the odes of Pablo Neruda, a Chilean poet. I attempted to get the Chilean students to explain the geography of Chile, while the Solihull lads mapped out features of Chile, like Chuquicamata, the largest copper mine in the Atacama Desert of Chile. In the afternoon, Chilean students went off to train for the major tournament on Thursday. The girls had to learn how to play Rounders and the boys needed to brush up on their football skills! Host families entertained their guests in the evening. Bowling, skating, presenting the weather for BBC Midlands Today, seeing "The Da Vinci Code" are just some of the activities they enjoyed.

On Thursday the lads went off to Rugby School, to learn of the origins of the game. The girls did a little shopping at Hatton Country World and observed the Hatton 'Flight of Stairs' locks in action. In the evening, at Old Silhilians ... showdown! Chile A and Chile B played against Solihull A and B football teams, whilst the girls battled it out against our sixth form girls. Mr Allen, president of the Old Silhilians, arranged a buffet supper. The games were competitive, the goals abundant and the results mixed. Star player in the winning Chilean football A. team was Marcelo Henriquez. In Rounders, Chile had 9 rounders to England's 12 rounders. The glorious sunshine made the early evening a fitting finale to the three days.

On Friday the Chilean students presented a farewell assembly, a wonderful event with two students dancing the Cueca (a local folk dance), others sharing the history and geography of the country and a rock group playing us out with a Black Sabbath number! Wessex students said their goodbyes and headed off for three more weeks of travel. Adios amigos. Ojala que vuelvan pronto!

Mrs J S Brown

European Languages Week September 2005

The third week in September heralded a celebration of European Week of Languages. Nationwide, activities were organised to raise awareness of the vital role that languages play in our lives, whether for professional or personal reasons.

During the week, pupils in the Sixth Form were able to enjoy three very different films. The French film, 'L'Auberge Espagnole', by Cédric Klapisch, enticed us to visit Barcelona. Its invitation for students in the European Union to experience life and to study in another country in the EU, was informative but, above all, wryly funny. The Spanish film took us back to Barcelona, and its darker side. In his film 'All About my Mother', Pedro Almodóvar, one of the greatest cult directors currently making films in Europe, intrigued and teased us, as people from varied walks of life tried to work through their many complexes. Funny and serious, it was a great introduction to this well-known director. The German film, 'The Downfall' took us to Berlin, where we went underground to follow Hitler's last days in his bunker. This controversial film was certainly thought provoking. It is appropriate that we continue to explore these disturbing times.

It was a week for enrichment. Languages, indeed, offer a new way of looking at the world. We look forward to further events.

Mrs MA Barrett

RAF Report 2005-6

This year was another very busy one for the RAF Section. The Summer Camp 2005 at RAF Leuchars was excellent, the weather favoured us and plenty of flying was achieved, amidst the scream of the tornadoes that come and go; RAF Leuchars is a strike command station so there was plenty to see. The attractive Scottish countryside was ideal for the orienteering and command task exercises. The whole section has managed at least one flight, this year we have visited RAF Cosford on several occasions for both A.E.F. and powered gliding. Other activities have included section visits, orienteering, survival training, canoeing, aircraft recognition, as well as the 100% success rate at Part One and Part Two on the training programme. The Biannual Inspection was also carried out whilst we were on Field Day and Group Captain Nicholson was most impressed with the dress, attitude and conversation of our cadets. Another proud achievement was a fine result in the Assigi Shooting Competition which followed on from last year's success. We were once again in the top ten of 85 schools, a remarkable achievement for a section of our size. Once again our Test NCO SGT A Foley has been brilliant offering first class help and support and I wish to thank FLT/SGT Matthew Grove and his team of SGT Eames, Williams and Taylor for leading the Section 'this' year. Finally as I prepare to take the Summer Camp party off to RAF Valley, I would like to wish FLT/LT R Lancaster all the very best as she assumes the role of Section Commander next year. She will be ably supported by P/O O Bate who has recently transferred from the Army Section.

Mr J C Loynton



CCF (Army) Report 2006

This was another good year for the army section. On the training side the school competed in the annual Military Skills Competition held in October at Nescliff. The team was led by CSM Browning and although the team performed very creditably unfortunately we did not gain any silverware. During the year WO2 (SSI) P G Dean MBE organised several range days with many cadets gaining shooting badges.

As always the year culminated in our summer camp, which was held at Longmoor. 54 members of the Army section attended this camp which was very successful. There were many highlights but the attack on Tank Hill, on the hottest day of the summer, will live long in the memory of those taking part.

The clay pigeon shooting stand also proved to be very enjoyable. All in all it was an excellent week that was very well organised and the weather could not have been better.



Preparing to leave school



The highlight of the year was the Biennial Inspection in October held at Nescliff Training Area. The Reviewing Officer was Group Captain D G J Fletcher, Director of Training and Officer Commanding No 1 School of Technical Training, Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering.



A welcome chance to cool down

The cadets took part in a round-robin of activities including: 30m Range, DCCT; Section Attacks, Harbour Drills; Climbing and Orienteering.

Group Captain Fletcher commented on the enthusiasm of the cadets and proficiency of the cadet NCO's and the Contingent passed with flying colours.



Tea Break at the end of day

It has been a busy year in the CCF as we have now been able to fully takeover our new accommodation. Finally we have entered the 21st Century and have running water and no squirrels sharing our office.

Maj NWS Leonard (Contingent Commander)



Duke of Edinburgh 2005/6

It has been another very successful year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Solihull School. 112 new pupils enrolled this year at different levels and most are well on their way to completing it. Many other students who had previously started the award have been working hard to finish, giving a total of over 200 active participants.

One particularly pleasing statistic this year has been the number of students who have progressed through to Gold. Twenty six Sixth Form students in four teams headed to the Lake District in early August to complete a gruelling 50 mile Gold route from the coast in the West to near Penrith in the East, across some of the wildest terrain that England has to offer! It is also pleasing that 10 girls are doing Gold this year, which is also a record for the school.

So what makes doing the D of E so popular? Is it the hours spent with a map and compass counting the contours on each leg of their particular route? Is it the blisters and the midge bites that many end up with after their venture? Is it the aching shoulders or the ridiculous songs that pupils find themselves singing as a means of staying sane?

It is of course much more than this. For many the award as a whole is one of the biggest challenges that they have ever faced both mentally and physically. As well as the huge sense of achievement, the increased self-confidence, new skills and new friendships make it, for most, an incredibly worthwhile experience.

With such large numbers involved, a large and dedicated team of staff is vital. I would like to personally thank Mr Corbett, Mr Reardon, Mrs Hurst, Mr Worrall, Miss White, Mr Cureton, Mrs Cheetam, Mr Smith (who is leaving us but has promised to keep coming back to help!), Mr Farrington and external helpers including Stuart Swann, Ben McCreel and Gareth Bate who make the expedition section of the award possible. Some of these staff are also involved with the crucial matter of training the youngsters before they step out into the British wilderness. Expedition training has included map and compass work, camp craft, First aid training, route planning prior to expedition. Countless other staff are involved with supervising students for the physical, skill and service sections of the award.

We have also had expeditions at all levels taking place in in Snowdonia, Shropshire and the Peak District. Easter in North Wales threw at us all that the worst of the British weather could offer including gales, floods, hailstorms and even snow on the practice wild overnight camp. The students coped magnificently however which is a tribute to their determination, the efforts of the staff and excellent equipment that we have



invested heavily in including many new high performance tents. The PSA are giving us a grant to invest in 30 new high quality rucksacks. This will also mean that with much thanks to them we will be able to offer each student some superb personal kit for their expedition.



For the Service section of the scheme this year, pupils have been involved in many worthwhile activities such as helping run clubs for younger students, helping out at old people's homes and hospices, helping at Solihull Hospital, plus many others! The Physical section of the award has had students participating in the vast range of sports that the school offers plus ballet, horse riding, martial arts, snowboarding and water polo. The Skill section ranges from shooting, to gardening, and even flying! For the Gold Award students also have to complete a Residential Section where they stay away from home for a week doing some kind of community service. Alex Prew has applied to assist with a Camp working with children who have some form of physical disability.



We have also hosted the bi-annual Mayoral presentation in the Bushell Hall back in November. This includes award recipients from across the Borough. Solihull School was heavily represented.

As the end of this year comes to a close, many students are already showing a keen interest to proceed with award at the next level. It might represent a huge personal challenge, but the benefits that they will receive in terms of personal and social development will be immeasurable.

Mr O Bate / Mr P Dean

Library

Lower School Keil Poetry Prize

Dreams

I gaze up to the boundless reaching sky,
And see my shot – a shadow of a bird.
I see it fly and soar in my mind's eye:
Its flight, it lasts as long as written word.
Alas, sweet dreams, if only they'd be true.
My bat, that ball, my skill, they will not dance,
Entrance her yonder eyes so sweet, so blue
And prove that I worth a second glance.
So come my bat, my skill, my eyes, my heart,
And show that dreams are not just to be dreamt
And prove that love is not far off and dark
Her eyes, my chance, true love I'll wish to tempt.
The bowler takes his run, then makes a fling.
I grip my bat and close my eyes, then swing.

Thomas Gerard

Middle & Upper School Keil Poetry Prize

Teacher and Classroom

"Calculate" the teacher said, turning back
To books in scholarly rows on oaken shelves.

The soft rustling of turning pages seeps
Into the amber, the stifling silence,
Like street lamps blossoming into the night.
While over my shoulder itch patriarchal
Eyes, plucked from cracked and marmoreal
busts.

And those beyond both Newton and Plato,
Back to the first caveman, original
With every lonely thought of bluish lightning.

Steven Bryce

Book Week Library Prize

Forever in Time

What is forever?
Is forever five minutes?
Or is forever just a word?
Or is forever time?
Come to think of it, is time just a word too?
Or something we measure?
When we say we've time to kill
Do we mean actually killing time?
Does time come in different shapes and sizes?
Or colours?
Imagine pink time.
Where does time come from?
The freezer
Can you freeze it?
Can you defrost it?
Is it a solid? Is it a liquid?
Is it a gas?
Can we buy time?
Can we change time?

Can we stop time?
Can we go back in time?
They say you can do anything if you put your
mind to it.
Do we spend time like money?
Do we have to repay time?
Is time a place?
Is time a person?
Hello Time!
Does time exist at all?
What is time?
What is forever?

Georgina Russell

Now News

Now News is an internal school newspaper that is written entirely by volunteers. Our paper provides a monthly pupils-eye view on the school that is fair to all. Our paper is now available to all years from the Kent Library, where we are based and all of our copies are kindly printed in the Design and Technology Department. Our paper has now released over twenty issues since our beginning in Spring 2002. We began with a small team of reporters and photographers; since then our team has grown, supported by our editors Mr Willshire, Mr Garner, Miss Pike and Mr Goatham, and our success has escalated.

Through the years we have covered many different stories that have addressed both positive and negative issues that concern students and staff in the school. From the school elections in 2005 to the Chilean exchange earlier this year, at every major event a Now News representative has been there. Our photographers have also received recognition and the our photographs have been used both internally and externally. Some have been sent to the Youth Parliament in London as part of our internal school elections. Our extensive coverage of the construction of the George Hill has also been very popular among staff and pupils alike. We currently have a website that is being updated and a mailing list is being put together, so the future looks bright for all involved. Keep Reading!

James Ralph

Review of the Library

Throughout the academic year we have been developing some new ideas in the library to focus attention on this wonderful facility. Apart from an excellent book stock of more than 10,000 items, the students can also choose from a selection of popular DVDs, videos and talking books. We also have been acquiring new novels to anticipate demand and displaying them on a quick read carousel - a very popular feature with the students.

We have recently reviewed our magazine and newspaper collection and now subscribe to wider selection of titles, suggested by the students themselves.



The new subscription to German, Spanish and French newspapers is also proving useful. Just before Christmas, we also organised a new book sale, this proved very popular with staff and students. The profits from the sale were used to purchase items for the library.

The new large plasma screen runs a visual selection of the most recently added books and the students are able to read a short review about each one. Occasionally, the screen is also used to show literary based films during lunch times. The library's display cabinet along the main corridor acts as a window on the library, displaying themed artefacts and linked books as an insight into what the library can offer. We borrow display items from the local Schools Library Service and materials to support project work in the junior school. We have also forged deeper links with the art department and they provide a selection of artwork for display, which adds another attractive feature to the library environment.

Our recently established Reading Circle meets every two weeks and it gives the students a chance to read and discuss new books within the group. We have shadowed the Carnegie Book Award for the best children's novel and compared student choices with the National awards made later in June. One student writes of his experiences, "The introduction of the Reading Circle by Miss Pike and Mrs Crawford has been fantastic; it's great that the library is getting all of the latest books."

Rupert Dyhouse

In March, in conjunction with the English Department, the library held a school-wide Book Week. We ran various competitions, involving poetry and short story writing. Some winning entries are included here. Students and staff also voted for their favourite book of all time. The winning title was Dan Brown's blockbuster, "The Da Vinci Code". One keen user of the library has commented on his experience of the week; "We enjoyed making a library banner which is on display now. The Book Week was a great success and I would like to thank Mrs Crawford for organising it."

Jarleth Eaton

The fact that 'real' authors came into school was a tremendous boost for the pupils and resulted in some very imaginative work. James Ralph's interviews with both authors are a fascinating read, but equally encouraging are the following

students' responses to their workshop sessions with author Helen Pielichaty.

"Helena Pielichaty was great at making simple things interesting and humorous. She asked us to create a short story based on the use of a Twiglet as a lethal weapon, which I thought was a bit peculiar. However, she managed to persuade me that with thought, I could develop this task into an amusing piece of writing."

Alex Winter

"When Helena entered our classroom she was an author and a stranger; when she left she was a friend."

Jackson Bowen

"Her enthusiasm for writing helped me to progress massively in my own creative writing. Overall, I thought that my class benefited greatly from her."

Conor Joyce

We aim to make our School Library a welcoming, attractive and stimulating environment. We hope all students will make good use of this excellent facility for access to a wide range of materials for reading for pleasure and to use for research.

Mrs C Crawford and Miss H Pike



Interview with Karen Wallace

When I first met Karen I was astounded by her enthusiasm for reading and her passion for her work. Karen has lived all over the world and her inspiration for writing has come from everywhere she has been. She explained that much of her work is based upon her experiences in Canada, where she has born, as well as France and Ireland where she has sunsequently lived.



Travelling is her passion and she expresses this passion through her work. Many towns, cities and villages feature in her books and this colourful variety of culture is what has made her books very popular. She also has an incredible ability to read people's behaviour and she explained to me that she uses the body language and speech in some of her characters. She strongly believes that the nation does not read enough, especially children. Karen told me to read more non-fiction as it can inspire young authors to write other "works of art."

James Ralph



Interview with Helena Pielichaty

Mrs Helena Pielichaty was met by hoards of curious fans desperate to speak to her about her career as a popular children's author. When I was first introduced to Helena I was met by a large smile and a kind greeting. Helena instantly began asking me questions about the school and my fellow pupils rather than the other way around. She was very impressed by our school and the facilities that we have. She was also pleased to have been invited to speak with us.

I asked about the genre of her books, as there is a common feeling that Helena writes with a predominantly female audience in mind. She sighed, sat back in her chair, and clasping her hands together explained exactly her thoughts about her works. She told me that her publishers choose all of her illustrations and covers; because nationally girls read more than boys the covers are designed to look more 'girl-friendly'. Many of her works are aimed at both boys and girls of all ages, and many of her protagonists are boys. She appealed, "You must never judge books by their covers because the covers always lie!"

I would personally like to thank Helena for donating two signed copies of her most recent books to Acorns Childrens Hospice. She helped raise money to keep desperately needed hospital beds open for the children.

James Ralph

Solihull Rugby Season 2005/6

The Fifteen

The season started under new management and on the 'field of dreams' - as opposed to foreign shores. To prevent injuries occurring, preparation was solely based upon fitness and improving skills throughout pre-season. Gradually a group of young enthusiastic players began to mould into a cohesive squad.

Our first 'domestic' fixture was against Nottingham High School. Eventually we were deserved winners 24-6 but our hosts had certainly tested us. It was an early sign of our 'metal' as a squad! Our game plan had pulled us through.

Next up was Old Swinford Hospital. They were a very capable and confident side. It was apt that this should be one of the team's best games as we brushed them aside 25-10. The score didn't reflect our dominance but it had been an excellent all-round performance.

The following week witnessed the arrival of King's Worcester, who were beaten 25-5. Some early pressure put the game beyond their reach and then the Solihull side took the foot off the pedal.

Against King Henry VIII a young, inexperienced side took to the field, with a few positional changes also thrown into the equation. A recipe for disaster one could say. But not so! As time passed, confidence grew and the side gelled together. Final score – a 41-3 victory.

On a cold, wet and windy day a Solihull 1st XV brightened up the day at Loughborough with some exhilarating rugby. The interplay between forwards and backs was outstanding. The fifteen comfortably beat Loughborough 44-0. This was possibly the performance of the season, particularly under the adverse weather conditions.

Adams Grammar School proved to be a robust side who tested us physically and applied sound pressure. The players dug deep and won a hard fought game 20-10. It was perfect preparation for our round 3 Daily Mail match at King Edward's Aston. In a similar game the school deserved a close 13-9 victory to put us in round 4.

The following Saturday saw Royal Grammar School Worcester visit Solihull, for what was possibly the most thrilling encounter of the season. Having set the early pace the fifteen let RGS Worcester back into the game on several occasions but managed to clinch a 32-25 victory.

With injuries now causing us a few selection headaches and various key players involved in representative trials, the next two games were



TEAM		P	W	D	L	F	A
1ST	XV	17	14	0	3	440	167
2ND	XV	12	8	0	4	259	111
3RD	XV	8	2	0	6	93	196
U16	XV	11	7	0	4	147	84
U15	'A'	XV	21	14	1	539	313
U15	'B'	XV	10	3	1	187	191
U14	'A'	XV	16	11	0	387	247
U14	'B'	XV	10	2	1	146	168
U13	'A'	XV	15	5	2	220	265
U13	'B'	XV:	10	4	2	132	130
U12	'A'	XV	7	7	0	162	54
U12	'B'	XV:	7	4	0	129	71
U12	'C'	XV	5	2	0	112	83
U12	'D'	XV:	3	0	0	27	74

to be testing. The first saw us manage a 13-0 victory at KES Birmingham but the local derby against Warwick was to be our first defeat of the season, losing 5-17.

The defeat against Warwick put some doubts in the minds of the players as we went into round 5 of the National Cup at Old Swinford Hospital, a team we had previously beaten. A degree of complacency and the occasion getting the better of some players saw us sadly exit the cup with a 10-24 defeat. A disappointing end to a promising campaign!

Having dusted themselves down, the team then went on to put in sound performances to beat Trent College 37-0, Camp Hill 45-3 and Newcastle 33-21. Young players stepped up to the mark and stated a claim for a shirt next season. The 26-20 victory over Bablake was the final game of a successful season!

The sevens' season proved to be a lottery! Having entered five tournaments, it was satisfying that the squad performed well in the

two National competitions. At the Fylde North of England sevens, we were about to win our group when snow resulted in abandonment. The Rosslyn Park sevens saw us ease through our group as winners, playing a style of sevens to be admired. Due to our draw we then had to play one further game against Ampleforth to take us in to day 2. Sadly it was one game too far and we exited the competition losing 3 tries to 1!

All players involved with the first XV should be proud of their achievements this season. With only two players leaving this year, next season is very promising.

Special mention should be made of Aki Davies for his sterling work as a Captain, both on and off the field. I am immensely grateful – very well done.

Thank you and good luck to all players. We now eagerly await our tour of South Africa and the new 2006/7 season.

Mr P R Jackson

2nd XV

The 2nd XV enjoyed their 2005/2006 season. Whilst they were frustrated at losing a number of closely contested matches, they did succeed on many occasions – including against strong opposition such as Old Swinford Hospital, Loughborough Grammar School, King's School Worcester and King Edward's School Birmingham.

The strength of the team undoubtedly lay in its fearsome pack with a formidable front row of Haydn Griffith-Jones, Rikesh Chauhan and Will Pilkington. They were supported by two stalwarts in the second row – namely Matt Williamson and Ben Burton – as well as Tom Shorney and Adam Hateley who played with great endeavour in the back row. The three-quarter line had to contend with a number of key injuries throughout the campaign (a special mention here for Simon Bright) but they never gave less than 100% in attack and, just as importantly, in defence.

I trust they will have gained as much pleasure from the season as I did. I could not have wished for a more committed and more enthusiastic squad of players.

Mr M K Swain

3rd XV

The 3rd XV started the season with enthusiasm, a mixture of experienced UVI players (some in their third year in the team) and less experienced but positive Upper V players. Unfortunately the first two games resulted in heavy defeats by Nottingham and Old Swinford and although the next match saw a good victory for Solihull, winning 43-0 at Kings, Worcester, there was only one more victory - in the final match against Trent, winning 14-7. The team played with commitment and determination and always tried to play positive rugby. Thanks go to Jon Dugdale, who led the team well; and to Greg Betts and Adam Dennis for their contribution over the last three years.



U16 XV

The playing record of won 7 lost 4 would have been accepted at the beginning of the season, and in the context of what has happened since September is very impressive.

This season has been a success because of the depth, determination and resilience of the squad, which is reflected in the award of U16 Colours. Everyone has played his part to the full. The team was well marshalled by the returning Peter Lishman who not only appeared to defy medical logic by playing without an Anterior Cruciate Ligament, but also contributed so much with his tackling and creativity.

The forwards were a match for anyone and were outstanding all term. Jack Read never knew the meaning of giving up, Tristan Ward was always picking himself off the ground and Tom Hendrickse bought bags of enthusiasm to the game. This is not to undermine the other forwards who showed unbelievable tenacity and determination.

The squad played a very attractive style of rugby scoring some outstanding tries as witnessed against Nottingham High School, Old Swinford Hospital and RGS Worcester. Defence too was impressive, conceding only 14 tries.

The backs got better with every game. Peter Lishman offered an incisive cutting edge, Chris Rosin proved what a versatile player he is by converting to fly half with consummate ease, while Gavin Sadler showed just what dancing feet are made for! The gas was provided by the three musketeers of Tom Chalkley, Tom Bradshaw and Joe Hone, although we never provided them with enough ball to show the damage that they could do. The exception was the RGS Worcester game when the backs finally cut loose.

Congratulations to Peter Lishman on his selection to represent Warwickshire U16 during the Christmas Term. The most improved player award goes to Giles Ellison who has worked hard to establish himself not only as a vital ingredient in the team's success - showing tenacity, determination and above all enthusiasm - but proving what an intelligent and unselfish team player he is.

After Christmas the boys played with distinction for the 2nd XV, with Stuart Scanlan and Peter Lishman representing Warwickshire U17 XV.

Individual Performances

Top Points Scorers:

Peter Lishman (33); Tom Chalkley (30);
Chris Rosin (25).

Top Try Scorers:

Chalkley(6), Rosin(5); Lishman, Scanlan (3).

Ever Present:

Ward, Ellison, Thompson, Howey, Rosin,
Bradshaw, Hone

Mr M J Covill

Italy 2006 - U15 Rugby Tour



Day 1

After a seamless outward journey, we awoke the following morning to:

Day 2

and ... rain! Heavy rain. We journeyed north to the mountainside town of Bassano for a guided tour of this historic town, famed for its resistance to Nazi-dominated Italy in World War II. We went up the clock tower, through the church-cum-hospital, into the market square – tartan umbrellas were purchased – and partway around the Castle ruins. At this point, we abandoned the tour, such was the wind and rain. We walked down to their famous bridge over the Brenta River, whereupon we split: many sensible souls decided to take refuge in a café, whilst a dozen brave souls continued down to the river for a raft ride. Out we went, swiftly at first, then calm. As our oarsman guided us gently down the Brenta, a duck swam past us!

Back onto coach, and off to the ground. Upon arrival, I gave the most bizarre pre-match instruction to the boys – have a hot shower before the match! They duly did; changed into Tour polo shirts and dry trousers and enjoyed a couple of hours in the comfort and warmth of our hosts' clubhouse. The pitch did not look good, with several inches of water just sitting on the surface. Would the match be played? By kick-off the rain had stopped – there being merely an ocean of water sitting on a very firm, hard pitch! By half time it was all but gone, much having been absorbed by players' jerseys! The highlight of the first half: a re-start catch by James Wolfe, off-loaded to Chris Horswill, onto Nick Elliott, to Ollie Beech who ran 40m to draw their full-back and give a superbly timed pass to notre Capitaine Clement Labouche for the run in. It was great to get everyone on the pitch during this opening encounter. We were up and running: one down, three to go.

Day 3

A leisurely breakfast and off in to the Old Town of Chioggia. But we had sunshine, and lots of it. On our way back we called in to the Astro Pitch for the Tour 5-a-Side Football tournament. Tom Shiels, Josh Heley and Dan Super had, by this time, been coerced (i.e bribed!) to play for the Staff, who acquitted themselves with customary aplomb. Messrs Beech and Bengel excelled at centre-back, Mr Wild defended our goal admirably, and the commandeered boys were scoring freely. We lost narrowly, in the final, to Clement's team (whom we had earlier beaten 5 – 0, I must add!).

Day 4

A light, handling skills/organisational beach training session took place, swiftly followed by paddling/ swimming/sea-weed throwing (!) in the sea, even more swiftly followed by an impromptu 'boys-in-charge, tops-off, pass or kick around a rugby ball' session very closely adjacent to an English girls school hockey tour group!

Our tour rep had advised us that the afternoon's match against Petrarca Padova would be our Tour Test Match. We were up against the U15 Champions of their national league. We arrived at the ground in good time to watch the Super 10 match between Petrarca and Viadana, at a fabulous stadium, with a pitch of the highest quality.



The Starting XV ran out on to the green carpet of the Stadium, and delivered their finest ever performance. The team try, started inside our own half, involved all players and was eventually finished off with a classic dummy-pass by Nick Marsh down the right-wing. This was to become the Best Try on Tour. The match proved to be the team's finest hour. All those who were fit took part, and I was so proud of them all: they even received a magnificent standing ovation from the sizeable Italian crowd, in amongst whom were Frank and Gail Brehany, whose support and companionship on tour was greatly received by all.

Day 5

The Day Trip to Venice. I spent hours researching the history of Venice back in February, then spent an hour learning it whilst on the motor-boat to this most famous of cities! For all my efforts, I was still accused of trying to get a signal on 'SatNav' (by waving my tour notes in the air) to direct us from The Basilica to The Rialto!

**Day 6**

Following another beach training session, we journeyed north again to Piazzola sul Brenta. A much-changed Starting XV took the field, in wet and windy conditions on a very muddy pitch. We held out for a win by 27 points to nil. This match could have really been our undoing, considering the high of two days previous, the contrasting conditions, and an unusual starting XV. But the players dug deep, and came through it. This was such an important match, and the favourable result really set up the Grand Slam decider!

Following the usual post-match hospitality, we returned to our hotel, whereupon the boys had been invited downstairs to a disco organised by the girls' hockey school. Needless to say, a good night was had by all.

Day 7

My last ever training session with these boys! On the beach, again, we started with some light handling exercises, then I took the backs off whilst Mr Simon Beech supervised the forwards with their line-out ploys. It was a good final session. My thanks go to Mr Beech for offering to assist me on tour with these important training drills.

After a leisurely lunch break, off we set to Moneslice for our Tour Grand Slam decider ...

It was a dry evening, on a dry, grass-less pitch. What a game it turned out to be! The opposition really made us work hard: we held on to a narrow lead for about 45 minutes, then Moneslice scored – the next 5 minutes were going to be crucial. The tension on the touchline was unbearable. But we were superb. We defended gallantly and scored a late, vital try to take us clear. The relief and elation upon the sound of the final whistle saw all involved with the tour jump in the air with joy – the Grand Slam had been achieved, and all who were fit had taken part in this all important final match. The evening was to be a truly joyous occasion.

U15 XV

This was a marvellous year of development for the U15 rugby squad: they are now technically adept, strong on contact, possess a great sense of team spirit, and are tactically very astute.

Results didn't always go our way in the Autumn Term, either because we were occasionally out-muscled, or because we panicked unnecessarily. The low point was most definitely our shockingly complacent 'effort' in defeat at the hands of Bishop Vesey in the Daily Mail Cup back in October. Our high point was the magnificently spirited performance – with Man of the Match Chris Horswill at his majestic best – against Warwick School in November. We actually lost the match (by 5 points), but it didn't seem to matter: we had played with real pride, passion and no shortage of skill. Led by notre Capitaine, Clement Labouche, with Vice-Captain Nick Marsh in constant, complementary support, this team has flourished.

The U15 squad was blessed with a strong and committed B XV which has competed with pride, not only against other schools, but also on Games Afternoons in practice-matches against their own A XV. Such players deserve a huge "thank you". A number of the B team players were invited to join the tour to Italy and all played their part superbly, and will surely have benefited from the experience.

The U15 XV was unbeaten in their 2006 fixtures. The game against a very good Newcastle-under-Lyme side was a particular highlight, especially watching the forwards keeping it sensibly tight for the last 10 minutes, to protect a narrow lead. I was delighted to receive praise from the Headmaster at Newcastle who commented that it was one of the finest games he had seen on his playing fields! Thirteen players represented their District, whilst six – Ollie Beech, Callum Brehany, Chris Horswill, Nick Elliott, Clement Labouche and Nick Marsh – went on to represent Warwickshire Schools U15s, each putting in hugely commendable performances. The award for Player of the Year went to Nick Elliott.

My thanks go to Mr. Martin Covill for his assistance and support in coaching these boys, to all the players for their commitment, dedication and many moments of sheer brilliance, and to all the parents for their phenomenal support over these past two years.

And finally, Clement Labouche:

Clement has, without doubt, been the foundation of this team for the past four years. The team has grown around him, and finally developed into the finished article which took the field against Petrarca Padova in Italy – this team's finest hour, to date!

He is a genuine 'team player', a true gentleman, and the epitome of Corinthian values. On behalf of us all, I wish Clement all the very best on his return to France.

Mr P R Jackson

U14 XV

The Under 14s record this season. Played 15 matches, won 10, lost 5. Points scored 368, conceded 216.

This season proved to be very successful. A special mention should go to James Trueman who led the side extremely well from the front, scoring a total of 23 tries.

The campaign opened with Nottingham High School, a game we lost 12-38. This was a disappointing start to the season against opponents who proved to be stronger in the last quarter of the game. We won the next two matches against Old Swinford Hospital (31-12) and Kings Worcester (21-10).

Our next games were played in the Solihull Borough Festival where we defeated Arden 29-0 and Tudor Grange 17-0. Our rucking from the forwards was very impressive against much bigger opponents. They released quick ball to the backs where the pace of James Trueman and the balance and footwork of Alex Kirke caused real problems for the opposition. In the next game against King Henry's we won a much larger share of the ball due to our set piece play in the lineouts and scrums. This enabled us to release the backs with scores for Charlie Rodman, Frank Phillips and a hatrick for James Trueman. Final score 45-0. Our next match was against a very strong Loughborough Grammar side, which we lost 0-36. Unfortunately at times our tackling let us down. Next up was a game against Adams Grammar, which we lost in a hard fought contest 10-36. James Trueman scoring two tries in which he showed devastating pace and strength in the centre.

Our next three matches were played against Bedford Modern (10-36), RGS Worcester (27-0) and King Edwards (42-12).

In the next match we came up against our big rivals Warwick. This proved to be the performance of the year which we won 17-5. Our tackling was immense and the half-back pairing of Will Barber and Jack Matthews-Jolly was outstanding. Our final game before the Christmas break was against Trent College, which we lost in a tight contest 12-24.

Our first competitive game after the Christmas period was against King Edwards Camphill, which we won 26-17. This was a good start as we had set the goal of winning our remaining fixtures. In the last two matches of the season we managed to continue to pick up our level of performance and defeat Newcastle-Under-Lyme 19-13, and Bablake 50-5. We were starting to work more as a team rather than relying upon the players with the pace to score individual tries.

Special mention should go to the players who moved up to the A team this year because of injuries. George Hersey and Harry Jackson both performed very well.

I would like to also praise the boys who were selected for Warwickshire, Jack Walden, Sam Fletcher, Rob Ashby, Will Barber, Jack Matthews-Jolly, James Trueman and Alex Kirke.

The Seven-a-side season was disrupted by the cancellation of the Warwick Sevens. At the Solihull Sevens we finished equal first in our group but failed to qualify on points difference. We went on to reach the final of the Plate losing in extra time to Adams.

Many thanks to all the players whose attitude and commitment was first rate throughout the season. I would also like to thank Mr Leonard for all his help with the coaching and Mr Bishop for his help on match days with the B team. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who supported the team this season.

U13 XV

The early part of the season highlighted some major weaknesses in the squad which were not completely resolved during the season. Early games were lost against Nottingham (5-10) Old Swinford Hospital (5-40), before we beat a spirited Arden side (20-3) in the Solihull Borough Festival. Despite having a number of quite neat ball-players, the team lacked penetration in midfield and we allowed teams too much space. We made positional changes and although our attacking potency improved, this did not solve our defensive problems - as we found in the difficult game at Bedford Modern (12-45). Nevertheless, we gained an encouraging draw against a strong King's Worcester (17-17) and followed this with a heartening win against King Henry VIII Coventry (36-0).

The most improved player of the year was probably our lion-hearted scrum half Joe Read, who worked tirelessly behind his pack. He provided Ben Crowe (fly half) with fine service all season. The forwards produced some gutsy performances and were led tenaciously by hooker and captain Fred Howard, who never acknowledged defeat until the final whistle was blown. The wins against Loughborough (26-14) Adam's Newport (21-7) and the competitive drawn game with R.G.S. Worcester (5-5) were testaments to the forwards' determination. The real strength of the pack was in the physical and competitive back row where Conor Joyce, Tom Wintle and Richard Bosworth had a major influence on many games, even in defeat.

The run up to Christmas was disappointing as we lost our local derbies to King Edward's Birmingham (7-17) and Warwick (7-32) as well as a closely fought match with Trent College (19-29). The New Year brought mixed fortunes with a disappointing defeat against K.E. Camp Hill (7-10) and a sparkling performance against Newcastle-Under-Lyme (26-7). Our final match against Bablake (7-29) was an example of classic U13 rugby; with Solihull having most of the possession, but being comprehensively

beaten by one very strong and fine player who scored all their points.

The U13 'B' squad enjoyed a largely successful season, characterised by steady, impressive improvement. The eventual playing record of playing 10, winning 4, losing 4 and drawing 2 was probably a fair reflection of the season's endeavour. Particular highlights in the season were the victories over Old Swinford Hospital School (24-12), Adams Grammar School (15-5), the narrow 8-7 victory over Royal Grammar School, Worcester and the comprehensive win over King Edward's School, Birmingham (29-5).

The whole squad still has much to learn and I am sure that more successful playing records will be had in years to come. Many thanks are due also to the parents who supported the team in force and I hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

Mr G A Ginns

U12 XV

Very few boys in the Third Form "escaped" from playing for the U12 teams this season. Four teams were competing at times, despite the number of boys falling to 78 in our first year of co-education. Although the D team did not quite manage a win, the adage that, "It's not the winning, but the taking part that is important," was clearly visible by the number of muddy, bedraggled and smiling young players leaving the fields on Friday afternoons. To most of the boys it was a pleasure to represent the School at whatever level.

Clearly this season was an important test for our U12 rugby teams. Would we be able to compete with only 78 boys? Would our standards slip and start a terminal decline? If this season was anything to go by, the answer was a resounding NO! Although the C and D teams struggled at times, the results of the A and B teams speak for themselves. Indeed, the B team won more games than they lost and had one of the best B team back divisions for a number of years. What was most heartening, however, was the success of the A team, which finished the season undefeated. The success of the team was built on a very solid and robust pack of forwards and some inventive backs and, to a man, they showed a keen competitive spirit. There were a number of close games, but they enjoyed particularly memorable wins over Royal Grammar School Worcester (59-0) and Warwick School (12-0).

A special mention must go to Mr Covill for his unstinting commitment. Thanks also must go to the members of the Upper Sixth who helped on Friday afternoons.

Mr G A Ginns

1st XI Hockey

2005-6

For some, this season will be remembered for its similarities to the England football team's World Cup campaign: a bogey team; a sending off; a match we should have won; great potential unfulfilled. However - unlike England - we had outstanding performances; great victories, a foreigner who brought something useful to our game, an inspirational captain and, of course, 17-year-old forwards who actually made an impact on the pitch.

The season began with the customary success in the Bill Buttle tournament at King Edward's School. Conceding only two goals in five matches, we beat our own 2nd XI in the semi-final and dispatched King Edward's 2-1, in a tense, closely contested final, in which a shoot-out was averted by Stuart Gregory's penalty stroke save late on.

Despite the limited preparation, it was apparent from this first action of the season that our Australian summer signing, Thomas 'Bruce' Crowley, was going to be a very useful addition to the team as he slotted neatly into the centre midfield position, freeing captain Will Shipley up for a more attacking new role behind the strikers.

Our first regular fixture of the season was against Queen Mary's School and the early promise was maintained with an impressive 9-0 victory that saw six players score and took Mallory Percival's season total to nine by 14th September. That victory was followed by a string of further successes; Warwick (5-3), Solihull Sixth Form College (7-0), Bishop Vesey's (5-2), Repton (7-2), King Edward's again (3-1) and Newcastle under Lyme (5-0). Will Shipley or Mal Percival scored in every one of those games.

Next up came the big local derby with Bromsgrove. A late pushback afforded us something that midweek fixtures don't often allow; a big crowd. With many staff, parents and Sixth Formers – including a very vocal element from the Rugby squad – supporting us, the game was played in an atmosphere unlike any that the squad had experienced before. Buoyed by the support, the team entertained the spectators with a fantastic display of fast-paced, high-energy skilful hockey. In the end we came away with a well-deserved 3-0 victory courtesy of Singh, Proud and Percival.

Stowe were the next opponents for a confident and enthusiastic Solihull side. Having – like England – eased off in the second half of many of our previous matches, we were looking to maintain our performances through 70 minutes and set ourselves the task of scoring as many goals in the second half as in the first. At 9-0 up with only 45 minutes played it looked like we were going to achieve our aim. Unfortunately



TEAM		P	W	D	L	F	A
1ST	XI	30	25	1	4	138	33
2ND	XI	19	9	0	10	49	36
3RD	XI	18	13	1	4	46	14
U15	'A' XI	16	9	3	4	46	25
U15	'B' XI	4	2	1	1	4	4
U14	'A' XI	12	4	1	7	19	20
U14	'B' XI	3	0	0	3	1	10
U13	'A' XI	8	4	1	3	24	16
U13	'B' XI	1	0	0	1	1	6
U13m	'A' VII	6	3	2	1		
U13m	'B' VII	3	1	0	2		

the Stowe keeper was injured and the match was abandoned. The dream of double figures remained unfulfilled.

After the Stowe match we brushed aside Loughborough, Kings Macclesfield and Bloxham, scoring 19 goals including rare gems from Dan Strang and Josh Sloane. Equally impressively, the ever-reliable defensive unit of Tom Harrison, Tim Hill, Paul Yarnell, James Mansfield, and Stuart Gregory keeping, conceded only one goal in those three games.

By now it was January and time for the Under 18 England Hockey Schools Cup competition to start. Having won the Warwickshire County last season we were headed straight into a semi-final against arch-rivals Warwick. The team were far superior to the opposition throughout the match and dominated play. The result was an impressive 5-1 victory which earned us a place in the County final at Rugby School.

Our opposition in the final were King Edward's. Nerves played their part in the first half and we

didn't manage to dominate the game in the way we had hoped. Nevertheless we took a lead into half time and played more confidently in the second half, taking our total to five goals. Although King Edward's managed a couple of consolation goals, they never really looked like taking the County title from us.

After the final came the 80-mile trip to Worksop College. Being one of only three teams to beat us last season, we knew this would be a tough task, particularly with three key players – Tom Harrison, whose injury would ultimately rule him out of the rest of the season, Dan Strang and Tom Crowley – missing from the squad. We failed to produce the rapid, fluid hockey of previous fixtures and chances were few and far between. Despite the unproductive attacking play, we always looked comfortable in defence and were never troubled. That was until their centre forward earned a dubious penalty and the resulting goal saw us slump to a very disappointing first defeat of the season.

Next up came the Midlands rounds of the cup competition, with a quarter-final draw against Staffordshire champions Painsley School. With a member of Cannock's first team squad in the team, we knew they were opposition to be wary of and he did slip through half of the team to score an outstanding individual goal early on in the match. However we quickly regained our composure and found that the rest of the Painsley team were no match for us. Attacking with pace and making it difficult for them to get the ball to their key player, we dominated the game and won 6-1.



That set up a semi-final clash back at Worksop. With the addition of Jon Proud and Tom Crowley to the squad, and the outstanding season we were having, confidence was high. We knew from our earlier defeat that a full strength Solihull side had little to fear from our opposition. Unfortunately, Worksop proved to be our Portugal as the dream of National success faded before our eyes. From the outset, the game did not go our way. Nerves hampered our usual playing style and we looked comfortable but toothless in possession. Our short corners were uncharacteristically poor and we failed to inject and stop a single one in the first half, let alone get a shot on target. Nevertheless we went into the half time break relieved to have the advantage courtesy of a Will Shipley goal. Surely now we could take control of the game and bury the Worksop jinx. In the second half Worksop equalised early on and the team lost composure. Mallory was sent off for a strong challenge then, not one, but two free hits were upgraded to short corners as a result of objections from our players. Ironically, given our numerous ineffective efforts, Worksop converted their only two penalty corners of the match. Our increasingly desperate play never looked likely to recover the game and we crashed out of the cup 3-1 to inferior opposition.

Everyone in and around the 1st XI had genuinely felt that the National rounds of the cup competition were a real possibility, so getting over the crushing defeat at Worksop was difficult. The team responded brilliantly and beat Bromsgrove 4-0, Warwick 13-2 (finally surpassing ten-goals), and Worcester Sixth Form College and Stowe in an undefeated last month of the season. The Worcester game was particularly pleasing as we did something that we hadn't yet managed and fought back from 4-2 down (only Worksop had taken the lead

against us before) to win 5-4 with a Tom Crowley short corner right at the death.

The end of the season was celebrated with an enjoyable trip to the Bath Festival where, entered into the highest ability group, we won one, drew one and lost two of our four fixtures. The 4-1 victory over Framlingham College was most notable for Jon Proud's uncontainable delight at scoring against his former school.

By all standards this 1st XI Hockey season has been the most successful in recent times, possibly ever. Goal scoring records were broken, archrivals were overcome comfortably and top sides were beaten for the first occasion in a long time. Whatever the disappointments of unfulfilled promise in the cup, this team deserves to be remembered as a truly great side.

Special thanks must go to all the Upper Sixth leavers who have contributed so much on and off the pitch, in play and in the great team spirit that we have had. They have been fantastic to work with and are great role models for the younger players. Particular thanks go to Will Shipley who has been an absolutely outstanding captain, leading the team with such enthusiasm and commitment and doing so much to raise the profile of hockey within the School. Thanks also to Chris Mayer for his coaching and Ian Griffiths for umpiring.

Next season's team has much to live up to!

Top scorers:
Will Shipley (35), Mal Percival (33)

Mr M P Babb

2nd XI

As ever, the strength of school hockey is such that the 2nd XI ends up playing against a lot of 1st XIs from other schools. This must be taken into account when assessing our record over the season. Our role is to develop players for the 1st team and to try to create an enthusiasm for the game, which leads players to want to continue with the sport after they have left the school.

The season featured some excellent leadership from David Eames, who took on a key role sweeping in front of the defence and led by example with tremendous determination and unequalled pitch coverage. We had the benefit of a good goalkeeper in Max Topsom. At centre back, Rob Henderson looked increasingly assured as the season wore on and Peter Calvert's confidence and reliability as a defender made him, along with Rob, a candidate for most improved player. Alex Dooley had some matches with the 1st XI and as he grows his high skill level will make him a contender for a regular place. He released his senior place to Jacob Bowman, who progressed markedly in the early stages of the year. Christian Grauers developed into a forceful midfielder and Oliver Talbot provided a solid influence at the centre of the team. On the left, Rob Halbert chased and

tackled relentlessly and began to show real progress with his passing. Up front, Chris White's speed made him too much for most defences to handle and he scored a hatful of goals. Matthew Derry made a successful transition into the 1st XI and Steve Bryce and Shivan Patel showed much promise in their games for the team, as did Anthony Allso and Chris Hall, who played with total commitment in a whole range of different positions.

The most memorable victories were the 9-0 against Newcastle-under-Lyme, the 3-1 against Warwick and wins against 1st XIs from KES Stratford, Fiveways and Stourport High School. No less than 6 of the losses were by a single goal. There is great deal of talent here and I would expect a number of these players to challenge for 1st XI places next year.

Mr M R Brough

3rd XI

An incredibly successful season, there were no superstars but reliable performances from all players. It is difficult to pick out individuals but Ben Mould always showed great determination, Adam Gouravic was ever reliable in goal (and never short of advice for other players!!!). Mike Horswill really came on as a sweeper and Stewart Hunter was a rock in defence.

We would like to thank Chris Mayer for his flamboyant style of umpiring.

Mr P Brattle

U15 XI

It is a tribute to the enthusiasm of this group of players that over 26 of them regularly turned up after school for evening training. This also reflects the quality of the coaching provided by Chris Mayer and we are again indebted to him for his contribution to the development of hockey through the younger age groups at the school.

The side was well led by Ed Sykes and he also scored the lion's share of the goals in his role leading the attack. We also had the benefit of an excellent goalkeeper in Ben Johnson. In defence, Rob Gooden was totally dominant and Phil Bevan showed touches of real class. Tom Butterworth and James Bahia both tackled tremendously and Joe Schuppler and Richard Brough always gave full commitment. The midfield featured a hugely impressive development by Matthew Rivers, whilst Rob Cook has the best skills in the side and just needs to become a more forceful presence. The absence of Daniel Super, playing Rugby, allowed a number of others to shine, not least Jon Lau, who played with passion and speed and Chris Bridge, who showed real ability and fire in a number of positions. Ben Wiseman and Tom Watson continued to show much promise up front and Oliver Counce has the skill to make a bigger impact next year. There were also debuts for Tom Holden, William Paskins, Michael Dyke,

Steve Taylor and Peter Williams, and this gives an indication of the strength in depth of the squad of players. It is a pity that we could not get more 'B' team fixtures, as these were clearly enjoyed by the other members of the squad.

The most memorable games were the 8-0 victory over Bablake and 8-3 over King Henry's, together with a clear 3-0 win against Warwick. The team, however, showed the most character in coming back after a big defeat to a talented Bloxham side to win against Nunnery Wood the following day, and in a fighting draw against Princethorpe when outclassed by another strong side. The 'B' team will remember their two victories over KES and Stourport High School.

These players should feed through next year into a strong pool from which the senior 4 sides will be chosen. It is good to see that a number of them will be taking advantage of the priceless opportunity - presented by the tour to Australia - to learn more over the summer.

Mr M R Brough

U13 XI

I am very pleased with the progress the U13 age group have made over such a short period of time. The boys only play hockey after Christmas in this age group (they don't play in the U12 age group). They compete in two versions of the game;

Mini hockey (7-a-side)

We reached the Final of the Warwickshire Tournament losing 1-0. The boys played very well and were unlucky not to win.

11-a-side

The boys had mixed results, which do not reflect their performances as a team. I have been very pleased with the skill level and their tactical awareness. The best performance came against Princethorpe, where we won 10-2 and played superbly. I believe that this side has the potential to do very well next season.

Mr C Mayer

U14 XI

The results for the U14 teams proved to be a little disappointing. At times the team played extremely well, in particular against Warwick when we won 3-0 and in the draw with a very good Bloxham side. We went out of the Warwickshire cup at the semi-final stage in a fantastic match, which we lost 2-1. The squad shows promise with several players having great potential. Consistency for this set of players will be a major aim for the coming season.

Mr C Mayer



Cricket

The Eleven

The 1st XI has enjoyed a highly successful season. Of the twelve games completed we won nine; there was one draw – against a very strong MCC team when we were under strength; only two games were lost, one of which was to the MCCC. We were not as successful in this season's 20/20 competition as we were in 2005, bowing out at the regional stage in a group which saw us defeat KES, Birmingham and RGS Wolverhampton but lose to the perennial cricket powerhouse Shrewsbury Grammar school.

Our first game of the season, against RGS Wolverhampton, was due to be played two days before the start of the summer term. From the middle of the previous week it was never likely to be on and the players had to seek the sanctuary of the sports hall to get any type of meaningful practice. Indeed, rain decimated the first half of the season and meant that we gained no real consistency in our performances. However, once the rain abated the cricket was glorious. The fabulous wickets prepared for us by Karl Brotherhood, a man who has probably forgotten more about groundsmanship than the rest of us will ever know, aided this. With all but one of our fixtures being played at home our regular band of parents, grandparents and other assorted relatives enjoyed marvellous entertainment all summer.

New Captain, James Ord, had at his disposal an enviable array of batting and a bowling attack, led by Matthew Williamson and James Proudman, which would work hard to restrict our opponents. Whilst the captain has many qualities as a cricketer he singularly failed, week after week, to win the toss. Although it became a standing joke, in the end it never mattered.

The season's serious business began with a 5-wicket win against King's School, Worcester.

Each of the bowlers contributed to restricting them to just 160. In particular, Tom Lee caught the eye; his influence would grow as the season wore on and his figures would have been even better had we held on to more catches. Our pursuit started in the worst possible way – the captain out first ball. However Marc Webb, Richard Johnson and Mark James saw us home comfortably with plenty of overs to spare.

The MCCC fielded a strong team of experienced and talented club cricketers for this season's game. Despite conceding 258 runs we worked hard in the field; James Proudman was the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 55 and we had our first sight of leg-spinner Tom Crowley. Despite losing the game we came out with much credit, Richard Johnson's 79 being the anchor around which we were ultimately unable to achieve victory.

The rain returned at Warwick, but not in time to stop James Ord smashing 77, the first in a sequence of innings, which would see him, make 3 more scores above 50 and an unbeaten century. His form combined with major contributions from each of our top order batsmen resulted in a run of six consecutive wins.

Tom Crowley recorded an unbeaten 50 against Aylesbury Grammar School. Together with James Ord (61) they knocked off 162 with ease. The captain was again in the runs with an unbeaten 56 against KES, Birmingham. Matthew Williamson, James Proudman and Stuart Scanlan took 3 wickets each to dismiss the opposition for 97. The boys were clearly in a hurry to get home and watch the F.A. Cup final.

Nottingham High School is traditionally a very strong cricket school. This year was no exception, so to bowl them out for 226 showed the strides we had made. The 'Toms', Lee and Crowley, did most of the damage bowling 20 overs of wonderful spin on another superb



batting wicket. Our response was emphatic. James Ord's unbeaten century saw him at his best; he never gave a chance in a clinical exhibition of batting worthy of his status as a Warwickshire Academy player. In an undefeated partnership of 171 with Tom Crowley (89 n.o.) we cruised to a victory, which set us up for what is normally the most demanding game of the summer – RGS Worcester.

A much quoted fact is that the score of 300 or more has only ever been achieved at Solihull school on two previous occasions, and strangely enough, in the same game. This year's team would etch itself into the history books by recording 305 for 5. James Ord (57) and Tom Crowley (71) again made the most of a good wicket but it was Richard Johnson (93) who really impressed onlookers on this occasion. His batting has improved enormously during the past year, an essential component for a wicket keeper seeking to make a mark in the first class game. It would have been natural to believe that with such a score on the board the victory would be easy; however RGS Worcester have a proud tradition and were undaunted. They attacked our bowling with vigour, bravery and confidence. Tom Crowley produced the match winning performance with 6 for 58; Tom Lee bowled superbly under intense pressure and it was fitting that Matthew Williamson roared in at the end to finish with two wickets in two balls. Never has 'perseverantia' been so aptly applied to a team.

During June the runs continued to flow each week. Warwickshire Imps declared at 272 for 7 but found themselves on the wrong end of a 6-wicket defeat. James Proudman (4 for 45) produced his best figures for the season. Richard Johnson's 130 was a truly special innings and Mark James smashed his way to a season's high 80 not out. A week later we were involved in the closest, and most exciting game of the year. Batting first against a strong Loughborough Grammar School team Richard Johnson's 133

led us to post 292 for 9. The fact that we won the game by just 4 runs was down to some great bowling in the final overs by Matthew Williamson and James Proudman. It also helped to save face for the school as we lost all of the other fixtures that day.

The MCC fielded an incredibly strong team this year. We were without both of our opening batsmen, James Ord and Marc Webb who were representing Warwickshire at 2nd XI and U19 levels respectively. James Proudman was also absent and so there were opportunities for others to step up.

We were unable to stop the visitors rattling up over 300 but our response displayed the confidence of a team used to winning. Richard Johnson, Tom Crowley, Mark James, Stuart Gregory and Tom Lee all made solid contributions but it was Ed Sykes's 77 against an attack containing school professional and former Test cricketer, Travis Friend which was the highlight. Ed's appearances this year have been restricted by injury but he certainly represents the future of Solihull cricket. The eventual draw was widely applauded by all of those who saw this game.

The significant feature of the Old Boys' XI game was the return of batting legend Sam Reddish. A few weeks prior to this game he had made 148 for his Academy against Worcester. So to concede 161 to him wasn't a bad effort.

As the season drew to a close Warwickshire again cast their net and took James Ord and Marc Webb from us. This time Marc played for an U21 XI against a New South Wales Academy XI. He added to his 60 of the previous week with a high quality 72. Without either opener against a good Wellington College team Matthew Proudman took his chance with a well-compiled 40, Ed Sykes's (47) impressed again and Tom Lee (51) struck a maiden half-century. Despite Ed Sykes' four wickets we lost narrowly.

The final game of the season is always a poignant one for those in the Upper Sixth. All of them want to finish on a high; inevitably some of them don't. Westminster School, Adelaide provided the opposition. Matthew Williamson rounded off an excellent school career with just one wicket and a nought. James Proudman struck an unbeaten 59 in an opening partnership with James Ord of 111; the captain making 66 and recording his season's best bowling figures of 3 for 18. Mark James played an all too brief cameo. Peter Charlton took a memorable wicket. The game was won; Tom Lee spun us to victory with 5 for 33.

To those who are leaving, from those of us who have coached and watched – a thank you. You have provided much pleasure and been ambassadors for the school. We wish you all the very best, wherever your cricket takes you. To those who remain, next year is yours; Richard Johnson, Tom Crowley, Tom Lee, Stuart Gregory, Stuart Scanlan, Matthew Proudman, Sam Smith, Jordan Hemming, Ed Sykes and others who will inevitably throw their hats into the ring for selection. You have a proud tradition to follow and the ability to do so. The 2007 season cannot start soon enough.

Mr A Bussey

2nd XI

The results for the 2nd team do not reflect how the team actually played. Three of the losses were extremely tight games where the result could have gone either way. Our only win came at King's Worcester in the first match of the season, where we completely dominated the game. Our tightest game saw us lose to Loughborough GS by 1 wicket. This was a low scoring affair on a difficult wicket. We unfortunately dropped their last man with them still needing 4 to win.

A major problem that the team had was not having a settled side, the personnel changing a lot from one game to the next. The pick of the team was Stuart Gregory, who was a consistent performer. His highest score came at Nottingham HS where he was run out on 99.

I would like to thank the captain, Peter Charlton, for all of his efforts. I believe he captained the side splendidly.

Mr C Mayer

U15 XI

The U15 cricket side had a mixed season; we played seven games in total won five and lost only two. We lost to Loughborough and Shrewsbury school, which regrettably was in the second round of the Lord Taverner's cup.

There were many successful innings throughout the season, the highest score achieved by Matt Lee, against K.E.S Aston, closely followed by Edward Sykes in the same game. Ed Sykes has done very well this season making his debut for the first team. Tom McNeillie had a successful season as captain and also with the bat with a

highest score of 70 not out against R.G.S Worcester. Other notable performances with the bat came from Olly Beech and Haaris Akhtar. James Lankester has made tremendous improvement since the end of last season, playing anchorman in most innings and also making handy contributions with the ball.

Our bowling has generally been excellent this season with the bowlers consistently taking many wickets. Matt Lee, Haaris Akhtar, Leigh Mason and James Lankester formed the main nucleus of the bowling attack with Robert Gooden, Asad Rahman and Thomas Hughes all making their contributions. The B team this season played two games winning one and losing one. Notable performances came from Ben Wisemen who scored a fifty against Kings Worcester. Many thanks to our coaches, Mr Hart and Mr Reddington, who have helped us tremendously over the year.

Tom McNeillie

U14 XI

The flags of St George and the fortunes of the England World Cup football team reflect the achievements of the U14 cricket team this summer. Much was expected but in general the performances did not live up to expectations. The U14s looked good on paper but their results were disappointing. The main reasons for this were a cavalier approach to batting and bowling, and a lack of concentration in the field.

The team played 8 Won 4, lost 4 and reached the semi-final of the Warwickshire County Cup. The match against Rugby demonstrated the strengths and weaknesses of the team. We restricted, by great fielding, Rugby to 100 off 20 overs in a 35 over match only through poor bowling to concede a further 122 runs in the remaining 15 overs. When we batted we did well but we were always against the run rate and we ended our 35 overs on 196. It was the same throughout much of the season although there were good wins against Bishop Vesey's GS and against Warwick.

Cricket is a simple game when played well. Bowling requires line and length and batting controlled aggression that respects the bowler. Too often the line and length was missing and aggressive batting lacked discipline. The team possesses the talent to go far if the players learn from this year's experience. I greatly enjoyed coaching and managing them.

My thanks go to Chris Williamson for being a well-organised and good captain of the side. Others who should be mentioned are Jack Lucas and Will Barber for their improving batting and James Trueman for his all-round ability. I must though sincerely thank all of the team members for giving me a happy first season at Solihull, despite the heartache. Last but not least to Mr Hifle for his dedication and hard work with the group.

Mr R G Wright

U12 XI

The U12's season began at the grounds of

King's, Worcester. This was the first time we were playing together but we got Worcester out for 35 thanks to Tina Gough taking 5 wickets. As we found out, we weren't a strong batting team and it was left to Tina Gough to get the winning runs. We won the match by one wicket. No prizes for working out 'Player of the Match'! After this first win we went downhill losing a few matches but still drawing to King Edward's Edgbaston. Our next match was in the cup and lucky for us Kings Heath School forfeited the match sending us into the next round where we met Moseley and won comfortably. The final score was Solihull 105-3 and Moseley 68 all out.

Back to weekend games, we were boosted by the performance in the cup and were determined to win at RGS Worcester. We won the toss and elected to bat. There were stunning performances from Tina Gough making 52 and Sultan Hameed making 32. We made a solid score of 132 but our bowling, how ever hard we tried, could not break the partnership of the opening two batsmen who made the total score in 19 overs. In the Quarter Finals of the cup we met King Edwards Edgbaston away. We lost the match, sending us out of the cup.

On behalf of the U12 team I would like to say thank you to Mr Bishop and Mr Farmer for helping and coaching us.

Usama Rahman

Squash

Once again Solihull School were entered for the Nationals tournament but it was slightly daunting since there were only two first team players who had played in this event before, Sam Tucker and Hiren Chauhan.

In November, Heart of England came to play us at home for the first match of the season. We were prepared for some tough opposition as their top four players represent the county, their top two also play for England. They were too strong for us on this occasion, defeating us 4-1 with the only success coming from Matthew Gooden who won his match comprehensively 3-0.

Despite this setback, we had to pull ourselves up before the important away clash at Wolverhampton Grammar School. The team responded in emphatic fashion by winning 5-0.

Even with this victory, a win was still needed against Uppingham School in order to qualify to the next stage of the national tournament. Sadly, this was not to be as once again we were defeated. The match was very tight, ending 2-3, the successes coming from Oliver Talbot and Mark James.

After our exit, we faced Bromsgrove School in a friendly and then Malvern school. The latter ended in defeat but we defeated Bromsgrove without difficulty 5-2.

In conclusion, one major aspect that was

pleasing was the constant encouragement given to the other players during the matches and the effort and determination shown by the players regardless of the situation or match.

The team has improved greatly as the year has progressed and there has been stiff competition for places in the team. I am sure that the team will continue to grow and strengthen in the future as we have some exciting young prospects.

Hiren Chauhan

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Clay Pigeon Shooting is one of the youngest sports at Solihull School. However, in the few years since the school team was formed, it has gone from strength to strength. This year we have taken part in three tournaments culminating in the National Schools Shooting Competition at Doveridge, Derbyshire. We finished a respectable 9th out of 18 teams. This was despite the 5-man and Emma Vincent team not shooting to their maximum potential and our most experienced shot, James Mansfield, missed the event with the flimsy excuse of representing Great Britain! James Hornsby was Solihull high gun with an impressive 38 kills out of 50 birds, ably supported by Piers Gilmore and Ben Wiseman who both scored over 30 in their first national competition.

James Mansfield was high gun out of 60 competitors in the recent Oxford Gun Club Schools' Challenge, achieving 45 kills out of 50 in difficult conditions. The school finished 3rd overall with a score of 170 out of 300 thanks predominantly to both James Mansfield and James Hornsby, and a battling display by Mathew Browning. The team's success is due to the dedication of Mr Wild, who introduced the sport to the school and has subsequently been Master in Charge for the past five years. His support, good humor and 'indisputable' advice for students at the shooting ground on both Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings will be enormously missed as he moves on next year. The shooting contingent wishes him every success for the future and we are extremely grateful for all the time and abundant energy he has put into helping us throughout his time at Solihull.

Matthew Gooden

Cross Country

Solihull has produced one of its most glittering seasons on recent record. This has been due to a combination of having a large, enthusiastic squad, and having West Midlands Champion John Whitehouse in our realm.

It was a season of new opportunities; we travelled to the Oxford Tortoise Race for the first time in the school's history, and were invited to The Midland and Northern

Independent Schools after a long period of absence. The first team competed very well in these races, finishing 6th on each occasion. However, our most remarkable result of the season came at The Worcester Spring Relay, where we achieved a very impressive 5th place. The competition in these races is drawn from both regional and national levels and so represents real achievement.

Our staple diet remains the Greater Birmingham League and continues to provide excellent experience whatever the standard of runner. The first team's third place and the second team's first place in their respective divisions was splendid, reflecting well upon the strength and spirit of the squad.

Our finest runner, John Whitehouse, enjoyed numerous wins throughout the year and eventually finished top of the Individual League. The emergence of young tyros such as Angus Phillips, Drew Masters and John Harris was a real bonus. Michael Rudd too proved a stalwart and Matt Burrows, a signing in the January window, showed he could be a big-time contributor next year. Full colours were awarded to Angus Phillips and Michael Rudd. The West Midlands representative honours gained by John Whitehouse, Heather Williams and Alex Lambert in the English Schools Championship, and the fixture against Wales were a final fitting testimony to the standard of distance running within the school.

The team's progress and expansion into new events can be largely put down to Mr Holt's unmatched dedication and direction in his coaching. Many thanks go to him for the effort he has put into this sport. Good luck to the team next year!

Alex Lambert

Alex cannot be allowed to leave without tribute paid to his immense involvement in the sport during his time at the school. His ability is evident for all to see but his dedication and hard work provide the backbone for this prowess. We will miss not just his running but also his good humour and leadership next season.

Mr P T Holt

Tennis

The tennis teams have enjoyed a very good season.

The under 18s have been most successful, having beaten Warwick by 6-3 and winning Glanvill Cup matches against Bishop Challenor, Old Swinford Hospital and Tettenhall College. The score in each of these matches was 6-0. As a result we qualified for the National Finals, which were held at Queenswood School in Hertfordshire on 9th-14th July. Here we defeated Lymm High School by 4-2, who themselves had beaten Lancing College in the first round. In the quarter-final we had to play the number one seeded school, Millfield, and we

went down 1-5. However, our top player and captain, George Hudson, had a tremendous win against the highly rated Millfield number one. Solihull School is now one of the top eight tennis schools in the country, which is a wonderful achievement, at a time when other schools and tennis academies boost their chances by offering tennis scholarships. Many congratulations to all concerned.

The under 15 team has had a mixed season, losing most of its local fixtures, but securing a good win against a touring team from Bradford Grammar School. Four under 15 boys also represented the School well in early July at the Independent Schools' Tennis Championships at Eton.

The under 13 A team has had an excellent season, winning all their matches by 6-0 and becoming Solihull Borough champions. Next term they will go forward to represent Solihull in the West Midlands Championships. Some exceptional players from the Junior School have made a good contribution to this team, which is captained by Jathan Malik, who is a star player in the Great Britain team.

An under 13 B team has also competed very well in the same league as the A team, losing only to Solihull A team and to one other team.

Next year we would like as many people as possible to play tennis both for pleasure and also to further improve the standard of our teams.

STOP PRESS: Jathan Malik of IIP deserves enormous credit for his achievements in tennis. In summer 2006 he played in the National Championships at Bournemouth and became British National under 12 singles Champion. He also finds time to play for the School and has captained the undefeated under 13 team this season.

Mr J McGowan



Badminton

Another fun year that was full of friendly rivalry with our local schools. We have a growing talent of players and large group of boys and girls who play badminton for enjoyment and socialising! My thanks go to all the teachers who have helped and supported badminton; Denise Buckle, Paul Jackson and Geddes Cureton.

Qiao Sun (UVF) and Martin Bullard (Shell P) have joined the Warwickshire County Training Squad following a Warwickshire tournament in which they were noticed and approached by the Badminton Association. I wish them well and hope they play for the county team next season.

Many boys played in local tournaments in Coventry and at St. Peter's School. Here's a list of the players. Qiao Sun Venkat, Michael Wong, Jonathan Vundum, Martin Bullard, Tom Wintle, Ed Johnson, Andrew Pursley, Greg Langley, Jack Cane and Keshan Pillay. We had a winner (Jonathan) and several runners-up (Qiao, Martin, Thomas, Edward, Andrew, Greg).

Our local matches have been against Langley, Arden, Lode Heath, Small Heath and Kingsley (girls). We won 13 matches, drew 1 and lost 1. Quite a season really! 84 games were played with only 23 games lost! If I could pick out the stars of these teams they would be Qiao Sun, Rob Gooden, Tom Shiels, Martin Bullard, Andrew Pursley and Greg Langley, and from the girls, Anaeka Sodha, Stephanie Jobson and Hannah Drysdale. Many more deserve credit.

Lower School colours have been awarded to Ed Johnson (Shell), Martin Bullard and Tom Wintle. In the Middle School colours were awarded to Rob Gooden, Tom Shiels, Chris Szarmach, Tom Haley, Jon Vundum, and Andrew Norman.

Some of our great players are leaving since they are UVI. Special thanks to Sam Tucker, Matt Gooden, Greg Betts, Rahul Raghuram, Matthew Browning, Peter Charlton and Anthony Shinton. Keep playing at university and come back and play!

A Great Year! Thank you! See the rest of you all next year.

Mrs J S Brown

Swimming

The first competition we entered was the Bazuka National Relays held at King Edwards. The girls in the third form competed in an age group two years older but the experience they gained was invaluable. The senior girls finished second overall to a very strong Solihull Sixth Form College. In the boys events we came first overall at U14 level and were very competitive at U16 and senior level.

The next competition was the Solihull Schools Championships held at Tudor Grange and the results we achieved here were excellent overall. We came first at U13, U15 and U18 level in the boys events. In the girls we came first at U12 and U18 level.

The last competition we entered was the Bromsgrove School Invitational Relays and it was here that we competed against some very strong schools. St. Martins dominated the girls' events, and Bromsgrove and Nottingham the boys.

Listed below are all the names of the swimmers who competed this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all:

U12-Girls; Frankie Levey. Ashley Fraser. Sarah Howey. Emily Hughes. Nicola Vundum.
 U18-Girls; Sarah Norris. Jaimee Le Resche. Emma Vincent. Lucy Hilliard. Heather Williams.
 U12-Boys; Sam Griesbach. Charlie Poole. Matthew Davis. James Hyde. Will Hartley.
 U13-Boys; Stuart Bradley. Jonathan Coleman. Alex Gaskell. Sam Middleton. Ben Trenchard.
 U14-Boys; James Trueman. Sam Read. William Smith.
 U15/16-Boys; Jonathan Vundum. Thomas Shiels. Simon Coleman. Jack Read. Michael Kitchen. Giles Ellison.
 U18-Boys; Jake Vincent. Chris Evans. Simon Evans. Thomas Shorney. Paul Griffin.

Mr S R Hifle



Athletics 2005

U16 Borough Champions

Overall Borough Champions

Individual Borough Champions

U16: J Broomhall (Hurdles), T Shiels (Jav),
 A Hughes (Triple Jump)

West Midlands Champions

U17: Tom Shiels (Javelin)
 U15: J Broomhall (High Jump)
 U14: L Grinsell (Javelin)

The following pupils also represented Solihull Borough at the West Midlands Championships:
 W Barber (Hurdles), J Evans (Javelin),
 A Crichton (Shot and Discus)

Sportsday Results

Middle School Winners: Shenstone

Records: N Marsh (400m)
 A Hughes (Triple Jump)

Victor Ludorum

Lower Fifth: T Shiels

Lower School Winners: Shenstone

Records: J Trueman (100m), Shenstone (4 x 100m)
 J Broomhall (High Jump)

Victor Ludorum

Third Form: H Roberts

Shell Form: B Crowe

Fourth Form: J Broomhall

Victrix Ludorum

A Fraser and T Gough

This was another very successful season for the athletics teams. The school teams were undefeated on Thursday matches, winning three out of four Saturday fixtures (coming second in

the other match.) The Senior team were again our most successful year group in the Saturday matches, defeating all teams apart from Oakham - continuing their record from previous years.

The Senior team had an excellent season under the captaincy of Dan Strang. There were many fine performances with Alex Lambert's new School Record in the 1500m being a major highlight. On the track we were normally able to score maximum points in the hurdles with Christian Grauers being ably supported. In the 100m James Lishman and Christian Grauers were often 1st and 2nd with Christian just shading the total number of victories. However, James was unbeaten in the 200m. Chris Evans competed very effectively in the 400m along with Dan Strang, who managed to run the fastest time and nearly equaled the school record. Dan was unbeaten in the 800m and with help from Alex Lambert and Tom Shanahan, we were able to score maximum points in most competitions. In the 1500m Alex dominated and was also undefeated. With John Whitehouse, we accrued maximum points from this event.

In the field Rob Whitehouse and Tom Arnold proved to be very competitive in the long and triple jumps although we did miss Simon Bright for most of the matches due to injury. Ed Houghton and Tom Shanahan supported Rob in the high jump. Christian Grauers and Tom Shanahan often gained maximum points in the javelin with both always throwing over 40 metres. Matt Keylock and Chris Evans were effective competitors in the shot and discus.

The U17's had a successful season. On the track Tom Chalkley regularly won the 100m and 200m and was ably supported by Chris Rosin and Tom Bradshaw. Tom was also very successful in the hurdles along with Jo Hone. Chris Rosin and Jon Proud competed well in the 400m. Drew Masters, Jo Hone, Angus Phillips

and John Harris all produced some good performances in the middle distance events. In the field Chris Rosin, Drew Masters and Jo Hone produced some excellent performances in the jumps. Giles Ellison, Jo Brady, John Hamblin and James Kendall were all successful in the shot and discus. Oliver Parry and Alex Chadwick threw well in the javelin along with Jack Read and Angus Phillips.

The LVth team had a very successful season, winning all their matches against King Edward's, RGS Worcester, Warwick, Arden, King Edward's Aston, King Edward's Camp Hill and Handsworth Grammar - generally by large margins. A number of members of the team also participated with distinction in the UVth team, notably Nick Marsh, Adam Hughes, Adam Harkin and Tom Shiels. On Sports Day, Adam Hughes broke the Sports Day record in the triple jump and Nick Marsh broke the Sports Day record in the 400m.

In the Borough Championships the combined LV/4ths team had a very convincing victory when the strength in depth of the squad was very much to the fore. Wins were gained by Tom Shiels in the javelin - an event in which he was also West Midlands Champion - Adam Hughes in the triple jump, Jamie Broomhall (IVth form) in the hurdles, and the team of William Grigg, Adam Hughes, Stuart Clarke and Nick Marsh in the relay. The number of athletes who gained high places in the finals was remarkable. Special mention must be made of Oscar White, who was 4th in the 1500m, despite being unwell, and Nick Marsh, who came 3rd in the 400m, after a very punishing programme that deprived him of a deserved victory in that event. The points they gained were vital for the overall competition.

The Fourths had a very successful season with some excellent performances. James Trueman (100m), Jamie Broomhall (high jump) and the Shenstone 4 x 100m relay team broke the sportsday records. On the track the hurdles provided near maximum points from Jamie Broomhall, Will Barber and Sam Fletcher. In the sprints James Trueman, Robert Ashby and Alex Currie were very competitive and Alex also ran well in the 400m along with Phil Harrison. In the middle distance events Charlie Rodman was our most successful competitor and he was well supported by Phil Harrison, Frank Phillips and Alex Kirke. The relay team failed to win only once this year - because of a disqualification.

In the throwing events Alex Crichton and George Gibbs dominated the discus and shot. Jamie Evans and Matthew Lancina also gained very good points in the javelin. Robert Ashby and Jamie Broomhall always gained maximum points in the high jump with both able to jump 1.65m this season. Frank Phillips had a good season in both the long and triple jumps.

This season has seen a steady improvement in the performances of the U14 team culminating in coming second in the Borough Championship.

There was much competition in the sprint events with Will McTighe, James Briggs and John Holland proving to be strong competitors. Ben Trenchard and Tom Wintle always gained good points for the team in the hurdles. James Briggs competed well in the 400m supported by a number of different athletes. A special mention to Ryan Bushell who only came into the team for the last match and did very well. In the middle distances Ben Crowe and Tom Wintle ran well in the 800m, with Stuart Bradley pushing hard just behind them. Ed Johnson and Jo Read were again the stalwarts of the 1500m.

Jake Watts and Ben Crowe gave solid performances in the high jump. Martin Bullard, Ben Trenchard, Ben Crowe and latterly Arthur Haynes all competed strongly in the long and triple jumps. In the throws there were some good performances from Sam Middleton and John Holland in the shot. Sam also performed well in the discus along with Tom Wintle. In the javelin Steven Bowland and Will McTighe both threw well with Steven coming second in the Borough Championships.

The Third Form team had a most successful season, winning most of their matches and growing in confidence as they became more experienced. Harry Roberts was our most successful sprinter and he was gamely supported by Louis Eyles, Alex Blake and Oliver Blundell. James Arney and William Hartley ran with determination in the 400 metres, while the latter also proved to be a decent hurdler towards the end of the season. Max Rodman and Rhys Ponsonby proved to be dogged competitors in the 800 metres, but they were upstaged by some excellent runs from Jathan Malik. Joe Bitter ran with real conviction in the 1500 metres and was ably supported by James Buckle (who continued to build on a successful cross country season), Matthew Blenkinsop and Niel Dey.

The real strength of the team, however, lay in the field events. Sometimes it would look as though we were losing on the track, but the throwers and jumpers would pile up the points. Lewis Grinsell and Usama Rahman proved to be real assets to the team. Lewis consistently won the Javelin and Discus events while Usama normally won the shot. Angus Archer and William Hartley completed the successful throwing team, usually coming in second place to the others. Our jumpers did pretty well in every competition, but lacked some consistency. Charlie Poole, Max Rodman and Oliver Blundell shared the high jump duties, while Harry Roberts, Max Rodman, Louis Eyles and Oliver Towers often switched between long and high jump.

All in all this was a very successful first campaign and we look forward to success in the future.

As normal the athletics matches could not take place without a great deal of help from many members of staff and I would like to thank all

those who gave up their time, in what is a very busy term, to help officiate. I am sure the boys would also join me in thanking Mr Ginns and Mr Goatham who have helped to organise the teams.

Mr NWS Leonard

Girls' 1st XI Hockey

Captain: Vicky Preist

Vice Captain: Anna Mulira

P	W	D	L	F	A
16	8	4	4	26	21

This season got off to a flying start by winning the West Midlands tournament on 21st September. We beat Edgbaston HS 4 – 0; KEHS A 1 – 0; KEHS B 2 – 0 and drew with Handsworth. We met Sutton Coldfield College in the final. After no goals in normal time, penalty flicks decided the winner. Emma McCabe, Corinna Frye and captain Vicky Priest all successfully converted their attempts and Solihull School were victorious! The support from the Boys' team certainly helped.

We had a lot of work to do before representing West Midlands in the Midlands final; we used the following six weeks as vital preparation. A loss against Bloxham made it clear that changes had to be made, and after some positional shuffling, we drew against Bablake (2-2), and beat Wrekin (3-2), King's High Warwick (5-1), Arden (2-1) and Princethorpe (2-0).

The defence centred around Lesley Rigby, Katie Aitchinson, Hayley Wallwork, Orla Swindells and Rachel Taylor, with Liz Hall in goal. Liz improved all season and her reading of the game and her

ability to move well often helped to turn possible defeat into victory. This combination made a tight and well-organised defence, with Rachel able to drive the ball forward to the midfield. With a little more work needed on our 16-yard hit-outs, we rarely lost possession when taking the ball up field. Corinna Frye and Emma McCabe had the makings of a formidable partnership. With two different styles of play, they complemented each other well, enabling Corinna to selflessly lay the ball off and Emma almost always finishing off by burying the ball in the back of net with her legendary trademark goal: a screamer to the top left hand corner! I look forward to next season with the prospect of playing these two experienced players together. Emma scored thirteen goals this season, making her the top goal scorer.

Midfield play was inspirational, with Vicky Preist, playing on the right hand side, working well with her deputy, Anna Mulira. Vicky showed brilliance at times, taking the ball herself and showing absolute commitment to scoring that much wanted goal. Julia Shelley was perhaps the most versatile player. Starting off as a forward and then in midfield, she did an outstanding job and worked tirelessly feeding the ball to Emma and Caroline Moss. 'Mossy' told me she was a defender at the beginning of the season – I didn't believe her and moved her straight up to striker. She ended up being one of the top goal scorers this season, playing high above Anna and Sarah Houghton, Jai Hollier and Lucy Williams who all rotated in the front line. Mossy has a great strike and when on target, the goalkeeper has little chance. Anna Mulira played a traditional right wing and made some impressive runs up the line, crossing into the 'D' for Emma to convert.

The Midlands final was again held at KEHS on a bitterly cold Sunday morning of 27th November. We had a tough group but beat Shrewsbury HS 2-1 in our first match. We then



faced Bromsgrove with their heavy German influence and although losing 1-4, Corinna scored the much-deserved goal. A draw against Wolverhampton took its toll on the team, as Emma came off (after much convincing) with a broken finger. A 0-1 loss against Leicester enabled us to come third in our group.

The season ended with a 3-2 win over King Henry VII, Coventry and without Emma, the team learned to take responsibility for scoring themselves and played what was surely the most team-based hockey game of the season.

Thank you and well done to all the players who have given such a lot of their time and energy into making a successful 1st team. I have been impressed with the positive attitude and commitment that the girls have given all year and their ability to play as a team so early in the season.

I am delighted that we have seventeen players going to Munich on tour in July. This can only improve the standard of Girls' Hockey within Solihull School.

Players' choice of Player of the season:

Vicky Priest

Top Goal Scorer:

Emma McCabe (13)

Mrs LJ Hogg

1st VII and 2nd VII Netball

1st VII captain: Liz Hall

2nd VII captain: Lesley Rigby

P	W	D	L	F	A
22	13	1	8	113	95

The team played matches over two terms and the girls trained hard in all weathers and even throughout their study leave in January. With so much talent and enthusiasm for the game the team improved through the season.

Liz Hall led by example, playing some inspirational and committed netball as goal defence whilst being a great captain. Working well with both Emma Vincent and Becky Dunn (goalkeeper), they were able to play fast, flowing netball up to Rachel Taylor at wing defence. Rachel would win almost every centre and, working closely with Steph Jobson and Fiona Ross at wing attack, created many opportunities for Julia Shelly and Anaeka Sodha, the shooters. The success rate of our shooting got noticeably better as the season progressed, and the 1st team ended up with a scoring tally of 113 goals! Kelly Townsend worked tirelessly as centre. Her energy and speed kept the ball alive and her accuracy of passing was outstanding. Jess Bartley also worked hard all season and she secured a regular place in the



1st team, playing with commitment and determination in every game.

Christine Fancott and Manisha Lishman played in the 1st team on numerous occasions and proved to be extremely accurate shooters. The depth of shooting talent in the school is encouraging and this augurs well for next season.

The Solihull Schools U19 tournament, held at City Technology College, took place on 5th October. We beat Solihull 6th Form B 9-0; St Martin's 4-2; CTC 8-0 but lost to a very good Solihull 6th Form A side 3-5. Overall, we were Runners-up.

Beating St Martin's 12-9; Josiah Mason 19-4, Heart of England 12-2; Princethorpe College 12-11; King Edward's Stourbridge 9-7 and Cadbury College 10-2, gave us confidence to play with a much more positive approach to our game. We speeded up our passing and our set plays were increasingly effective. Despite losing against teams such as King Henry VIII, Coventry and Bromsgrove, we learned a lot and developed our set plays as a result.

The 2nd VII, captained by Lesley Rigby, had a harder season. Playing against tough opposition, we had wins over Solihull 6th form B 5-3; CTC 7-0 and a very close match against Princethorpe 24-29. Losing to St Martin's A, King Henry VIII, Coventry, Bromsgrove and King's High Warwick was hard, but it provided good experience against teams who have played together for several seasons.

Manisha and Christine worked well together in the 'D', moving well and finding space. Orla Swindells, Fiona Fairlie, Lesley Rigby, Anna

Mulira, Alison Hearn, Estelle Chrichton, Steph Brien, Natasha Santana-Vaz, Lucy Williams and even a late appearance from Emma McCabe, made up the 2nd VII and with so much enthusiasm for the game, we even fielded a 3rd VII for two matches! I would like to say a big thank you to all the players who regularly trained and improved so much throughout the year, despite such tough fixtures.

The West Midlands tournament held here at Solihull was on the last day of term, 5th April. Solihull fielded two teams in an extremely high quality tournament with seventeen teams from twelve schools. Losing Emma Vincent and Julia Shelley to field trips and holidays to sunnier climes, left huge gaps in the team. However, despite this, we played hard and won some vital games. The standard was exceptionally strong and Bablake won overall.

I would like to thank Mrs Black for her time with the netballers at school, Mrs Pauline Smith, who umpired for us on a few occasions and Mr Farmer, who became 'scorer' at the West Midlands tournament.

Thank you also must go to Liz Hall for captaining the team so well, and all the players who trained so hard over both terms. Their commitment and enthusiasm is impressive and I am really looking forward to season 2006-07. I am sure we will have a very strong side!

Well done girls – you did us proud!

Mrs LJ Hogg



Isn't cricket just for boys?

Tina Gough and Anna McNeillie, IIIW and IIIF have made a small piece of history within Solihull School. Tina is currently the 1st change bowler and bats at no6 for the school U12 'A' team. In her debut game, she took 5 wickets for 4 runs, and scored the winning run against King's Worcester!

Both play cricket for Warwickshire and Tina is opening bowler and batter and Anna is wicket keeper and is an all rounder.

Well done girls – we will watch you all the way to the 1st IX!

Mrs LJ Hogg

Solihull School 5,000m Challenge Race

Results 2005 (first 40)

1	Richard Everest	16.55	Guest
2	John Whitehouse	17.14	VI Boys
3	Mr. T. Haden	18.28	Staff-Men
4	Adam Harkin	18.50	LV
5	Mr. M. Worrall	18.59	Staff-Men
6	John Harris	19.24	UV
7	Tom Shanahan	20.12	VI Boys
8	Angus Phillips	20.21	UV
9	Will Barber	21.03	IV
10	Ed Gamlin	21.04	UV
11	James Cronin	21.05	IV
12	Brandon Cooney	21.12	VI Boys
13	Oliver Luton	21.13	VI Boys
14	Michael Kitchen	21.14	UV
15	Chris Rosin	21.14	UV
16	Frank Phillips	21.19	IV
17	Oscar White	21.25	LV
18	James Kendall	21.27	UV
19	Matt Burrows	21.40	LV
20	Clement Labouche	21.44	LV
21	Alex Kirke	21.51	IV
22	John Maddox	22.01	UV
23	Nick Tremble	22.02	UV
24	Christian Grauers	22.03	VI Boys
25	James Buckle	22.07	III Boys
26	Tristan Ward	22.10	UV
27	Max Rodman	22.11	III Boys
28	Jamie Broomhall	22.12	IV
29	Josh Heley	22.21	LV
30	Jamie Wallis	22.23	III Boys
31	James Trueman	22.35	IV
32	Robert Ashby	22.35	IV
33	Tom Arnold	22.35	VI Boys
34	Tom Shorney	22.49	VI Boys
35	Charles Cathcart	22.52	IV
36	George Hersey	22.53	IV
37	James Wintle	22.55	LV
38	Alex Diez-Jones	22.55	LV
39	Oliver Trace	22.57	LV
40	Jack Matthews-Jolly	23.01	IV

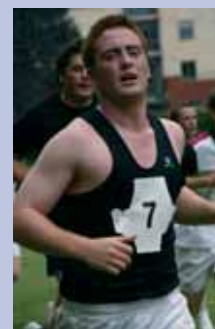
RECORDS

		Time	Set in
J4	James Claughton	23.30	2005
III Boys	Tom Wintle	20.34	2005
III Girls	Ashley Frazer	26.47	NR 2006
Shell	Rupert Derham	20.54	2001
IV	Alex Lambert	18.55	2002
LV	Alex Lambert	17.48	2003
UV	Neil Donovan	16.14	RR 2000
VI Boys	John Whitehouse	17.14	NR 2006
VI Girls	Heather Williams	23.36	2005
Staff-Men	Mr. A. Haden	18.24	2003
Staff-Women	Mrs. S. Sanganee	24.39	2003
Former Pupils	Charlotte Jones	23.49	2003
	Julian Marshall	19.49	2004
Guests	Richard Everest	16.55	NR 2006

Well done to EVERYONE who took part -
And a huge THANK YOU to all the staff
and pupils who helped.

Good Luck next year ! Mr P R Jackson







Tibet & Nepal Expedition 2005

Last year's summer expedition arrived back too late for details of its exploits to feature in last year's Shenstonian, but it would be an omission for a record of its achievements not to occur in the archives!

28 students and 7 adult advisers left in early July, flying via Doha to Kathmandu, where culture shock started as we were bedecked with garlands of flowers from our hosts, the Sherpa Society, at the airport. A single night was enough to show what an amazing city the capital of Nepal is, with its contrasting mixture of beautiful temples and extreme poverty. Early the next morning we were back at the airport to load, with luggage, onto 3 18-seater planes for the short flight to Lukla and the start of our trek. Landing on the short uphill runway was an experience in itself and the walk to Ghat gave a first glimpse of the scenery to come.

Over the next fourteen days we trekked over two high passes to Gorak Shep in the Everest region, with over half the party climbing the Kala Patthar ridge (5545m) for a glimpse of the

great mountain in the mist. We had too much low cloud for the full scenic splendour of Nepal to be fully enjoyed, but were perhaps all the more struck by its beauty on those mornings when it was clear. Most of the group endured a severe gastric virus at the Tengboche monastery – nicknamed "death lodge" – and it was much to their credit that nobody even considered giving up. It also astonished us how the news of our problems seemed to get to every other group we met on the trails! Part of our route back from Everest was blocked by 6 feet of melting snow, but a lengthy detour allowed some relief, the first part being downhill. The lakes at Gokyo were splendid and we were lucky with a relatively clear morning on which to cross the Renjo La (5340m) on our way back to Namche Bazar, before the final day back out to Lukla.

Tired students and advisers then enjoyed three free days in Kathmandu, recovering whilst exploring the city's sights and sampling some of its many restaurants. We recorded details of our trek on two large 'footprints' left on the wall of the "Rum Doodle" restaurant, where the signatures of Everest climbers adorn the walls.

Flying in to Lhasa from Kathmandu gave the

party a chance to see the great Himalaya from the air, and to be struck by the change in the landscape after crossing the mountain range into Tibet. I was staggered by the development of the airport since my last visit 6 years before, and it became clear that a massive building programme of houses and roads has occurred. We saw bridges for the rail link to Chengdu in China as we neared Lhasa city. The old part of the city included the frankly dreadful Banakshol "hotel" where the group were to be put up. Quaint perhaps, but unsanitary conditions prevailed and it was fortunate both that we were able to move the girls to a different hotel and that we only spent a small amount of time at the hotel. Our sightseeing programme took in all the main temples – you could not fail to be impressed by the Jokhang, Potala, Drepung and Norbulinka, but the highlight in many ways was watching the monks at debate in the garden of the Sera monastery. From Lhasa, we travelled in the relative luxury of land cruisers to the Rongbuk monastery and Everest base camp. Again there were fears about the visibility of the mountain, given that we had low cloud and even rain on our drive, which included a visit to the second city, Shigatse, with its Tashilumpo monastery. As we were settling into the dire rooms at the monastery lodge, the cloud slowly

lifted and the sight and size of the mountain quite overwhelmed us, such that we sat looking at it as the light dimmed.

This highlight was added to by a night at the luxurious Dhulikel Mountain Resort Hotel after our arrival back in Nepal and 16 students added one extra climactic moment by Bungee Jumping off a bridge on the way to this resort. A final frantic day of shopping in Kathmandu culminated in a special Nepali Traditional meal to see us on our way. It was an unforgettable experience. We learnt not just about other cultures, but also about our own ability to handle adversity and meet both physical and mental challenges.

Huge thanks are due to my six fellow advisers, to our excellent agents in the country, appointed by White Peak Expeditions to look after us, and to the student group whose resilience and positive attitude to all obstacles made the expedition the success it was!

In 2007 the school sends an expedition group for the first time to Chile, and we wish them every success, knowing the great rewards, which can come from taking on such ventures!

Mr M R Brough.



Upper School Skiing trip to Serre Chevalier

On all but one day of this year's trip to the slopes in France we had bright sunshine and excellent skiing conditions. Indeed, the one bad day, when it snowed continuously for 24 hours, in many ways made the later days all the better, skiing on fresh snow.

Mr Smith celebrated his forthcoming retirement by joining the party for the first time and our mix of students from the 2 Sixth Form year groups proved to be a particularly fortunate one, with a great sense of camaraderie across the whole group.

We are fortunate enough to have some very good skiers in the upper school, but they

impressed also with their willingness to look after each other and particularly helped those of lesser ability to grow in confidence.

It is a testament to the success of the trip that all places for next year, at Chatel, were filled within 3 weeks of launching the trip!

Mr M R Brough



Battlefields

October 2005 saw almost half of the Upper Fifth surrender most of their half term for the Battlefields Trip, a long-established and thought-provoking tour of the D-Day landing sites and other places involved in the Allied reconquest of Europe in the Summer of 1944.

The trip was designed to help us gain greater understanding of the invasion and the events immediately following it, to help us with our coursework; it certainly did much more than that.

The first stop was Omaha landing beach, immortalised by the film *Saving Private Ryan*: a site of appalling slaughter, it was now disturbingly beautiful. From there we moved up to the top of the cliffs, where the German pillboxes would have been, to visit the American Cemetery.

Confronted with the bright symmetry of thousands of small white crosses overlooking the beach, I don't think anyone could help but be moved. Some graves that simply carried the sobering epithet "Here lies a soldier, known but to God" – perhaps one of the cruellest sentences I know. Equally awful, if not so visually arresting, were the British and German war cemeteries: one a mass grave of white marble, the other a mass grave of black stone.

Other highlights included the town of Sainte Mère Eglise and several coastal gun emplacements, and as some relief from the bleakness of World War II, a visit to see the Bayeux Tapestry. Everyone had a really enjoyable time, even, or perhaps especially, the staff. For a trip whose subject matter was seemingly so grim, it included times of great fun. I personally am unsure whether the experience weakened or affirmed my belief in humanity; that, I think, you must find out for yourself.

Alexander Hurst

Iceland Field course- October 2005

The start of October half term saw 24 budding geographers set off to Iceland. At Keflavik we were greeted by Imgemar our guide, and Gisli, our very own Viking bus driver. No visit to Iceland would be complete without a dip in the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa rich in silica that you can slap on to improve your complexion! It was here that the "Ice, Ice Baby Tour" really began. Our hotel was in fact an Icelandic Horse-riding centre, with its rooms named after well-loved horses.

Apart from experiencing so much physical geography first hand, including the geyser Strokkur erupting, some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the world, The Mid Atlantic Ridge, and climbing onto the snout of the Solheimajokull glacier, we also took in some of the Icelandic culture. The legendary Skogar Folk Museum and its quirky owner at 94 years old, were not to be missed. Solihull School's rendition of Icelandic hymns made us ache with laughter!

The incredible knowledge of our guide and driver could not be surpassed, and they certainly took us to sights off the beaten track that we will never forget, such as the rollercoaster drive across the glacial outwash plain to enable us to walk through the most incredible scenery!



Other memorable moments would have to include our daily visit to the geothermal swimming pools, staying up to see the Northern Lights; Ian Bousfield's photo diary; Mr Covill's confusion over lava and lager; and the hotel's chef, although it would take more than a swig of grog to get me to eat the delicacy of raw rotten shark!

It was a great trip, with excellent company. Many thanks to Mrs Roll, Mrs Brown and Mr Covill for organising this trip which has given us so many fantastic experiences.

Julia Shelley and Mrs A C Roll



Castleton: Peak District National Park - Shell Geography Trip

A gloomy wet day in the Peak District; however we all managed to tog up well and do the circuit with the addition of a visit to Peveril Castle. The steep climb had us all panting but the views were superb, of the Hope Valley, Castleton and Mam Tor.

The boys enjoyed the depths of the Treak Cliff Cavern and soaked up the good luck provided by touching the seven dwarf stalagmites while being spared the curse of the wicked witch - an intrusion of blue john stone into the carboniferous limestone cavern. Many of the students got wetter inside the cavern than outside since the heavy rains of the previous week were working their way through the joints and cracks of the limestone, and dripping profusely from the roof.

Once back at school the hard work began. The students had to process the data they had collected and write up their project, since it represented 20% of their final examination result. There were many excellent pieces of work but the top students in each class deserve a special mention:

Tom Phedon (Shell M),
Richard Ackroyd and Sam Middleton (Shell P),
Matthew Bacon (Shell S)
Joe Read (Shell S)
Thomas Wintle (Shell A)

Well done Boys!

Mrs J S Brown

Lower Sixth Geography Fieldtrip Castlehead 2006

In April, 24 excited Lower Sixth Geographers and two members of staff travelled to the Lake District for five days worth of 'extreme Geography' al fresco style! We resided at Castlehead Field Studies Centre, near Kendal, aiming to complete the syllabus requirements for the AS Investigations paper and the accompanying 1000 word report. What hadn't been anticipated was that the great outdoors could be such a pleasant classroom and that there would still be time for laughter and play.



After we had settled into our base (an old Catholic boarding school!), we meandered up to the River Kent and investigated the ways in which the river had been managed to accommodate floods. Enthused by the opportunity of swapping textbook theory for practical hard-core geography we visited the Sandscale Haws sand dune system to investigate signs of succession on a psammosere. Measurements were taken, technical equipment employed and results were gathered; AS coursework was proceeding smoothly! We also invaded Kendal, not for a bit of shopping but to try and delimit the CBD. We took classical measurements of traffic, pedestrian and environmental surveys.

Overall the trip was highly entertaining, the company was good, and we worked hard, and learnt a great deal.

Mr M J Covill

Biology Field Trip

At the end of the Easter holidays, 70 Lower Sixth biology students departed for Dale Fort field studies centre on the southern tip of Wales for a week. Located on a somewhat isolated cliff face, the group used the surrounding beach environment of the Fort in order to learn exciting things about limpets and collect data for their A2 ecosystems coursework which provided participants with a rather hands on challenge.



Throughout the week however, students' familiarity with the ecosystem organisms improved, as terms such as *Patella vulgata* almost became part of our vocabulary. It also became increasingly clear that limpets and periwinkles could do little to remove the determination of all to wreak havoc and have a good time. Through the eternal work the Solihull School spirit prevailed as many 'tricks' were played on fellow inmates. Students managed to use their own impressive initiative to make the work more bearable, subjecting themselves to copious amounts of coffee and hard-core dance music. In addition to this, classrooms became a second home, with hand built mountains of cups and sweet wrappers forming part of the modified environment. The creation of the famous pat ball game will undoubtedly also continue as an integral part of sixth form life.

The biology field trip was an experience we will never forget, combining plenty of hard work with a great amount of fun. We would like to thank the biology staff (Mrs.Wild, Mr Brattle, Mr Babb and Mrs Buckle) for their patience, help and for making the trip possible.

Catherine Parr

Work Experience in Normandy July 2006

Nine students of A-Level French enjoyed the opportunity to thoroughly immerse themselves in French life, completing work experience in Normandy. If you've been following the BBC series 'Excuse My French' then you will appreciate how demanding and, ultimately, enriching such an enterprise is. Staying in a family, often with quite different backgrounds, adapting to their way of life and being part of the World Cup frenzy being played out in seemingly every French home, all this is challenge enough. Add to this, coping in the work place, doing jobs they might never have tackled before, partaking of casual chats among the staff and sitting down to lunch with the French staff, and you get an idea of the personal challenges the students met. They worked in bars, hotels, crêperies, school and shops – a wide range of placements, with a wide range of people skills required. A lovely day in Granville – sea and shops – and a typically French meal for the whole group in a country 'auberge' gave us some respite at the weekend. We were very fortunate to be taken to visit some of the D-Day Landing beaches and to see the procession of vintage American and British tanks set off

from Saint Mère l'Eglise on their annual pilgrimage to Belgium, to the first town liberated by the Allies. A fitting cultural end to an enriching week.

My thanks go to Small Heath School, for inviting us to join in their Work Experience Project, and to the Maison Familiale School, near Coutances, for the time they devoted to making our visit happen. We are already looking forward to another visit next July!

Mrs MA Barrett



German Christmas Markets Trip December 2005

On Thursday 15th December thirty-seven pupils and five members of staff set off on the bi-annual trip to the German Christmas Markets. We travelled through the night, taking the Shuttle, ably driven by our elderly duo of Welsh speaking drivers who were excellent value, being friendly and helpful at all times. Their arguments over the new fangled device, satellite navigation, were a source of much amusement.

We arrived safely in Cologne on the Friday morning, to be greeted by fierce winds and rain lashing across the square in front of the famous cathedral. Fortunately the weather improved for our guided tour of the city in the afternoon, which proved to be interesting and informative. Our hotel was situated in a village close to Aachen, only 200 metres from the Belgian border. The rooms were allocated and we enjoyed a good meal before everyone retired for some much needed sleep.

On Saturday we had a well-planned day, which was appreciated by all. With typical German efficiency we even arranged for it to snow. We travelled back to Cologne to visit the Sports and Olympic Museum, which gave the more sporty pupils the chance to show off their athleticism. This visit was followed by a browse around the Medieval Christmas Market. The stallholders were all in period costume, as were the

entertainers, and the food was excellent. The rumour that it was donkey or goat meat was completely untrue!

Before travelling back to Aachen we visited the ever-popular Chocolate Museum, not forgetting to take some supplies with us. Saturday evening was the highlight of the whole trip, as we had ample time to tour the Aachen Christmas Market, enjoying the special Christmas atmosphere. To join in the spirit of the occasion, the staff was obliged to sample the Glühwein... We had a late meal in the hotel and most pupils were then happy to retire to their rooms.

On Sunday we had a long coach journey up the Rhine Valley. We travelled first to Marksburg Castle, which overlooks the Rhine, where we had a guided tour. The armoury display was impressive, although the helmet tried on by William Melville was not particularly fetching. After this visit we drove to Coblenz, where there was another market to visit. This one had an outdoor ice-rink, which was enjoyed by several members of the party. Christopher Allen skated impressively.

In the late afternoon we returned to Aachen for our evening meal, which was followed by an excellent seasonal quiz prepared by Christopher Troth, Richard Crampton and Oliver Mayman. The victorious staff team was harshly disqualified for not having enough team members.

On the Monday we said our goodbyes to the obliging hotel staff and slept most of the way home, again taking the Shuttle to Folkestone. I should like to thank all the staff who took part, Mrs Mynette, Miss Holden and Mr Chacksfield, but especially Dr Troth for his invaluable help in preparing and planning the trip. Thanks also to the pupils, who were a credit to the School.

Mr J McGowan

Au Marché

National Language Week saw the Shells take a break from lessons to visit the French Market in Solihull Town Centre. The main objective was to improve our conversational French, although the stallholders' English seemed to be far superior to our French! We split up into groups of three and started making our way around.

As we shuffled through the bustling market place, we practised our conversation. I can distinctly remember Russell Vanhouse asking for a French cheese perfectly and getting exactly what he wanted. The 'pains au chocolat' at the bakery stall were lovely. The chocolate was oozing out of the sides. I had four! The short but sweet outing was fun and a great experience for us all to practice our French, as well as having a taster of some delicious French food.

Ben Trenchard and Fred Howard

Chateau de la Baudonnière trip February 2006

February half-term 2006 saw the revival of the Third Form trip to France. 38 pupils along with Miss Holden, Mr Reardon, Miss Pike and Mr Lucas setting off with our friendly driver Miles to Normandy. Mothers waved us off gleefully, some asking if we wouldn't mind taking their husbands as well – we declined naturally! For many of the pupils this was their first trip abroad without parents, although none seemed particularly phased by this. Perhaps it was the thought of the mountain of pain au chocolat they would be able to eat once in France; more likely it was the sobering thought of a 12-hour coach and ferry marathon they were about to endure. However, this passed without a hitch and we arrived somewhat bleary-eyed at Chateau de la Baudonnière in the middle of the night.



After a quick chocolat chaud, pupils were packed off to bed – girls in the old stables, boys to the purpose-built Maison de la Verger. It didn't take long for weary eyes to droop... much to the delight of the staff.

Thursday to Saturday were action-packed with activities such as a muddy assault course, climbing, orienteering, French lessons, archery and initiative exercises. The unique element of the Chateau is that all activities are conducted exclusively in French, despite the pupils' limited knowledge. The highly experienced Animateurs at the chateau used fun and games, actions and demonstrations to get the message across, ensuring that everyone understood what they had to do. Although all were fluent in English, they did not once venture into it, even when pupils were struggling. It is a testament to their hard work that pupils were able to understand and take part in every activity.

Mealtimes were also impromptu French lessons, with the animateurs insisting that pupils asked for extra food from the kitchen in French. The phrase 'Je voudrais encore du pain' must surely have been imprinted on everyone's brain by the end of the visit. Mealtimes also gave the less adventurous amongst the pupils opportunity to try out some French food they would never have at home. Many were pleasantly surprised



that they actually liked French cheese, although most were less enamoured with the way the French like to cook beef!

Evenings were eventful too. One night had a dedicated French theme, with all pupils.... and teachers... having to wear fancy dress. Never has there been a more stereotypical group of French people! However, some did break from tradition and opted for Napoleon, the Phantom of the Opera and a French rugby player. This was followed up by a French quiz against another visiting school and some rather raucous French singing. A talent competition also flagged up a number of dark horses within our group. Amy Whittaker nearly had everyone in tears when she sang 'Maybe' from Annie, and Nicola Vundum wowed everyone with her ability to hoola-hoop.

Saturday give us an opportunity to visit a local market in Granville and also make purchases in a French hypermarché. Pupils had tasks to complete and questions to ask of customers, but they were definitely more interested in buying bonbons! The less that is said about the smell on the coach after several purchases of Camembert the better.

The students experienced a wonderful few days in France, completely immersed in French language and culture, and coming back to school with much more confidence in their abilities. Grateful thanks must go to all the staff that made it possible. Here's hoping next year's is just as successful!

Miss F E Holden

French Breakfast Morning

On Saturday September 23rd the Modern Languages Department organised a French breakfast morning, attended by most of the new AS French students, as well as a very

pleasing number of A2 students. This was an opportunity for them to get to know each other as well as to listen to a French Algerian visitor. Participants exchanged their experiences of visiting, living in and working in France, all in French. It was invaluable for the new Lower Sixth students to see what linguistic progress they can expect to make within a year. Students were treated to a good breakfast: croissants, pains aux raisins, and homemade doughnuts! It was very encouraging to see such stalwart support for the event. We were very pleased to invite a teacher from our partner school in Small Heath to this event and hope we will share more of these moments with Small Heath students.

Mrs MA Barrett

Modern Languages Society: Belgrade Theatre Trip

In November fourteen members of the AS and A2 French groups enjoyed an excellent evening at the Belgrade Theatre. We were very fortunate to be able to see Molière's comic masterpiece 'The Hypochondriac'. This newly commissioned version of Molière's play, by David Johnston, stuck closely to the rhythm of the original, with all its set pieces, slapstick, stand-up and one-liners but its language was designed to appeal to a contemporary audience. The commedia dell'arte characters haranguing the audience both on and off stage added authenticity and atmosphere to the proceedings. A dazzling range of humorous techniques added spice to the themes of hypochondria and family problems. Authentic interludes also added comic verve to the performance.

The play was thoroughly entertaining, as well as being a valuable introduction into French literature. I was delighted that so many students

wanted to broaden their cultural repertoire, and in so doing, had an excellent evening's entertainment.

Mrs MA Barrett

Montpellier 2006

On 12th February 2006, a group of Solihull School pupils ranging from the Lower Sixth to the Fourth Form waited impatiently to meet their host families at Montpellier Airport. The journey had been long and hard, especially for those whose bags were too heavy (no names mentioned, Laura Cuncliffe)! Some waited into the night, whilst others were greeted almost immediately by an awkward kiss from a stranger, before being whisked off to their host family's home. Upon arriving at their host families, some students were greeted with a lovingly prepared traditional French meal (despite it being 11.30 French time), others by hotdogs and chips. Nevertheless, all seemed happy the next day, and felt welcomed by their host families.

During the week, we spent our mornings at the International Eurolingua School in the centre of Montpellier, which we found most interesting and useful. In the afternoons we visited various sites in the region, such as the historic Roman town of Nimes, and also enjoyed a guided tour of Montpellier's very own Arc de Triomphe. After sampling a variety of the town's restaurants for lunch, we had free time to wander around the town, some buying even more clothes to weigh their suitcases down further (Laura Cuncliffe).

We spent happy evenings with our host families, enjoying their traditional French cooking and their company. The language barrier did prove difficult for some, but the friendly nature of the people who took us in helped to break down international barriers; all seemed to get on well with their families.

When we left, many of us left behind newfound friends and future contacts, and we all left with a whole host of new experiences and ideas. And yes, Laura did get her bag through customs on the return journey!

Nicholas Lunn

Anglo-French Society competitions

For the first time in recent years, Solihull School entered a team in two age groups of both the Madame Best and A H Mills competitions run by the Anglo-French Society, hosted by Birmingham University. The competitors prepare and learn a poem or paired reading and then perform in heats of up to 10 competitors from schools in the Birmingham and Solihull area. They are judged on their pronunciation, delivery and expression by a panel of native French speakers from the Modern Languages

Department at the university. If they get through the heats they are invited to perform in the Finals in front of all the assembled schools and judges.

Although the tension really mounts in the Finals I am delighted to report that Alex Weaver IVB was highly commended and Chris Williamson IVB won first place in the under 14 poetry competition. Ed Houghton UVI came second in the sixth form competition. In the reading competition, Chris Kirby (IVC) and Will Barber (IVC) came second and Chris Williamson and Alex Weaver won first prize. In the sixth form competition, Ed Shelley (LVI IIS) was highly commended, Nick Lunn (LVI IJ) came third and Lucinda Griffiths (LVI IS) and Julia Shelley (LVI IIS) were awarded joint second place. Julia Shelley also came second in the Héretier essay writing competition. We hope to enter teams in all three competitions in 2006/7 following this year's success.

Mrs C E Checketts

Visit of Swiss students

For the second year in succession the German Department has helped host a group of students from Zurich. On October 13th all 6th form Germanists joined in with pupils from Small Heath and other cluster schools in order to help the Swiss pupils complete a project. Pupils were mixed in small groups and had to interview shoppers both in Birmingham and Solihull. It was an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know each other. In the evening most Solihull pupils again met up with the Swiss visitors and were able to socialise over a Balti.

It is hoped that this strengthening link between the schools will open up the possibility of a future trip in die Schweiz!

Mr J McGowan

Study Visit to Jerez, April 2006

During the Easter holidays, thirty students of Spanish, from IV Form to UVI Form, enjoyed a brilliant week in Jerez, S.W. Spain. The atmosphere in the group was tremendous; students mixed well and enjoyed the company of boys and girls from different sections of the school. There were many opportunities for students to hear and speak Spanish; during lessons in the Spanish school, more casual meetings with Spanish students in the playground, with the guide who accompanied us on all of our visits and of course, in the Spanish families where students from Solihull School were placed.

The week did not allow us to get bored. A visit to the wonderful city of Seville, a boat trip up the Guadalquivir River to visit the National Park of Doñana, a visit to the Tío Pepe Bodega to see sherry being made, a fine display of horsemanship at the Equestrian School of Andalucía, in Jerez: these were just a few of the many visits.

There were many more activities, which we could broadly speaking term as cultural; the group consumption of chocolate y churros (with disastrous consequences for some!), the football match against 'the Spaniards', the flamenco class invaded by Spanish youngsters –all these memories evoke a wry smile!

There were many personal triumphs; those who rose to the challenge of staying solo in a family, those who established lasting contacts with young Spaniards and those who wanted to do and try everything – well done to those Sixth Formers, who opted for the première of Almodóvar's new film over a party! We enjoyed tapas, homemade lemonade, lots of tortilla española and an unimaginable range of seafood. Mr Smith came back smiling after a week of café con leche. Lessons, families, Spaniards,

visits, activities, even getting lost – yes, parada means bus stop not the name of the area! These are all things we will remember from the trip. Some people are already planning to work in Spain! The trip was a great opportunity for the linguistic expertise of those who took part and, above all, it was tremendous fun.

Mrs M A Barrett

Justice in Ecuador

On October 11th the Modern Languages Society was fortunate enough to be able to invite a distinguished High Court Judge from Ecuador, who talked to students of Spanish in the Upper and Lower Sixth about the justice system in Ecuador and, in more general terms, about the history and development of his country. He spoke with precision and knowledge about a most complex country, giving food for thought about the origins of the external debt, about some of the reasons for poverty in Ecuador and the background to the hold of the drugs trade in the country. His Spanish was crisp and erudite, with a very different flavour from the Castilian Spanish to which students at Solihull School are accustomed. The talk was well attended and we look forward to more stimulating talks which open up our horizons, in the future.

Mrs M A Barrett





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