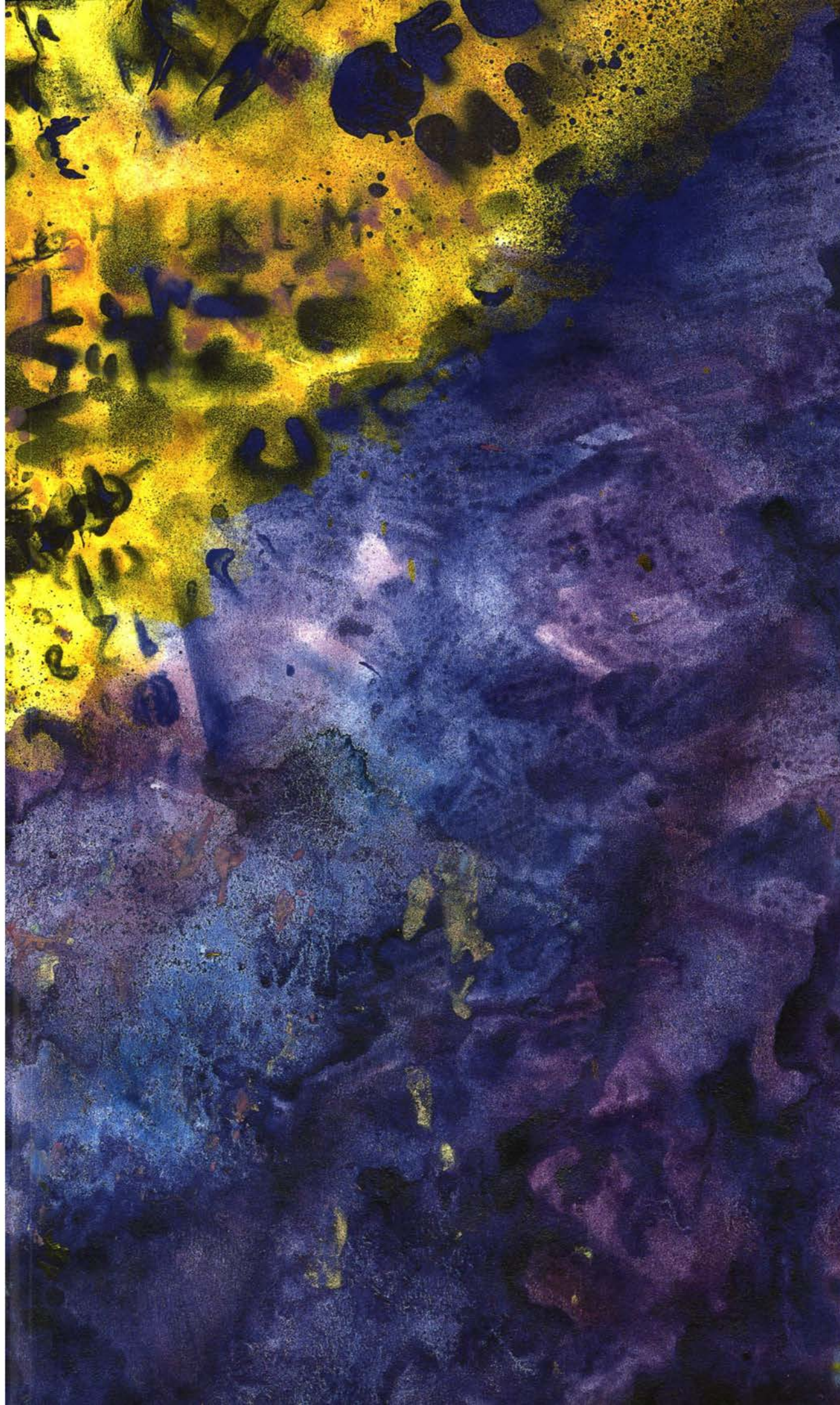


KING EDWARD SEVEN

CHRONICLE



The Annual Magazine of King Edward's School Birmingham

Chronicle

2005

Contents

Hellos	5
Goodbyes	11
Features	17
Trips	31
CCF	47
Performance	59
Pictures	65
Words	73
Houses	81
Societies	87
Sport	91

Editorial Staff

Hellos & Goodbyes	Will Murphey
Features	Richard Lau
CCF	Nick Greatbatch
Trips	Shane Murray & Jack Flaherty
Performance	David Smith
Words	Andrew Horder
Houses	Mark Witcombe
Societies	Miles Drew
Sport	Vishal Banerjee, Nikhil Khosla, & Bhavneet Sohal
Banner and Cover Art	Arvin Mahanta
Staff	Tom Hosty

Editorial

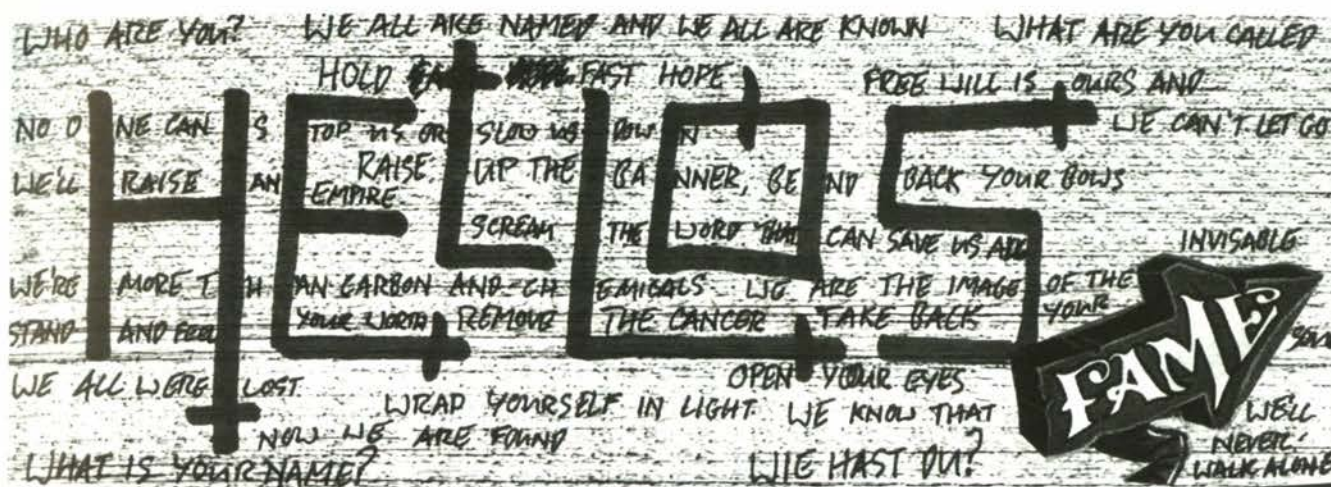
The production of this year's *Chronicle* has gone a little less smoothly than usual. It began with a surprisingly low level of interest from last year's Divisions when the annual call went out for volunteer editors. In a normal year, I have something like three times as many volunteers as I actually need to produce the magazine: in November 2004, I had just about exactly the right number. Fortunately, the boys who came forward turned out to be the right ones, and the great majority of them have been strikingly efficient and conscientious. This needs to be acknowledged: without Divisions boys willing to act as Section Editors, the magazine in its present form could not be produced. So, to begin with, my thanks and congratulations to the Section Editors.

Later in the year, we encountered unprecedented levels of difficulty in getting hold of some of the material which normally goes into a *Chronicle*. You will see the results of that in parts of the magazine you are now holding. The school's music year, for example, is only very thinly represented in these pages. This is a crying shame, given the effort which all concerned put into their music and given the extraordinarily high standard which KES music frequently achieves. Nonetheless, it proved fantastically difficult for the Performance editor to round up reviews and reports of musical events. There is an important point here: the editors of *Chronicle* do not write the contents of the magazine. We can only publish what we are given. If boys in the school are not prepared to write about activities, then those activities will not feature. Photographs also have proved more difficult to get hold of than in previous years, and more than one Section Editor has told me of his dissatisfaction with the small number of photographs in his section. Since the digital revolution, we probably take more photographs than ever before: if you take good photographs of school activities, *please* remember the school magazine and be prepared to contribute copies.

For all the above, I think that this is a good *Chronicle*. It is full of interesting articles about things which members of the school have done in the past 12 months; it puts on record again that King Edward's School is an institution concerned with a great deal more than simply examination grades, important though those may be; it will in time act, for many of you, as a valuable memento of an eventful year in your lives.

It remains for me only to say the traditional thank yous: to Sandra Burden and Fred Rogers at the Resources Centre for turning mounds of floppies, CDs and handwritten page plans into the glossy object you're currently holding; to Bradley Spencer for overseeing the production of Section banners and of the cover, as well as the colour section; to Chris Boardman for valuable support with photographs; to Robert Turner, Tamara Hodgkin and other members of the Modern Languages Department for their invaluable assistance with the production and proofing of content not in English; and finally to all of you who wrote for the magazine. I hope you're all pleased with the fruit of your labours.

Tom Hosty



Roy Atkinson

Physics

Chronicle: Mr Atkinson, would you tell Chronicle a little about your time before KES?

Mr Atkinson: I studied at King Edward's Five Ways and went on to study Physics at Birmingham University. I did a teacher training year at Hertford College, Oxford. Since then I have returned to Birmingham and worked at various schools in the area: I was Head of Science in one particular school for over 20 years. More recently, I have worked at both the King Edward's Camp Hill schools.

What are your interests and hobbies out of school time?

I discovered the joys of DIY at a very early age and, having renovated a cottage of ours in Wales, we spend many holidays there now. I also enjoy visits across the Channel; those excellent French train services aid my journeys into rural France.

What made you return to KES?

Whilst teaching at another school, I was invited to return to the Physics department here, part-time. Having enjoyed my previous teaching experience at KES, I readily accepted the post.

Is there anything you dislike about the school?

That is a tricky question! There is nothing negative to say about the school, really, but the increase in traffic on the Bristol Road during rush hour is becoming a problem for me.



What do you think KES offers that other schools don't?

First of all, the major difference between this school and others that I have taught in is that this school is very well resourced. But the atmosphere here is unique too, and the teachers are treated with the utmost respect by the majority of the student body.

KES is one of a kind. It is fantastic in making the best of the students academically, through the highest level of teaching. All students become keen to learn, which creates a very suitable atmosphere in the classroom. Also, the school provides excellent facilities which allow students to succeed in sport and games.

Mr Atkinson, thank you very much

'..the atmosphere here is unique too, and the teachers are treated with the utmost respect..'



Jonathan Pitt

Geography

Chronicle: Mr Pitt, please tell us a little about your life before you came to KES.

Mr Pitt: In the few years I had between leaving here and coming back, I've been to Durham University. On top of studying, I was in the college rugby team, the college swimming team, the university swimming team, and the university Water Polo team, which competed quite well at a national level. I generally enjoyed myself doing sports and everything else. Oh, and college rowing as well.

Now you are back here on the other side of the teacher's desk, how different is it?

Obviously it has its differences, but I think it's not too hard to come back. The teachers here generally treat you as being quite mature when you are a pupil. So coming back to be one of the teachers who treated you as an adult beforehand is very easy. You feel that you were respected before and therefore it's not a problem to come back. I have found the students to be pretty good, in the lower years especially, as I think they appreciate having a younger teacher and associate with that more, so you get some quite good results out of it.

What are your hobbies?

My main hobby, I would say, is going to the cinema, watching films - I'm quite a film buff. Also, watching my beloved Birmingham City: I'm a season ticket holder, so I go to St Andrew's every week. Apart from that, watching sport and coaching the King Edward's Water Polo team, which I enjoy.

Any plans for the future?

Huge plans for the Water Polo team! I would like to win the Nationals; I think the team has got the potential. Then, basically, to be the best teacher I can be. I've always aimed at being the best at whatever I do. I normally fall short, but as long as your aims are high then you've always got to keep driving, keep pushing yourself, and I'd like to do that in teaching. I think King Edward's School is a very good place to start a teaching career, and with the resources we've got here, I think there is the potential to be successful yet also be quite experimental in your teaching. So I would like to do that. Further on in the future, I'd quite like to be a Head of Department. But for now I'm taking each bit as it comes and just developing myself as a teacher first.

Finally, what are your feelings about Cary Gilson's lack of improvement since you left?

I'm not surprised. When I was here, I was Cary Gilson's House Captain and there was generally a belief that we were not going to do well: I think that it is this lack of belief which leads to a lack of effort, which leads to the poor results. There's a very good Shell year this year and I feel that once the top few years, who know Cary Gilson as a failure, have gone, there is a very different future for the house. I can see it starting from this year.

Mr Pitt, thank you very much

'..but as long as your aims are high then you've always got to keep driving, keep pushing yourself, and I'd like to do that in teaching.'

Sarah-Louise Jones Geography

Chronicle: *Hello Miss Jones! Could you tell us a little about your life before you came to KES?*

Miss Jones: I attended Coventry University for two years, and then took a year off, as part of my course, to become Geography technician at KES. After returning to Coventry to finish my degree in Geography, I decided that a career in teaching was for me, and so took my PGCE at Cambridge. Following my teacher training, I took a position as Head of Department in an inner city school here in Birmingham. After a year at that school, I was offered a part-time job at KES, to cover for Mr Cumberland's Sabbatical year. I leaped at the opportunity to return to my old haunts here. Offered a permanent position a little later, I consented whole heartedly!

It sounds as if you like it here: why is that?

Well, my year as Geography technician made a lasting impression upon me. I was struck by the methodical and disciplined work-ethic of the boys, and saw how teachers took a hands-on, mentoring role with pupils to ensure that each and every one of them fulfilled his potential. For me, the good working environment which I saw during that year made my decision to take the position at KES a no-brainer. The vast range of facilities and resources available at KES, especially the Geography Resources Room, also drew me to the school, as did the sporting and extra-curricular opportunities open to pupils.

Has KES changed much while you've been away?

I have noticed a few changes, most notably the advent of projectors, which are now installed in practically every classroom: the



new age of teaching technology became a regular part of the school during my recent absence. The teaching staff have also changed, with much of the Geography department leaving for pastures new at the end of last year.

Have you enjoyed teaching here so far?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at KES, and I am pleased to work for one of the finest Geography departments that any secondary educational institute can boast. The students are good-humoured, intelligent, and well-behaved, and the staff are supportive and at times inspirational. Many a Monday morning has Mr Cumberland spurred me on with his steadfast words, "To come first in the lottery of life is to be a geographer"!

What kind of music do you listen to?

My sixth form set have introduced me to the world of R'n'B and Hip-Hop, and I am listening with open ears!

If you could bring one item to a desert island, what would it be?

An Atlas!

Finally, could you tell Chronicle a little bit about your hobbies?

I love sports, and am an avid runner. I hope to run the London marathon next year, and will keep training for the foreseeable future. I played hockey in my youth, but a knee injury put me out of action for a while, and I have not continued the sport since my recovery.

Miss Jones, thank you.

' I love sports, and am an avid runner. I hope to run the London marathon next year, and will keep training for the foreseeable future. '



Robert Davies Geography

Chronicle: *Mr Davies, would you tell us a little about your life before you came to KES?*

Mr Davies: I was born in Malvern, near Worcester, and went to school at RGS Worcester. After that I went to Durham to study Geography. Next I took a year off, as I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do: I did a Masters at Nottingham in Environmental Management, which proved very enjoyable. I worked for Severn Trent Water for eighteen months, but I got a bit bored by the day to day routine that came with office life, and so went to work at a Field Study Centre at Cromer on the Norfolk coast. That was a valuable and interesting experience. Inspired by my sojourn in Norfolk and with my appetite for academia whetted, I decided that a career in teaching was for me. I therefore did my teacher training course at Leeds University, and after teaching at Queen Mary's School in Walsall for a couple of years I got the job at KES.

What are your initial impressions of us?

Very good. I played sport against KES when I was a pupil at RGS Worcester, and I knew it was a very good school. The pupils are generally quite an intelligent bunch, mostly well-behaved, although there are some whose discipline leaves something to be desired. The facilities at the school are fantastic: it gives unique opportunities to both students and teachers which very few schools do.

How does the Geography Department here compare with those you've seen at other schools?

It is pretty similar in many respects. It has very good, well qualified staff. Compared to Queen Mary's, we go on a lot more field trips, which I really enjoy. For instance, I was able to visit Morecambe recently, which was a wonderful experience. In the future we're going to Wales and North Yorkshire, and we're planning a trip to Iceland.

What's been your worst experience since you've been here?

I don't think I've had one bad moment. But the hours are long, and it is a big commitment working at the school. The work can pile up fast, especially when reports are due: it is always daunting seeing a hundred unwritten reports piled on your desk. That is probably the hardest aspect of the job.

Other than working hours, what else would you change about the school?

Generally, I think it would be better if the school day started earlier and finished earlier. At one school I taught at, we started at 8:30 and finished at either 2:30 or 3:00. That would be better than finishing at 4:00, as many boys are too tired after so many lessons. It would also be nice to introduce football into the games options: maybe we could play rugby in the first term, football in the Spring, and then cricket in the Summer.

What are your interests outside school?

Sport is one of the main interests that I have. I play a fair bit of football outside school for a number of teams, including Handsworth Grammar Old Boys. While I'm not participating in sport here, I also like running, and competed in the Great North Run last year. I'll be doing it again this year, along with others, and I hope to run a marathon as well. I have a passion for travelling, and am particularly looking forward to the school rugby tour to South Africa, which I will be joining this summer. Also, I have recently acquired an allotment ...that's me growing old gracefully, I think!

Any long-standing ambitions you would like to share with Chronicle?

Well, I am living the allotment dream with some gusto, but my ambitions are small and I don't think that this particular one will go very far. In terms of idealistic aspirations, I have always wanted to turn my passion for the game of football into a profession: however, I think this may have to wait till a future life. I fear I lack the skill and talent to turn pro!

'I have a passion for travelling, and am particularly looking forward to the school rugby tour to South Africa, which I will be joining this summer.'

Finally, if you had another chance, what job would you pursue and why?

Other than sport? I was once interested in sports journalism, with a view to becoming a commentator or a sports writer. I entertained this fancy for a while during my school years; become a football commentator, the next John Motson! Alas, I think I will have to stick to teaching!

Mr Davies, many thanks

Dave Hefti German Assistant

Chronik: Was hast du gemacht, bevor du nach England gekommen bist?

Dave: Ich habe mit 20 Jahren die Matura abgeschlossen (das ist in der Schweiz normal) und dann wurde ich in die Armee einberufen. Nach der Armee habe ich an der Universität Zürich mein Englischstudium begonnen. Ich studiere auch Geschichte und Europäische Volksliteratur.

Erzähl mir über die Armee. Wie war es?

Es war toll! Ein super Erlebnis... Also, es geht so: mit 18 Jahren, oder nach der Matura, muss man in die Armee. Die erste Ausbildung dauert 15 Wochen. Danach geht man jedes Jahr für drei Wochen in die Armee bis man 36 Jahre alt ist. Ich hatte Pech und wurde befördert, zum Korporal. Das hiess, ich „durfte“ nochmals 18 Wochen machen. Die ersten 15 Wochen waren nicht sehr lustig. Als Soldat muss man immer alles machen, man hat gar keine Freiheiten. Aber als Korporal war es ein bisschen besser. Immerhin hatte ich die Verantwortung für 30 Soldaten und konnte auch mehr selber entscheiden. Auch werden die Freundschaften stärker, weil man einander mehr vertrauen muss. Die Armee an sich finde ich aber unnötig, vor allem weil die Schweiz ein neutrales Land ist. Dafür kann ich jetzt Panzer entdecken, eine Tatsache, die vor allem den 6th Formers mächtig imponiert hat....

Was denkst du über England und KES?

Ich mag England sehr. Es ist ja auch mein zweites Zuhause, weil meine Mutter von London ist. Aber bis jetzt hatte ich noch nie hier gelebt. Die Leute, die Mentalität und Kultur kennenzulernen, ist sehr spannend. KES ist eine sehr schöne Schule, sie hat eine tolle Infrastruktur. Die Sportanlagen, Computer in jedem Klassenzimmer! Da sind alle Schüler und auch die Lehrer wirkliche Glückspilze. Besondere Anlässe wie die Kadetteninspektion



waren sehr unterhaltsam. Auch wenn die Kadetten keine Chance hätten gegen die superstarke Schweizer Armee! Es ist aber seltsam, dass es hier an der Schule nur Jungs gibt. Aber ich habe das Glück und arbeite auch an der Mädchenschule....

Hast du Hobbies?

Meine grösste Leidenschaft ist Theater. Ich habe schon in vielen Stücken gespielt und auch schon Regie geführt. Auch hier in England habe ich an einigen Produktionen teilgenommen, aber Mrs Herbert wollte mich nicht als Hauptdarsteller in *Sweeney Todd*... Wenn ich wieder in der Schweiz bin, werde ich an einer *Macbeth* Produktion arbeiten. Zum Thema Sport habe ich einen Kommentar: Sport ist Mord!

Was möchtest du in der Zukunft machen?

Ich werde in die Schweiz zurückgehen und mein Studium abschliessen. Das wird noch 3 oder 4 Jahre dauern. Auch das ist normal in der Schweiz, ein Sprachstudium dauert ca. 5 Jahre. Danach will ich als Lehrer arbeiten, und die Erfahrung, die ich an KES gewonnen habe, wird mir dabei gut tun. Ich will auch in der Schweiz leben, weil ehrlich gesagt, alles besser funktioniert als hier in England.... Irgendwann werde ich Kinder haben, alt werden und sterben. So sieht die Zukunft aus.

Dave, du warst ein super Assistent und alle werden dich vermissen, auch diejenigen, die kein Deutsch lernen.

Ah, das ist aber schön von euch. Ich werde euch auch vermissen.....

Vielen Dank für das Interview
Gern geschehen!

‘KES ist eine sehr schöne Schule, sie hat eine tolle Infrastruktur. Die Sportanlagen, Computer in jedem Klassenzimmer!

Anne Estevez

Spanish Assistant

Chronicle: Díganos un poco de usted misma.

Anne: Soy centroamericana. Soy maestra de literatura, llevo seis años viviendo en Birmingham y trabajo como profesora de español en Brass House, como asistente aquí. Tengo una hija de siete y media años, se llama Nathalie con quien paso mucho tiempo compartiendo y divirtiéndonos.

¿Qué hizo antes de venir a KES?

Antes de venir a KES trabajaba en otra escuela secundaria comprehensiva como profesora de español.

¿Cómo ha encontrado KES en su tiempo aquí?

He encontrado la escuela muy organizada, los estudiantes son muy corteses, aplicados y muy inteligentes. El personal en general es muy amable – me han hecho sentir como en casa.

¿Qué hace usted fuera de la escuela?

Fuera de la escuela trabajo como profesora de español, preparo mi PhD y por supuesto disfruto a mi hija – en vacaciones salimos a otras ciudades o países.

¿Cómo ha encontrado usted vivir en Inglaterra comparado con Honduras?

Es muy diferente, especialmente el clima, pero me gusta mucho la vida aquí. Lo más difícil ha sido adaptarme a vivir sin mi familia – pero los visito cada año y ellos también nos visitan en verano.

Anne, muchas gracias



Richard Bécéra

French Assistant



Chronicle: Parle-moi de ce que tu as fait avant de venir à KES

Richard: Alors, je suis né dans le sud de la France, dans une ville qui s'appelle Hyeres, et j'y habite toujours. J'ai eu mon bac il ya trois ans, et après j'ai fait deux ans d'école préparatoire, et j'ai eu ma licence d'anglais à l'université de Toulon l'année dernière.

J'ai entendu dire que tu étais allé en Inde l'été dernier. C'est vrai?

Oui, c'est vrai, j'ai passé le mois d'août dans le sud de l'Inde; c'était un voyage dans le cadre de la mission chrétienne pour les jeunes désireux de découvrir une nouvelle culture et servir Dieu. C'était une expérience inoubliable.

Quelles ont été tes premières impressions de KES et la ville de Birmingham?

Après avoir passé trois semaines en Inde ça m'a fait choc, parce que KES est une école très riche et les élèves sont privilégiés comparés à ce que j'ai vu là-bas. Bien sûr, c'est aussi un privilège pour moi de travailler dans cette école et j'en suis reconnaissant à Dieu. La vie à Birmingham est très différente de ma vie en France; il fait plus froid et je suis loin de ma famille et surtout ma fiancée. Ce qui est bien à Birmingham c'est qu'il y a beaucoup de choses à faire comme le théâtre ou d'autres sorties culturelles que je n'ai pas l'occasion de faire en France.

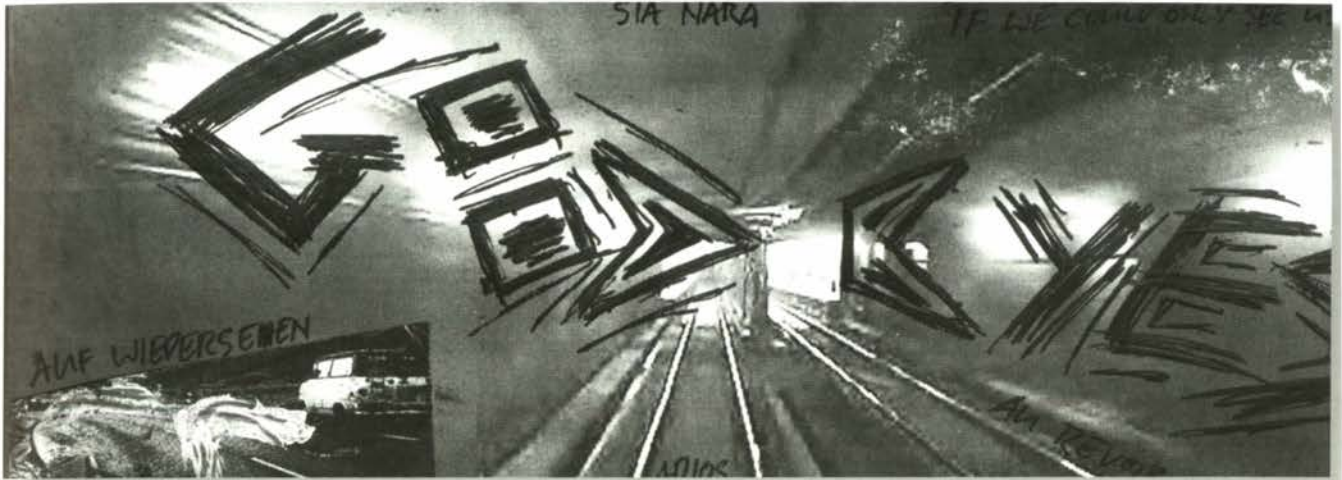
Pourquoi est-ce que tu as choisi de venir à Birmingham?

En tant qu'étudiant d'anglais je voulais passer un an en Angleterre pour améliorer mon anglais et ma connaissance de la culture, et j'ai choisi Birmingham car c'est une grande ville.

Quelle sont tes projets pour l'avenir?

L'année prochaine je vais passer le concours de l'enseignement en France pour devenir professeur d'anglais, et après je voudrais me marier, bien sûr.

Merci, Richard.



Ben Tanner Classics



The man who is tired of London is tired of life. So thought the great 18th-century author and wit Samuel Johnson. So thinks Ben Tanner, who joined us two years ago as a newly qualified teacher. After teaching at all levels at KES, including the Lower Sixth girls of KEHS, he has departed to be Head of Classics at Lyndhurst House, a prestigious Preparatory School in North London. He has made some good friends in Birmingham, especially among the Kestrel cricketers. On his arrival, Ben quickly made it his business to know his pupils and they quickly got to know him. Having secured G1 as his teaching room, he quickly assumed the methods of previous young Classics teachers and launched into audio-visual techniques on a grand scale. Squeaks of delight regularly emanated from his room and some fine examination results were secured at all levels. London has always been the home of the wealthy, sophisticated and ambitious and Ben will soon find himself moving in these circles. He likes kids, as they like him, and he will have a great deal to offer as Head of Classics. He may have declined the privilege of teaching at one of the best schools in Britain but his new pupils

will be young, keen, enthusiastic, sporty and energetic, like Ben, who made his mark at KES inside and outside the classroom. He has youth on his side and a great amount of enthusiasm. We wish Ben and Helene many enjoyable years in the Capital. There is a good living to be made in teaching at a Preparatory School and Ben will get a real buzz from teaching younger pupils. Good things come from Tyneside and we will remember Ben with great affection.

SFO

Squeaks
of delight
regularly
emanated
from his room
and some fine
examination
results were
secured at all
levels

Phil Rees Chemistry

We needed a chemist just for a year: lots of folk applied, and six came for interview. Six of them! tiptoeing round each other, icily polite. There was an ebullient rugby player, I remember, and an oceanographer and a girl whose skirt was so short she couldn't sit down – and Phil. He was so quiet! He seemed such a nice fellow (too nice? don't all teachers have to have a bit of the b*****d about them?) and slight of frame. But his CV was so good, so full, suggesting just a few of his talents: hockey, croquet, music, all the usual school sports, mountaineering – oh yes, and chemistry, too: we just had to have him! And very early on the feedback from his Division was very positive: a nice chap and a good teacher, they said. His UMs, too, liked him, though in those early days they teased him about his frequent use of "OK?"

He had never taught before, never stood in front of a class, never had to prepare students for GCSEs and A levels (though he



In so many areas he has shown what can be done, and has moved the school on to new levels of activity. He leaves a huge hole in the fabric of the place.



His remarkable gifts of friendship, diplomacy and tact have won him - and us - many friends in the south of France.

had presented papers in his research group at Oxford). He had to learn it all. Relearn exactly what is asked in the public exams, learn how to prepare lessons, how to run a lesson, control a class, watch their learning and so on. His first year was even more of a nightmare than it is for any teacher at the start of their career. But he also ran a hockey team, was a form master and house tutor and went on Rems' Week. It didn't take long for us to realise quite what we had got hold of. He had hardly arrived before members of the Common Room started coming up to me to say what an acquisition he was. The Chemistry Department really has been fortunate in the men and women we have been able to attract!

But then he really began. He took up orienteering (and took school parties to events), caving (and took school parties underground) and rock climbing (and took school parties onto gritstone). Hillwalking continued, of course, (with school parties, naturally) and school expeditions (Spain, Mont Blanc, Borneo, Morocco, Ecuador ...) and Shells' Camps and Rems' Weeks (which he organised for several years). And then he was asked to set up the D of E award scheme: KE is now the largest group in the Midlands, run entirely from the website. In so many areas he has shown what can be done, and has moved the school on to new levels of activity. He leaves a huge hole in the fabric of the place.

And countless members of the school have had their lives immeasurably enriched by things he has introduced them to: activities, places and experiences that they will carry with them and enjoy for ever. What a legacy!

He goes with all our thanks, and the very best wishes for his - and Nicole's - future in Austria.

DJH

Stephen Parker Modern Languages

A little over three years ago I interviewed a retired headmaster, a Yorkshireman who had responded to our advertisement for a part-time teacher of French and Spanish. It's not every day of the week that I find myself interviewing former head teachers and I suspect that, in the minutes prior to our first meeting, I was more nervous than he was. But after a quarter of an hour or so, Stephen's contagious, soft-spoken calm had put me at my ease. I suggested that we conduct the next part of the conversation in French: from my point of

view, a routine check to see whether he was up to the challenge of teaching King Edward's boys. I frankly expected him to be a little rusty. After all, I thought, after years in Senior Management, culminating in nine years as Headmaster of Sir Wilfred Martineau, surely he had not had the time to keep his language skills brightly polished. I was wrong. Within 60 seconds, I was aware that I was dealing with an exceptional linguist.

Students of languages often become compulsive travellers and some of the best language teachers are those who manage to transmit the travel bug to their pupils. Those of us who have supported Stephen's fund-raising cycle rides in Cuba, Patagonia and India are aware of the lengths to which he is prepared to go to make life better for others whilst feeding his own passion for travel. His spiritual home, though, has always been France, particularly the Loire Valley. Convinced that the only way to breed young francophiles is to take them across the Channel, he accepted my invitation to take over the leadership of the French Exchange with Grasse, in which role he has done more than anyone at KES to maintain the *entente cordiale*, pouring gallons of oil on troubled waters and smoothing ruffled Gallic feathers. His remarkable gifts of friendship, diplomacy and tact have won him - and us - many friends in the south of France: when the bombs went off in London on 7th July, it was to Stephen that the headmaster of the Institut F  nelon wrote to express his school's shock and sadness.

If you ask the boys what they will remember Mr Parker for, it is his complete unflappability under stress; a quality which all of us who have worked with him have admired, perhaps envied, and certainly learned from. The boys also speak warmly of his ability to relate to them at their level, particularly on school trips, making them feel that they are being treated as equals. These qualities of empathy, warmth and trust have, more than anything else, endeared him to colleagues and to pupils.

We wish him a happy and healthy retirement, with plenty of time for his three wonderful daughters, for his music and, of course, for travelling. We hope that he will come back and see us. But, most of all, we want to thank him for giving us the privilege of working with him for three years. We will miss him greatly.

DJA

Tamara Hodgkin German

Imagine, if you can, a cricket-loving young teacher of History and Games at a school in Leeds, living life to the full: the young Ray Hodgkin. What on earth could lure him away from God's Own County? The answer, of course, is a German *au pair* girl called Tamara, who had taken the dubious linguistic decision of coming to Yorkshire to learn English. Leeds was not the centre of the universe, Ray was told, and after a wedding in Germany the couple moved to Uganda and Kenya, before Ray's university teaching led them at last to Birmingham.

Tamara's own teaching career began in Adult Education at Matthew Boulton, and continued with a spell at Turves Green and another questionable excursion to teach German to the good folk of Dudley. A job at Solihull followed, along with studies at Birmingham Polytechnic. Here she met Tim Jayne, who suggested that she apply to KES: beginning in 1988, she was initially employed part-time but her teaching load increased until she became a full-time member of the Department in 1994.

The Chief Master described Tamara at Speech Day as a "mother hen", rightfully drawing attention to the care and support which she offered to all of her pupils and to the real interest she took in their welfare. She has, indeed, been the most caring of Form Tutors in the Middle and Upper schools: generous with her time and her advice, she was never too busy to talk to boys who were having difficulties in any area of their lives, and she strongly advocated the importance of the school's developing its pastoral strengths. To quote David Buttress, she made "an invaluable contribution" to the launching of PSE at KES. All this without solemnity, long faces or hand-wringing: she must be the only KE Form Tutor ever to terminate a noisy row between two bellicose Sixth Formers by popping a cream-filled cake into each mouth so as to render further provocation impossible.

But it would be a mistake to emphasise her contribution in the pastoral sphere at the expense of her fine record as an outstanding teacher of German. For Tamara, German is not "just a language", it is a literature, a history, a culture: her pupils could expect to be nagged about subject-verb agreement, yes, but they could also expect to be introduced to German architecture, music, politics, painters and, her special enthusiasm, cinema. Boys have been dispatched to Berlin, Dusseldorf and Frankfurt on brilliantly organised and highly enjoyable exchanges, field trips and work experience visits. She has produced a huge quantity of resources for the teaching of German: you have to climb over them whenever you teach in her room. Anyone who has ever covered a period for Tamara knows that she delivers superbly planned and varied lessons, once you can read her writing.

Tamara's pupils hold her in considerable affection, recognising that they owe her a



great debt: it was splendid to see so many of them returning to KES to wish her well at her leaving party just before the end of term. She leaves German at KES in a very healthy state. As a colleague she has been unforgettable, not least for her appearances on Comic Relief days as, variously, a hooker, a punk and more recently a nurse. We will miss her energy, her sense of fun and her commitment to the school at all levels. We wish her the best and happiest of retirements: more time with her husband, her children and her grandson; more time for travel and particularly for the new house in Spain; even, we hope, time to come back and see her old friends at KES from time to time.

KDP & TFPH

.... the only
KE Form
Tutor ever
to terminate
a noisy row
between two
bellicose Sixth
Formers by
popping a
cream-filled
cake into
each mouth to
render further
provocation
impossible.

Janet Nicklin Common Room Secretary



"KES is nothing like a commercial office: there is always something unexpected to be done."

Something of the energy and enthusiasm was visible at that first meeting; and we persuaded him to join us.

Late in the Autumn term we said farewell to the invaluable Janet Nicklin, eminent for nearly twenty years among those uncelebrated movers and shakers without whom the place would long ago have ground to a halt.

She first came to KES in 1986, to supply administrative support for Martin Rogers' Gifted Children Project, an early precursor of current efforts to meet the needs of unusually able children in non-selective schools. She recalls a manual typewriter and no heating in the old Rotarians' Room on the Cartland Corridor. During Mr Rogers' chairmanship of the Headmasters' Conference she was drafted in as "odd job girl" to help Joyce Gibbs and the Common Room Secretary, Marian Morgan, dig their way out of mounds of HMC paperwork, and was later promoted to the School Office and finally to Common Room Secretary when Hugh Wright became Chief Master.

Janet herself says that what she enjoyed about her job was its diversity. She compiled the Blue Book each year, and prepared the numerous supplements to each year's Common Room Handbook; she was responsible for most mailings to parents; she provided clerical support for the SMT and for Heads of Department; she taught the Head of English how to use the fax machine (once a year, every year); she oversaw the production of the Entrance Exam papers, processed the results and generally superintended most of the administrative work that saw boys through from quaking candidates to shiny new Shells. KES, she observes, is nothing like a commercial office: there is always something unexpected to be done.

She enjoyed working with the academic staff, and it showed: despite her frequently having too much to do and not enough time to do it in, we always found her patient, efficient, good-humoured and reliable, and indeed we did rely on her. She hopes to travel in her retirement, and to spend more time enjoying her grandchildren; but she concedes that she may need part-time work to absorb some of that formidable energy.

We all wish her the happiest of retirements: thanks for everything, Janet.

TFPH

Howard Smith Chemistry



Talk about good fortune! The deadline came and went, and the pool was barren. Weren't there any decent Chemistry teachers to be had? Then Mark Beard, the outgoing chemist, murmured that the Best Man from his wedding a short while back, now finishing his PhD, was perhaps thinking of teaching. But you don't get teachers like that, do you? Throw-away lines: best man, thinking of teaching? "Get him to apply," I said dispiritedly.

Thank goodness he did! Immediately we saw that he was just what we wanted. Something of the energy and enthusiasm was visible at that first meeting; and we persuaded him to join us.

He had never taught before, but started as he meant to go on and seemed to hit the ground running, as if he had done it for years. Expecting high standards, he taught hard and expected students to cope; and they did. Sure that King Edward's boys were clever and that they could handle anything he threw at them, he set his sights high both for himself and his classes, and - sometimes to

their surprise - boys found that he was right. And you will know, those of you who were taught by him, that you had confidence in him: he prepared thoroughly, threw himself into lessons with formidable energy, and was always willing to explain, to help, to offer extra sessions to ensure understanding. And with him at the front, you got the results. He all but ignored the AS syllabus with his final group, challenging them instead to think about chemistry rather than hone exam techniques. The result - ask his students! - was an enjoyable course, a set of AS results quite as good as a conventional approach could have got, and an Olympiad performance better than ever before. And he has contributed so much else to the department, too. He created and constantly updated the intranet site, he revolutionized first the Shell Science course, and later that of the Rems as well, redesigned the Junior science labs, developed new teaching ideas, obtained up-to-date resources. The Chemistry Department has long been fortunate in the men and women we have been able to attract, and RGS Worcester is getting a fine Head of Department.

He believes strongly in extra-curricular things, and has made a major contribution here, too. He has been a form and house tutor, ran the U14B cricket team in his first year, helped with the DoE scheme, been on Shell Camps and Rem Weeks and helped with trips to Morocco, Nepal, the Pyrenees and the Ardeche. But it is in the CCF that he has made his greatest contribution. The RAF section was short of staff so he joined this first, taking charge of the Cadre and producing leaders of a high calibre, and planning enjoyable and successful expedition weekends. He was always happier in a muddy green uniform than a clean pressed blue one, so when the staffing shortage in the Army section became more acute, he transferred there. Throughout his time here two attributes stood out. He never sought prominence for himself, but supported and encouraged the NCOs who were the real leaders; and he never shirked hard work, whether unblocking toilets or looking after the troops' food (separately).

But I must end on a personal note. It has always been a strength of the Chemistry Department that it works as a team; and Howard was a tremendous participant. At every level of the school he has had a vision and ideas to contribute, and in ending this with my own personal and sincere thanks, I know that I speak for everyone. We all wish him the greatest of happiness in his new job down the M5.

DJH



Jeff Hancock Head of Chemistry

Encapsulating the career of a charismatic schoolmaster in a short passage is an extremely difficult task. I have tried to do so, having been a colleague of Jeff's for nearly thirty years.

Jeff had a brilliant academic career which he then followed with an outstanding contribution to education in its broadest sense. His school days at Gresham's School, Holt were a mixture of academic success (winning a Postmastership at Merton College, Oxford to read Chemistry) and misery: he did not warm at all to the boarding school life and he particularly disliked being forced, as a frail and sensitive young man, to stand on the rugby field in extremes of weather and to march on the parade ground as a conscripted member of the CCF. These experiences were to prove the foundation of his unique understanding of the trials and tribulations of the youth of today.

Four years study at Oxford resulted in a First Class degree in Chemistry and a Senior Scholarship at St John's, Oxford, which enabled him to do research in pursuit of a Doctorate. He never gained his Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry; after two years he resigned his post and headed off to West Malaysia to do Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). This was a sign that Jeff would devote his life to helping people rather than pursue a more materialistic lifestyle.

On his return to England, he became an assistant Chemistry teacher at Solihull School. In the four years that he was there he learnt his trade under another inspirational chemist,

ONE SIXTH FORMER'S TRIBUTE TO JEFF HANCOCK

HONESTY-Sometimes brutal, but always helpful! He has always been very open and made his feelings about things no secret, which is indescribably helpful when you are beginning the UCAS application process and attempting to throw together a personal statement (incidentally, he also had the enviable ability of being able to turn a series of short anecdotes and an achievement or two into a respectable and even impressive personal statement.)

COMMITMENT- Rarely has a lunchtime passed that I haven't found Mr. Hancock discussing love, life and the universe with anyone who wants to speak to him. He always goes above and beyond the call of duty as a school counsellor-not only does he talk things over with boys who wish to speak to him, but he also seems to feel a great obligation to oversee the well-being of the boys in the long-term. I believe he is very much of the opinion that "If you're going to do something,

you may as well do it properly.", and this maxim could be applied to any part of his school life.

SENSE OF HUMOUR-As with most people at KES, his humour is very dry, but a little more so than everyone else. Undoubtedly the most sarcastic member of any form, you can be guaranteed at least one sarcastic comment in any given form meeting.

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER- If there is one thing that everybody agreed on, it would be that Mr Hancock is without any shadow of a doubt one of the best teachers in the school. I have NEVER come across a boy who has been taught by Mr Hancock and has not championed his teaching. It was clear from the end of the GCSE year who everyone was hoping to be taught by, and rightfully so. And if any further proof was needed of his exceptional ability to teach, a glance at the results of Chemistry exams from his classes will confirm it.

NEVER TOO BUSY- Being a Head of Department is obviously no walk in the park, but regardless of his departmental commitments, he ALWAYS manages to find time for any boy who asks for his help or a brief chat. The effect he has had on the school is evident not only in the scientific community, but all over the school. Boys from all parts of the school have come to him for help and he has always found time for them, which is never an easy thing to do when you have a department to run.

Peter Arculus; but more than that, it was there that Jeff learnt how to be an outstanding Head of Department. As well as his teaching commitments, he was soon in charge of university admissions for scientists, giving sound advice to boys who sometimes had ambitions beyond their capabilities. And then at the age of thirty, Jeff decided it was time to retire to the Lake District! He has always loved the countryside and he spent his time reading, writing and walking; but his savings ran out and as he did not have an independent income, he succumbed and became Head of his own one-man department at a school in Kendal. Almost immediately, actually after one term, he moved a few miles south to be an assistant Chemistry teacher at Manchester Grammar School. For Jeff this school provided an ideal platform for him to pursue his passions for fell walking, mountaineering and orienteering; but he did not warm to the establishment itself, finding it too large, impersonal and a crammer. The bonus of his stay in Manchester was that it was there that he met and married Miriam.

After three years, he had had enough and he then got, quoting his own words: "A job which is a plum in the pie of life – The ethos of the school is so civilised". Jeff had arrived at King Edward's, and he stayed for twenty-eight years!

Jeff inherited a department which had been run by a Head of Department of the 'old school'. As a new teacher, you arrived on your first day to be given a timetable, minimal help, and expected to get on with it. There would be little coordination within the department and the Head of Department invariably taught the brightest boys, leaving the less able to the younger teachers. Budgets did not exist and much time was given over to Oxbridge candidates. This regime resulted in quite a number of boys failing to achieve anywhere near their full potential, and failures in public examinations were not uncommon.

This way of educating boys was an anathema to Jeff and he immediately set about transforming the Chemistry Department. This was a task that he never finished, simply because Jeff was never satisfied with running a good department; a very good department; an excellent department he always wanted it to be better.

Resources were centralised, all the laboratories were refurbished and new ones were built, and the teaching of boys of all abilities improved. Jeff would take a pride in teaching a bottom group which in the end had no failures, just excellent results. In modern parlance, Jeff generated a large quantity of 'Value Added'.

The measure of his success as Head of Chemistry at King Edward's is that he has left with half the Divisions studying Chemistry and their results are the envy of other departments in the school.

During his time at King Edward's he made Chemistry accessible and enjoyable, he also trained many Chemistry teachers. They would come fresh from University, with no formal teaching qualifications or teaching experience, and he guided them through the formative years with the result that many left after three or four years to become Heads of Chemistry at other schools.

Jeff's son, Jeremy, was a pupil at King Edward's and it was during this time that Jeff got a real feel for what it was like to be a teenager in the 'modern' world. Soon after, Jeff, always a people person, started his crusade to enhance the caring nature of King Edward's. He trained as a counsellor, enthused other teachers into becoming more aware of the pastoral aspects of education and established his role as a sounding board to any boy who wished to talk to him. His advice was always positive and resulted in many boys, having come to Jeff with seemingly insoluble problems, leaving reassured that things could and would get better. This confidence building did not necessarily come easily or quickly and Jeff saw boys over long periods of time in parallel with his role as Head of Chemistry. Jeff was always available to see boys and was prepared to leave his marking and lesson preparation for the late night shift.

So Jeff leaves King Edward's a better School both academically and socially. Not only his own work but his drive and enthusiasm have helped both pupils and teachers improve the School.

One feels that Jeff paraphrased John Kennedy: "Ask not what the School can do for me. Ask what I can do for the School".

GA



Leadership

As the following reports will demonstrate, the option is run by the students for the students. Without feedback occurring in both directions, the option would not develop. Evaluation and reviews are essential aspects of Leadership and without them, the option would be static and not evolve.

Blindfolds, barrels, super soakers and planks are just some of the props used in Leadership. King Edward's Friday Leadership option is not only unique for its wide ranging and incredible use of props but also because it is the only option run by the students for the students. The sixth form participants are responsible for introducing and developing skills needed throughout school life and beyond, using a variety of techniques. The teaching team of 04/05, led by Charlie Rees, has presided over a successful, productive and fun year for everyone involved. Rob Hill and Vidu Shanmugarajah have delivered original and amusing afternoons for the Fourths and Fifths whilst teaching the core skills that the Leadership option is about. Adam Gatrad has expertly run a series of taster afternoons in the UMs, searching for the next generation of leaders!

The Divisions experienced the greatest shock to the system when the focus changed from being taught to teaching themselves. The thought of running the option was an overwhelming prospect in the back of everybody's mind. However, over the course of the year, the Divisions have risen to the challenge and developed their teaching skills, leaving the year group licking their lips in anticipation of a hard, yet rewarding year of Friday Leadership next year for everybody involved.



Learning about the building blocks of leadership

The teaching team of 05/06, headed by Charlie Hall, is excited by the opportunity of delivering an enjoyable year in their own distinct manner: Tim Dass and Tom McLeod will be producing the next breed of teachers from next year's Divisions, while Joe Robinson and Rich Sheehan continue to develop and introduce leadership to the Fourths and Fifths.

The Leadership Option is extremely popular and is heavily subscribed as a Friday afternoon option, owing to both its evident benefits and the enjoyment experienced at all levels of participation. Thanks must go to the continuing support of Leadership by Mr Roll, Miss McMillan, Mr Spencer and Mr Smith, as without them there would be no option for us to run!

Charlie Hall



It's about learning to work as a team.....



.....and learning to look thoughtful on cue.....

Leadership - Fifths

Leadership in the Fifths this year has been a clear case of improvement from day one. The beginning of the year may have been plagued by unavoidable problems, disorganisation and bad weather, but as the year unfolded each Friday afternoon improved on the previous one. I think it's clear now that every individual is showing his merits and improving on what was there at the start: at first the Fifths lacked experience, maturity and general awareness, but as time has gone on and we've grown to understand our teaching Sixth Formers, our competence has certainly improved.

After each afternoon session, we've seen review after review go smoothly, whether or not the afternoon itself was a success. Early feedback has influenced the outcome of later afternoons. Hopefully, by next year the ideas put forward by the present Fifths will prove important in the evolution of KES Leadership.

However, this is certainly not the pinnacle of what Leadership could or should be. I'm sure the leaving Sixth Formers, the present Fifths and the staff in charge would all agree that there is still room for improvement at every level, from the leaders at the top to the attitudes of the pupils at the bottom. It would be wrong to say that this year has been a total success, because it hasn't. There have been some extremely enjoyable and well planned afternoons which have had a great effect on us. However, there have also been major slip-ups, some of which were unavoidable but some that we hope to learn how to avoid repeating. It is best not to dwell on the negatives: these are things that we must iron out as this still relatively young option grows over the next few years.

Hopefully, having experienced the best and worst of what Leadership has to offer during this year, our year-group will be able to make a difference when we become teachers of our own afternoons next year. Finally, a big thanks must go to our Sixth Form teachers, who've coped well with a tormenting and rather difficult Fifths group. Although they may have been worried by the difficult task of taming our egos and crazed natures, they probably would agree that thanks to them, we've become better leaders and better people in general.

Jonathan Tipper

Leadership - Fourth

This was the first year that we were given the opportunity to participate in KES Leadership and it proved to be a very good choice for a Friday afternoon activity. We learnt more than we were expecting to learn when we first joined: the skills we were taught are not the ones we normally learn in the classroom and will definitely be of good use in the future. The confidence injected into every student is considerable and has given all of us a major boost. For example, most are now able to speak in front of large groups with a much more relaxed approach.

Great thanks must go to all the teachers, captained by Vidu Shanmugarajah, who have been the main source of knowledge and skills, which they have passed to us in a very understanding way. All in all, it has proved to be an enjoyable and stimulating Friday afternoon activity and we have no regrets about taking part. I would ask younger boys to think carefully about joining Leadership when the opportunity arises for them. Special congratulations should be given to Sarus Jain and Ben Howell for achieving awards for, respectively, the most improved individual and the most outstanding contribution.

James Warnaby & Mike Skerritt

Young Enterprise

For the second year running the Young Enterprise team, led by Richard Lau and then by Lawrence Hunt and Nick Greatbatch, returned with fascinating and novel ideas. This year, we created a shortlist of ideas after a brainstorming session and finally decided to organise a KES football competition. It was agreed in January that we would donate our profits to the victims of the 2004 Tsunami. Our creative advertising team, which included Shahid Haji, Navin Aggarwal and Punit Singh, came up with the competition name 'Streetball' and also produced a user-friendly notice board, which provided information about the competition. James Harper, the ICT Director, created a brilliant website which allowed participants to enter the competition online. He also developed an online 'Spot-the-Ball' competition which attracted 70 entries.

The competition was a simple 6-a-side tournament with two leagues per year group. The top two teams from each league then automatically qualified for the next semi-final



.....so that eventually you will never end up in knots.

round. The competition was open to all age groups throughout the school and was a great success. At the end, we gained a turnover of about £600.

The campaign was such a triumph that we entered the Young Enterprise Southern Area Competition. Lawrence, Nick, Richard and James represented the Back in Blue Company. They used laptops to show the judges our website and videos of matches which had been recorded during the competition. The judges were particularly impressed with their high-tech expertise and one judge even told James that his website was better than the one her company had just commissioned for £10,000! A PowerPoint presentation by the team was also greatly commended by the judges. Our hard work was rewarded when our company was awarded the 'Best Product' prize in the competition.

The levels of participation in the competition have been tremendous and we are pleased that our money is contributing to such a good cause. On behalf of the Young Enterprise team we would like to thank everyone who participated in the competition, including the teacher referees who have given up their free time, and also all those who have helped in the smooth running of the company.

Shahid Haji



**Back
in
Blue**

LIVING

"Unless Mr Davies can find a new crop of impressionable youngsters to take our place, I very much fear that Living History is history."

Society report, KES Chronicle 2000

Ha ha! What idiot wrote that? ...who? Oh. Did I really?

In that case, it is with extreme embarrassment that I must chalk up 2004-2005 as yet another energetic and successful season for the society. You'd think we'd have got tired of them by now, but no. We started and finished the year with trips to the *Mary Rose* in Portsmouth, the second as part of the International Festival of the Sea, undoubtedly the most high profile event we've ever attended. We've also managed our usual excursions to Selly Manor and Harvington Hall, as well as a return visit to the ever-crowded Warwick Castle, an educational trip to Hallfield School and an almost painfully authentic overnight stay in the Mediaeval Merchant's House at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings.

This may all sound much the same as we've been doing for the last four years and it's true that we do tend to stick fairly closely to our tried and tested circuit of venues: English Heritage are strangely unreceptive to our oft-voiced opinion that what the country really needs is some brand new historical attractions. But the LHG is changing. For the old guard, the grizzled veteran Sixths who remember those long-lost days when the world

was young and Elves and Men lived side by side in harmony (what?), this was our farewell tour. Indeed, so preoccupied were we with the petty business of A-Levels and UCAS that we only turned out in any number for the really big events. The more local work has been left almost entirely to the new generation and this year has gone a long way towards making the society theirs.

Pike drill is gradually being abandoned, having experienced an unaccountable drop in popularity of late (if stomping around to no obvious purpose while carrying a weapon is so boring, why does the CCF remain the most popular Friday Afternoon option?). It is being replaced with bafflingly well-informed presentations on navigation, jewellery, rare spices, ancient codes and other fragments of arcane knowledge. Our sprightly Juniors will happily demonstrate these to crowds of impressed onlookers, while we old lags scratch our heads and mumble confusedly about axes. Attempts to, ahem, 'get down with the new groove' usually end in miserable failure: my own personal nadir came when I used a Venetian exchequer board to prove scientifically to an astonished audience of schoolchildren that 15 multiplied by 15 is in fact 117 and that their teachers had been lying to them all along.

Thankfully, our successors have been kind enough not to sideline us completely. The three central pillars of LHG – archery, swords and eating – retain their unchallenged sanctity and in these holy liturgies young and old alike can join with equal fervour (though it has to be said that the Seniors' pursuit of perfection in the Talhoffer and Capo Ferro sword styles is being superseded by a new technique, fashionable among the Juniors, which can only be described as 'Crazed Suicidal Blitzkrieg'). In fact, we have quite genuinely branched out: several of our combat displays this year have featured Japanese martial arts alongside European ones, especially one choreographed sequence near Winterbourne in which our two resident experts, Tim Gadd and Tom Johnson, beat Hell out of each other with bokken (wooden training swords).

Best of all were the two *Mary Rose* events, which saw members of all ages, Shell to Sixth, working together to produce well-organised, professional and fascinating displays of both

**Behold the
KES treasure!**



HISTORY

wartime and peacetime skills. It really was wonderful to see such effective co-operation across a seven-year age gap – who'd have thought that one 11-year-old girl could keep four 18-year-old boys so quiet and attentive simply by reading out the self-diagnosis quizzes from the latest issue of *Mizz*? Our second trip, the last event many of our Sixths will ever attend, was an appropriate summary of everything that makes Living History such an inimitable and entertaining hobby. The costumes, the crowds, the overpriced gift shops; scrivining and fighting and explaining the shepherd's dial for the umpteenth time; minting about four dissolved monasteries' worth of coin; fish and chips; Thai sailors dressed as sharks; and that uniquely awkward moment where you try for a war-shout while charging your polearm, only to realise that no-one else in the formation has bothered and now you sound like a goon.

To be a good Living Historian, you need a few particular characteristics. You have to be patient: as much as you may want to smack the old buffer who's lecturing you about cavalry tactics or the silly woman who's asking you if that sword you're holding is made of metal, restraint and a nice smile carry the day

every time. You have to be fairly unworried about getting odd looks off passers-by: experienced re-enactors derive wicked pleasure from striding into the newsagents in full Tudor rig and asking for a Snickers bar and a carton of Ribena. And, most importantly, you need to be able to combine common sense and maturity with the energy of a nine-year-old on Haribo, a synthesis which few people can achieve successfully. But the rewards are significant. In Portsmouth, we got special MoD photo-card passes which enabled us to bypass queues, ignore security barriers and enter top secret military bunkers unchallenged. Erm, there's also a very real sense of achievement and stuff.

As I finally depart, I offer my thanks to the whole group: to my own year, for working so bloody hard at raising the society from insignificance to something approaching splendour; to the young 'uns, for being enthusiastic, committed and mad; and to Mr Davies, Mr Burns and invaluable newcomer Ms Burnett, for keeping us in check without once resorting to cattle-prods. It may be history, but it looks like it's going to keep living.

Matthew Hosty



**The
swashbuckling
Living History
group**

Senior Debating

From the start of the year, the motley crew of KES debaters has argued about issues which really matter, such as whether *we should be allowed to drink alcohol*, whether *prostitution should be legalised* and even whether *deaf parents should be allowed to screen for and select deaf embryos, so that they can have deaf children*, although that motion is a bit odd.

A general debating rule is never to use Hitler or references to *Nineteen Eighty Four* in any argument. A brilliant example of this occurred in the first round of the Cambridge Union competition in a debate on national conscription: another school's speaker said, "Now, I don't usually agree with Hitler, but..." Both KES teams qualified. In the second round debates, KES somehow fielded three out of the six participating teams, the formidable duos of Shane Murray and Richard Lau, Nick Waddell and Richard McDonnell, Ashvir Sangha and Rousseau Dasgupta. Following the KES proposition *that smokers and drinkers deserve medical treatment*, KES qualified to the Finals Day for the seventh successive year, soothing Mr Stacey's dread of breaking this tradition. At Finals Day, a lucky string of results led the team to the break debate for the Grand Final, which featured two England speakers and the eventual winners and proved too much for the relatively young KES team, which finished seventh.

The Oxford Union competition appeared next. The preliminary debate on nuclear weapons proved too tempting to Richard, who went off on a rant, based on AS Physics, about unstable uranium isotopes. This unbeatable knowledge, combined with a very dubious counter-example from another team on antimatter energy, "two spoonfuls of which could power New York for a whole week", led KES to Finals Day. However, the spectre of Oxford failure which haunts the KES team seemed to rear its awful head again and we finished a sombre fourteenth. Next, KES travelled up north to Durham, where Lawrence Hunt joined us. Once there, highlights included Shane hilariously misunderstanding tied aid, the annual Pizza Hut trip and the usual scandal of the speaker tab.

However, the focal point of the season was the Mace competition, a format normally hated by KES speakers. After explaining why *capping footballers' wages* was good, the KES team of Shane and Richard qualified to the regional final where they demonstrated why *the Commonwealth should exist*. Meanwhile, another team explained that the sponsorship of sporting events by alcohol companies

would lead to a Big Brother "dystopian nightmare" (read stated rule at start). The judges took an extraordinary thirty seconds to award KES the win, leading us to the national final. There, we argued why *the honours system should be abolished* but despite the interventions of Mr Stacey and Samir Deger-Sen, a former KES Debating champ, we were unable to rival the off-the-cuff humour of our opponents, St Bonaventure's, who emerged the eventual international winners. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful end to the season.

The future looks positive as all of this year's speakers have another go next year and our old rivals disappear to the obscurity of university. My thanks go to all the speakers and to the omnipresent Mr Stacey, to whom we attribute the great success of KES Debating.

Richard Lau

Junior Debating

Everybody's said, at some point or another, that the world would be a better place if they were in charge. The best way to deal with such a person promptly would be to shoo them in the direction of the nearest British Parliamentary Debate. Here, with budding MPs challenging them all the way down the table, it is likely that their spurious views would be pounced on as assertions and promptly run into the ground with a flurry of 'Points of Information'!

This has been a good year for young KES debaters, under the ever-watchful eye of Mr Stacey. When I was pulled in for a briefing by the imposing Richard Lau, the sense of excitement was tangible! After weeks of furious training, in which my partner Simon and I had our debating skills stretched to their limits, we were taken on our first major challenge: the NCYD regional heats at Birmingham University. Forty teams versus us. Mercifully, despite facing many opponents who were older than us, we triumphed against the odds to emerge as 'Top of the Tab'; first out of the forty teams there! The 'B' team of Jaivir Pall and Bharath Ramaiah were unlucky in not qualifying for the next round despite winning their first debate. However, once the euphoria had died down, Richard explained that this was only the first hurdle...

Naturally, winning the regional heats granted us entry into the NCYD national finals, again conveniently located at Birmingham University. However, true to the prophecies of Richard and SLS, we had a much tougher fight on our hands this time. The sixty or so teams



that turned out were much more experienced and capable than those at the heats, and right from the first debate, *This House Would Ban Animal Testing*, we had avid opponents springing to their feet on every other word with cries of "On that point, Sir!" One particularly thunderous speaker rocked me with his opening bellow of, "If you prick them, do they not bleed? Pour obscene amounts of shampoo in their eyes, do they not cry?" Even here, our first place was extremely lucky. Sadly, the competition could only get better, and we failed to reach the semi-finals.

So, ladies and gentlemen, what have I told you today? Well, I have explained how our Junior Debating Team narrowly missed a placing in the country's top eight Debating teams, and also given you a brief insight into Debating

in the school. To anyone with even an iota of interest in politics, public speaking and current affairs, I heartily recommend Debating: particularly to the younger age groups, who would do well to get as much experience in as possible! It is not only a worthy test of both your speaking ability and your knowledge of world affairs, but most importantly, it is a lot of fun. And for those of you who don't believe me, try this quote from one of our fellow hopefuls during the debate *This House Would Give Prisoners the Vote*: "I believe anyone should be allowed to vote, whether they're prisoners or the elderly." Worthy of George Bush, no? Therefore ladies and gentlemen, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to support Junior Debating! Thank you very much.

Tim Kiely

Mock Election 05/05/05

As the rest of the country cast its votes, KES was gripped by election fever. Under the watchful eye of Mr Mason, the acting returning officer, four candidates representing the Conservative (Charlie Butler), Labour (Richard Lau), Liberal Democrat (Shane Murray) and Unity (David Wheatley) parties fought to win our own mock election. A pre-election debate featuring Mr Symonds and Mr Hancock on the motion *This House would re-elect the Labour government* resulted in a conclusive win for the opposition. All candidates took part in addressing Senior Big School and speaking at hustings.

Our thanks go to Mr Mason and all the candidate

RESULTS

Liberal Democrats	167	30.4%
Labour	140	25.5%
Unity Party	122	22.2%
Conservatives	120	21.9%

David Wheatley handing out the Unity Party manifesto

Right: Politics can be a sticky business.



Liberal Democrats

As the Liberal Democrat candidate and eventual victor of the election, I can claim that superior policies and speeches are more important than massive propaganda efforts. I did very little campaigning and produced no pamphlets, yet won despite the vast amounts of paper used up by the Unity and Labour party candidates.

My electoral campaign was broadly based around my speech in Big School. Speaking to such an audience initially terrified me but, luckily, it is much easier than it looks. I also had the slight advantage of having made a short speech in the pre-election debate, which made it easy for me to plan my speech. The hustings were also very interesting, as I got the chance to argue with the other candidates and expose the shortcomings of their policies.

Despite the arrogance that rings from these words, I was surprised to learn that I had won the election: although this was small consolation for the national result (Four...more...years of Tony Blair...Nooo!), it did give me a small sense of self-satisfaction. Thank you to everyone who voted for me and commiserations to my opponents.

Shane Murray

Labour Party

While the Labour government strolled into its third term in office, at KES a combination of students angry about tuition fees, teachers worried about the government's policy on private schools and left-wingers raging about the Iraq war and the environment proved too much for the Labour campaign. Or maybe I'm just bitter.

My campaign focussed on the concrete achievements of the last two terms and the wishful thinking exhibited by the other candidates – not that I am being negative. The personal highlight of the campaign was my speech to Big School in which, through the use of passionate rhetoric, handfuls of statistics and amusing hand gestures, I managed at least to raise a few laughs and defame another candidate. However, due to the lack of balloons, stickers and campaign music (and also because no-one seemed to like the New Labour project), I was unable to gather the votes to turn this into a Labour heartland.

I leave you with one last thought about the future of politics amongst young people today. When one Shell walked out triumphantly after casting his vote and was asked who he had voted for, he replied, "I voted for the ... err... Blue Party!" Must be the right wing press...

Richard Lau

Unity Party

I stood as the Unity Party candidate in the KES Mock Election 2005. The aim was to start a party that would give people a choice at the election. Politics has become extremely uninspiring; every party, be it Labour, Lib-Dem, or Conservative, is extremely similar and are all equally untrustworthy. The Unity Party was different. We did not have any previous history, which could cloud our judgements; rather, we sought to represent the views of the people as best we could.

The campaign trail was great fun. Our party had to design its own manifesto, which contained some new and radical policies, including a major reform to the secondary school system and an overhaul of income tax. However, possibly the most exciting part was the speech we had to give in Big School. The Unity Party rose to the occasion and combined a catchy theme tune with an impassioned speech to inspire the electorate.

The main objection voiced by our opposition was that we were simply a made up party, with made up policies. I once again reiterate that parties are only formed due to the inspiration of people and their desire for change. Thus, they create a party to represent their ideals. This is exactly what we did with the Unity Party. We were not at all disappointed in coming third. This represented a massive achievement, as we have shown the other parties that we are a force to be reckoned with, especially the Conservatives.

So, watch out for the Unity Party in years to come. Just watch this space!

David Wheatley

Cot Fund 2004-2005

One School, one week: £13,000 raised.

Cot Fund's continuing success achieved a new high this year. In the aftermath of the Boxing Day Tsunami the school quickly mobilised the largest KES fundraising effort in over a decade.

From the first days back after the Christmas break, every single class pulled out all the stops, making their own contribution to the worldwide humanitarian effort. The Geog 6 Pro Evo Tournament quickly became a sixth form favourite, competing with the multi-room, multi-tap, multi-frag mayhem of the History corridor's Halo rampage. Across the school, cake sales quickly emptied the pockets and filled the bellies of many a discerning customer or willing victim. Meanwhile, passers by searching for the origin of clouds of steam pouring from the Gild Hall were rewarded with Anand "Spice Professor" Pandit's Chilli Competition.

A special mention must go to 'KES Aid', championed by Simon Friend. The £553 raised represented the highest grossing event of the week and increased my knowledge of keyboards enormously. His show was hilarious, mystifying and overflowing with talent. Its poignant finale forcefully reminded us how lucky we are to live safe and stable lives.

Over and above the Tsunami fundraising, the school supported a number of charities,

many of them personal causes. One donation went to the Mountain Haven Centre in Poland, which cares for children recovering from cancers and leukaemia. This was visited by a school expedition in 2002, who helped to rebuild an assault course used to help the children recover physically from the debilitating affects of treatment. With our help, they will continue their good work.

FROGS, or Friends of Gambian Schools, an organisation close to Mrs Durman's heart, has also benefited from our help. This year, we have been able to send a further £2000 to Bakau Lower Basic School to complete the renovation of another block of four classrooms. This money has also helped to mend old desks and chairs and to make new ones for the children to use. On her visit to The Gambia, Mrs Durman visited the school and met many pupils and staff, all of whom wanted her to pass on their thanks to the pupils of King Edward's School. Both staff and pupils remarked on how the atmosphere and learning had improved in the newly renovated and decorated classrooms and how much more the pupils enjoyed learning with only three to a desk rather than five. This will be the third block that we have renovated in as many years and we hope to raise more money for Bakau School next term.

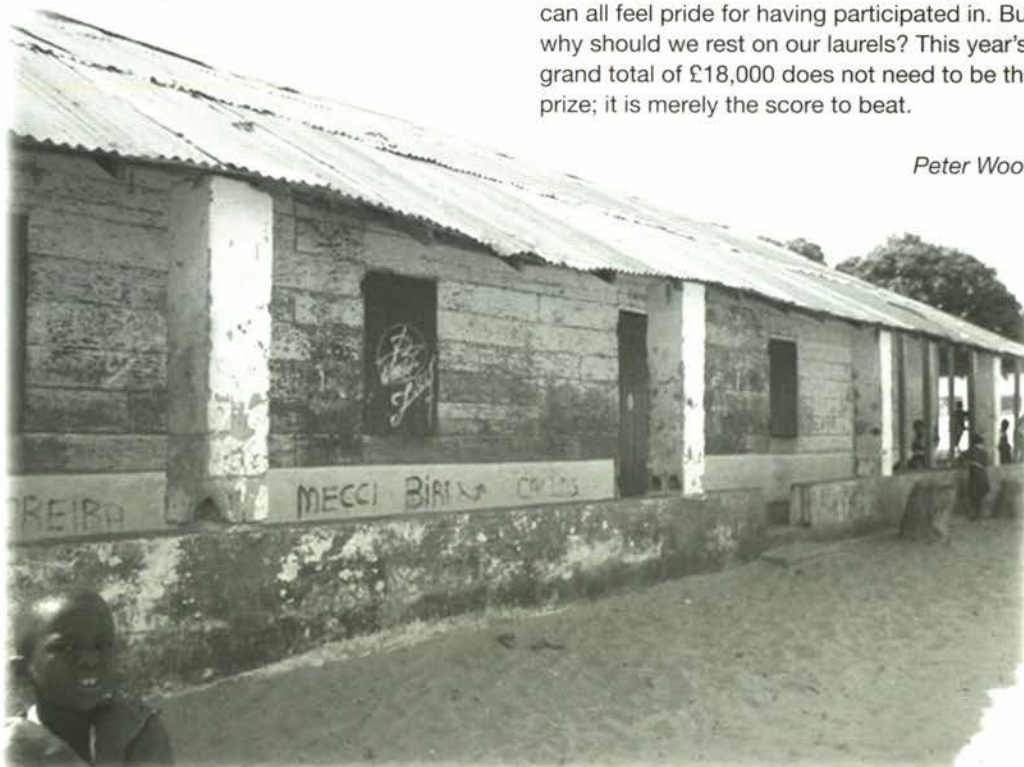
Overall this year's Cot Fund success was a triumph for the school and something we can all feel pride for having participated in. But why should we rest on our laurels? This year's grand total of £18,000 does not need to be the prize; it is merely the score to beat.

Peter Wood

The realisation of the refurbishment of this Block would not have been possible if it were not the timely consideration and funding by KING EDWARD SCHOOL, England/UK, through Mrs. Jeanette Durman.
We cannot by words indicate fully our profound Gratitude.
May you be rewarded;
AMEN.

Sgt. Alhagie Dukunayim,
and the rest of the Team
(November 2004)

**From the teachers of
the Bakau Lower Basic
School**



Senior Schools Challenge

While KES had a good Schools Challenge season by the standards of most schools, by our own it was disappointing: the national championship was finally wrested from our iron grasp and the golden years of David Tite began to fade into memory. The Senior members of the team, Shane Murray and Richard Lau, tried gamely but ultimately in vain to fill David's shoes.

Nonetheless, we yet again retained the Regional title. The boys' school trounced the girls' school, and the other local competitors (Stratford etc.) were swiftly dealt with to set up yet another all-KES Regional Final. The match swung rapidly between the two teams (A and B), as Matthew Hosty and Jamie Sunderland pressed their claim to the title, while the A team Juniors, Ronan Murray and Alisdair Morgan, held their own. However, on the very last question the B team pulled ahead for a shock victory and a subsequent selection headache. Luckily for Mr Milton, Matthew and Richard declared they would step aside to allow Jamie and Shane to become the Senior members for future matches. Or so it seemed...

Our inter-Regional match against Manchester Grammar School was thrown into chaos when Jamie fell ill and Manchester refused to reschedule, invoking Mr Milton's nemesis, Mrs National Organiser. Richard Lau stepped in at the last minute but, sadly, this did not end our troubles, since MGS had produced a seemingly invincible team boasting a Titesque figure in the Juniors. We were defeated: but the team must be congratulated for continuing to fight despite the mounting deficit. After devouring the refreshments provided, we returned to Birmingham and on the journey consoled ourselves by watching Top Gun and dreaming of revenge next year. Thanks to the team for their dedication and to Mr Milton for his unceasing optimism and organisation.

Shane Murray

Junior Schools Challenge

Junior Schools Challenge has always been a tough competition: this year it was going to be even harder since we were going back as reigning champions. Our 'A' team consisted of Harry Bhalla, Sam Hobbs, Alistair Eggo and me. Our 'B' team featured some talented Shells: Edward Siddons as captain, Tom Kane, Finn Milton and James Shirley.

This year, King's Worcester was hosting the tournament and there were twelve teams competing. Our first draw was quite good, pitting us against the hosts and Moffat's School. However, the 'B' team had a hard draw against Wrekin and Stafford and were not tipped to go through.

Our first match was very close in the first ten minutes but we pulled away at the end, to leave us with a comfortable win of 270 points. The 'B' team's first match was much, much closer: they won off the very last question, beating Wrekin by just 10 points. The 'A' team's second match went very well. We beat Moffat's by a resounding 570 points and the 'B' team did the same against Stafford, beating them by 300 points. Both teams were now through to the semi-finals.

We then played King's School, Worcester: it looked close for the first 15 minutes but after that we started pulling away with many fifty-pointers and didn't really give them a chance to get back into the game. After the half hour, we were clear winners by 190 points. We were quite surprised when we found out that the 'B' team had lost their semi-final to the practically unknown KEHS team, and even more so when we heard that they had been flattened by a 510-point lead.

The final against KEHS was very close throughout the opening 15 minutes. However, we kept giving away bonus points and soon the girls started to get the starters and those fifty-pointers until their lead had extended to a clear 200 points. The last ten minutes saw a desperate attempt from the whole team that hadn't occurred in any of the other matches. When the final whistle went, we ended up just ninety points, or two good questions, behind. We had lost our title but it has been passed on to another King Edward's establishment, which deserved to win.

Prithu Banerjee

Crest Gold Award

He was still talking about the hydrogen bonds to the reduced amine and how the conjugated ring maintained the 'rotaxane' structure... Behind my nods and blank facial expression, I sat and gazed past the thick-rimmed spectacles of our learned supervisor, Dr Parsons, somewhere in an office on the third floor of the Haworth building at the University of Birmingham. I'm not quite sure why I decided to do a Crest Gold Award project, and I assume the same thought crossed Dr Parsons' mind once or twice: but as I was there I decided to make the most of it.

Essentially, I spent two weeks synthesising a chemical called a rotaxane, a complex of two molecules comprised of a thread and a loop, which could be used as a piston or an axle in nanotechnology. As you may have realised, the experience was not as exciting as I had expected it to be. A major problem was that we didn't get many chances to think or espouse new ideas; we simply followed the instructions. I may be a man of science, but for me the chemistry turned out to be as magical as a clown at a child's birthday party. However, I do not regret the experience. It allowed me to familiarise myself with techniques such as mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance, which are taught at A-level: also, some of the solvents were pleasant.

This work would still appeal to people who would like to discover the truth behind nanotechnology and modern chemistry in a real-life lab: participating in the Crest Gold Award would be the perfect opportunity for them.

Nick Waddell

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Awards as of 19.9.05

Bronze	222
Silver	49
Gold	7

A grand total of fifty-seven boys have completed their award at Bronze level within the past academic year: this has been the most successful cohort to have joined the Scheme since its inception at KES in 2001. These boys deserve special congratulations and I hope that many of them will continue with the scheme at higher levels.

The Service section of the scheme provides young people with a great opportunity to show that they can accept responsibility and be trusted. For those who struggle to gain placements with external organisations, there is the opportunity to become involved in the now very successful

The accommodation can feel very "cosy".



At this height, the food tends to get a bit cold

KES Paper Recycling service, collecting vast amounts of paper and cardboard daily from every room in the school and transporting it to the recycling skip; their enthusiasm in taking positive action to improve the environment is heartening. Outside KES, others have shown initiative by making personal contributions to the wider community, such as coaching football and cricket for teams and clubs, helping the elderly with shopping and cleaning, helping youngsters with severe learning difficulties, assisting in church, mosque and temple... The list is endless. I am delighted that Sarah Louise Jones has joined the team to help expand this section of the Award in the future.

The Skills section too provides great opportunities to discover and develop new abilities and to raise self-esteem. This is summed up by the comments made by one boy who joined a local Drama and Theatre group: "Drama has always been one of my greatest loves. Performing alongside my friends at BSS Spotlight has been a professional, ambitious and supremely rewarding experience; never have I pursued a hobby so avidly". The same boy chose to learn karate for his Physical Recreation section and wrote, "I have had a lot of fun learning the martial arts and feel that the experience has left me in better shape than I ever have been in." I must thank the many adults and colleagues who give up their own time to help by acting as Supervisors in these areas.

Expeditions are often assumed to be what D of E is all about and though I hope that the comments above help to dispel the notion that the scheme is only suitable for 'outdoor types', it is nevertheless true that the Expedition is the highlight of the Award for many. We have developed the expedition training programme to a highly professional level to ensure that it is safe yet challenging for all, whatever the individual's initial level of fitness, skill and experience.

Right from the start, boys are encouraged to take responsibility, beginning with a Friday afternoon session during which they work

under guidance in teams to decide what equipment and food to take on an overnight camp at Andrew's Coppice near Alvechurch. The camp takes place the following week, so the teams have just a few days to purchase food, organise transport to Alvechurch and plan a route to walk to the Coppice. Once there, teams have to select a campsite, erect their tent and prepare an evening meal. This is a good test of teamwork and cooperation, especially for those forms allocated to the November and December slots, as they have to work against the clock to get the tents up before darkness. A review session, around a camp fire or in the sturdy on-site hut if weather is bad, invariably reveals that this first step on the road to independence is a big one for many and an exciting one for all. Those who set out full of anxiety end up feeling a lot happier about taking part in the more demanding practice expedition in the Welsh borders around Llangollen in March, which finally prepares them for assessment in Church Stretton in May. Cycling is an exciting new alternative to hiking now on offer to boys courtesy of Chris Boardman, Laurence Evans and Keith Phillips; this is destined to become increasingly popular amongst boys who have already found the freedom of two wheels through school cycling tours. I thank them for their help and Peter Russell for maintaining the exquisite campsite at Andrew's Coppice, a task to which he has dedicated himself for

many years. I also thank Phil Balkham, Gill Galloway, Helen Cochrane, Duncan Dewar, Duncan Witcombe and other staff (named elsewhere) for willingly giving up weekends to work alongside professional leaders in running Expeditions. Thanks are also due to the secretarial staff, the technicians and George Andronov who have helped to ease the burden of administration: producing forms, letters and resources, sorting and banking cheques and overseeing the safety aspects of expeditions.

I have written this article primarily as a tribute to Phillip Rees, a multi-talented and tireless member of staff who can claim full responsibility for establishing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme on such a firm foundation during his time here at KES. He is the person to whom we all owe most thanks: endearingly enthusiastic and endlessly patient with young boys, and never boastful of his own personal achievements. We shall remember him for his unique style, good humour and inspiration.

I end with one last quotation from a student: "I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of D of E, especially expeditions. Despite getting lost or becoming tired, the thrill of the event could not be conquered. I feel I have emerged from this process a better person; more tolerant, more active and more capable."

SEL



The smiling test seems to expose the secret agent on the left...

Engineering Education Scheme

Each year KES sends a team to take part in the Engineering Education Scheme (EES), run by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The team consists of four or five people, who are warned about the vast chunk of their lives that will be taken up by a scheme which offers invaluable experience in the real world of engineering. Each team is set a brief with a company and is expected to complete that brief.

Testing the portable "rolling road".



The EES team



We started the year with four members in the team, then we dropped to two and later rose to five, before finishing back on four. After we had selected the team, we scurried across the road to the Mechanical Engineering Department, the home of the University of Birmingham Racing Team (aka UBR). This was where we were set the design brief: to design and manufacture a portable "rolling road" for use at the trackside, which should have the ability to measure torque and speed at a later date. As these words from Carl Hingley, our engineer, started to sink in, we realised that the project we were about to undertake was big. After some preliminary research we knew exactly what we were being asked to do. In simple terms, we had to make a treadmill for a racing car. We spent a few weeks talking about designs and drawing conceptual designs but decided nothing.

This all changed when we went away on the four-day residential at Birmingham University. We spent the days finalising our ideas and helping the manufacturing process to begin, and the nights being ill or meeting new people. The final design involved making a rectangular base out of aluminium extrusion, with steel plates to hold the lengths of extrusion together. These steel plates were attached to the extrusion using T-bolts. On the top of these steel plates rested four plumber block bearings holding four plugs, which we designed to fit into two lengths of aluminium roller. We designed various other components, including a front support for the car and a polycarbonate shield, but time ran out.

After the rolling road was finished, we had to write a report detailing all the work we had done. We took two days out of strenuous Easter holiday revision to come into school and finish writing, printing and binding the six copies of the report that were required to be sent to the assessors. The day we spent at the NEC was good fun: we had to give a fifteen minute presentation to our assessors and answer their questions at the display stand we had made. It was the conclusion of six months of hard work and it felt good.

We (Andrew Miller, Philip Naylor, David Han and Dominic Aldridge) would like to thank Mr Lloyd for his help during the project, and wish him well in his deserved retirement.

Andrew Miller



Honduras Expedition 2005

This summer seventeen KES students and three staff travelled to Honduras in Central America to participate with Operation Wallacea in a two-week scientific research Expedition. They worked with a team of dedicated and enthusiastic scientists based at two very different locations, spending the first week deep within the tropical rainforest and the second week on an exotic coral island in the Caribbean Sea.

In the forest everyone rapidly became engrossed in exciting 'biodiversity assessment' projects, catching a wide range of animals, then identifying and studying them in a variety of different ways. During each day before dawn, our students were up setting mist-nets to capture tropical birds including beautiful hummingbirds, which were then ringed before being released. After breakfast teams left to track iridescent giant blue 'Morpho' butterflies along a transect and to identify those enticed into temporary cages by a cocktail of fermented banana. Others used 'line traps' to ensnare poisonous coral snakes to be pickled in the cause of science, or netted water-mites from jungle waterfalls to be bottled in a project to research the details of continental drift. Finally, late into the night, the same boys eagerly helped man mist nets to capture bats, including 'vampires', taking DNA samples from them in the process!

Collecting this data not only helps to fuel university student dissertation projects and to 'fire up' university Doctors and Professors before another year of Academia, but more importantly, it helps the Hondurans who are only now beginning to realize the amazing potential and incredible diversity of their rainforests. Our efforts have assisted in gathering publicity, protection and much needed financial support from all quarters including local politicians, employment and

tourist agencies and external NGO's.

Combine this unparalleled opportunity for field research with the cultural experience of being made guests of the locals, living in a village with no electricity, running water or proper sanitation; or for the brave-hearted, plunging into the claustrophobic heart of the jungle to attempt sleeping through tropical storms in a hammock.

After this relatively primitive lifestyle we were rewarded by spending the second week on 'paradise island' - otherwise known as 'Cayos Cochinos Minor', a small protected coral island in the Caribbean. In return for all the hard work of the first week, we were treated to an intensive SCUBA diving course, conducted amongst the exotic coral reefs, alongside another group of scientists busily conducting surveys. While swimming over sharks, turtles and moray eels, the majority of the group was able to qualify as PADI Open Water Divers after a final dive to a depth of 18metres. The reef scenery was truly spectacular, with such an abundance of animals and plants it felt as if we were living in a wildlife documentary!

As a result of this two-week expedition everyone felt their lives had been enriched and enhanced, with a number of our students rethinking Gap years and university courses and the staff keen to explore further areas to provide similar opportunities in the future.

The whole experience exceeded all expectations, summed up in the words of Charlie Cruickshanks at the end of the expedition: "I woke up every morning with the certainty of seeing something new, something rare or something beautiful, and really don't want to be leaving Honduras!"

Thanks to all the staff at Operation Wallacea, to Stan Lampard, who master-minded Honduras 2004 at KES, to Matt Albrighton, and to our tremendous team of students for playing such an active part in making the expedition so enjoyable.

Jill Galloway

... before dawn, our students were setting up mist-nets to capture tropical birds including beautiful humming birds.

"I woke up every morning with the certainty of seeing something new, something rare or something beautiful, and really don't want to be leaving Honduras!"

Charlie Cruickshanks

Snowshoeing Trip to the French Pyrenees 2005



The weather was extreme, even by Mr Boardman's standards, with blizzards raging over our expedition for three days solid.

A chill wind roars in, chewing at every exposed facet of your features, threatening to overturn you for the umpteenth time as you struggle through the deepening powder. Ahead of you, through the blinding sheets of hail and snow, you can only make out the distant blurs of the instructors, breezing on ahead as though they were born for the task. Behind you rises the bickering of the smaller boys, grumbling amidst wheezes and gasps about how unfair life is and how tired they are, cursing the tyranny of their teachers. Their maddening banter forms clouds in the air at your back, and you yearn for the sanctuary of the next stop. Yet the journey has scarcely even started. You plough steadily onward, dragging yourself forward

another step, chasing those ahead, now mere smears on the horizon and shrinking. Yes, we've all experienced the hellish reality that is Cross-Country at some point, but I'm not here to talk about that. So let me start on a far more enjoyable topic by far: snowshoeing!

We were warned beforehand that fitness would be required for the arduous task of scaling the mountainous slopes, and on this occasion at least the warnings couldn't have been more right. The weather was extreme, even by Mr Boardman's standards, with blizzards raging over our expedition for three days solid, burying much of the landscape in crisp powder. Avalanche risks were at the highest they've ever been on a Snowshoeing trip for the school, meaning that we couldn't even take part in our traditional hike to the mountain refuge! Thankfully, with a toolled-up Land Rover to hand for the journey to the peaks themselves, it was just a matter of suiting up, complete with poles, snow shoes and protective gear, and bracing yourself for your duel with the elements.

I won't lie; the going was tough at times. Particularly on those tiring, uphill treks through snow so deep that you are sinking up to your ankles, trembling from exhaustion and vertigo, praying that your equipment has a firm enough grasp on the treacherous ice to stop you sliding backwards in an undignified jumble of clothes, sticks and swear-words. You are beginning to doubt whether coming on this trip was wise, but then you reach the summit and all doubt vaporises as you see the awesome crags of the Pyrenees rise above you to spike the cobalt skies, and marvel as the valleys fall away miles below. The scenery for this trip was second to none in terms of majesty and beauty. Hulking stony rock faces so huge that humans are lost against them; towering pine forests that look like a scene from a Christmas card; crystal clear rivers of snow run-off that rush and babble underneath you, glimmering in the brilliant but frigid sunlight; eagles circling hypnotically overhead.... Each new stop, every opportunity to actually set my poles down and drink in the surroundings, was nothing short of breathtaking.

The activities were similarly varied and exciting. Aside from the tiring treks up and down the mountains, we did get opportunities to relax occasionally, be it sweeping the snowscape like a prospector searching for gold to find a buried avalanche transceiver,

spitting chunks of irritating snow out of your mouth as you blaze at terrifying speeds down a bobsled luge, moulding the snow into daring and unconventional works of art during some of the more restful moments, or indulging in some really epic snowball fights. We even managed successfully to dodge around the notable problem of avalanche risks by going ahead with the building of our very own Norwegian style snow-caves. Bundling our rucksacks together under a canvas sheet, shovelling obscene amounts of snow on top of them and then getting some budding spelunker to delve inside on his back, chipping away at the domed roof with his spade to hollow the structure out, was one of the most rewarding things I can remember doing while there, particularly when the time came for me to plunge into the gloom armed with the head of my spade and tunnel into the walls to build the various extensions. Then, sitting back to survey our masterpieces of design, we were

presented with the option of sleeping in them for the night. Should we be surprised that around 60% of those asked chose, instead, to stay indoors and put their feet up? I think not....

Going on this trip has left lasting marks on me, and I can still feel the ripples it caused today. Now, in comparison with the snow-laden forests of the Pyrenees, Britain looks quite unnaturally green, distinctly lacking in staggering columns of stone stretching towards the heavens, and any snow that does come around just seems pathetic by comparison! As tiring and demanding as it may have been, I think I speak for all those present when I say that our efforts were undoubtedly worth it. To all those who had the grace to invite us, here is a great, big, freezing snowball with my thanks attached. Thank you very much for all the memories, and keep up the good work!

Tim Kiely

... the time came for me to plunge into the gloom armed with the head of my spade and tunnel into the walls to build the various extensions.



Divisions French Exchange to Grasse



I lost the preconception that French food is excellent, when I was subjected to the horrors of raw fish with pancakes and cream....

We arrived at Nice airport, one passport lost and several hours behind schedule, and were greeted by our eager partners, noses-pressed-against-glass on the other side of the terminal along with their slightly irritated but nonetheless friendly parents. We had lost our first preconception about French people, that they are both miserable and rude all of the time, during our correspondents' visit to Birmingham in February, and we were pleasantly reminded of this during our first weekend on the Côte d'Azur. Most of us spent the time on the beach, reacquainting ourselves with the French counterparts to whom we had grown quite close.

With Monday arrived our first day at the Lycée Fénélon, and, after an introduction in front of the entire school, (along with Spanish, German, American and Italian students as part of the school's *Semaine Internationale*), we were treated to a tour of Grasse. We soon lost French preconception number two: it is certainly not warm all year round in the south, as the sea breeze taught us.

Throughout the week we were treated to several excursions, the modern art museum in Nice being a particular highlight, and also to a sports competition involving the entire school (French preconception number three gone; they are not all good at football). I believe I can safely say that our group stole the show with an impromptu version of *Wonderwall* for our part in a presentation on Art in Different Cultures (Oasis is art, right?), as we were

received with a standing ovation in the pouring rain: Glastonbury-esque!

Despite all of these activities, perhaps the most rewarding and interesting time spent was with our host families (even the Le Pen supporters), visiting the beautiful surrounding regions of Cannes, St Tropez and Monaco. I myself lost preconception number four, that French food is excellent, when I was one night subjected to the horrors of raw fish with pancakes and cream; may God have mercy on our souls. We were all very disappointed when Saturday came and we said our last goodbyes at the airport, and I am sure we made as lasting an impression on our correspondents as they did on us; we even earned ourselves a place on the school newspaper!

Many thanks must go to the king of cool, Mr Parker ("Sir, I've lost my passport"/ "Oh"), for arranging what I'm sure was one of the most successful exchanges to date. Our spoken French improved infinitely, as did our cultural knowledge, and return visits have taken place since. I believe all involved would recommend this experience to all students of French: it is one of the most memorable in the Upper School.

Jack Flaherty

Madrid Art Trip 2005

I honestly don't think that King Edward's has ever sent such a gifted and highly talented group of people abroad before, and for this special mission, our senior art students took to the skies to sample the delights of Spain's capital, Madrid. The idea of the weekend was to see some of the work by the greats and the masters of the art world, get some serious AS work done ourselves, and of course enjoy the fact that you only have to be 16 to be served beer in Spain.

The long wait at Birmingham airport in the early hours of Thursday morning, despite the snow, cold and gloomy weather, was made much more enjoyable by the cheery faces of Mr Spencer and Mr Aydon, who were trying to convince us of the multitude of wonderful things that awaited us in Madrid, and Mr Turner, who, although not an artist himself, was to be our resident translator for the weekend. In addition, Jack Johnson's antics involving a video camcorder and young ladies at the check-in counter also raised a few morning smiles.

Upon arriving at the Hotel Meridina, our base for the weekend, we settled in

to our rooms before exploring the nearby surroundings, in order to get a flavour of the city. Madrid is a vast and architecturally fascinating city, with extravagance on every street corner.

Our hotel was situated right by the Reina Sophia, which would be our first gallery of many to view. It boasts a wealth of impressive 20th century art including Picasso, Dali and Miro.

We were fortunate to visit the Prado, which holds a large collection of more traditional Spanish art from the likes of Velasquez and Goya. The scale and size of these museums and the quality of the work inside has to be seen to be believed!

The Fundacion Juan March featured some interesting video installations and critics' favourite Damien Hirst.

The Thyssen seemed to be everyone's favourite gallery, with a truly astonishing collection, including perhaps every great artist who ever lived (perhaps there is still time for a Spencer!), from Renoir to Giacometti and Van Gogh to Rauschenberg, and the Kirchner exhibition, which we were fortunate to view.

We also visited two smaller exhibitions, which obviously concentrated on quality rather than quantity; a superb Bill Viola exhibition and a history of Cubism. Taz's favourite place of the whole trip was of course the National Telephone Museum.

The quality of some of the local eateries was perhaps one of the best discoveries of the weekend, including the popular favourite VIPS and a Subway-style beer-loaded 'restaurant' called Pans & Company; if only there wasn't a curfew!

The weekend was well balanced between good hard work and quality free time later in the day, and we all especially enjoyed the *Lord of The Rings* street show which passed through the grand Plaza Mayor – not to mention Mr Turner's rather aggressive gremlin-esque South-American friend, whom he seemed suddenly to acquire against his will.

After covering at least 300 miles on foot, and working off all those chicken wings, everyone had an enjoyable time doing what they love and do best, art!

Many thanks to Mr Spencer, Mr Aydon and Mr Turner for giving us the opportunity to go, and for a fantastic weekend.

Richard Sheehan

Biology Field Course- Aberystwyth

On the morning of the 10th of July, I arrived at school to find a hum of activity. Mr Lampard, ruthless despot that he is, had already started instructing people to load the coach and I knew we would soon be embarking on our trip to discover the numerous biological treats that Aberystwyth is so famous for.

Just as the novelty of the ritualistic coach songs was wearing off, we arrived at our first stop, Gilfach farm. Renowned for its traditional farming techniques and use of naturally occurring fertilisers, Gilfach farm was a really beneficial place to visit. Our time there consisted of detailed field studies analysing the effects of competition and different farming methods. To add to the great times, lunchtime saw Rich Williams and Seb Heaven submit to their Mowgli tendencies as they began climbing a tree... hilarious consequences ensued as people started throwing the remainder of their packed lunches at the two stranded ragamuffins. However, our times at Gilfach farm were short lived and with a tear in each person's eye, we departed.

Upon arrival in Aberystwyth, the despot was at it again and the coach was unpacked in double quick time. I'm still undecided whether this speed was the result of an undying love for Biology or of the incentive of a good queue position for the evening meal. I fear the latter. Once the lab was stocked and sorted, we were free to go and enjoy the culinary delights that the university had to offer. I believe people enjoyed a fine 'lamb' curry but my memory is a little hazy due to excessive consumption of coca cola, which seemed to addle my brain! The university had forgotten to leave out the "no refills" sign so by the end of the meal everyone was bouncing off the walls! Following this sugar rush, we attended a lecture where we were to analyse the day's events. The lecture was supposed to culminate with a video but 'unfortunately' the faultless teaching body had misplaced it. This meant we were free to start what would be the finest game of football the world had ever seen.

The following day, having set up a seaweed experiment in the lab, we left the comforting compounds of the university and headed to the rocky shore. Robert Condie was crushed when we told him that he wouldn't be allowed to bring his bucket and spade. We spent our time taking a transect of the rocky

...lunchtime saw Rich Williams and Seb Heaven submit to their Mowgli tendencies as they began climbing a tree... hilarious consequences ensued as people started throwing the remainder of their lunches at the two stranded ragamuffins.

shore as well as identifying marker species in the surrounding rock pools.

We spent the penultimate day taking transects of the neighbouring salt marshes and sand dunes. We also measured the wind speed, sand temperature and sand pH to complete our comprehensive studies. We spent our final morning collecting all the data in the lab as well as reminiscing on the great times we had shared. Having endured the rigours of the AS examining system, I don't think anyone expected to enjoy the Field Trip as much as we did, but I think all concerned had a good time and will hold fond memories of the last Field Trip that our year will ever go on.

Tom McLeod

Shells D and T Camp 2005

Some obstacles were extremely tricky as they were muddy, particularly one in which you had to crawl under a netted rope, through mud.

Since we first received the letter back in January explaining the Shells Camping Trip to Kibblestone, there had been a great deal of anticipation. The menus for the trip had been planned, there had been a practice run with the tent in our back garden and our bags were packed. I was fairly worried on the coach, as I had only vague ideas of what to expect. I also hoped that my hay fever would not intrude on the three days of adventurous events which awaited me.

Our camp was not based in an open field but in a small valley. I realized this would be better, as the hills and forest would give us more adventurous places to explore. On arrival we found our personal belongings and placed them where we were going to pitch our tents. Mr Lampard and Mr Boardman showed us how to pitch the tents we were allocated. Having just managed to pitch our tent, we attempted numerous small challenges set by the teachers. One of the challenges was to get the whole of our group across a rope (or "electric fence") suspended between two trees, without touching the rope. If any member of the team touched the electric fence while getting over, we would have to start all over again. It was challenging, but eventually we managed to allow the whole team safely over. I enjoyed it immensely but was eagerly anticipating the bigger, better activities, including (in my opinion) the best part of the camp; the Water Fight!

After we had dried off, we were shown how to use the cooking equipment, which we would use to make our own meals for the three days. Once we were stuffed with burgers

and hot-dogs, Mr Boardman told us that there was more to come before we were to go to bed. The activity teams each had their own bases, which they had to defend from the other groups' attacking marauders, who, if they got to other groups' ropes, which were suspended between trees, took two of their lives. The group with the most lives at the end of the game was declared the winner. Once we had brushed our teeth and had drunk our hot chocolate, we went to our tents and drifted off to sleep easily, as it had been a long day.

The next morning I put on rough clothes, as today was to be the most adventurous day, with the long and tiring assault course to be confronted before the day's end. After breakfast, we had to go across the road between small rests to tackle the activities provided. My group found ourselves at the assault course first. The teachers showed us through the obstacles, so we knew how to approach them. Some obstacles were extremely tricky as they were muddy, particularly an obstacle in which you had to crawl under a netted rope, through mud. Once we had been shown how to go through the course, we made our way back to the beginning. This time we were being timed, and towards the end we had to wade through a deep river back to the start. On our way out we received our scores. It was now time to go back and have a shower, as we were wet and extremely smelly!

Other activities included orienteering, abseiling, archery and rifle shooting, which we would do on our last day. We played football and played on the rope swing all the time: at lunch, and in breaks between activities. We roasted marshmallows and frankfurters around a bonfire. We found ourselves incredibly tired and again drifted off to sleep with ease. We were ready to go home after a long, tiring but enjoyable Shells' Camp.

William Parker

Leadership Weekend

The Leadership Weekend is a venture involving members of KES, KEHS, KE Camp Hill and KE Handsworth, which travels to remote locations on the Welsh border to carry out a number of physical, team-based tasks.

We arrived at our impressive lodgings on Friday evening and, after the ice-breaking introductions, the party was split up into six groups of four to compete against each other

for the weekend. After the first task was briefly outlined, more socialising followed and at 0030 the barbershop quartet from room four was still singing out all the classics, including 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'Forward where the Knocks are Hardest' to put an end to a memorable first day.

The 6 am wake up call came as a shock to everyone: Saturday was to be the biggest day in terms of tasks. The first task involved the group travelling over the vast environment to find clues, which together solved a puzzle. Gaz Ahmed (the ladies' man) was the only person both thin and gifted enough to truly exploit the bicycle, the transport of choice for many. Others were less fortunate – Andrew Horder managed to rip his bike apart, seemingly forgetting the experience gained from cycling to school every day since anybody can remember. A number of exercises followed, testing a wide range of skills including canoeing. Upon our return to the lodge, the most memorable moment was Mr Milne's monologue on Gaz's exploits that day.

Sunday was a shorter but similarly rigorous day. The activity involved six co-ordinators directing the entire group of twenty across the landscape by different methods. Strong performances included Joe as the 'water man' and Arpan as the 'land man'. The teams performed successfully and the task was completed in ample time.

The best aspect of the weekend was meeting and working with new and interesting people from other schools. Numerous friendships were made and countless humorous moments experienced. Thanks must go to Mr Milne, for keeping spirits high with his vast experience and wealth of knowledge and also to Mr Roll, who put in so much hard work and time to organise this memorable and enjoyable three days. The Leadership Weekend is one that comes highly recommended by all who have experienced it.

Vishal Banerjee

Morocco: Summer 2005 (Excerpts from a journal)

Day 2

The day began with a chariot ride around the old city of Marrakech. Most of the group were filled with amazement at how unlike our

own lives these people's lives are. Later we got the chance to have a massage, using oil made out of the excrement of goats fed on a particular kind of oily nut. At last we set off for the Atlas Mountains, waving goodbye to the civilised world. Our Berber guide, Mohammed, welcomed us with a smiling face and crushing handshakes: he seemed to want to inflict as much pain as possible on us, in various ways. The mules took our bags and we set off on a 45 minute walk to our first *Gîte d'étape*, admiring the view whilst thinking, "Blimey, those mountains look a bit big".

Day 3

Climbing over a fairly high pass we reached our first "campsite", a dusty place near a river. As on most days in Morocco, we were bothered by local kids asking for "stylo" and "bonbon". Literally just as we arrived, it started to pour rain, and the power of the downpour actually made the ground around us vibrate. Luckily, the muleteers had gone ahead and put up the cooking tent, where we all took shelter. That night many of us slept outside, and experienced something very strange: the cloud came so low that we were

Most of the group were filled with amazement at how unlike our own lives these people's lives are



actually inside the clouds! Underestimating the coldness of a mountain night-time, and sleeping in just boxer shorts, I did not get very much sleep that night.

Day 6

Today almost didn't happen. It was the "gorge walk" day, but we were worried that the recent heavy rain would make the river impassable. We had to wake über-early (4.15!), as the mules, carrying our gear, needed to take a much longer route. After a while we removed our walking boots and changed into sandals and trainers. Slowly wading through the river, we stopped for lunch by a freezing pool of water, which a few of us tried to swim in.

Day 8

A four-hour downhill walk to our third *gite*, in a small town, ended with us arriving at about midnight to find that all of us would be sharing one bedroom (though it had no beds), while the three adults shared another room. Some of us explored the few shops around: Tim bought two miniature camels. We all signed up for a Hammam, or Turkish bath, which consisted of sitting in a very hot room ("It's like a sauna in here!") and being massaged by two muleteers, one of whom took a great liking to Mr Storey. Eventually they pour a bucket of water over your head and you leave. We first thought that there was grit on the floor, and then realised that it was dead skin.

At the top there was a great sense of achievement: we were four kilometres higher than our relatives back home, and probably as high as many of us would go in our lives.

Day 11

We set off at about 6.30 a.m. for Toubkal, the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains at a whopping 4167m, but without two members of the expedition, who were ill. We climbed the rocky path 900m up to the peak of Toubkal. We were well acclimatized by now, and much fitter than at the start of the trip, so this was quite an undemanding walk. At the top, there was a great sense of achievement: we were four kilometres higher than our relatives back home, and probably as high as many of us would go in our lives. After a celebratory lunch and team photo, we descended along a different route to the way we had come up by: a slippery scree slope where a plane had crashed 10 years ago. We all had fun running down, amongst the bits of engine.

Day 12

After a prize-giving ceremony for the Berbers - the muleteers, the cook, and our guide Mohammed - we had our last trek dinner, and started up our campfire. As the flames roared, the Berbers started to sing; using bowls and sticks as percussion, they taught us some old Berber songs. In return, we taught them "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes". It was a magical night, and for the first time, all the boys decided to sleep outside. We tried as long as possible to keep the fire going, until Mr Storey poured water on it.



Day 13

We arrived back at the *gite* we had slept in on the second night: a few mattresses on the floor now felt like a five-star hotel. We got the chance for another Hammam, and those of us who weren't put off by the sleaziness of the last one got a real treat. In this village was a clean, professional Hammam. We first went to the hot room, where we were given some black soap and had buckets of water poured over our head, then got a proper massage in the warm room, before sitting down in the cool room. At the *gite*, we discovered that two Old Edwardians were staying in the rooms above us.

Day 14

After final goodbyes to Mohammed, we set off to Marrakech. On arrival, we went straight to the Souks and bought many kaftans, fezzes, hats, kebab skewers... Most of the fun was bartering with the Moroccans: the trick is to offer your price, barter a little, be rejected, and then walk away – the trader will call you back most of the time and accept your price. After our last supper in Morocco, some of us went out to see some of the street entertainers. Matt played the “photograph and run” game, so he didn't have to pay the charges that they wanted him to pay for a photo.

Day 15

I went home in full Berber dress, which got a few funny looks at the airport.

Joe Bunce

Divisions Geography Field Trip: Morecambe

There are many legends attached to Morecambe: Dame Thora Hird, Eric Morecambe, and of course the one, the only, JAC. This northern seaside town is the annual setting for three days of “intensive” Geographical research aimed at completing the well-loved coursework. And so, with good intentions in mind, 40-odd ready and willing Geographers set off on a warm October afternoon. Two thirds had the privilege of an air-conditioned coach, whilst the unlucky remainder squeezed themselves into the minibus, knowing it was only a matter of time before the onset of gangrene in both legs.

Now, Geographers are renowned for their

map-reading skills, but that renown was severely put to the test when the minibus, driven by Mr Schumacher (surely Roden?), spent 45 minutes cruising the sea-front trying to find the hotel, assisted by some rather suspect directions from members of the public. With gritted teeth and much determination we reached our destination, though not before Mr Roden had the chance to get the minibus acquainted with a car park barrier (what would Mr Symonds say on Monday morning?).

The evening was spent not only in preparing for the hard graft awaiting us the next morning, but also in giving the hotel's pool table a good run-through. On Friday morning, the real work began. Against the backdrop of the Midland Hotel, the first Art Deco hotel in Britain but now dilapidated and unappreciated, weary-eyed Geographers met to discuss the hotels in which they were staying and which was the dodgiest TV programme they had managed to watch the night before. The morning's task involved groups sauntering around Morecambe investigating the quality of housing in the area: it would seem, judging by the number of elderly residents staring at us through their curtains, that certain households weren't particularly pleased to find a group of four boys standing outside their homes taking pictures of their garden. The afternoon involved us visiting the village of “sunny” Overton, trying to account for its population change and loss of services. Many were more interested in the idea of a “Jump and Jive” at the local village hall.

Having completed the Human Geography element of the field trip, Saturday was spent at Malham Cove looking at the physical presence of limestone. They say you learn something new every day: well, that day there were many lessons to be learnt. Firstly, the difference between a rock and a stone is not, as someone suggested, “a rock is grey”, but actually relates to their composition many years ago. Secondly, and this is more of a health warning, do not wear trainers on a limestone pavement, since you are only asking to fall down every 10 seconds on the slippery surface. Thirdly and finally, if you are taking your dog for a walk and happen to come across a waterfall, do not try to climb up it, since your canine friend will not find it the easiest of tasks. We watched one dog spend 15 minutes figuring out how he might climb against the current of the water to reach his more agile owner, only to give up in a fit of disgust. It became apparent to all that sometimes man is not a dog's best friend!

All in all, not only was this a most enjoyable trip, but lessons were learnt and experience

We watched one dog spend 15 minutes figuring out how he might climb against the current of the water to reach his more agile owner, only to give up in a fit of disgust.

gained, both in a Geographical and everyday life sense. I would like to thank Mr Cumberland and the rest of the department for the trip and extra curricular entertainment.

Miles Drew

Berlin Trip 2005

Although we all appreciated that the Berlin trip would bring numerous European experiences, the briskness with which our first encounter with the Dutch Under-21 football team at the airport arrived surprised even Frau Hodgkin. A glance at the sports section quickly explained their downcast appearance, as they were fresh from a well-deserved beating at the hands of England the previous evening.

The following morning brought another early start, although any displeasure soon evaporated upon first glimpse of the magnificently restored Reichstag building. A tour revealed that the inner government chambers had been spared no expense, although many did appear markedly empty. Despite our guide claiming that it was merely because the Bundestag was not in session, the consensus that the officials were either out at lunch, or busy filing the subsequent expenses claim, prevailed.

However, perhaps the highlight of the tour was the viewing and ascent of the recently installed Reichstag dome. Although this is widely known to have been designed by British architect Norman Foster, we were assured that it was constructed only after considerable modifications by German officials.

Following the Reichstag visit, the party visited several museums, each describing the times during which the Wall (*die Mauer*) stood and, concurrently, discrepancies between life in East and West Germany following the division. Particularly interesting was *Haus am Checkpoint Charlie*, which detailed the events during the division within the actual administrative building of the checkpoint.

Perhaps the evening of the trip that will be remembered above all was the night of Bertholt Brecht's '*Die Kleinburger Hochzeit*', set at the wedding feast for a young couple whilst taking a satirical view of the Bourgeois within Germany. Continually enthralling, it was a superb farce.

We would like to thank Frau Hodgkin and Mrs Gardiner for all their efforts in organising the former's last school trip to Berlin. We wish her well for the future. We hope that the trips will continue despite her departure.

Jonathan Hartland

South Africa Rugby Tour

A few games of pool, a delicious chicken lunch and a blockbuster movie - sounds like the ideal way to start a 3-week rugby tour of South Africa! Not so ideal however, when you realise that none of these activities was actually taking place in South Africa, or even on an aeroplane to South Africa. We had some of the worst luck encountered on any trip in KES history, as we were delayed in our departure from Heathrow by three days. We landed in Johannesburg on Wednesday 3rd August, in the early morning, and travelled to Centurion High School to meet the first of our billets. This aspect of the tour was universally agreed to be the best part, as South African hospitality is second to none. Our first game came on our second day in the country, and we struggled to cope with the speed and intensity of the South African game: we came away from Centurion with a 29 - 13 loss, but many local friends.

After a stay in Pretoria, we moved on to Standerton, where our billets had been cancelled, leaving us in an accommodation block in the school. It wasn't luxury, but we made the best of a bad situation with a good sing-song to boost morale. Our game had improved considerably, and despite the altitude (over 1,000 m), intense heat and a pitch that might as well have been asphalt covered in sawdust, we spent the game tied at one try each until some dubious refereeing cost us the winning try. The post match dinner saw Mr Turner take on a 22-stone South African monster coach in an epic arm-wrestle: when neither man gave an inch for a full minute, the bout was stopped and a draw declared.

We spent two nights in a seafront hotel in Durban before moving on to the boarding house of Durban Academy. Whoever thought it would be a good idea to put forty rugby players all in one room (in bunk beds) was presumably having a laugh. After a largely sleepless night we visited the ABSA stadium, home to the Natal Sharks, whom we had watched defeat the Blue Bulls back in Pretoria. Our game against Durban Academy later that day was unforgettable: we were up against a team with various Natal Sharks Academy players. The conditions worked in our favour - cold and wet. We were overwhelmed at first, but fought like dogs to pull the score level, and had the final conversion been scored, we would have walked away as victors. A draw was enough cause for celebration though,

Despite our guide claiming that the emptiness was merely because the Bundestag was not in session, the consensus that the officials were either out at lunch, or busy filing the subsequent expenses claim, prevailed.

and the best game of the tour (on paper) was followed by one of the best nights of the tour.

Back on the Durban seafront, Dan Lavander took the liberty of dyeing his hair "radioactive red", which pleased Messrs Roden and Turner no end. He was promptly told to get it sorted and shaved his head: his mother's face when he stepped off the coach was priceless. We were lucky enough to visit Ushaka Marine World and experience a shark dissection at the world famous Sharks Board, before returning to the hotel. The 2nd XV had the opportunity to play a local development side, to whom they narrowly lost. The presentation after the match will be remembered for the tribal song that we were treated to by the opposition side, and the absolute sincerity and gratitude of the opposition coaches.

On by domestic flight to Capetown where, having taken in Table Mountain, we visited a local township called Langa. This was the most extraordinary experience of the tour. The local children were seemingly fearless, and played with anyone without hesitation. Lunch at Sheila's Café was accompanied by musical entertainment, followed by a brief tour of the township area. We moved on to Stellenbosch, where the entire team compromised their manly image by learning the delicate art of wine tasting. Our final billet was with Wynberg High School, and our final game an epic battle in a truly epic setting - in the shadow of Table Mountain. We played the best rugby we had played all tour, and led Wynberg by 12 - 3 for literally 55 minutes of the supposed 60 minute game. Unfortunately, we once again fell foul of some interesting South African refereeing (and timekeeping) and could not hold onto our lead. To ease our pain at not winning a game on tour, our billets arranged for us to go on a pub crawl which ended at Springbok's Bar.

And so to Sun City! Full body massages, giant water



slides, wave pools, elaborately decorated hotels, rubber tubing, jet skiing, and miniature golf! Real golf for those who cared for it - congratulations to Tom Burn, who successfully destroyed Mr Roden by some 20 strokes. The safari game drives we were lucky enough to go on were immensely enjoyable: we half-filled our digital cameras with photographs of zebras, hippos, giraffes, rhinos and elephants. Thanks are due to all the staff who went on tour, but also to all the players, who made it a completely unforgettable experience.

Seb Heaven

In the shadow of Table Mountain we played the best rugby we had played all tour...



Venezuela Expedition 2005

This summer ten students from KES successfully undertook a month long expedition to Venezuela under the leadership of Greg Coe from World Challenge, assisted by school leaders Stan Lampard and Carolyn While. The 'challengers' were directly involved right from the outset in research, planning, fund raising, physical training, skills training and risk assessment during an 18 month build-up course to ensure they were well prepared to run the 32 day long expedition competently for themselves.

The experience of spending one month in such an intimate group and such an extreme environment is impossible to explain fully, even without the time and space constraints of *Chronicle*. However, we will do our best to accurately inform and entertain.

Our group arrived in the bustling airport of Caracas after a combined 12 hours of air travel. After a further 9 hour coach journey (the combined coach journey total would eventually exceed 36 hours/2000 miles), we reached Ciudad Bolivar before moving on to the area surrounding Salto Angel by small aircraft. Here, we walked behind the deafening Golden Falls and after an hour-long trek into the rainforest, gazed upon the tallest waterfall in the world, spilling from a mile-high fortress of stone. From here the group proceeded by four-seater planes to St Elena, before

beginning the first, week long, trek, to the 2700-metre-high summit of Mount Roraima, the highest of about a hundred ancient Tepuis (table-top) mountains. Under the watchful eyes of our experienced guides Marco and Jaime (a member of the Pemón, natives of the Gran Sabana) many of us were overwhelmed by the pristine environment, full of bizarre rock formations inhabited by unique plant life and otherworldly animal communities. During this first trek the "puri-puri" flies became the bane of our existence as they attempted to devour us alive (see Richard Ruston for the grim details) and when we returned to St Elena after what seemed like a lifetime, the group was glad to indulge in a short period of rest and relaxation before the onward journey to the busy town of Merida. We then proceeded to the depths of the Andes Mountain range where we worked in a community centre alongside Amerindian farmers, painting and cleaning buildings and entertaining local children.

After a few days spend doing our community project in Mucachies, we travelled back to the city for a brief two-day preparation period, before embarking on the main trek of the expedition, in the Andes. This trek took us to the summit of Pico Campanera, over 4,500m high. We scrambled through caves etched into a Precambrian past, felt the overpowering heat of the sun and formed our own rainbows in the mountain mists as we stood watching the sunset over cloud-shrouded, glacier-carved mountain crests, gazing down upon white walled cities reduced to minute models in the valleys below. We

...after an hour-long trek into the rainforest, we gazed upon the tallest waterfall in the world, spilling from a mile-high fortress of stone.



sweated, shivered, ached in every muscle, were dizzy and breathless with high altitude and nursed a myriad of wounds: but on the seventh morning, as we prepared our near-frostbitten bodies for the final walk back to civilisation, we all felt we had achieved something truly great and were filled with a sense of well-being, as would be revealed in a later discussion of the trip. Upon our arrival in Merida, most challengers managed to undo a whole week of body detox during one sitting at McDonalds.

After four arduous weeks, the group breathed a sigh of ecstatic relief when we reached the picturesque Puerto Columbia on the Caribbean coast to enjoy our main rest and relaxation phase. Here, we celebrated Sam Brooke's birthday in emphatic style, swam in beautiful coral reefs and happily loafed around on the beach; a far cry from our previous exertions! The travel high-light of the month was a four hour journey by fishing boat along the coast to reach Caracas from Puerto Columbia. This exciting adventure proved essential, as our journey overland across mountains to the airport and home was made near-impossible by the recent collapse of the autopista.

Accommodation had to be organised upon arrival at each destination. We camped in tents for a total of fifteen nights, slept in hammocks for four nights and rested fitfully on overnight buses to complete four journeys. We were lulled to sleep by the hypnotic beat of Creole drummers in the tropical heat and humidity at sea level on the Caribbean coast, and at the highest point we shivered through a starlit night at 4000 metres; yet the most memorable night was spent cowering beneath a rock overhang in tents through electrifying tropical thunder and lightning on the summit of Mount Roraima.

Obtaining sufficient food and fuel and preparing meals for thirteen people became a major challenge for much of the expedition. This was especially important during the two treks, on each of which over 50kg of staple foods alone had to be provisioned, and designated cooks had to overcome the added hindrance of only semi-operational

cooking stoves. The long preparation times created much frustration and tension at the end of a long day of trekking. Every member of the expedition came home knowing that they would never again take the provision of regular, hot meals for granted, and most swore never to eat rice, spaghetti or six-day-old unleavened bread ever again. The team took their environmental responsibilities very seriously, adopting a zero tolerance policy on litter. We returned from both treks with several large bags of sewage and waste, much to the displeasure of those walking downwind.

By taking responsibility for all these tasks, every member of the team acquired a spectrum of new skills and experiences that will serve well in many other situations. Great relationships were forged and immense experiences shared. Furthermore, we have grasped an invaluable insight into another country and culture and discovered a life-long gift of self confidence and trust in others.

During the expedition most (all but one) of us suffered intestinal upset and there was sunburn and exhaustion. We rarely had a chance to wash or shower; instead we swam in ice-cold mountain pools, plunged through waterfalls and soaked in springs. We wouldn't have had it any other way.

All 10 members of KES who took part would like to thank Stan Lampard and Carolyn While for helping us with this life-changing experience; looking back it was an opportunity not to have been missed. This was truly an extreme expedition not for the faint hearted.

SEL/Jack Flaherty

...we worked in a community centre alongside Amerindian farmers, painting and cleaning buildings and entertaining local children.



Hayward Travel Scholarship: Excerpts From a Journal

Day One - Why did no one warn me about the mountains?

We rose at six, after indulging in a French game show in which just over half the games involved the contestants, in pyjamas, running away from a rampaging bull (no really...). Only two were actually gored though, so it was all good, clean family fun. From bed to breakfast, and with baguette theft competently accomplished, we had our lunch too. A few hours, a boring coach journey and an extortionate taxi ride later, we were optimistically setting foot on the trail.

There is a curious phenomena within our guide book: where it cheerfully states a three or four hundred metre height gain, it actually means that you drop a couple of hundred first, then climb double. Shane took this in his rather rapid stride, whereas I climbed at approximately the speed of a beached whale. No, I lie; marginally slower than a beached whale. And then I got cramp. In my legs. In both my legs. The scenery is nice though.

... I climbed at approximately the speed of a beached whale.

Day Three - Logging and 'les tortues'

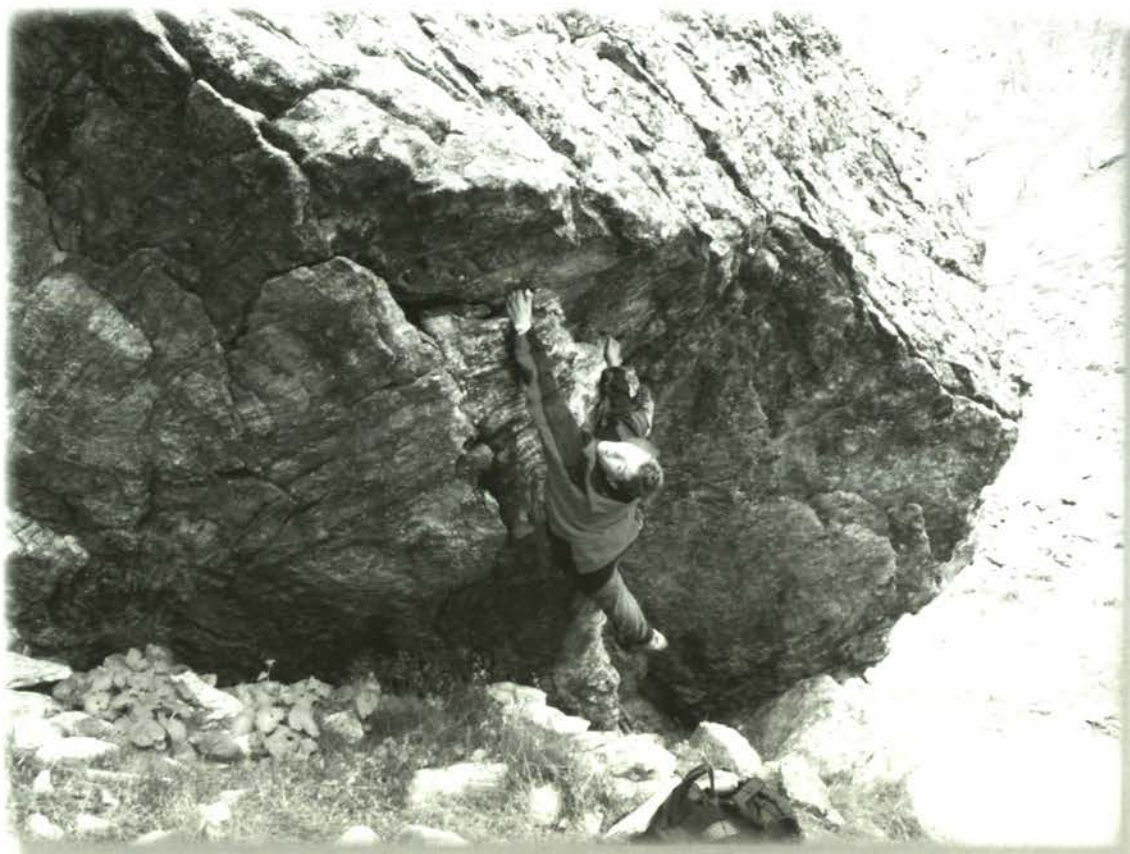
Today, we had the inevitable getting lost. We walked about an extra three miles because of it, and had to climb straight up a couple of hundred metres to get back on track. Then disaster struck. Apparently, the section of the GR5 between St Etienne and Roya is closed for logging between June and November. We made a fair effort, but after five or six hours walking we gave up and went back down to Auron, then returned, deflated, to St Etienne.

Day Four - The 'Rest' Day

The plan for today was to recover from yesterday's seven-hour beasting with a bit of gentle, bag-less walking with a cyclist we met. In reality, however, ridiculously fit cyclists will be ridiculously fit, and our gentle walk turned out to be a 1400 metre climb to the highest peak we'd yet reached, followed by running back down. It was amazing fun though. Hopefully it'll be plain sailing from now on, but somehow I doubt it, as we thought that this would be the easy bit!

Day Six - The Long Haul

We walked for quite a long time today. In fact, even if you take out all the breaks we walked for eleven hours solid. Ridiculous I know, but we had our reasons (well, reason: the place we wanted to stay was too expensive). We climbed 2100m too. We got



to where we planned to stop on our longest planned day of walking, and then walked on for another three hours. Uphill. Fortunately, by this point we had both reached the stage where all physical activity was an exercise in mind over matter, and it only hurt when we finally stopped. It hurt a lot. Did I mention that we got up at four a.m.? Four! We're sleeping in beds tonight though, so there's at least something to look forward to. I would write about some of the marvellous sights we saw, but right now I feel like I'm about to die, or at least lose my legs, so until tomorrow, gentle reader, farewell!

Day Seven - Madonna in the Window

Today was a chance for a slight recovery, as we had cut about two hours off the planned journey by adding to yesterday's original distance. We set out at about half seven after a breakfast of chocolate and were off, walking across a rather sketchy scree. We soon enough reached a beautiful lake, with a couple of wild horses by it. After that, we arrived shortly at a large refuge and church in a place called 'Madone de Fenestre'.

We then continued to walk through the heat of midday to what was mysteriously marked on the map as 'hard part of hiking trail'. Read 'No path here'. What we saw was just an immense boulder field, which, after much ankle strain, took us to another little lake with a fantastic view for miles between two mountains and some 'Chamois' deer. This was followed by a steep ascent up scree, and a steeper descent down an even more treacherous boulder field, which brought us to Refuge Nice.

Day Eight - In Cloud Nine

It rained all last night, and it was most certainly raining this morning when we had to cram a sodden tent into a dry-sack and start walking. The Gore-Tex was resolutely on today, even if it did make me far too hot, and before we knew what was happening, we were walking in the clouds.

There was more 'hard' path today, and we realised whilst freezing on top of a windy, rainy, col, inside a cloud, why the group of French walkers just behind us had stopped just over the col, rather than actually on top of it, completely exposed to the elements. So our day in 'The Valley of Wonders' was to be marred by cloud and rain. It did brighten up slightly as we entered the valley, but I can't help but feel that some of the 'wonder' was lost in fog.

Day Eleven - The Grand Finale

We did it! We actually finished. The views were truly spectacular. I hope the photos do them even vague justice. Our first action was to slump at the nearest café, and then off for a paddle, which turned into a swim, despite not having any swimming trunks. It meant that my clothes were wet, but it had to be done really. It turned out, however, that the only campsite is up a huge hill (about one hundred and fifty to two hundred metres of steps!); added to this, we were told upon arrival that it was full. Luckily, friendly hiking (and, in a new twist to the tale, moderately aggressive) Frenchmen came to our rescue, basically by shouting at the receptionist until she let us stay on one of the many blatantly not full plots. After this, we descended from the heights to forage. Well, at least to find a cheap Italian restaurant. Full of lasagne, pizza, steak and chocolate mousse, we remounted the camping peak and I shall now promptly fall asleep after a somewhat strenuous but very satisfying day.

David Smith

We did it! We actually finished. The views were truly spectacular.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expedition

On the 1st September, ten people brave enough to volunteer for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessed Expedition despite the horrors of the practice set off to the Brecon Beacons, to walk 80km in four days.

The first day looked tough: the assessor estimated it to be 25km, but it was actually at least 30. Consequently, both groups reached their destination after 9 p.m. and covered in mud. We had looked on course to finish by 6p.m. but poor route selection in the final few km delayed us: we decided to climb up what turned out to be a cliff, although the map said it was a path through a nature reserve. From the top of the final hill we could see the campsite, so went directly towards it, rather than following the path. Big mistake: the last 2km took over 2 hours.

The next morning, we didn't set out until ten o'clock, having had a long lie in. After a gentle, quiet start along flat footpaths and a road, the silence was disturbed at a lay-by, where there were busloads of Welsh fans waiting to travel down to Cardiff for the England vs. Wales match. Soon though, we left the road, and climbed Pen-y-Fan in the mist. After descending, the route was a flat bridleway for most of the day; the only tiring aspect was when the map-reader repeatedly said we had 2km to go, when, in fact, we were still a long way off. Arriving early at the campsite enabled us to build a large fire to keep away midges, and also to attend to multiple blisters.

On the third day, the route took us near Talybont reservoir. Unfortunately, the assessor had said we could not walk along the A40, so we were given a lift to the town of Bwlch, and from there it was just a few kilometres to the campsite, which was the first with showers. Highlights of the final day included climbing Lord Hereford's Knob, and Waun Fach, the biggest climb of the trip.

Thanks go to Mr Storey for organising the trip, and to Mr Raynor for helping with the driving.

Andrew Horder

Economics Trip to Paris 2005

Every two years Mr Mason leads a group of Economists and Business Studies students to Paris for a weekend. The purpose of the trip is to attend the 'Your Future in Europe' conference. This year 71 people, including a KEHS party, accompanied him. We arrived in Paris at about five o'clock in the afternoon and headed for our hotel. After checking in and handing over our breakage/behaviour deposits (money most of us doubted we'd see again), we occupied our rooms. Mr Mason decided to leave the boys to their own devices, insisting only on an early return to the hotel in preparation for the conference the following day.

The following day we were treated to a 'special' continental breakfast (small croissant and smaller cup of coffee), and headed for the *Palais de Congres* for the conference. Lizo Mzimba (Newsround presenter) tried to stimulate the crowd but, as most of the 2500 people there were suffering from sleep deprivation, he failed miserably. Among the morning's speakers Mr Simon Hughes stood out, presenting on the subjects of asylum, immigration and the EU constitution. After lunch we returned to hear a hugely entertaining Simon Woodroffe (owner of the Yo! Sushi chain). He was really inspiring and was definitely the best speaker at the conference. This was followed by a comparatively dull Q&A session, after which the conference ended. The evening was spent on a boat trip, taking in the sights, before moving to the Latin Quarter. We awoke the following morning to another continental breakfast, before packing our belongings and leaving. Special mention must be made of Mo Tayeeb, who got his head stuck in the doors of the London Underground! Overall, it was a hugely enjoyable and educational trip.

T. Hussain

Upper Middles' Geography Field Trip

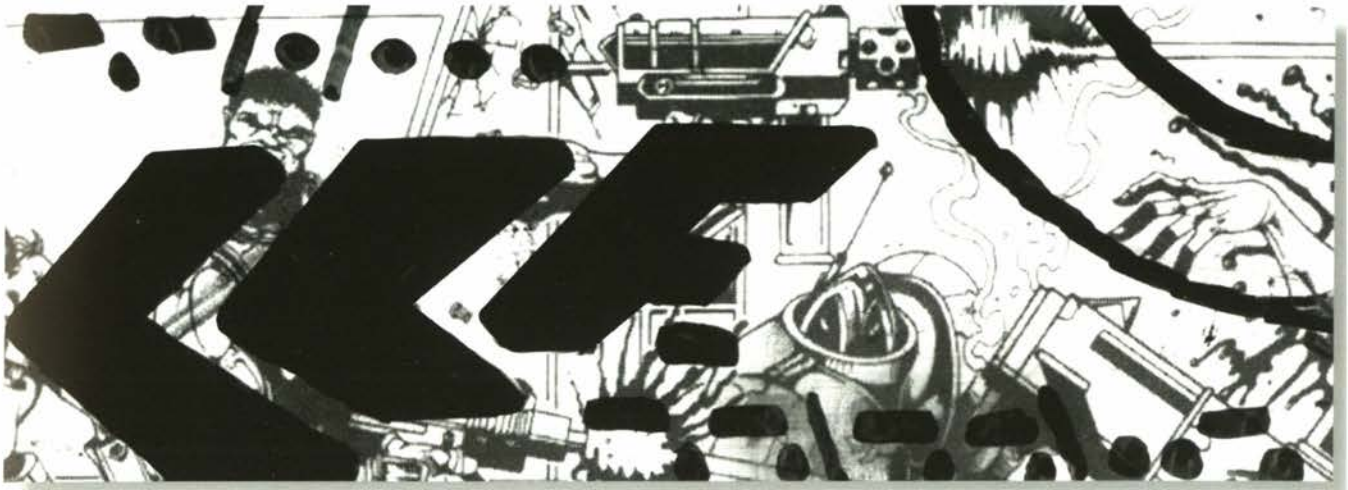
The journey began with an eight fifteen departure from the Parade ground. We were equipped with walking boots, water-proofs and sensible clothes, as we were warned that it would be a wet day. We had to fill in an information sheet about our journey to Church Stretton while on the coach, for later use in a presentation, although most people found it more enjoyable to listen to their MP3 players.

As soon as we arrived at Carding Mill Valley, we had to put on our anoraks to complete the look of a 'Geographer in action'. Looking around us we could clearly see many typical features of the upper course of a river valley. Upon reaching a large confluence, we could view interlocking spurs, a typical V-shaped valley, a steep long profile, bed load that has not yet been worn down by attrition and, best of all, a view of the world famous Long Mynd Plateau. After some mild uphill walking we reached our goal of the "Light Spout" waterfall in all of its glory, the very creator of the gorge of recession in front of it. We stopped for a quick lesson (20mins) from Mr Roden about the formation of waterfalls.

On the way down we stopped for lunch and began recording data about the hydraulic radius and discharge of the river. After this was measured, the majority of people made dams out of rocks until we had to go.

Our secondary purpose was to pursue our groups' individual projects in the town of Church Stretton. The topics varied from "How does tourism affect Church Stretton?" to "What leisure activities does the town provide?" The majority tried interviewing unsuspecting residents. After this had ended and we felt we had collected enough information, we explored the town for our own enjoyment. The Fish and Chip shop was popular, as well as the charity shop, whereas others simply thought it interesting to buy a pumpkin from the local greengrocers. Eventually we climbed back onto the coach and returned to KES after a fun and factual day.

Ronan Murray



CCF – Contingent Commander's Overview

The Annual General Inspection was, as ever, the cause of much planning, ingenuity and last-minute panic, but went off well on the night. We tried a new format of fewer set-pieces and more examples of how cadets typically spend Friday afternoons, and this was generally agreed to be a success, giving parents and visitors something of the flavour of normal CCF life. This will be the format adopted next year for the Centenary Parade. We could not, of course, entirely forego the set pieces, and both the initial parade and the final infantry manoeuvres across the South Field gave a large number of cadets the chance to put on a good show for the audience. It was good to welcome Air Commodore Stephen Sims, Commandant of our parent station at RAF Cosford, and to welcome back Old Boys now serving in HM Forces. The usual positive feedback was received – we just hope we can pull it off next year too!

There was a strong competition performance in most areas this year. The Military Skills Team achieved their best ever result with a close second in the Brigade competition, but clashes of events prevented us from entering March & Shoot or Skill at Arms. Gratifying success was however achieved in First Aid, where our invited teams managed to trounce the Army Cadet Force by taking first and second positions in the ACF's own County competition, and the Senior team then repeated the triumph by winning the Brigade competition, breaking Bromsgrove School's seven year run of success (by one point...). Triumph for the Army Section came too in the Penhale Challenge on Summer Camp, when we came home with silverware and medals from second place in March

& Shoot and outright first in the Obstacle Course. The smile on the face of Capt. Collins was a joy to behold. The RAF Section played its part too with the Regional shields in First Aid, and competed honourably in the National Finals, perhaps handicapped slightly by having lost a night's sleep on exercise at Nesscliff the night before!

This year there are just too many individual achievements to record by name, as I have tried to do in the past. From Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award to Cadet Leadership Courses, Mountain Leader Training, Arduous Training with the Royal Marines, Gliding and Flying Scholarships, to Sail Training and Parachuting, our cadets have acquitted themselves well; some of them have written about selected highlights in the following pages. The Royal Navy continues to offer a stunning portfolio of courses, and cadets have attended courses in diesel engines, powerboat driving, military training, range firing, leadership training, naval warfare, first aid, not to mention mass attendance at the Summer Camp at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. Another highlight was attendance on board HMS Invincible at the Trafalgar 200 Fleet Review. And I'm sure I've forgotten something – but this should give an idea of the range of opportunities available to CCF cadets with a bit of enterprise.

In the CCF, even if you confine yourself to what is organised by School staff, there are still plenty of things to do. Since the last *Chronicle*, staff have taken cadets to Summer Camp at Penhale in Cornwall (Army) and RAF Kinloss in the frozen North, and to RAF Easter Camp in addition. Expeditions Weekends have been organised for all

...the Senior team then repeated the triumph by winning the Brigade competition, breaking Bromsgrove School's seven year run of success.

cadets in the RN Section at Capel Curig for Adventurous Training and at Southport for Water Sports; the RAF Section has been en masse to Weybourne and Nesscliff, and the Army to Thetford and Leek. We have also taken cadets flying, gliding, kayaking and sailing on a regular basis; trained them in First Aid and Leadership skills; and guided them over Dartmoor in thoroughly unpleasant conditions.... Again, there is plenty on offer over and above Friday afternoons. So get out there and join in!

Lt Howard Smith, having changed Sections to help out with staffing ratios, then spoilt it

all by leaving for another job altogether! We wish him well and shall miss him, but we are consoled by the timely arrival of Second Lieutenant Elaine Sigston, an experienced CCF officer who has just joined the School to teach Design Technology, and brings a raft of experience for our benefit. A warm welcome to her.

Finally, Thank You to all the Officers, Instructors, and Senior NCOs for their time, care, enthusiasm, and dedication; and to all members of the CCF for their enthusiasm and good humour.

DHR

ARMY

Army Section 2004/05

Right from the outset the SNCOs of Slim Platoon were keen to make the year 'one to remember'. We would lead from the fore, whether at PT, Drill, Section attacks or 'Inter-Service Taunting'. Speaking as both their friend and their warrant officer, I would say that the Army training team found the perfect balance between a tough no-nonsense attitude and a caring, supportive and generally kind outlook. Mostly. The whole company put constant effort into all activities, making it a pleasure to teach them.

Three full days of constant planning, discussing all eventualities (round allocations, limits of exploitation, radio networks), left us with a plan for the Thetford Expeditions Weekend that would have impressed 'Ike' himself. Admittedly the planning had been conducted in a Corsican campsite café and had been written on a series of Top Secret napkins, but nonetheless all was set for the epic struggle between the Disaffected Anglican Clergy of the West Tofts area and King Edwards Platoon, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. For Connolly platoon this would be their first time on exercise and the first time some had slept on anything but a mattress with nice soft sheets, teddy, and Mummy to read them a story.

The first night was the traditional "escape and evasion" exercise. Three sections were sent off to capture intelligence left in three locations while the enemy, led by Ian Sheldrake, were ordered to kill or maim as many of the little darlings as possible. This they did ably, aided by the fact that the map reading skills of Sgt's George and Carslake left

much to be desired. Saturday is a day for all to hone their military skills and starts with the assault course. Connolly platoon took more casualties on the run to the assault course than General Custer. By the end of the day all were lean mean green fighting machines, ready to take up arms against members of the clergy who had co-ordinated a strike at St Paul's Cathedral and Thetford Training Area. While the SAS moved in to 'neutralise' the threat in London, KES Platoon fought hard during the hours of darkness, emerging victorious in time for tea and medals on Sunday. As always, ten minutes into the return journey most were fast asleep dreaming of hot food and comfy beds.

After the previous year's last placing in the Brigade Military Skills Competition, the job of winning back some glory fell to WO2 Cadigan. Despite various team members being called away for rugby fixtures we put together a good Senior team. The new format of the competition allowed us to demonstrate how deadly the relaxed but effective attitude of KES CCF Army Section can be. Overall we came second, and the team deserve many congratulations for their winning orienteering time. Covering ten kilometres in two hours in full kit at night with no torches and then getting up and running three miles at six in the morning is no mean feat. In the February half term Captain Collins runs his dreaded Dartmoor trip for the Cadre. The two Warrant Officers accompanied the trip as observers. The campsite proved to be cleverly masquerading as a godforsaken bog, swept by a force nine gale and horizontal rain which threatened to blow Vince Leung off into the distance. As Charles and I settled down to another After Eight mint and brandy

in our tent, the Cadre struggled on, valiantly trying to erect their tents. The next two days brought snow, hail, sunshine, fog and the most depressing town in all of England. Despite all of this the Cadre began to gel well together, emerging as proficient map-readers and strong characters.

The culmination of a year's military training is the March Expeditions Weekend. This year the Army were off to Leek. The saying 'time spent recce-ing is seldom wasted' was not true when WO2 Butler and I visited this delightful spot. Under two foot of snow it is hard to tell the lie of the land and, after getting stuck in one snowdrift, we decided Mother Nature was going against this expedition. Sure enough, the Expeditions Weekend itself was bitterly cold, and, without a tree in sight to basha from, the troops slept in a barn in the Company HQ, which became the focal point of the exercises. Plans had to be altered as people got lost, fell in peat hags or just gave up the will to live. However, as the saying goes, 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger' and the Leek Expeditions Weekend taught many how to operate efficiently in adverse conditions, pushing themselves further than they thought they could go under constant harassment from an elite group of enemy who had a habit of attacking them in their beds.

The year brought many challenges to the cadets, both natural and man made, and nine times out of ten the cadets surpassed all expectations and triumphed. The strength and courage of troops is often measured in their ability to maintain a sense of humour despite the conditions surrounding them. The Army section managed to do this without exception, adding to the enjoyment of all the activities.

Tom Cadigan

Army Section Summer Camp 2005 – Penhale, Cornwall.

The coach journey to Penhale was a mission in itself, and all that was on offer to pass the time for Sgt Sheldrake and myself was the good humour of Captain Collins and some of the very worst of his extensive music collection. Five hours and many Paul McCartney songs later we finally arrived at camp. The other six NCOs and I knew what to expect in terms of food, accommodation and reveille times, but the younger cadets had not experienced this type of living before and were thrown in at the deep end.

The early morning wakeups were a struggle at first for the younger lads, but the NCOs did a good job of thinking of new ways of moving cadets out of their beds, usually involving making as much noise as possible. After initial shockers, like one cadet (who shall remain unnamed) not bringing his beret because he "didn't think we needed them", they soon settled into the military way of life.

Throughout the week a variety of activities was on offer, some purely training exercises and others part of the Penhale Challenge. The most enjoyable day, as far as training was concerned, was the Ranges day, which gave everyone the opportunity to fire sixty rounds from a live LSW (5.56mm assault rifle). Regular Army soldiers also instructed us in various military skills. Whilst every aspect of the training programme was met with enthusiasm, the section performed best when in competition with other contingents. The late addition of WO2s Cadigan and Butler, in what would be their swan song for the KES CCF, added to the strength in our ranks ahead of the competition events. The Senior team managed second place in a gruelling "march and shoot" competition, and went one better on the assault course, finishing in gold medal position. Commendations must also go to the Junior "march and shoot" team for their excellent effort.

The two previous summer camps I have participated in were far easier work: this time the pressures that come with being a leader and administrator were very apparent to all SNCOs. However, we all rose to the challenge and many thanks must go to the staff, who made an enjoyable week possible.

Sgt Wild



Royal Artillery Potential Officers Parachute Course 2005

"Do not look down! I can assure you, the ground is beneath you!" – with the jumpmaster's reassuring sentiments ringing in my ears, I prepared to exit the plane.



Of course, we wouldn't have done it if we weren't at least slightly insane.

The headquarters of the Royal Regiment of Artillery were to be our base for the week, and I make a huge understatement when I say it was like no other cadet course I have been on. We spent the days in casual clothes, the nights in suits, drinking or simply socialising in the Officers Mess: we were on first-name terms with our supervising officers and could go off-base provided we had our own transport. The absence of shouting, marching and general chaos was a refreshing break from everything else I attended in the four years I was a cadet at KES.

Training commenced early Monday morning (0730) with a trip down to RAF Netheravon, home of the Royal Artillery Black Knights Display Team. It was here that we met our instructor, "Bish", and almost had our confidence in him shattered by his first words: "I got in at 0300 last night, so bear with me if I'm a bit slow" is not what you want to hear when the person speaking is the same man who will be in charge of making sure you

know what you're doing when you choose to leave a moving aircraft. He made up for this by explaining that he had over 1100 jumps to his name, and went on to provide us with more than expert tuition. A minimum of six hours ground training is required before taking to the skies, and eight is preferred, so we spent almost all of Monday learning about our equipment (parachutes, radios, altimeters) and how to use it, as well as a whole host of other topics – exit techniques, falling safely, steering, landing, avoiding accidents, emergency procedures, and finally a short test to make sure everything we had learnt was fully ingrained. After all this, you can understand that it came as some disappointment that we were unable to jump that evening, but it was evident just how tired we all were, and how much we needed sleep.

Tuesday commenced with refresher training (required until five jumps have been successfully completed) and some key questions about our descents – it's not rocket science, but it's a lot of information and far more complicated than people in the air make it look. Finally we were able to collect our parachutes, noting that they are a lot heavier and bulkier than we had assumed, before suiting up and heading out to the manifest line for pre-jump checks. Reality takes a long time to kick in. Boarding the small twin-propeller Dornier and inhaling diesel fumes; having your static line made fast; taking off on the bumpy grass runway and watching the ground fall away with the exit door wide open, while your altimeter climbs slowly to 3500ft: none of that seems real. When your PJI (parachute jump instructor) yells "CUT" and the pilot slows the plane to a sedate 70mph, the wind slows a fraction and the red light next to the door flicks over to green, reality begins to set in. In a few moments you are ushered forward from your seat and take position opposite the exit, with the plane banking high over Salisbury Plain, while your gear is checked one final time. The next words you hear ("in the door") are your order to make ready for departure by swinging your legs outside the plane, and bracing up as taught in ground training. And at last, the words you've been waiting for – "LOOK UP ... GO!!!" This is the last thing you will hear before falling up to five hundred feet in a little over five seconds.

The feeling is indescribable – if you have done it right, you will have a little blur for a few moments while you perform post-exit checks (if the parachute is big and rectangular, then you are doing fine), and then a gentle five or six minute descent from 3000ft, completely solo and unassisted. Following a safe landing, we collected our parachutes and carried them back to the manifest line, before being video-

debriefed and told what to improve on next time round.

Of course this kind of course is not risk-free – there is a 1 in 750 chance that your parachute will malfunction, and indeed we witnessed that when one of the cadets in our flight had a rather nasty descent on his second jump – but it is well worth attending simply for the fun it provides. By the end of the week, Joe and I had completed the five jumps for which we had paid, completing our final jumps on the last day of our last Summer Term at KES, and although I was the first of us to leave the aircraft, he made more progress in terms of stable exits and more complicated techniques. Both of us are now keen to gain our basic skydiving licences, which means freefalling at least eighteen times from over 12000ft. For an introduction to parachuting and for an extremely enjoyable week, get in touch with the Army Liaison Officer and make sure you make the most of being in KES CCF.

Harry Joseph

Royal Marines Commandos Arduous Training Course

Royal Marine Commando Training Centre Lympstone is situated between Exmouth and Exeter: here Britain's elite Commandos undergo 32 weeks of gruelling training in order eventually to earn the prestigious Green Beret.

After an abrupt and intimidating interrogation by the Green Beret on the gate, who wielded menacingly a loaded machine gun, we were frogmarched to the accommodation, which was now filling with presumptuous Marine cadets, all determined to assert superiority over the minority of CCF cadets. We were taken on a whistle-stop tour of Lympstone, incorporating a bit of 'light' Physical Training which turned out to be less 'light' than some of us had assumed. The afternoon consisted of a weapons display and demonstration. We got our hands on plenty of powerful firearms and were taught tactical grenade techniques by a veteran.

On Tuesday, we rose at the customary 0530 in preparation for the Physical day. Inspired by the extensive facilities of the gymnasium, we enthusiastically set about various challenges on the climbing walls. However, we were deceived by the relative ease of this first task. Next, we practised Unarmed Combat and basic anti-riot techniques, taught by possibly the most aggressive Corporal in the Marines. Swimming was next on the agenda. The thought of a carefree splash to unwind from the morning was enticing and, surprisingly enough, too

good to be true. We were given a circuit. One length; get out; fifteen press-ups; get back in; one length; twenty sit-ups, and so on. The rate at which bodies sank to the bottom of the pool without resurfacing continued to increase until we were finally relieved of this near-impossible exercise.

After lunch, we were taken to the legendary Woodbury Common to be put through our paces on the 8 mile Royal Marine Commandos Endurance Course. Many aspects of this course have featured in epic adverts, such as the underwater tunnels and the clay pits. The various obstacles were scattered about the undulating terrain at significant distances, forming a course which had to be completed at a hellish pace. First, a chest-deep river about thirty metres wide, which had to be waded through as quickly as possible. Then, we were plunged into darkness and had to navigate ourselves blindly through a maze of gravelly underground tunnels with only the sound of our oppos up ahead to reassure us. These tunnels seemed to last for about two miles, on and off. With red raw elbows and knees we laboured on to the underwater tunnels, followed by the wide and waist-deep clay pit full of thick, syrup-like red clay. To finish, we had to negotiate the slippery mud wall, which demanded more than one attempt from quite a few cadets. However, that was not the end of our fun for the day. The four mile run back to the transport was conducted as a squad: we thought the torture would never end.

Wednesday was to be the Field phase. We started the day with a classic Marine tradition: 'yomping'. Essentially, this entails carrying loads over large distances whilst maintaining military discipline in order to react to effective enemy contact. After about fifteen miles across Woodbury Common with an 80lb Bergen, we were eager to start the Survival Training phase of the course. We were taught water-collecting methods using only equipment any soldier would carry, such as the construction of solar stills and dew pits and the less appetising 'aqueous eye'... We learnt about essential shelter construction using nothing but surrounding foliage and, in the evening, put this into practise by creating our own shelters for the night in the dense woodland.

The next morning, after yomping back to Lympstone, we had our final de-brief and PO Woods and I acquired T-shirts for our efforts. We were inspired by the efforts of WO2 Cadigan last year, and would recommend anyone who enjoys a challenge to apply. It is tough but well worth the effort!

Ian Sheldrake

RAF

RAF Section Commander's Comments

This has been a very successful and busy year for the RAF Section.

Cpl L Whitting and Cds V Aggarwal, K Ling and S Shiralkar were awarded Gliding Scholarships and Cpl J Perini a prestigious Flying Scholarship. Sgt E Weaver and Cpl S Patel went on the Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Stafford. Once again we qualified for the finals in the Ground Training Competition at RAF Uxbridge and the first aid team had a successful final at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Twenty eight cadets attended the two annual camps at RAF Brampton and RAF Kinloss. All cadets were given the opportunity to fly in Tutor aircraft at DCAE Cosford and a further 20 cadets continued their Gliding Induction Courses, also at DCAE Cosford.

The enthusiasm and commitment of RAF cadets is noteworthy. I was most impressed by the quality of the support in running the section given by the SNCOs, led by CWO Tom Bradish, and we wish them every success in their future endeavours. I also wish to thank, and draw attention to the tremendous help given by, the other Section Officers, Fg Off P Evans and Plt Off C Howard.

The following reports give a flavour of some of the activities that have taken place.

*Sqn Ldr T A McMullan
OC RAF Section*

Overview of RAF Section

For several years running, the RAF has been the school's largest CCF section: this year, we numbered around seventy cadets. The section welcomed twenty-six new recruits from the Fourth year and watched as their aptitude and proficiency matured. Many have benefited from the RAF's broad spectrum of activities, such as air experience flights in Tutor aircraft, and all have become familiar with the school shooting range. During their first year, these newcomers have mastered the art of drill and flawless parade inspections, and, trained by the very qualified NCO team, have been given a sturdy platform upon which to build the rest of their CCF experience.

The Fifth form have been eager to develop their CCF training and have begun to specialize in the skills which they will offer to the section during their NCO administration. This year's Cadre training course was extremely successful in schooling the next

generation of RAF NCOs. This unique course allows the development of an individual's leadership style and teaching prowess.

Friday afternoons are the backbone of RAF training. But it is Expedition Weekends which put accumulated cadet training to the test, involving intense activities which assess leadership ability and offer a tangible reward for the hard work. The



first such weekend was in September, at RAF Weybourne. The new Fourths successfully completed all the gruelling exercises and took the weekend in their stride. The March Expeditions Weekend was at the Nesscliff Army Training Area near Shropshire, and involved exercises involving hostage rescues, field craft and section attacks. This expedition tested the endurance of cadets in the "dusk 'til dawn" mission and yielded a sense of great contentment at accomplishing challenging objectives.

The section also saw two very enjoyable weeklong camps this year, at RAF Brampton during the Easter break and RAF Kinloss in Scotland in the summer holiday. We competed in a regional competition held at RAF Stafford, qualifying for the National Ground Training Finals at RAF Uxbridge in March against elite schools from around the country, and continued our tradition of winning the coveted First Aid trophy when our team of budding medics proved their merit in the First Aid Finals at the Royal Military Training Academy at Sandhurst in October. The

year's training was concluded at the Annual General Inspection in May, when we presented an outstanding drill demonstration by the National Finals Team and excellent command task displays, giving the visiting parents an insight into their sons' cadet life. Overall the section received a superb report following the inspection.

Next year we expect to welcome one of our largest influxes of new recruits ever, a testament to the unique experience that the RAF can offer to its cadets. This is only made possible by the RAF officers of the KES CCF and many thanks must go to Sqn Ldr Raynor, Sqn Ldr McMullan, Flg Off Evans and of course Plt Off Howard for their constant and enduring dedication to the section and its cadets. We also want to thank Sqn Ldr Valentine and Sgt Foley from DCAE Cosford for their continued support throughout the year.

The future certainly looks bright for the RAF.

Sgt Elliot Weaver



RAF Expeditions Weekend (24th-26th September 2004)

On the third Friday Afternoon of the year, the RAF section based its Expeditions Weekend at RAF Weybourne, on the North Sea coast of Norfolk. The highlights of a crowded programme of events were the two Night Exercises, both based on dramatic scenarios: one involved rescuing a downed pilot, and the other was a complicated affair involving amassing chemical fuel bottles with which to launch our own rocket.

But the daytime was varied and interesting as well. After room inspection at 0700 on Saturday, British Army 24hr Rations Packs were issued. Oh joy! In my pack, breakfast was apparently a pack of beefburger and beans. What a great combination! I shoved the cold beefburger and baked beans into my mouth regardless of the taste, because I was going to need the energy: I was going to be active for 12 straight hours until dinner.

We were given a talk and an exercise about stealth movements, silent communication and ambushing, before moving on to our next exercise: road blocking. Here, our flight was taught about road blocking pedestrians and vehicles. We halted and frisked the NCOs (who then 'shot' us). Our next objective was to roadblock a minibus full of drunken hooligans coming back from a football match. The NCOs were so good at acting the hooligans that they should have won an Oscar. Afterwards we had to compete with another flight to build the best impromptu airfield, using objects found on the beach. We practised infiltrating enemy territory, before working as a team to rescue target objects from a dark room full of tripwires only detectable by UV light.

Overall, our flight, Flight D, ranked 3rd out of the 6 flights, which was quite an achievement. All in all I really enjoyed the Expeditions Weekend. I found it tiring yet challenging and exciting. The main reason for enjoying it was probably because everyone in our flight got along really well. I must say that

the Expeditions Weekend as a whole was very well planned out and I feel more involved in the RAF. A big "thank you" must go to all of the NCOs, including Flight Sergeant Bradish, and the Section Officers: Pilot Officer Howard, Flying Officer Evans and Squadron Leader McMullan.

Cdt P De Silva



RAF Expeditions Weekend (11th-12th March 2005)

The setting of the March weekend was the Nesscliff Training Area near Shrewsbury. Mainly used by the army, it has served as an area for military exercises for all three services. However, it was now the turn of the KES RAF Section.

The main event of the weekend was a combat simulation exercise in which three teams ("flights") competed to amass the components of a bomb which had been distributed among them. Our first priority was to protect our bomb part from hostile forces. We in turn had to infiltrate two enemy bases to find their bomb parts and combine them with our own. In return for the completion of command tasks, each flight could earn points, which we could use to buy extra equipment such as radios, cammo nets, diversions and so on.

Early in the exercise, a very recognisable voice from the Military Police requested a member of our flight to come forward. Our leader reluctantly complied and was immediately taken away. This was a devastating blow to our flight: a radio message alerted us that he had been taken hostage by an enemy force, which had posed as the Military Police. We eventually decided to pay the ransom for him, leaving our team in debt.

After reclaiming our leader, we launched an ill-fated assault on Charlie Flight's base: our scout was captured, and we were routed. A later attempt to bushwhack both of the other flights failed when it became clear that our captured scout had joined the enemy and agreed to guide them to our base! And so events unfolded: in the end we struck it lucky when we found Charlie's base undefended, and retrieved two bomb parts, thereby securing the winning points.

Cdt P De Silva

The Air Cadet Leadership Course

St Elliot Weaver and I began our week at RAF Stafford with Phase 1 of the course, basically 15 minute command tasks, similar to the traditional "barrel and plank" leadership exercises. A small demonstration was given by the officers, involving the easiest command task this side of the Atlantic. It just would not be cricket if the tasks we undertook were that easy! And of course they were not.

For each task a different leader was given a brief, which he then had to lead his team

in the execution of. Eight times out of ten he failed, leading to a bruising appraisal of his leadership failings. This format continued in Phase 2, which was more testing and had longer tasks. However, the criticism was, in most cases, constructive.

In between all the fun, we were asked who had taken drill before and who was confident enough to do it for the graduation parade. My hand shot up. We each had a go at taking the parade. I was a tad nervous, with the drill sergeant breathing down my neck as I called the parade to attention. He was taken aback by this unusually loud voice coming from a 5' 7" Asian kid. So flabbergasted was he, that I was chosen to take the flight on the parade.

For Phase 3 of the course, we were deported to Swynnerton army base. Here the real action started: pitching forty tents for the first night, four of which were the huge 12' x 12' ones. The next night we slept in bashers: I can feel the effects of that night to this day. Advice: you will wake up with severe back pains after sleeping on stones and branches, so avoid at all costs! The command tasks, however, were challenging but very enjoyable, much better than the ones we do in school.

After each outdoor meal, our cooking area and mess tins were to be spotless. Working as a good team, we divided the work between us, but when it came to the inspection the mess tin cleaners had done a pretty abysmal job! The officer looked at the mess tin in my hand and barked:

"There is a plant in your mess tin!! Why is there a plant in your mess tin?!"

The plant was in fact one blade of grass.

As I watched my mess tins being drop kicked across the field in disgust, I knew I was in trouble...

But I had an amazing time. Most people were friendly; the activities were always fun and challenging (who really wants an easy task?); the officers were interesting to say the least!! If you do get an opportunity to attend the ACLC, it's truly worthwhile for your leadership qualities and your confidence as a leader.

Cpl Sameer Patel

RAF Kinloss: Summer Camp 2005

RAF Kinloss was first established as a pilot training school in the spring of 1938. In May 1940, Kinloss's defences were finally ready and at that time there were 19 Operational Training Units; Kinloss was a major station during the Second World



War, used by a range of planes including Lancasters and Shackletons. Kinloss today is well known for its Nimrods, used both in anti-submarine warfare and as search and rescue planes. Now Kinloss homes 21 Nimrods, which are run by 120, 201 and 206 Squadrons, as well as three Nimrod MR2s, operated by No. 42 Squadron.

Our first night exercise tested our communication and stealth skills. We were assigned to draw a map of the woods and mark anything that we thought was man-made; both flights had 2 hours to do this, and marks were to be awarded for the maps. However, there was also a 'hunter force' which consisted of the NCOs and the SACs: it was their job to patrol the woods and capture anyone whom they could see. This exercise was just a warm up for the one to follow. Our mission now was to go and 'bomb' the satellite dish and radar that we should have found before by using our maps. Yet again the hunter force would be on our backs and we had to be stealthy. Riki Mahanta, Ryota Nishikawa and I were given the job of 'bombing' the radar. We slyly crept to the target, placed the 'bomb' and found our way back without being caught once.

What a night!

The next couple of days flew past, filled with various activities such as leadership skills, shooting, and flying on a Nimrod. Friday was devoted to the walking activity: most of the cadets, including me, were frowning at the idea of walking for hours and hours on the final day. But we were all surprised, as I thought it was one of the most relaxing activities that we had done.

Thanks must finally be given to Sqn Ldr McMullan, without whose hard work and time we would not have had such a great summer camp. Also thanks should be given to OC Rakesh Chauhan, who freely gave up his time to help run our camp.

Cdt G Sharma

NAVY

Royal Navy Section, 2004-2005: Overview

Last year saw the Royal Navy Section, under the able command of Lt Leaver and POs Gogna and Patel, reinvent itself as a growing, well-organised, serious driving force within the CCF. Returning in September, however, this year's NCOs were faced with a number of challenges: technical difficulties prevented any watersports, a major attraction of the Navy, being undertaken, and it turned out that the OC RN Section would be absent for most of the year on maternity leave. Having survived a rigorous cadre in impressive fashion, the SNCOs were well ready to face these problems and under their leadership 2004-2005 has proved to be possibly the most successful year in recent history, a sure sign that the Royal Navy Section is no longer to be treated as light relief!

Thirteen recruits awaited POs Carter and Wheatley on the Parade Square at the beginning of the year. The lack of water time actually proved an advantage, as the extra military training meant that by Christmas they had been formed into an effective squad. With a little discipline, the Fifts proved to be an able group, under the tutelage of POs Woods and Yeomans. Our three Divisions departed for the Inter Service Cadre, directed by Capt Collins, learning a lot from the Army during the course.

The early training paid off in spectacular fashion as Christmas saw our biggest triumph:

the senior service was victorious in the Inter Section Competition! Following this, Messrs Hafeez-Bore and Mustifa were deservedly promoted to the rank of Petty Officer, completing a fantastic team of SNCOs.

The highlight of the year was in May when the Section produced a superb display at the Annual General Inspection. RN cadets performed to a high standard during the march past and impressed their inspecting officers greatly, although some concerns about the general hairiness of the section were voiced! Further details are available on a nearby page.

In September 2004 the section returned to Capel Curig for the year's first expedition: an Adventurous Training weekend in the Welsh hills. This year's programme included a NightEx, confirming the addition of a new element to the Navy's training programme. This was followed in March by an Afloat Training Expedition to Southport, finally allowing the cadets a chance to enjoy some watersports, including raft building, impromptu swimming and even dragon-boat racing.

In addition to this, many of the cadets have taken up the opportunities offered by the Royal Navy Camps and Courses. The range is fantastic: from Powerboating, Sail Training, Kayaking and Sports courses to Naval Warfare and Range Firing. For the older boys popular courses include the Tri-Service Leadership Course at CTC Frimley Park and the fearsome Royal Marines Arduous Training at CTCRM Lympstone. At present, 20 of the section's 30 cadets are due to have attended a course this academic year. Twelve lucky cadets

were also able to attend the rehearsal day for the International Review of the Fleet in the Solent in June.

As you can see, this year really has been a great success for the RN section, not least because of the effort and devotion of all those involved in running it. Many thanks to all the NCOs: to Under Officer Patel for



rescuing us when we were short of staff; to Lt Fred Oatway, our AI, who despite being only temporarily in post has been invaluable; to Sqn Ldr Raynor and Lt Smith for overseeing the section in Lt Leaver's absence; to our own Officers, Lt Leaver and Sub Lt Ash; and to all the other people involved in ensuring the smooth running of all our activities. Lastly, thanks to the cadets for putting everything into it – let's hope next year's recruits prove to be such a good bunch.

The future's bright...the future's Navy blue.

PO David Woods

Naval Section Courses

i) Powerboat Coxswain (Summer 2004)

This very popular week-long course is devoted principally to a lot of hands-on experience of a range of powered vessels, including RIBs and displacement boats such as the Cheverton Champs. The "Chumps" are fairly slow and smell of diesel, but driving an RIB is incredible and this course is probably the only way most people will have the opportunity to spend so much time at the wheel of one, flying around the river. There was also a nighttime expedition in the large FMLs. At the end of the week there was also an excursion by FML to a little town on the coast, with all the cadets taking shifts on the boat and, on shore leave, sampling the cuisine of Cornwall, which seems to involve chip shops and pasties.

The daily routine consisted of a morning lecture, after which we put the skills learnt in the lecture to use. There was another lecture in the afternoon back at HMS Raleigh. The lectures were on safety, navigation, rules of the road, etc. These were pretty boring, but worth listening to because there was a hard test at the end! As it was a long course, we all got to know each other really well and had great fun. The dogwatch games were very good and the accommodation at HMS Raleigh was quite luxurious. Nearly everyone walked away with the Powerboat Level 2 qualification at the end.

ii) Fleet Air Arm Acquaint (Easter 2005)

This was a five day course at RNAS Culdrose, or HMS Seahawk, near Helston in Cornwall. The days were spent visiting units on the airbase, such as the Merlin squadrons and the outdoor flight deck simulator. The jets stationed at Seahawk are the Hawk Jets which are used for training and also by the Red Arrows. These visits were very enjoyable, and we learnt a lot about almost every plane in service with the Navy. We also got to see "behind the scenes" with visits to the Control

Tower, the fire station and Bird Prevention Units. The view from the Control Tower was amazing!

The highlight of the course was a flight in a Jetstream, a twin-engine propeller plane used for flight crew training and transport. The flight was not particularly fast or aerobatic, but we did perform a few very tight turns, and sat in the cockpit for a while. The flight provided great views of Cornwall, and of the Eden Project in particular. The accommodation and messing were very good and in the evenings there were good sports facilities. As there were only ten people on the course, we became a tightly-knit group, which added a great deal to the enjoyment.

AB Mark Woodward

The Annual General Inspection

This year AGI for the Royal Navy section followed a new format: we planned to show visitors a little more of what we do on Friday afternoons rather than having static displays. So, after the impeccable march on and march past, the cadets split into two groups to begin their activities for the evening. The groups were based in the Pool and in the pavilion, the Pool group being the bigger of the two.

The Pool display was run by L/S O'Brien, who gave a very thorough display of life saving techniques with the aid of junior members of the Naval section. It was then all change in the Pool, as various cadets took to the water on an assortment of racing craft including an inflatable crocodile! Various activities ensued, including an underwater assault course. The fascinating array of events and teamwork went down very well with the crowd in the



Pool complex. In the end the kayak won the racing event, although I had my money on the crocodile.

Meanwhile, the other Naval group was hard at work with a display of sailing and boat work using a video, a PowerPoint presentation and a boat parked on the grass in front of the pavilion. This last was an experience in itself, given the almost gale-force winds! It was used to demonstrate parts of the boat, parts of the course and some of the manoeuvres used in sailing. Afterwards, the crowd was ushered into the pavilion to watch a PowerPoint presentation and video given by Naval cadets. The video was a great success, featuring as it did spectacular capsize aplenty.

All in all, a great display was put on for the visiting parents and military personnel: many people commented on the display's being both entertaining and informative. Thank you very much to all those who put in the hard work, and let's make it even better next year.

AB Andy Audley

Royal Navy Range Firing Course

During the last week of term while everyone else was hard at work, AB Pritchett and I caught a train to HMS Raleigh in Plymouth to undertake a course firing L98 guns on Tregantle Ranges. The first two days of the course were spent getting used to the guns and to the routine at HMS Raleigh while avoiding unwanted haircuts. The last three days were taken up blasting ammunition down the ranges at various different sized targets. The smallest of these was about the size of someone's head, which from 100m looks very small. Points were awarded for accuracy and a badge awarded in accordance to the total points each cadet had scored.

In the evenings at HMS Raleigh sports would take place, such as swimming, football, unihoc. On one occasion a trip down the river was arranged for us to view a variety of warships in harbour, including a frigate, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker and a Portuguese naval vessel, before we were warded off by a police boat and had to return to HMS Raleigh!

All in all it was a fantastic trip: hard work, but in the end well worth it. It was a shame to have to leave and the trip was well worth the £1.20 a night, especially since during the course each cadet fired over £1000 worth of taxpayer's money in ammunition. Now we know where the money goes!

AB Audley

March Naval Expedition – Southport

This was a slightly atypical expedition when you think about it, as neither Lt Leaver nor Sub Lt Ash was present. We were, however, accompanied by Sqn Ldr Raynor and Capt. Dewar as we set off to spend the weekend at the Scouts' facility on Southport Water.

We arrived at Southport not knowing quite what to expect but were pleasantly surprised by the standard of accommodation. It was superior to HMS Bristol, which many RN Cadets have grown used to: for a start the beds had proper mattresses! Sadly, the weather was freezing and this meant that the water was even more so. It was too cold to sail on the first evening, so we organised some Practical Leadership Tasks, including a modified version of the popular game-show 'Just a Minute'. Despite the disappointment over the sailing, much fun was had by all!

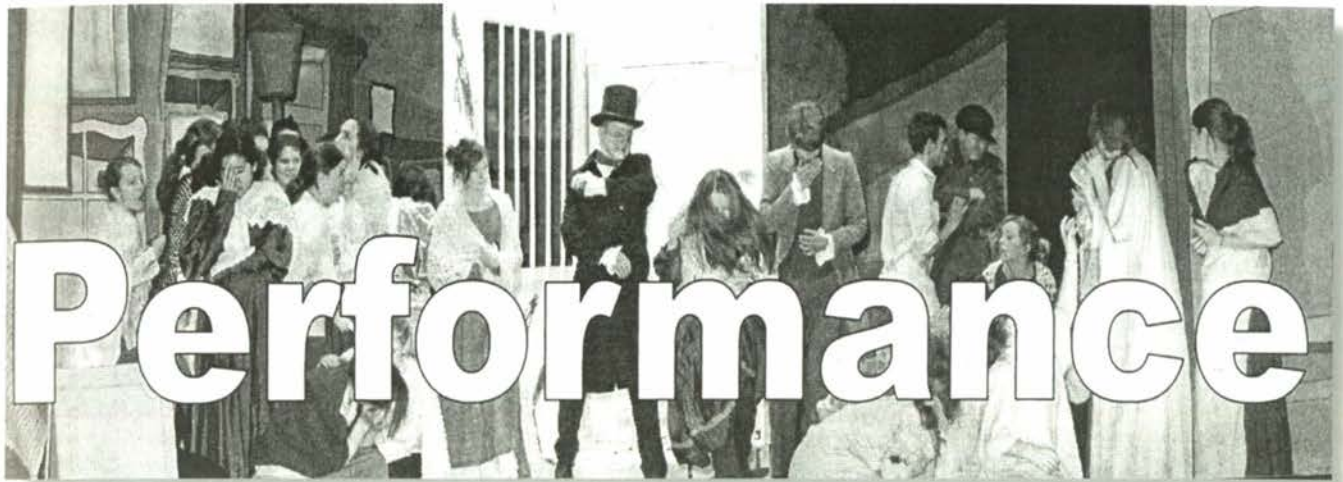
The weather remained foul next day, with wind gusting over Force 6 (around 20 knots). Once again we couldn't go out on the water, so we took a trip over to Birkenhead and visited a museum housing two decommissioned RN Frigates and HMS Onyx, a submarine which saw action in the Falklands. While visits to warships are nothing new (the majority of cadets being familiar with HMS Bristol), the chance to play with some of the larger weaponry was much appreciated.

Although good fun (and in the warm) the ships were no match for the raft building after lunch. We were split into two teams and the idea was to cross over to an island in the middle of a lake on a raft that we built, performing a few silly tasks on the way, and then to race back. Whilst one team was extremely quick in getting over to the island, they hit problems on the return leg as their raft had fallen apart. This just goes to prove the old adage: 'more haste less speed', or in the case of the RN CCF 'more haste, less dry clothing'!

Sunday was the highlight of the weekend as we were finally out on the water properly. A Dragon Boat is similar to a canoe in that it is paddled, but it takes about 20 people who sit two abreast. This was an extremely enjoyable activity, as most of us had never done it before. Apparently, if done properly it requires a great deal of skill and teamwork.

Overall, the trip was a huge success. It was rather different, certainly memorable, and definitely cold!

David Wheatley & Jack Jeffries



Shells' Classical Play Competition

A freezing Friday afternoon in January, and the Concert Hall is suffering an identity crisis. Not only has it been forced to play host to five forms of Shells bouncing around with excitement, nerves and prodigious fake breasts, but also to a scene two thousand years ago in which Harry Potter, Hermione, Ron, and a bloke called Caecilius are doing battle against Julius Caesar. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you: The Shells' Classical Play.

Every year, each Shells Latin set amuses itself over the latter half of the Autumn Term by scripting, "directing" and producing a play based on some sort of classical theme. Two thousand and five, however, saw the introduction of a foreign concept – 'rules'. Instead of letting crazed first-year imaginations run riot, which resulted last year in "Beckules" running around the stage killing things, the Classics department set the title of 'Harry Potter goes to Pompeii'. "Everybody knows Harry Potter!" they thought, "He's so innocent and normal! What could go wrong?"

Shell B kicked off with organised chaos, using Hermione's Time Turner to take the three wand-toting heroes back to Pompeii in what was the most inventive plot-technique of the afternoon. Fortunately, the rather confusing action was peppered with some very funny one-liners, mostly from the shifty, limerick-reciting messenger, rightfully earning Shell B the Best Script award.

Then forth strode Shell D. My goodness. I have never seen anything so weird nor indeed wonderful. At the back of the stage, throughout the entire play, stood a boxing-gloved boy, grinning away in a rather disturbing manner. He had one line, repeated

over and over again: "Weeeed!" End of scene? "Weeeed!" Plot twist? "Weeeed!" Caesar sets Bill and Ben the Bodyguards on Hades? "Weeeed!" Something so manic, so unnecessary, so utterly bizarre, should not have been funny – but it was absolutely hilarious.

Shell M featured by far the best Hermione of the afternoon, standing out from the crowd not only for her/his acting prowess but notably for her/his over-inflated, Jordan-esque bosom. Despite a running joke getting rather out of hand (cake, and indeed at one point ice-cream, flew across the stage to the repeated "Shut your cake-hole"), the overall play was very funny and, mercifully, made more sense than all the others.

What was going on inside Shell S's heads, God only knows. Acting on the alarming statistic that "99.5% of Hogwarts is taking drugs", Harry, Hermione and the ginger one fly back in time to thwart Caecilius, a sinister drug-dealer who is held somehow responsible for the wide-spread popularity of narcotics.

Finally, we have Shell T's "play". Oh dear. Loitering around at the back of the stage, the majority of the lines could not be heard; and when they were, the only line seemed to be about "bleeping sheep". They say children are the harshest critics, and, from the cries of "It's funny because it's so crap!" from the Shells behind me, I think they're right.

Each offering was very entertaining, and I congratulate all the Shells for their fine display of theatrical talent. But there had to be a winner and, despite a dubious lack of taste / morals / sanity, Shell D clinched victory, with Shell M and Shell B taking 2nd and 3rd place. Weeeeed!

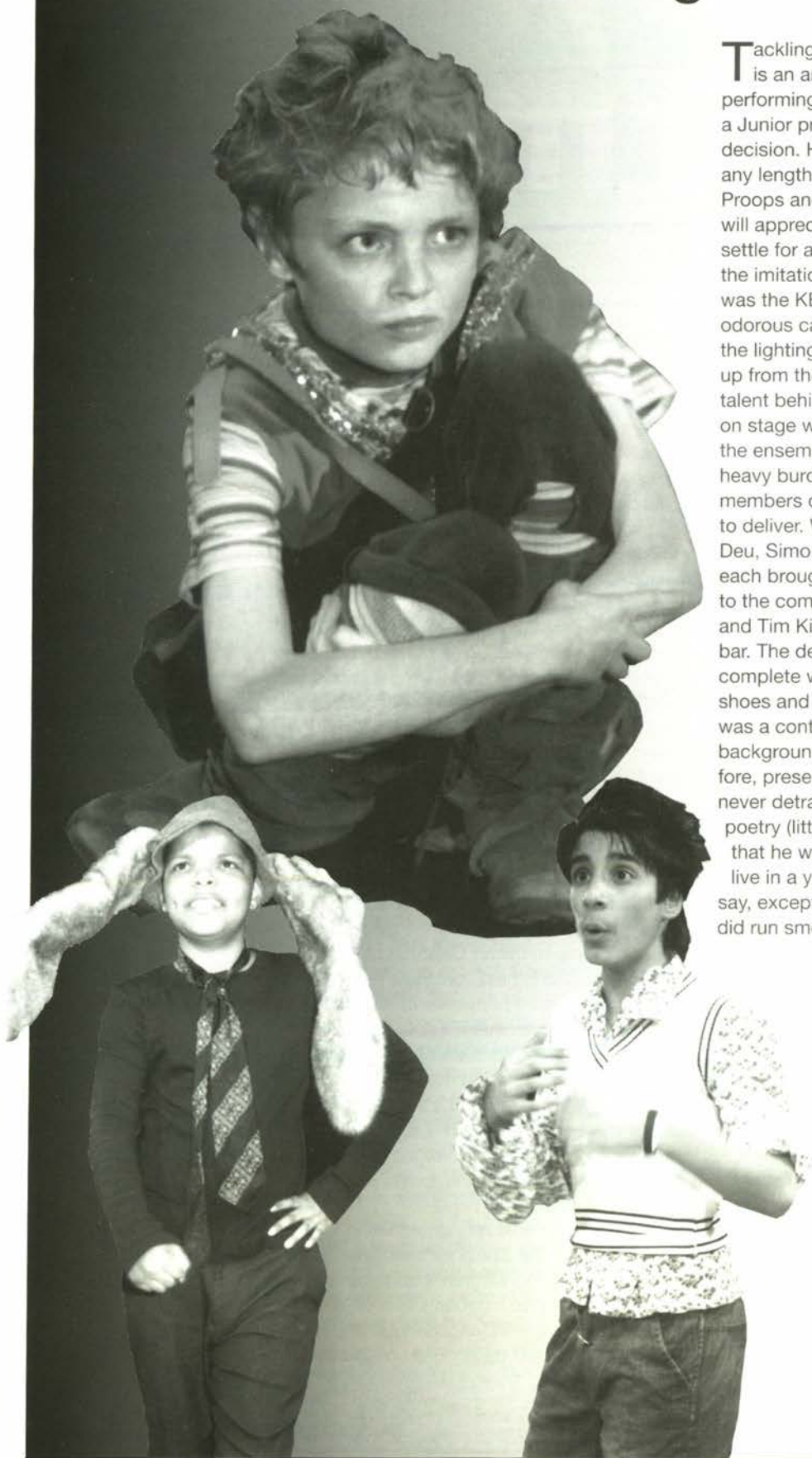
"Everybody knows Harry Potter!" they thought, "He's so innocent and normal! What could go wrong?"

Junior Production 2005

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tackling a Shakespearean play in a school is an arduous task in itself, and so performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as a Junior production was an incredibly risky decision. However, anyone who has spent any length of time with the team of Hannah Proops and Charlotte Bubb (the directors) will appreciate that they are not ones to settle for anything short of spectacular. From the imitation Elizabethan theatre layout that was the KES drama studio, to the army's odorous camouflage nets draped across the lighting rigs, the atmosphere was built up from the onset. As well as the awesome talent behind the scenes, that emerging on stage was outstanding to say the least; the ensemble nature of the play placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of several members of the cast, none of whom failed to deliver. Whilst Christopher Bland, Pavan Deu, Simon Worthington and Zach Royce each brought an element of professionalism to the company, it was Greg Stacey's Puck and Tim Kiely's Quince that truly raised the bar. The decision to set the play in the '60s, complete with Beatles soundtrack, platform shoes and a whole Andy Warhol feel to it, was a controversial one, but it remained a background feature, seldom coming to the fore, presenting a quirky unique subtlety that never detracted from Shakespeare's original poetry (little of which was altered – assuming that he was the first to suggest that 'we all live in a yellow submarine'). Little is left to say, except that 'the course of drama never did run smooth...'

Simon Friend



Senior Production 2005

Sweeney Todd

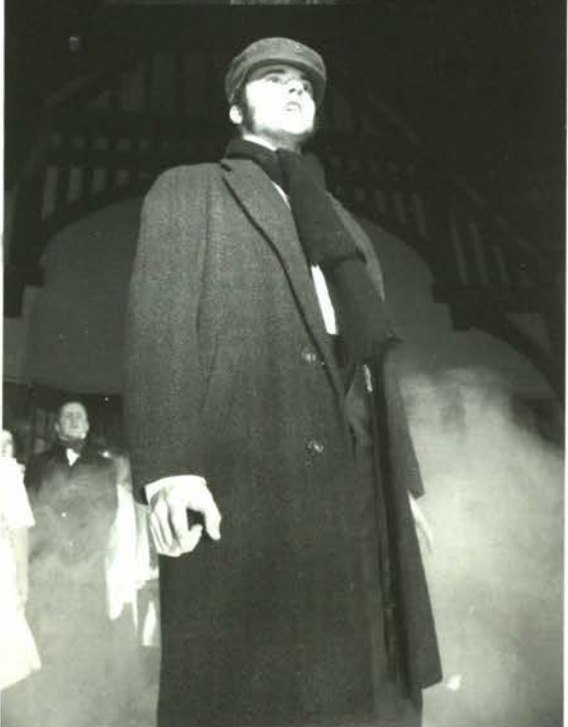
School productions generally benefit from a willingness on the part of the audience to make concessions. If the actors hesitate here and there, or the set is a little wobbly, or the lighting is less precise than would be ideal, it is a school play, and really, didn't they do well with what they had? This merciful rule lasts right up until the school proves itself capable of meeting the most rigorous professional standards in every aspect of the performance. It is at this point that the faces in the crowd on the first night lose their indulgent smiles, and begin to gaze more critically at the stage, as they might for a play at Stratford or a West End musical. And, in the aftermath of 2004's *Les Misérables*, it was just such a nerve-racking response for which the KES Drama Department found itself preparing.

The epic scale of *Les Mis* meant that even choosing the next play was a very difficult decision: what, after last year's hordes of singing revolutionaries, could possibly avoid feeling like a step down? Wisely, the decision was made that this year's production should not even attempt to match its predecessor for grandiosity of theme, and that absolute technical

accomplishment should instead be the goal. The vehicle eventually chosen for the stars of '05 was Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. It was a brave choice, owing to the play's relative obscurity and its ferociously difficult music: neither of these did anything to handicap a Drama Dept blessed with such enthusiastic supporters and so many gifted musicians. The play itself, on the other hand, is really very odd, and this was to prove rather more of an obstacle.

The story of *Sweeney Todd* is simple, rather simpler than that of *Les Mis*; the latter is, after all, a dramatisation of a very long French novel, while the former has its roots in the less august pages of a Victorian penny-dreadful. A London barber by the name of Todd returns, after serving a lengthy sentence in an Australian penal colony, to his home city and his old trade, working from the upper floor of a pie shop owned by the redoubtable Mrs Lovett. Todd is consumed by the desire for revenge on the wicked Judge Turpin, who raped his wife and secured his transportation through unjust means. He eventually achieves his goal and kills Turpin, but not before a veritable spree of other murders, assisted by Mrs Lovett, who disposes of the bodies via the macabre expedient of baking them into her meat pies. A more





conventional 'musical' sub-plot is provided by Todd's innocent young friend Anthony Hope, who meets and falls into predictable raptures over the barber's sweet, virginal daughter Johanna: unfortunately she has no idea who her father is, and is being raised under the guardianship of the aforementioned Turpin.

In a sense, the parts must have cast themselves. Tom Johnson was Sweeney Todd, and he undeniably was: his mastery of the character, which shifts continually between the ill-defined poles of villainous hero and heroic villain, was complete. Todd is both a champion of justice and a deranged serial killer, but Tom made him believable and deeply sympathetic all the way from one extreme to the other. His partner in crime for the second year running was Felicity Murphy, who did not in fact have to change her Madame Thénadier act in any fundamental sense; but then, there is an old saying about things which ain't broke. She was hilarious and tragic, frequently in the space of the same scene, and entirely deserved her promotion into the full glare of the limelight. Ben Anderson played Turpin, an extremely tricky part that needs to stray close to the territory of the pantomime baddie without ever actually entering it. It says a lot for Ben's stage presence that he managed to retain the character's dignity even during the mildly suspect flagellation scene.

Tom Edwards and Matthew Rayner took turns

in the role of Tobias, an apparently irrelevant little urchin who goes on to be extremely important and perform some terrifyingly high solos; both boys rose to the challenge of their emotionally complex later scenes admirably. The roles of Anthony and Johanna offered Andrew Caddy and Melissa Phillips less scope for dramatic development, but the pair of them gave polished performances, and sang their duets beautifully. Also to be commended is Seb Heaven, who was obliged, as rival barber Pirelli, to put on equally convincing Italian and Irish accents. Perhaps the biggest plaudits of all, though, should be reserved for the orchestra. Under Mr Evans' exacting leadership, a small core of KE's most talented

Todd is both a champion of justice and a deranged serial killer, but Tom made him believable and deeply sympathetic all the way from one extreme to the other.

musicians (pupils and staff alike) tackled one of the most demanding scores ever written for a West End musical and triumphed, achieving perfection, or something so near to it that no-one could tell the difference, in every song.

This technical skill was matched in every facet of the performance: lighting, costume, stage management and sound control - thanks, 'DJ Marty' - were all superb, largely as a result of the phenomenal efforts expended by everyone involved. There was a rather good director, too; having been praising Mrs Jennifer Herbert's work since *The Roman Invasion of Ramsbottom*, a title which must now mean nothing to a terrifyingly large proportion of the school, I'm not intending to stop at this stage. The only (minor) flies in the (very large pot of) ointment were provided by the play itself. Sondheim's calculated moral ambivalence left the audience unsure how to react to certain scenes, possibly the worst example being on Saturday night, when Mrs Lovett's brutal death in her own oven was greeted with hearty laughter - a response which, when considered objectively, is unbelievably sadistic! Nonetheless, this occasional 'emotional confusion' did nothing to affect anyone's enjoyment of the performance, and the final result was a more than worthy successor to the *Les Mis* juggernaut. Next year's task, clearly, will not be any easier.

Matthew Hosty

Summer Concert 2005

Once again, Symphony Hall was filled with people yearning for this year's offering of musical talent from KES and KEHS. All of the schools' orchestras and bands were featured in this coming together of all the year's hard work in the music schools, a point that I'm sure Messrs Bridle, Monks, Argust and Evans would reinforce. Concert Band, conducted by Nigel Argust got the concert under way in style with a suitable piece entitled, *Prelude For An Occasion*, followed by a wonderful arrangement of Broadway hits. This solid start must have left the audience eager for more, which was provided by the Junior Choir: two songs by R.R. Bennett, sung beautifully as ever. Next, Junior Swing Band exhibited the growing talent of our young jazz musicians.

Phil Evans and the KES Choir followed with a beautiful rendition of *Steal Away*, with a haunting tenor solo sung by Tim Lawrence, followed by the theme from *The Vicar Of Dibley* by Howard Goodall. It was now Brass Band's turn to impress and our brass players did no less. Sporting their suave gold (curtain) waistcoats they entertained us with three pieces, *Kalinka*, *Londonderry Air*, with a trombone solo from James Burt, and the *Floral Dance* (Terry would have been proud). Wind Band took the stage next and played the *Poet and Peasant Overture*, and Concert Band joined them for *The Liberty Bell March*. It seemed as though this concert would be a rousing success before the second half had even begun!

Following the interval, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Orchestra and the String Orchestra took to the stage. Peter Bridle led the massed orchestras through the *Dam Buster's March*, kicking off the second half with a bang. Symphony Orchestra then played their own piece, *Bugler's Holiday*, featuring Henry Arnold, Richard Williams and Tom Bradish in a trumpet trio, accompanied by the orchestra. Their proficiency and excellent ensemble gained the audience's emphatic approval. Choral Society then sang a movement from the *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein. This followed their performance of the entire piece in the Choral and Orchestral Concert back in March. The piece featured solos by Melissa Philips, Felicity Murphy, Andrew Caddy and Tim Lawrence, sung sensitively and alternating nicely with the warm sound of the choir. Senior Swing Band provided a great contrast with big band classics *Little Brown Jug* and *Moonlight*

Serenade, and the usual round of improvised solos, all pulled off with style and flair. The audience certainly seemed to be impressed, with enthusiastic applause following each one.

For the grand finale, there was something special this year. All the orchestras and choirs fell under Peter Bridle's baton for the last piece of the night, the *Polovtsian Dances* by Borodin. The performance gave a powerful ending to a fantastic evening of music, the unfurling of a complimentary banner by the students making known how much the music staff and facilities are appreciated at KES. It was certainly, as always, a night to remember.

Next, the Junior Swing Band exhibited the growing talent of our young jazz musicians.



Carol Service



Of all the contributions made by the Music Department to the life of King Edward's School, its contribution to the annual pattern of religious observance is perhaps the least well advertised and certainly the least well reported. So it is a good idea to set the record straight with an appreciation of the Carol Service. For many years this was held in the cold lofty barn of St George's Church Edgbaston, where the quality of the welcome almost made up for the appalling acoustic.

A welcome move to the nobler surroundings of Birmingham Cathedral has allowed the music to blossom and flourish remarkably, and over the last few years the combined talents of Messrs Monks (Choirmaster), Evans (Organist), Bridle and Sill (multi-talented, turn their hands to anything) and friends (many and various), not to mention generations of pupils, have ensured that KES marks the passage of Advent and looks forward to Christmas in an ever more uplifting and joyful fashion.

Planning the service is always something of a balancing act. On the one hand it is near the start of Advent and gives a chance to sing the traditional Advent hymns, but on the other hand it is the School's public Christmas celebration too, and people do enjoy their carols! Generally there is something of a compromise by which we begin in Advent and segue gently into Christmas; somehow Christmas is starting earlier each year though! Add to this the question of balancing congregation and choir; perhaps, as this year, fitting in an orchestral contribution; and coping with the Cathedral's commitment to inclusive language and the Chaplain's natural conservatism (in matters of liturgy at least). The reader will appreciate that the planning is a delicate art.

When the service is reached, however, all doubts vanish. Unfailingly, the music and liturgy combine to bring joy and beauty into what can be one of the busiest and most humdrum periods of the year, and the KES choristers and instrumentalists once again lift us above the day-to-day to catch a glimpse of what Christmas is really all about. From *Once in Royal David's City* to the second Rutter carol of the evening (can we imagine a carol service without Rutter?), the service proceeds seamlessly through music and readings to the equally welcome mulled wine and mince pies of Mrs Gardiner and her team of willing helpers. Overall an incomparable experience, for which I, for one, am most grateful to the musicians of KES.

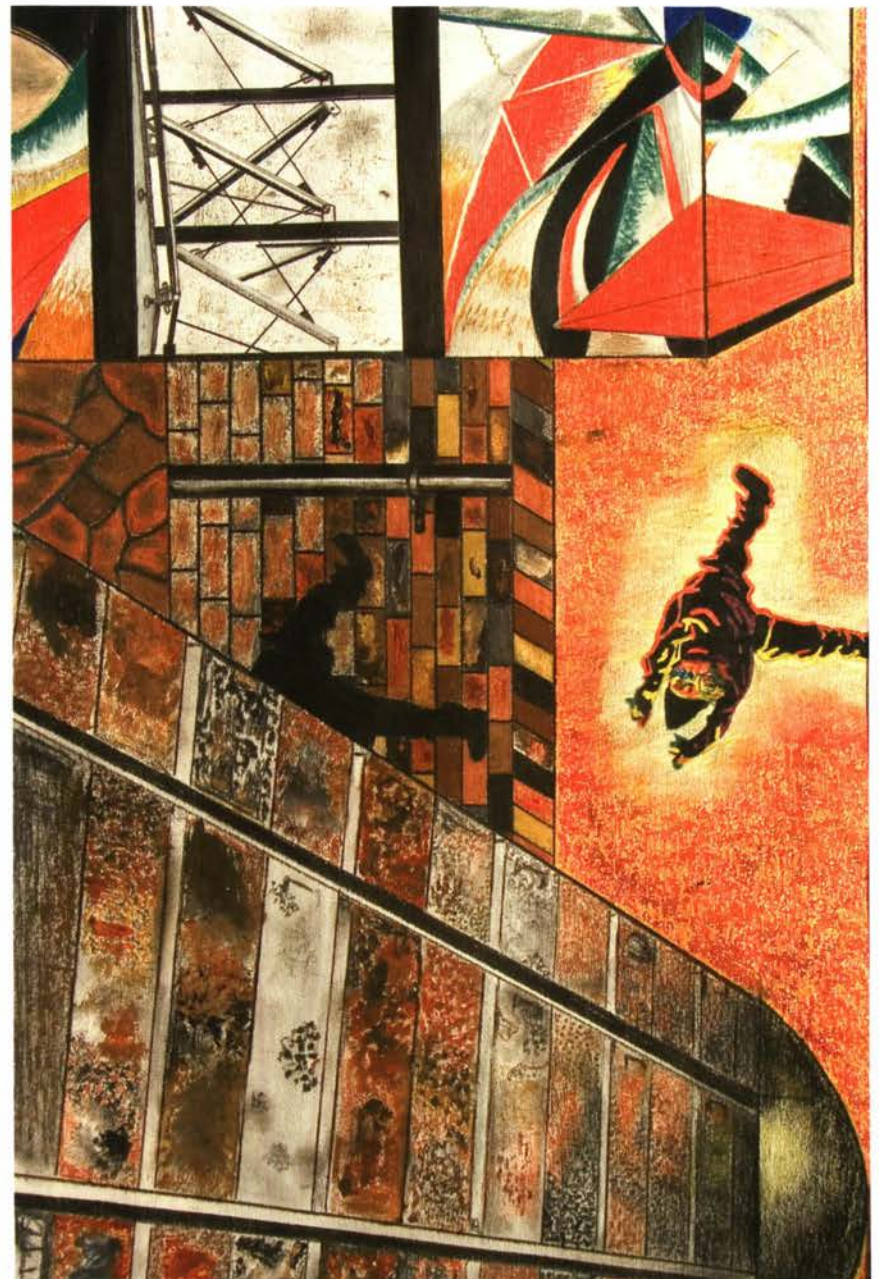
DHR



Multi plate etching
Tom Devas (6th year)



Lino Print
Emile Halpin (5th year)



Mixed Media
Greg Jackson (5th year)



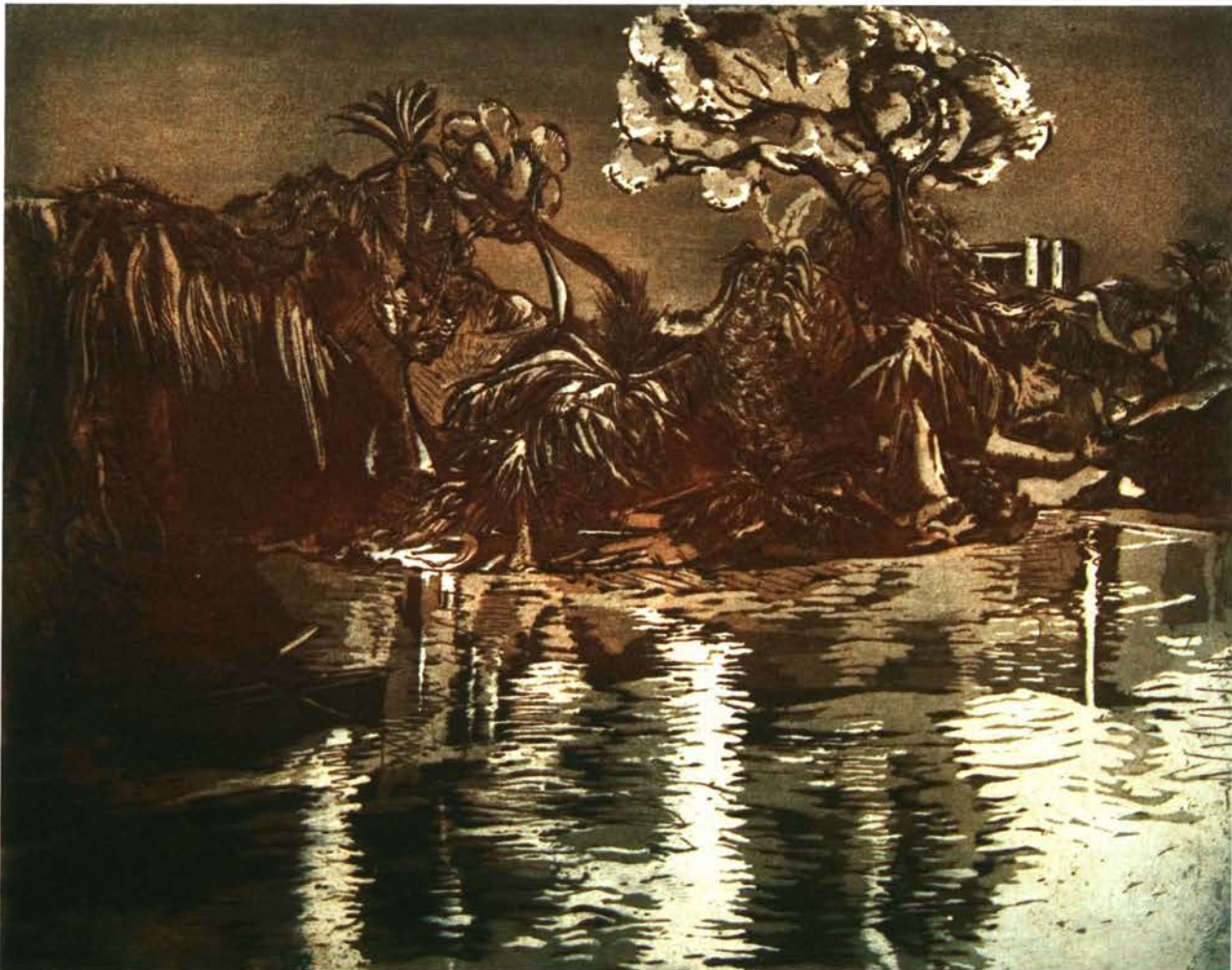
Mixed Media
Tom Jackson (*Division*)



Oil on Canvas
Jack Johnson (*6th year*)



Etching
Nick Chase (6th year)



Etching
Rob Hill (6th year)



Mixed Media
Bob Cheel (UM)



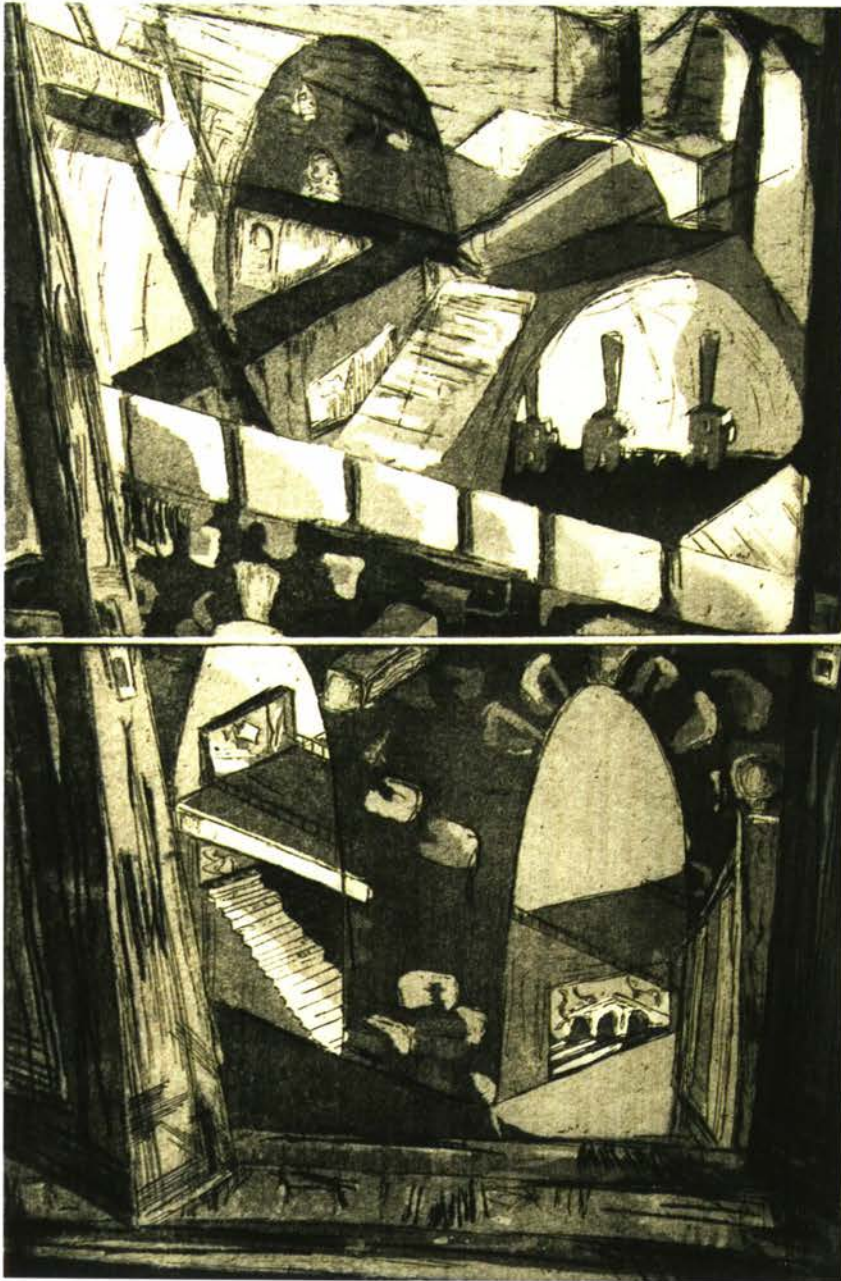
Oil on Board
Max Dowd (Division)



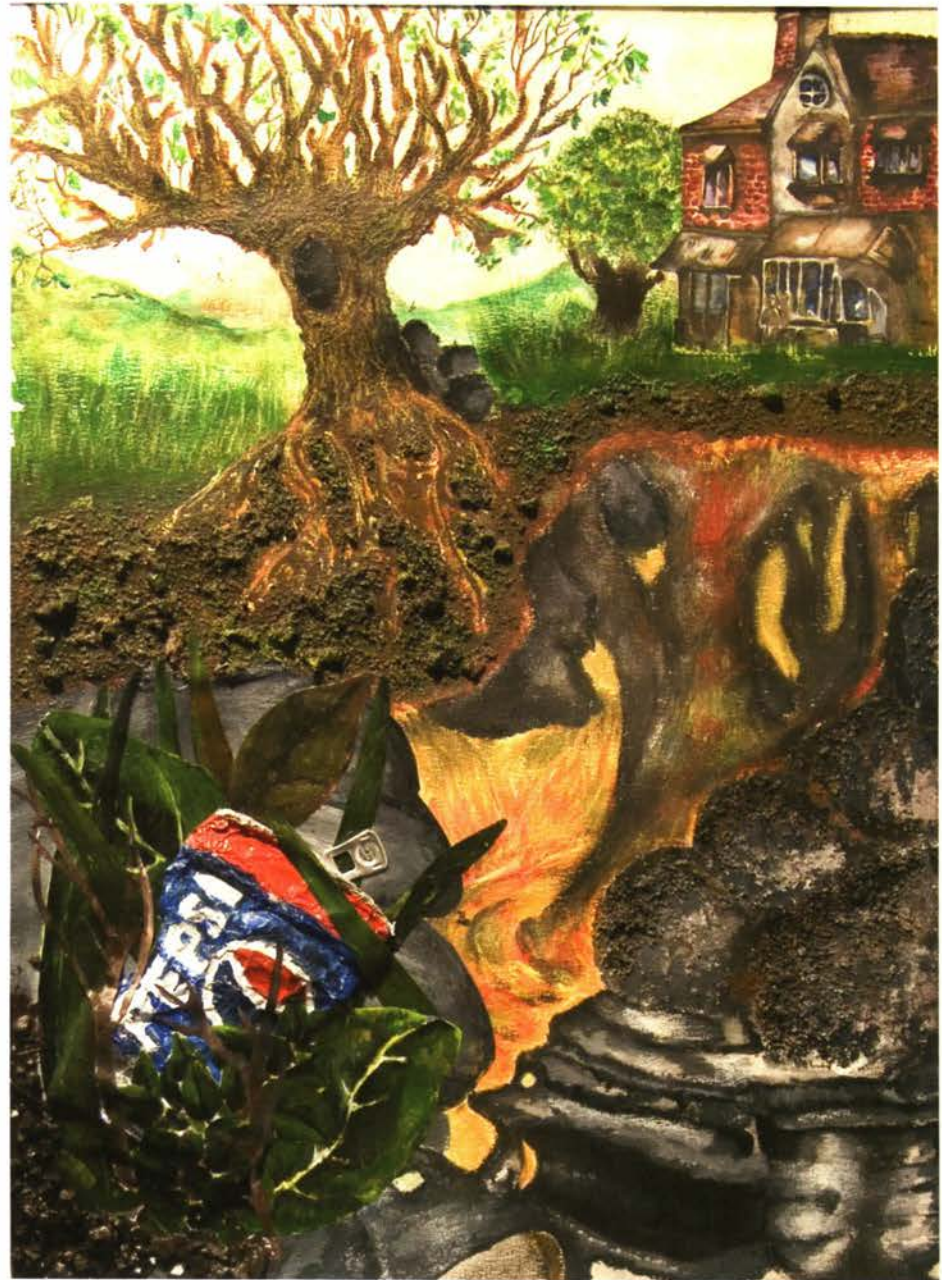
Mixed Media
Tom Davies (5th year)



Oil on Canvas
Richard Sheehan (Division)



Two plate etching
 Luke Johansen (6th year)



Mixed Media
 Matt Chan (5th year)

*Doon it was on far-off yester-year,
When army yon of Caecus stood;
Fretulant that day did brood,
A day of fate and torment mood.*

*A few leagues off, a mottled army,
Down the pebbled track now reeling,
With noble Fortunato, strong, now leading,
Hardly breathing, thinking what to come.*

No more than yards apart, now closing,
Charging down the track, all crouching,
Spurius, sharp, swift, sees those hordes now driving,
For he too knows of danger roving.

Mounting hazard, knows the throng,
Tho' their hearts are valiant, crong,
Pertinax, leader there, shall slay yon greatest wrong,
They purr loud a baliant song.

*Into conflict (they rumpanting) go brave hearts,
To battle with cruel Caecus, long shall hurl darts
And lo, destroy him with their iron carts,
With spears and swords they strike mewly, WON!*

*Now harsh winds shall lash at bones,
Away they're from that yester-year:
With blood and blade a hollow grave
Was dug there for the young.*

Page 73

Birmingham In Bloom

Rise.

The golden fingers grace the waking vastness,
Steal through the silence of cold concrete.

An unopened bud.

Ready.

Then grow:

The emerald fingers reach out, pulsate,
Embrace the unfeeling hides

Of their silent sentries.

Sky to sky,

From every blinking facet,

The waters rise, gleam and glimmer,

Then freeze. Immortal

Crowns upon clouded heights.

The hive stirs.

The life flowers, blossoms,

'Til the stark concrete breathes

And every building is mirrored green.

For every grey column, alongside a brown.

For every pane of glass the flash of a leaf.

Here, buildings are not built,

But grown with every seed from the earth.

Harvested, cultivated,

This nest among the hostile land.

Veins ripple, shimmer,

In every inner path liquid shining.

And mounting the urban growth

The dashes of colour against the palette.

Petals unfold, sway to the rhythm of each
breeze.

Can you feel the life?

The motion?

With every step the city shifts,

Speaks,

Grows another inch to the blinding infinity.

Its denizens scarce even human,

The silent observers, the rootlets of life itself,

Plant themselves among lifeless brick

And bring motion as if to a corpse.

Until, from out of every moulded pore

Spring shoots, green tendrils,

The nerve centre,

The heart of a city in bloom.

Tim Kiely
UMD

Camera

Loyal servant,

Keeper of the past;

Keeper of a thousand forgotten memories.

How well you have served me.

In times of joy, you were there

To savour my happiness in a

Still, sweet mirage.

A dozen familiar faces stare out:

Trapped in that imprisoning screen.

Tomorrow holds the same faces,

Holding the same urgency.

In a world desperate to discover,

The wonders of modern technology intrigue:

But the grief stored within

Never grows old.

The events, by memory,

Are rather blurred,

Of those many killed,

A tsunami absurd.

The Bus

That rampant bus

Storms through the wailing wind,

Desperate for its destination.

The heavy jerking movements arouse

The uneasy passengers,

Who wait patiently for their stop;

Their glorious stop.

As I sit

Staring at myself,

A distorted reflection,

Their intolerant drivers outside

Honk their fury-bitten horns,

Warning people of their brooding impatience.

Dusk now falls warmly down this land.

As nature stands at her easel, we drive on,

Ripping through this canvas of serenity.

Joshua A. Kovoov
Rem W

Winner of the Julian Parkes Poetry Prize

La Inestabilidad de la Política en Latinoamérica

Introducción

Quiero hablar sobre los numerosos problemas en Latinoamérica, donde el problema principal es la falta de estabilidad. Hay muchos temas en todos los países que necesitan la atención de los gobiernos individuales - por ejemplo en El Salvador donde hay una cultura de guerra entre las dos bandas más grandes del país. Pero, la Guerra no es el único problema - el que afecta más al público es la inestabilidad de la economía. Argentina es un buen ejemplo. Casi hizo bancarrota cuando la moneda perdió casi todo su valor y como resultado hubo grandes problemas sociales. Aunque, sí, la miseria y la pobreza existen en Latinoamérica, con una economía débil, es casi imposible remediar este problema. He estudiado varios países latinoamericanos y he mirado muchos ejemplos de los problemas más graves de esta región - Honduras y el gobierno militar muy peligroso, Cuba y sus problemas con los Estados Unidos, y la lucha contra los narcotraficantes en Colombia. Es fácil tener la impresión de que no hay ningún país latinoamericano que no tenga problemas políticos o sociales.

Colombia

¿Podemos hablar sobre Colombia? Sé que la droga es el problema número uno? ¿qué piensas sobre este tema?

Es verdad que Colombia ha tenido este problema durante largo tiempo y es necesario solucionarlo lo más rápidamente posible

- Hay una iniciativa nueva en la Guerra contra las drogas que se llama el "Plan Colombia". Colombia piensa trabajar junto con los Estados Unidos - hay un acuerdo entre George Bush y el presidente Uribe que el número de militares americanos en Colombia crecerá de 400 a 800 efectivos.
- Opino que, aunque el gobierno estadounidense ha invertido tanto dinero en la Guerra contra las drogas, nada ha cambiado.

¿Por qué no?

- Bueno, según datos del Ministerio del Interior, el empujón es fructuoso - en 2004 se incautaron más de 120 toneladas de coca y detuvieron muchos camellos y empleados de los carteles.
- Pero, es verdad también, que cuando el plan empezó en 1999, había sólo 12 regiones que tenía cultivos ilícitos, pero ahora, hay 23 regiones que tiene ellos, casi el doble del número original, así a pesar de todo el dinero, la coca florece
- Además, si quieres reducir una hectárea de coca, hay que fumigar 11 hectáreas y gastar más de 8,000 dólares. No cabe

duda de que Colombia no tiene las medidas para hacerlo, así los Estados Unidos no tienen más remedio que dar más dinero al gobierno si quieren ayudar efectivamente en la Guerra contra las drogas.

¿Crees que es posible solucionar el problema?

- Sí, es posible, pero el presidente no sabe cómo. En mi opinión, el "Plan Colombia" no ha cambiado nada y la fuente de este fracaso es el presidente. Ha creado una red de informantes civiles, pero no ayuda el problema, sino lo agrava. Poner en peligro las vidas de su población no ayuda la situación.
- Además, las empresas extranjeras no quieren correr el riesgo de invertir en Colombia a causa del alto nivel de secuestro y el crimen creciente - este hecho no ayuda cuando se necesita más dinero por una iniciativa contra los carteles.

¿Qué será el efecto sobre el país si la iniciativa fracasa?

- No pienso que mucho cambie, pero los carteles seguirán teniendo la mayoría del dinero en el país así el nivel de la pobreza no bajará. También, el gobierno habrá despilarrado todo el dinero que recibe del gobierno americano. Además, el gobierno estadounidense no será muy feliz cuando aprenda que todo el dinero que da al gobierno de Colombia no ha afectado nada.

Uruguay

Tengo la impresión de que el futuro para muchos países es poco halagüeño. ¿Pienzas que sí existe la posibilidad de un gobierno estable?

- El caso más destacado es el Uruguay, donde el nuevo gobierno de Tabaré Vázquez ganó las elecciones a finales del año pasado y subió al poder en marzo de este año

¿Por qué elegiste Uruguay?

- De primero, logró la mayoría absoluta en las elecciones con más del 50 por ciento de los votos. Eso es la primera ocasión en los últimos 40 años que un partido uruguayo tiene una mayoría absoluta en ambas cámaras de la Asamblea Legislativa. Está claro que este partido es muy popular. Y además, es la primera vez desde el nacimiento de la república de Uruguay, hace 174 años que la izquierda ha llegado al gobierno, pero con una mayoría tan grande, no hay ninguna razón por qué no puede poner en práctica los cambios que prometió.

Pero muchos otros líderes sudamericanos han ganado las elecciones con un apoyo popular y no han tenido gran éxito...

- Eso es verdad, pero creo que Vázquez debería ser un Presidente muy bueno porque tiene experiencia del poder - había sido el primer alcalde izquierdista de Montevideo y tuvo bastante éxito en el terreno económico y social en la capital.
- Vázquez es conciliador y no es estúpido. - no tardó en llegar a un acuerdo con Venezuela para tener una co-operación energética, lo que es provechoso para ambos países. Además, reanudó las

relaciones con Cuba que fueron rotas en 2002 cuando Uruguay presionó a las Naciones Unidas a investigar los derechos humanos en Cuba. Además, es abierto a nuevas ideas.

- Trata de unificar todo el país - hay una coalición del Frente Amplio y Encuentro Progresista. Esta coalición incluye socialdemócratas, exsindicalistas, víctimas de la dictadura y ancianos guerrillos. Nombró a un anciano guerrillero como ministro de Agricultura, y la primera mujer ministra, Nora Castro, quien es la presidenta de la Cámara de los Diputados.
- Quiere luchar una Guerra contra el desempleo también...

Esta Guerra, ¿sabe cómo lucharla?

- Es familiar con la pobreza, sabe que no tiene más remedio que crear más empleos. Es una inspiración para los desfavorecidos también, nació en barrio humilde, en una chabola. Pero tuvo éxito en todo lo que hizo, estudió medicina y ahora es médico que especializa en el cáncer, es un símbolo para muchos de sus ciudadanos. Ganó su respeto.

¿Pero crees que esto va a continuar?

- Todo depende del éxito de sus políticas. Por el momento, sí.
- En cuanto a la economía, sabe que tiene que evitar a toda costa el fantasma de la crisis económica de 2002, así nombró a Danilo Astori como ministro de la Economía para tranquilizar los bancos y mercados internacionales.
- Con este hombre como el presidente, las perspectivas para Uruguay son halagüeñas. En Latinoamérica donde todos los países sufren, Uruguay tiene un período de éxito, en este momento, es el único país que tiene éxito.

*Seb Heaven
Sci Div II*

Laufen

Ich liebe Sport und ich treibe viel Sport. Im Winter laufe ich und im Sommer mache ich Athletik. Ich finde das Laufen gut, weil ich verschiedene Städte in England besuche. Auch mag ich die Landschaft und die Tiere sehen. Ich höre Musik, wenn ich laufe und ich lerne manchmal neue deutsche Vokabeln! Mein Lieblings-Wettkampf im Sommer ist der 3000 Meter-Lauf. Ich liebe es, weil ich dabei gut nachdenken kann. Auch liebe ich den Hochsprung. Ich mag es, weil ich fast meine Höhe springen kann! Ich bin 1,72m groß. Ich mag Athletik, weil es Spaß macht.

Greg Divall
IVS

Glossar: verschiedene – different, Landschaft – scenery, Wettkampf – competition,

Sonnet to Nature

I see the clouds float through the summer sky,
The beauty of the landscape that surrounds;
Hear birdsong in the forest all around;
Too much to take in with my mortal eye.
And as I turn to leave I hap to spy
A red leaf, floating softly to the ground.
I realise, in watching, that I've found
All nature's beauty; beauty never lies.

Without this beauty, what would our life be?
How dull the journey from each day to day
That does not offer beauty such as this.
I realise what nature means to me:
As much as mother's love, as lover's kiss.
Without our care, this beauty will die away.

David Smith
ML Div A

Frauen bei dem Filmverein

Ich glaube, der deutsche Filmverein
hat zu viele Männer. Frauen – gibt's keine.
Wir haben genug Kuchen für jeden,
und brauch' doch nur ein paar Mädchen.
Frauen werden es besser machen...
Oh! Sie sind schöne, hübsche Sachen.
Aber wir haben „die Frau“ vergessen:
Sie bringt uns immer etwas zu essen!

A.J. Campbell
ML VI H

Haiku Poesie

deutscher Filmverein

Mischung verrückter Menschen

und Gelehrsamkeit

Sebastian Atay
Class VI

einerseits ANDERSEITS
seid ihr SEID IHR
meinerseits SEINERSEITS
seinerzeit ZURZEIT
werd ihr SEID IHR
meinerseits SEINERSEITS
welche Seite
seid ihr
heutige
weiß doch nicht
Ach! Dumme
Leute!

w e i s s e i d i n
c h e i t e d h a
e e r r ?

WEIß DOCH NICHT,
ES IST NICHT KLAR!

An Amazing Alliterated Article

Beginning by broadening the boundaries of the brain, boredom brought me to begetting a bemusing, beguiling and boundless brief.

To crush the creative constraints of common conjecture with careful cogitation!

Discovering the delight of disassembling dialect, I decided to demonstrate the diverse deviations derived from diligent development of discourse.

English is endlessly expressive, easily exploited and engineered.

I found firmly following the foregoing formula a fairly formidable folly.

This game generates great glee, and a growing glossary.

However, having hoped for hours of happiness, I was horrified by the harrowing hardship.

Instigating this innovative and intellectually interesting item is initially irritating.

I am justifiably jubilant at this juncture of jargon.

The key to keeping in kilter is keenness.

Languishing in this linguistic labyrinth leaves a laughable lingual lattice.

Moreover, mollifying my manifestly mean mission mandates much meditation.

Nevertheless, in nonchalantly notating this nebulous and nefarious nuisance, I nourish my notions.

Originally, the objective occasioned an obtuse and obfuscated oratorio.

Proceeding postulates palliating the preliminary premises of parlance and patois.

This questionable quest is quintessentially quixotic.

I am required to rigorously and rapaciously ransack my registers.

Society has seldom seen such stupidity and senselessness.

Treading the titillating track twixt tenacity and triviality takes talent.

This undulating utterance unravels ubiquitous unities.

A voluptuous variation of vocables is valuable in this venture.

Which word will work?

Xylophone, xenophobe, xerox?

Yet I yield and yammer:

I have zigzagged to my zenith!

*David Smith
ML Div A*

St. Hilda's

The crunchy, gravelly paths that accommodate my boots,
Tall, green cedars that intimidate and calm me:
Fluorescent red plants everywhere stand still,
Complimented by greenery in their midst.

Slender splints entwined with wire around the gardens watch
By the singing waters of splendour, surrender a peaceful silence.
Dwelling in harmony, flooded with beauty
Under the towering branches of the sages.

The masculine rugby pitches with their tall staffs
Look down snobbishly at your imperfect being.
Squirrels scurry for important nourishment;
Nuts ready for storage for an unstable time.

The geese walk around, gingerly fumbling,
Quacking in the objects they can't comprehend.
The bikes line up 'for to do their duty';
An army of sergeants and generals, bulky and petite.

Solar Heat and Change

Bombs of heat exploding constantly,
Repeatedly, each minute, each day,
Giving us heat which we need to live:
We're changing into what we create.

In time our anger and temper grow,
In a short time we've become monsters:
Now metamorphosis must take place,
Shed our cloaks of disability.

First we must admit our wrong actions,
Yet our mistakes come knocking us down,
Finally change comes to consequence,
Amazing accomplishment have I!

*Ben Gadd
Rem D*



House Shout, 2005

Big School was crammed to the rafters with anticipation and excitement: time for the legendary annual House Shout, an affair of bling, of drag and crowd surfing. All of which only emphasised the hard work behind the well-perfected routines, and the musical talent of recitals performed with enthusiasm and a determined spirit.

An almost perfect rendition of Run DMC's and Aerosmith's *Walk This Way* was only topped by Tom McLeod's stage dive into the audience. However, it came narrowly second to an infamous performance with a strong element of cross-dressing: Vardy snapping up the number one spot with *Time-Warp*. Seb Heaven led the brilliantly executed Prince Lee performance of *Stuck In The Middle With You* to third place.

A special mention goes to Vidu Shanmugarajah and Charlie Rees, who delighted the crowd with a routine that the Village People would have been proud of in Gifford's performance of *The Final Countdown*.

Mark Witcombe

Jeune

After finishing second and third in the last two years, Jeune were out to claim the prize which had eluded us since 1991, the last year in which we won the Cock House trophy: and we had good reason to be optimistic. By the end of the Autumn term though (traditionally Jeune's strongest), we were lying in seventh place with only Evans below us. In House Music we felt robbed of points when a



spectacular rendition of the Bee Gees landed us only 6th place, where on merit alone we should have been at least 3rd. In the Athletics a number of close called photo-finishes went against Jeune's cause. Are the Housemasters really that scared of Jeune's talent?

It has been increasingly difficult for the mighty Red Army to perform well. Having said that, the lower years performed outstandingly in Athletics, with the Shells, Rems, Fourths and Fifths all finishing in the top three. Jeune did have some pleasing results, winning the Rugby and Chess overall. Some particularly pleasing results were to be seen in the Debating, where the Minors and Juniors finished 1st and 2nd respectively. Special recognition must go to Chris Bland, who completed *thirteen* events in the Athletics Standards, including the 3000m and 5000m, and ended by deservedly winning the Lambert Cup. Although we finished 7th overall, our lowest placing for five years, things can only get better. Given the prowess of the younger years, Jeune should be hoping for a top of the table finish in years to come.

Evans

The 2004/2005 campaign started very slowly indeed. Evans had clearly decided upon a tortoise and hare type strategy. Unfortunately we had forgotten that in the Cock House competition there are seven hares to chase and not just one. The first term was not one of successive victories, as Evans would have hoped for. The Senior Badminton pair of Manish George and Huan Dong won the competition convincingly. Simon Gately, Jaivir Pall and Bassel Namish combined for a fine 3rd place in Debating, never having debated before. Adam Nooney managed zero points in two sections of the Senior Debating competition, particularly impressive for someone who has debated representing the school. An attempt to reinvent the rules of the competition and add a bit of humour to the proceedings clearly did not impress Mr Stacey. As a result Evans was in 8th place by Christmas.

Traditionally the second term is our strongest. High hopes soon evaporated in the Senior Basketball. A combination of bad luck and unlucky decisions with the absence of Javvad Haider from the first two matches resulted in our not winning our group. In the playoff for 3rd and 4th places a ten-point half-time deficit was turned around after an inspirational team talk from Javvad. Tom McLeod helped lead the fight back and 17 unanswered points turned the game in our favour. Senior Rugby was a competition that Evans was hoping to win. Our chances however were much reduced when the England selectors deprived us of James Metcalfe for the final. We fought hard but Rob Hill intelligently controlled the game and Prince Lee won convincingly. The Rems came second in spite of not conceding a single point. More impressive effort came in the form of the Cross Country where the Rems again achieved second place. A special mention must go to Simon Gately, who won both of the UM races. The Minor Squash side managed 2nd place, led well by Sam Hobbs.

The House Music competition evoked a fantastic effort from everyone involved. Tim Lawrence sang magnificently, to come 2nd in the classical section. The House Shout song was an all improved rendition of Run DMC's and Aerosmith's *Walk This Way*. This combined the vocal talents of Dominic Hyde and Paddy Carslake with rap stars James Metcalfe and Manish George, and included all of Evans' finest musicians. Dan Fallon deserves particular credit for his electric guitar, and who could forget Rory Singh's break dancing routine? A well deserved 2nd place ensued. Evans now stood in 6th position at Easter.

The Summer Term needed a high level of effort to push us up the Cock House table. A respectable 2nd place in Minor Cricket followed. The Junior Tennis team, led by Ravi Soni and Henry Arnold aided by a second pair of Andrew Halton and Cohan Chew, won the competition. Similarly the Minor Tennis team, of Nick Watson and Matt Hayward and second pair of Joe Tankaria and Wes Payne, won very convincingly. The Minors excelled in the Swimming, captained by Ameer Allybocus: they won Swimming Standards and came 2nd in the Water Polo and the Swimming competitions. Athletics was unusually disappointing, with 5th place in Standards, but a special mention for Simon Gately and Greg Jackson must be made for the effort they put in.

Overall Evans came 5th in the Cock House Competition. Let's hope that we can get back into the top half next year.

Cary Gilson

"It only takes a minute, girl!": these wise words from the ultra-group Take That could be used in many different situations, particularly falling in love. However, there are of course more challenging circumstances, such as those of Cary Gilson. Sometimes it seems as if it would take a miracle to lift the house from eighth place. The days of first placings have now turned from history to myth, while future victories seem decades away. In more recent times, the attitude within Cary Gilson has become a little relaxed, with house competitions being the least of their worries. Golly Gosh! How times are about to change!

This year Cary Gilson had the strangest year I've ever witnessed. Every few weeks, news arrived of another first or second place, and it was quite apparent that House morale was reasonably high. Victories in Senior Squash and Cross Country were some of the highlights, along with the Minors gaining a first in Cross Country. A special mention must go to the Junior members of the House, who impressively managed to come third in nearly every competition they entered. Normally it would be true to say that there is no 'I' in team. Last year however saw some of the most impressive individual performances for many a year. Will Watkinson won the prestigious Cary Gilson cup after leading the Minors through many competitions. The Dawes twins stood out all year among the Juniors, with Sameer Patel giving fantastic performances all year in many sports. David Han was a sensation, earning a third place in classical music, winning Cary Gilson back a little of the respect lost in the group section.

Lee Raji along with Dan Loyo Mayo seemed to rip other teams apart by the seams in House Rugby, with Joe Robinson demolishing nearly all the Athletics records that got in his way. The biggest shout out must go to our captain, Mr Shafi! He proved that good looks and talent can be served on the same plate, leading the House from the front all year.

Surely Cary Gilson must have finished extremely high, I hear you say. This unfortunately was not the case: the words "Eighth Again" echoed around Geography Room A once again. It seems like an uphill struggle sometimes, but with team effort for every competition it is possible that we could reach the dizzying heights of seventh or even sixth next year.

With no Mrs Hodgkin, who left after nearly two decades of the Cary Gilson experience last summer, that illustrious number one spot seems even further away than ever. It is now up to us alone (with Mr Russell as coach of course) to rise up the ranks every year. If it results in yet more disappointing results, then all we can say is.. **"At Least We Don't Have Pink Ties!"**

Joe Robinson

Prince Lee

Another second place! This massive achievement shows commitment, hard work and determination, which all of the Prince Lee boys can be proud of.

The year started strongly for the Minors, who won the Fives competition and came 3rd in the Squash. A strong set of Swimming Standards gave the Minors 3rd place. The Shells proved relentless in the Athletics, coming first. Will Chesner made a major contribution to the Athletics victory, winning 400m, 800m and 70m hurdles. James Swirling and Matt Poole also performed well. With so much talent to show, the Minors' success should surely continue.

The Juniors have had one of the most successful years in Prince Lee history. These years took a flying start, winning Fives, Squash and Debating. The resoluteness continued with the Upper Middles coming 2nd in Cross Country and the Juniors coming 2nd in the Tennis. The Juniors' success continued in Swimming, achieving 3rd place and 2nd place in Standards, led from the front by Kieran Iyer with a score of 25/25. However, the best performance of the season came in the Cricket, where we achieved a fantastic first place. Special mentions must be made of Ci Yao, for his amazing performance in the 100m hurdles, and of Satnam Reehal for his success in the hammer. Chris Duncan showed true Prince Lee spirit with major successes in the

discus, javelin and shotputting events. These successes add up to a truly outstanding year of sport from the Juniors.

The Seniors were as consistent as usual, providing the backbone of the Prince Lee points by coming 2nd in House Debating, Badminton, Shooting and Table Tennis. David Canner was a driving force, providing sensational all-round effort. We achieved 3rd places in Athletics, Swimming Standards, Tennis, Athletics Standards, and in the House Shout with a technically superb *Stuck in the Middle with You*. Seb Heaven once again provided a performance that the England selectors should be wary of in House Athletics, smashing his own previous school records with hammer, discus and shot. The Senior Basketball team played with a skill that elicited cries of "Are you Chicago Bulls in disguise?", obliterating the top seeds and winning the competition. The best achievement, undoubtedly, was winning Senior Rugby. Under the cool, calm and collected Rob Hill, the team beat off all the top seeds, playing to a standard unexpected by the opposition and bringing Prince Lee the glory we deserve. As usual Jacob Barbasch was commanding in the Fives, guiding his team to victory. Congratulations must be offered to The Benson Cup winner, Seb Heaven, for his outstanding achievements in Athletics and for his perfectly pitched voice.

Thanks also go to all the House Tutors for their hard work over the year. Special thanks to Mr Porter for his running of the House. Let us all hope that his booming deep voice, of which many an impression has failed to match the uniquely low tone, will be announcing 1st place next year, and that the Cock House trophy will be back in Prince Lee arms.

Mark Witcombe



Heath

2004 – 2005 proved to be an interesting year for those in Heath, as we attempted to win the title of Cock House for the seventh consecutive year. Whilst we knew that the Cock House trophy was becoming increasingly sought after, we never expected the competition to be quite so fierce. In brief, the year provided a series of ups and downs, with most boys giving of their best and doing themselves proud. We have always felt that Standards sums up the spirit of the House system, and the vast majority of boys who handed in cards should feel pleased in the knowledge that they gave of their best. As ever, we should like to thank last year's House Captains, Tom Cadigan and David Woods, for their enthusiasm and commitment. We should also, once again, like to thank the invaluable team of House Tutors: Mr Simpson, Mr Smith and Mr Stacey. Their dedication and hard work is never taken for granted. Mr Milton continues to be a loyal supporter of the House and we are grateful. We also offer our congratulations to Levett for finally winning that coveted Trophy. Needless to say, we are looking forward to fighting to regain the title: it is a challenge which we are sure will be met with enthusiasm by our new House Captain Miles Benjamin and his talented team of Seniors, Richard Roberts, Charlie Hall and Vivek Balachandar.

Kulveer Samra – Shells

There have been good times and bad times in Heath; one of the good times was when we won the Basketball after losing only one game, to Levett. Another good thing was Cross-Country: even though we did not come first, everyone tried as hard as they could and did their best. The bad part was in House Tennis, when we lost 5-2. All the House activities have been good; Athletics was the best for me because I got 500 Standards points."

Josh Brampton & Dan Mort – Shells

"We have had a great time in our first year as Heath members. We have had some great successes during the year ... although it began with an 8th place in Gymnastics! After a grinding start we had to climb our way up the position tree. We managed to achieve 6th place in Rugby despite our team captain retreating due to the biting cold. Despite not having the greatest Cross-Country team, we managed to further our success and get 5th place. The Minor competitions included

Basketball (1st), Squash (4th), Badminton (7th) and Fives (7th). In the Summer Term we played Tennis (7th), Water Polo (5th), Swimming and Cricket. We've also had some great (or not so great!) experiences, from the excruciating agony of the pounding hail and rain in House Rugby to a medieval swordsman invading the USCR in House meetings. We are already looking forward to next year and we can only hope that it will be as fantastic as this one. Well done Heath."

Adam Townsend – Fourths

"Having started the year with a bunch of respectable 4th places in the more sedate competitions (namely Challenge, Debating and Chess), Mr Simpson decided it was time to bring out his ace; his rowing video. Lasting three House Meetings, this footage of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics brought the group together. Junior Table Tennis brought in a 2nd, as did the 4ths Rugby despite the lack of our best players, sneakily stolen by Mr James for a school match. The Cross Country was a pleasant surprise, bringing in a well-earned 2nd place. Music events proved not our strongest suit, but Luke Murphy ensured that we secured 7th and 8th places. Junior Fives and Squash also brought in 2nd places, and Badminton and Basketball both rung up 1sts for Heath. In the Junior Cricket we lost (very narrowly) the game at Eastern Road to Gifford but, seeded 5th and with the help of Mr Simpson's 'play hard but not too hard' theory, we destroyed Vardy (seeded 6th) and Evans (seeded 2nd). Swimming was also a successful event, along with the Water Polo, in which we came in 1st place.

So there it is, the year as seen by a selection of those that matter most. Well done boys, and keep up the good work.

CMLT/MDS

Levett House: Cock House Champions 2005

To most, the first Levett House Meeting of 2004 appeared no different to any other.

Levettians filtered into the MPL in their usual hopeful manner without any great expectations for the year ahead. However, to those in the know this year was going to be different. After six years at KES, the Sixth Formers were not going to allow Heath to claim a clean sweep and win the Cock House seven years in a row; and Levett was the House to prevent this happening.



Rugby. Such worries proved unnecessary, with the lower years producing some very respectable results. Of particular note were the UMs' victories in both Rugby and Cross-Country. The Shells also performed admirably, boding well for the future. The Seniors were also more impressive than expected, coming out with a fourth place in Rugby and a third in Cross-Country. As a consequence, our second place from Christmas was maintained: we finished the term trailing Prince Lee by only a few points.

With this determination in mind, the year got off to a good start. Given the wealth of academic talent present in the House the Autumn term, with such events as House Challenge, Debating and Chess, is often a successful period. Good results here were accompanied by reasonable outcomes in the Senior indoor competitions. The greatest achievement of the term came on the hockey pitch though. Led by House Vice Captain John Ashton, we pulled off an unexpected victory over Heath early on, after which we were unstoppable, not losing a single match. This led to hopes for a good overall standing in the Cock House Table at Christmas. We were not disappointed at finding ourselves lying in second place.

However, Levett veterans knew to take these early signs of promise with caution as the Spring Term has so often brought our downfall, in such heavily weighted events as

With strong events, Cricket and Swimming, to come in the Summer term, the mood in the house was very positive: we knew that good performances could easily result in gaining top place. Success came in both the pool and on the Cricket pitch throughout the house, and this compensated for the less impressive Athletics results. Standards, as always, was the most pleasing of all the activities: in the lower school nearly everyone handed in cards for Swimming and Athletics, giving us resounding victories in both. With these successes in mind we knew that Levett would definitely be in with a good chance of 1st place, but the final table came as a bit of a shock: we discovered not only that we had won the Cock House, but also that our nearest rivals were *twenty points* behind. For the first time in Levett history we were Cock House Champions, making 2004-2005 the most successful year in the House's existence.

Massive credit must go to every single member of the House: the success did not come from the efforts of a few sporting stars but from everyone else showing the commitment and effort in all areas to win overall. Thanks must also go to all the Sixth Formers for keeping the tutorial system running smoothly and using the time effectively. The staff have also been instrumental in the organization of the House and deserve huge thanks for giving up their time to do so. All that is left is to wish Levett the best of luck for the future and hope that this is the start of many years of success.



Gifford

What do a Great Britain athlete, a future Nobel Science award winner, a future Prime Minister and a Calvin Klein model all have in common...? You've guessed it – they are all Gifford House members.

Despite this dazzling array of talent, and much more, Gifford has had another year of mixed fortunes. Bizarrely we have managed to rank highly in some of the tougher competitions, for example winning Minor Cricket and UM Athletics and coming second in House Basketball, whilst giving away points in other competitions, such as in Standards, where we placed 7th.

Despite this oddity there have been many successes in Gifford this year, some spectacular and others brilliant. As surely as night turns into day, Mr Lye coached our Shell Gymnastics team to yet another victorious year, for which he and the boys deserve a special mention, alongside Giles Urwin and the other band members that earned joint first

place in House Shout. Other highlights include winning 4th year Cross Country, and coming 2nd in Shell Rugby, Senior Tennis, Minor Fives and Minor Squash (amongst others). More importantly we can be satisfied in the knowledge that we only came eighth in two competitions and improved our overall Cock House ranking from a mediocre 7th place to a hopeful 6th.

In a last ditch attempt to make this report slightly original I'd like to thank Mr McMullan, for his running and constant support of the House, and also Alex Boyle for not swearing or blubbing on in his last speech of term, despite having had half a glass of shandy earlier that morning. Not to leave anyone out, all the staff and Sixth Form pupils are also greatly appreciated for monitoring the progress of the individual year groups. I have high hopes for Gifford next year and I'd like to wish all the others the best of luck in competing against us, because I fear they may need it!

Charlie Rees

Mr Worthington

Last summer Mr Worthington stepped down after being head of Vardy House for twenty eight successful years, leaving an example to emulate. He led from the front with enthusiasm, encouraging the boys and fostering the legendary Vardy spirit.

In 1997 Mr Worthington took over Vardy House from Bob Parry, a temperamental Welsh rugby player. His policy was somewhat gentler but he brought fresh enthusiasm to the House. From the start his policy was that Vardy was the boys' House and the boys would get back what they put in. He encouraged boys to be responsible for the House and the day-to-day running of it. He would encourage and cajole boys to work for the House, and occasionally hand out threatening notes from "Big Reg", but he was always a fair minded person putting the House's interests first.

The "Caput Aedis" has fostered a strong House spirit through the "vertical group" system of tutor groups, which promotes continuity and shows how the House is centred round to the boys. His primary sporting interests for the House were Fives and Cricket; Vardy has always been strong at Fives thanks to Mr Worthington's input and last year Vardy overturned a seeding of fifth in House Cricket, a tribute to his efforts. Vardy has been a strong house under Mr Worthington's leadership, only twice finishing below fourth place in the last fourteen years and being fifth on those occasions.

House colours have always been precious for Vardy members and have not been easy to achieve (unlike in other Houses using the points system it is not simply a case of doing one event a year and achieving colours in the sixth form) but are a reward for sustained effort in the House over a number of years. Only those truly deserving would achieve the prestige of Vardy colours.

So thank you Mr Worthington for leading the House with such boundless energy and setting a fine example for the Vardy boys to follow.

Cock House 2004 ~ 2005

Place	House	Points
1	Levett	500.5
2	Prince Lee	478.5
3	Vardy	469.5
4	Heath	451
5	Evans	436.5
6	Gifford	412
7	Jeune	390
8	Cary Gilson	373



For those of you reading *Chronicle* who are unaware of what ARES actually was, we were the Amateur Radio and Electronics Society. At its peak (15 years ago) ARES was among the most popular societies in KES (even charging a membership fee). It took pupils and turned them into fully licensed radio operators, and made frequent trips to some of the highest points in the West Midlands to take part in competitions against other groups from around the region. However, the late 1990s brought the Internet to our homes and Mobile Phones to our pockets: talking to people across the world took a lot less effort (and a lot less Morse code), and with this great leap in technology, the popularity of Amateur Radio declined, a trend mirrored in the fortunes of ARES.

They say that you can't get blood out of a stone, yet over the last few years ARES seems to have managed just that. At the end of last year, with the departure of three quarters (sounds better than three out of four) of our senior members, the mood among those of us who remained (me) was that if ARES had any chance of survival, we had to emerge from the shell of the Aldis lab and preach to the Lower School. So, you may have noticed the frantic campaigning for Shells and Rems to join the "Lower School Electronics Club". We initially attracting ten, yes ten, interested members of the Lower School, but eventually people dropped off and ARES was back at square one (me). So, this year saw the last drop of blood out of the stone.

When ARES was at the height of its popularity, the headquarters was moved to one of the highest rooms in the school: one of the drama dressing rooms upstairs from the staircase you were always forced down as a Shell at the end of Friday morning Big School, even though you had History with Mr Milton first period. Five years ago, when the membership had diminished to under ten and it looked as if ARES was dying, we were given a premature burial in the Aldis Lab, a small disused science lab underneath the APL affectionately known as "The Bunker" because of its underground location and black paint job. The powers that be obviously thought that time would finish us off. Perhaps the relative status of a society in KES is determined by where its room is within the school. Well, at least that's what the skeletons in the old Model Railway Society's room next door have been trying to tell us for the last five years.

Robert Mertling-Blake

Bringing Christian Union into the academic year 2004/5, along with Luke Bridge and myself, was Alex Toseland from KEHS. We began the year with a look at the Ten Commandments in the light of the New Testament, with a greater emphasis on New Testament grace and forgiveness. This tied in nicely with evangelist J. John and the hugely successful event in Aston Park on Thursday nights over ten weeks, namely "Just Ten". Rather than one person taking responsibility for leading the group in the right direction it was encouraging to see several regulars contributing both spiritually and socially. Many thanks to Nick Toseland for providing musical support, and to Alex for doing much of the organising.

C.U. continued to provide a regular opportunity during the increasingly hectic school week to spend time focussing on God, be that through worship, praying or sharing our insights into the Christian faith together. I hope that through the year, both as a group and individually, we have grown together socially and drawn nearer to God spiritually, and that C.U. continues to be a hugely worthwhile venture in school life. On behalf of Luke and Alex, I wish Emma Youngs all the best in leading the group forward from September.

Joe Perini

ARES

**CHRISTIAN
UNION**

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The Scientific Society experienced one of its more eventful and interesting years in 2004–2005, with presentations given by visitors and schoolboys on a wide range of subjects. In October the school welcomed back long serving Physics ‘guru’ Dr Ian Loram for a talk on ‘the mechanism behind human balance.’ David Woods, Ollie Cooper and Ian Ingram also offered us insights into the ‘Crest Gold Award’ projects they had worked on during the Summer holidays. Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the presentation by world-renowned physicist Michio Kaku. Speaking to a packed Concert Hall audience of pupils from KES, KEHS and other Foundation schools, Professor Kaku inspired the audience with his multiple universe theories, his knowledge, and even his wit.

The final presentation of the year was from one of the world’s leading liver transplant researchers, Professor James Neuberger. Talking to KES and KEHS pupils, the professor explained the process of liver transplantation and the many difficult decisions involved with these procedures. The audience was introduced to a typical scenario: ten patient case studies were shown and we were challenged to decide which four patients we felt deserved a transplant most. The exercise certainly showed us many of the complex ethical dilemmas that this department encounters on a regular basis. Many thanks must go to the Scientific Society committee, headed by Dr Daniel and Anand Pandit.

Vivek Balachandar

MENTORING



“No, it’s not just for people who want to be medics...” Early in the school year, the founding members of the Mentoring Society, Anand Pandit and Kohmal Solanki, began their recruitment drive for Divisions to continue the valuable work of the society for another year. Despite being one of the school’s youngest societies we received a huge number of applicants and, after a lengthy selection process, a select group of twelve was brought together for intensive training. It was in these training sessions that Anand tried to impress the seriousness and importance of the society upon us. He even created a “Mentoring Manual”. So why is the Mentoring Society so important? The aim of the society is to help boys from the Lower and Middle schools who are having difficulty with their schoolwork discover new methods to help them complete work they find challenging. With the help of Mrs Dancey, the society is now one of the school’s biggest, as the Lower School flocks to room 181 on a Tuesday afternoon to have its problems solved.

After our training was completed, Anand and Kohmal stepped down to make way for the new head, Seb Heaven, and the society has since continued to grow, despite some slightly haphazard management, many a confusion between Room 180 and Room 181, and lack of the customary society refreshment, cake. The society is likely to continue to grow, not least because Anand and Kohmal have threatened to come back and get us if it doesn’t, and we look forward to a healthy number of applicants from next year’s Divisions to make Mentoring a permanent fixture of KES life.

Shane Murray

GRAPHIC UNIVERSE

So, what has been the Graphic Universe’s biggest problem this year? Declining numbers? Dumb-struck Upper Middles? No, the answer is... American TV executives!

Yes, American TV executives. In particular, the ones who run Fox. With *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* gone, we flocked to *Angel* for our narcotic dose of Joss Whedon’s Buffyverse. But despite ratings higher than ever and a more accessible storyline than before, the execs cancelled *Angel*. The fifth and final season had many high points, but by the time it was prematurely cancelled, the executives had messed around with it so much that the entire season had been nearly ruined!

With *Angel* dead and buried, we moved to another doomed and already cancelled show, *Firefly*. Beautifully written, brilliantly acted, *Firefly* had all the makings of a TV classic. But, alas, the powers that be also decided *Firefly*’s fate, and that too briskly got the chop.

But the Graphic Universe continued, seeking solace in the first two years of *Angel* and, when entertaining Upper Middles, old Buffy episodes, especially those from Season 4. Mr Milton and I proved that you can watch *Fear Itself* (a classic season 4 episode) that many times!

And, after all, things mysteriously picked back up again. First of all, Universal picked up *Firefly*, and have turned it into a movie, *Serenity*, which could very well become the new *Star Wars*. Then, *Dr Who* returned, with a new lease of life. The new series has reinvigorated British science fiction. So, what about next year? We can look forward to *Serenity*, and the second series of *Dr Who*, even if it is without Christopher Eccleston. We finished on a high, and next year looks even brighter!

Adam Richardson

One of the principal purposes of a *Chronicle* report is to instruct and advise future generations of KES boys, so that, in learning from the past, they can avoid making the mistakes their forebears made. With this in mind, I wish to begin my report with a stark warning to all Shake Soc Secretaries that may follow me (and I hope there will be many): don't do *Cymbeline*. Really. It's jinxed. When books are relics and caffeine is banned, and you gather in the school's solid-light Cultural Immersion Hub to sip diluted fruit juice and fire soliloquies at each other by short-range thoughtcast, don't touch *Cymbeline* with a three micro-parsec holopole. The play itself is, to quote one learned member of the English department, 'bog-awful', especially when an unfortunate slip turns Posthumus' accusation into 'thy mistress hath played the trumpet in my bed'; but more importantly, on the day of our reading, the Cartland Room was out of bounds, we had no coffee or cake, and several of our most dedicated readers were strangely absent. I ended up hunched and alone on a Sebel Postura chair in Room 161, fat tears rolling down my cheeks and dripping into the crumpled bag of Kettle Chips on my lap.

Other than that, we've had a really good year! Our first play of the year, *The Comedy of Errors*, saw nearly twenty new readers join the fold (almost exclusively female – come on, guys, where are you?). Many of these stayed for later meetings as well, and will hopefully go on to form an excellent nucleus for next year's society. We balanced the great doomed romance, *Romeo and Juliet*, with a less well-known and rather darker one, *Troilus and Cressida*; the latter, set around the walls of Troy, is remarkably depressing in its view of human nature, and shallow, unfaithful Cressida makes an interesting counterpart to angelic Juliet. Both plays gave opportunities for some terrific reading, however: Anna McCaskie's angry Scouse Tybalt and Seb Atay's bitterly sarcastic Thersites were especially worthy of note.

Arguably the best bit of this year, however, was its finale. After less than two weeks of hurried rehearsal, we managed to put on scenes from four of our favourite Shakespeare plays in the Concert Hall, in front of a sizeable audience. Some of the cast did run into difficulties with the amount of material that had to be learnt by heart, and our staging was definitely of the 'minimalist' school (the secluded arbour in *Much Ado* became three chairs and a table), but it was amazing how certain roles came alive when taken off the page: Tim Gadd's Caliban was one of the best and most compelling pieces of acting I have seen in seven years of KES productions, and Kat Howley and Laura Herriotts captured the mischievous complicity of the *Merry Wives of Windsor* beautifully. My biggest regret was that the audience never got to see Wajee Khan's comically overblown, pelvic-thrusting take on Don Pedro, an interpretation which had me literally crying with laughter in one rehearsal.

Shakespeare Society is by nature cyclical: it waxes and wanes from year to year, going through periods of enthusiastic devotion and periods of almost total lack of interest. Given the fluency and commitment of our L6th members, I have high hopes for next year; but whatever happens in the future, the boys and girls of '03-'05 can depart secure in the knowledge that they have been the architects of a miniature Renaissance. Thanks to Miss Warne for her support, and to Dr 'Grumpasaurus' Hosty, our 'manager of mirth', for his invaluable plot summaries and his ever-hilarious cameos. It wouldn't be Shake Soc without him.

Matthew Hosty

Emphasising the "Desi vibe" in KES, the Bollywood Society provides an insight into Indian culture. The society invites all KES and KEHS students to join together and watch movies. This year many movies have been shown, few of which were blockbusters, such as *Main Hun Na* and *Munna Bhai MBBS*. In the past, other films such as *Dil Chatha Hai* and *Saathiya* have also been shown.

There is a great demand for the society, with approximately 35-40 students attending each meeting. The society met at least once every month, and movies were shown in instalments through the week from Tuesday to Friday. There have also been Bollywood quiz meetings. We hope that in the long run more Bollywood events will occur, such as Bollywood movie evenings or even a Bollywood Ball.

Tanveer Handa

Lifeguarding is a Wednesday afternoon option aiming to help boys obtain the National Lifeguarding Qualification. This year we have had several boys pass the qualification, a few of whom have secured lifeguarding jobs at leisure centres. The qualified boys help to train the other students on Wednesday afternoons. The qualified students have lifeguarded for school on Thursday lunchtimes and at the family barbecue.

Matthew Sullivan

SHAKESPEARE
SOCIETY

BOLLYWOOD

LIFEGUARD

LIBRARY

The KES Library is one of those strange places in the school - everyone knows it exists but no one is really quite sure where it is or what goes on inside to make it run. For the uninformed among you, it's that big rectangular room in the middle of Top Corridor. It even has a giant sign outside proudly announcing the fact that it's a library, and that somewhere within people may find a good many thousand books as well as the latest DVDs.

For all this effort, the Library remains one of the quietest and least used spaces in the school - I think I've seen more people use the ARES basement at one time than the Library. But this suits us very well, for the librarian is a creature of solitude and silence, happy only when left behind an oversized curvy desk, complete with computer, coffee and cakes. Having been a librarian since the fourth year and Head Librarian for the past twelve or eighteen months, I can safely say that I've seen this great room go through numerous changes, from the comings and goings of new staff to the entire refurbishment of the library currently taking place. Truly this is the end of an era: the new library is set to be lighter and airier than ever before, with a new layout for the electronic section (previously located in the annex) and a relocation of the fiction section, possibly the most popular area of the library.

The only problem we now face is that we lack a new Head Librarian, probably for the first time in over a decade. For anyone interested in a new life of solitude, calm and peaceful meditation, I urge you to seek out the Library, effectively the Tibet of King Edward's, and apply for enlightenment within. For many a pupil the library has served as a fountain of information, a resource unparalleled in any other area of the school, and for the most part we have better facilities than those found in public libraries. It would be a shame to see this area of school life underused, so in conclusion I can only say that I hope someone is committed enough to take over the reins of the Library and continue the KES tradition of having pupils take an active role in all parts of running the school.

Harry Joseph

GEOGRAPHY

The beast that is Geography Society was somewhat subdued this year, following the departure of the "Holy Trinity" (Messrs Duncombe, Chamberlain and Albrighton). However, under the steady guidance of Mr Smith, "Geog Soc" went about its business in a quietly efficient manner. The Magic Lantern Show again proved to be the showpiece event on the calendar, thanks to some admirable contributions by staff and students. Mr Rees' striking collection of photographs from the many mountaineering trips he has been on was the highlight of the show, and he duly won the prize for the best pictures. However, it was the Ashton-Friend presentation on their A-Level Field Trip to the sand dunes of Hayle that was the overall victor, as this magnificent show proved to be the definitive guide on how to collect data successfully and enjoyably.

The spring term saw focus switching to more serious matters, with a talk by John Innes on "Globalisation, Poverty and Fair Trade". This event highlighted the issues arising from the expansion of economic activity on the global scale and the resultant exploitation of Third World workers. Attention was also drawn to the "Make Poverty History" campaign and the Fair Trade scheme established by Co-Op. Both have potentially massive consequences for future business dealings with LEDC's and the talk served as a timely warm-up for the recent Live 8 extravaganza.

John Ashton

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Many readers will have seen the film *Titanic*. You will remember the scene in which Kate Winslet was on a raft of scrap wood while Leonardo di Caprio gradually froze in the water. Most males at least will have been watching the scantily clad Kate Winslet. But did anyone notice the whistle around her neck?

The whistle was an Acme "Thunderer", made in Birmingham. This was not product placement; the firm making the whistles had not paid any money to have the whistle placed there, but it was in fact historically accurate as several dozen of the whistles had been supplied to the White Star Line for use onboard the *Titanic*.

You can now buy a "Titanic" whistle in a special presentation box with a certificate of authenticity. It will cost you £9.95. Go to www.acmewhistles.co.uk. On the other hand, you can get the same whistle without the box, certificate etc. for much less in a local sports shop. It will just not have "Titanic" engraved on it.

This story was just one of many examples of how to add value to a product by marketing given by Simon Topper, owner and managing director of the firm that makes Acme whistles, when he came to talk to the Economics and Business Society.

TM

This year proved another very successful season for the KES Athletics team. It was bound to be a struggle to equal the success achieved by last year's KES athletes, but we did come very close to doing so, only missing the ambitious target by one disappointing meeting. The very much-depleted squad, bereft of several valuable members of the team, arrived on a cold day at the RGS Worcester Invitation and were beaten by a very strong group of Oakham athletes. This was the first defeat since 2002 – and a hard one to accept, being the last fixture of the season.

Overall however, success would be the most accurate summary of our season, both in terms of results and the effort put in by the team members. We won the huge meeting at Harrow School involving eight boarding schools. The preceding two-hour coach journey seemed to last forever, and on arrival matters were not improved by the intimidating sight of the superb newly laid, polyurethane track. When it seemed morale could not be further depleted, athletes in track events found themselves competing without time for warm-up. Indeed, the opening events did not bode well, yielding a string of poor results. Despite the illusion, at the time, that we were facing a heavy defeat, the tense coach-load of KES sportsmen were relieved when returning to school the next Monday. In fact, we had beaten our opponents (including the likes of St Paul's, Bromsgrove and Harrow themselves), to inflict a shocking blow on a school so used to victory and with such a high reputation.

victories of the Seniors (Benjamin, Chan, Woods and Satterthwaite), but younger talents such as Haig, Divall and O'Brien also enjoyed some fine moments. These athletes, along with the likes of Charlie Hall (emerging as a versatile performer) and Johnny Dawkins, a remarkable all-rounder, mean that KES is well placed for success next year.

The surprising fact of the year was that only five Sixth Formers took part in the season, and this gives KES Athletics great prospects for the future. Being one of the few older members of the team, I have been both relieved and inspired by how younger, less experienced individuals have compensated for the loss of influential figures to injury and exams. Akeel Ahmed, for one, demonstrated great enthusiasm and will to experiment, accepting calls for 400m, 800m and 1500m races.

Phil Satterthwaite

Strength in depth within the school side was illustrated by the frequent victories of the Seniors

**JUNIOR
ATHLETICS**

The season started slowly, and the loss of some athletes to cricket introduced many new faces into the team. Despite this, we still managed a solid second place in our age group in our first match against RGS, Repton, Stamford and Loughborough. However, once everyone had found his correct event, we began a very promising winning streak against very tough competition including the likes of Bromsgrove and Solihull. An encouraging win in the Junior Foundation match is included in this winning run.

The victorious period ended after five weeks, in the Holden Trophy match. Here, we were short of a few athletes through injury and other various reasons, so finished third. We picked ourselves up in perhaps the toughest of our matches, the Loughborough invitation match. Through our 'strength in depth' we managed to win, to claim a trophy that Mr

Birch seems to have lost!

The final match of the season resulted in KES's first overall loss in an Athletics match since July 2002: by an excruciating one point. The Juniors finished second, again despite missing athletes through injury. Overall it was an excellent season, with many pluses. Congratulations must go to Farooq Khan (400m) and Chris Duncan (javelin), who both went on to represent South Birmingham. Chris Duncan also represented the West Midlands, narrowly missing out on a place at National level. However, the success of the team did not rely on individuals, but on the strong performances of all those involved. Thanks must go to everyone for their encouraging commitment, and to Mr James for his dedication and enthusiasm.

Nyma Sharifi

BASKETBALL**U19
BASKETBALL**

I can't help speculating that the school must have shares in a local chiropractor, considering the way injury has plagued us this season. Javvad Haider was prematurely dropped from the team, not through the totalitarian action of Mr Birch but because of an unfortunate "run in" with another player. This resulted in a knee injury requiring surgery. Charles Rees also complained of a dubious "ankle injury".

Nevertheless, we battled on with whoever was left and achieved some surprising success. We reached the last 16 of the National Schools Competition, where, despite a tremendous effort which saw us with a 12 point lead at one stage, we were defeated by an impressive St Bonaventure's side. We were the only school team to reach this stage, as all the other sides were from 6th Form Colleges and Sports Colleges, which further shows the quality of this side.

Overall, it was a mixed year. We had some notable victories against Baverstock and Cadbury College, but suffered some disappointing losses. However, this should not dishearten us. Rob Hill, Manish George,

Charlie Rees and Javvad Haider consistently performed extraordinarily well, often far surpassing the level expected of a school side. I should also take this opportunity to congratulate and speculate on the potential we have in the coming years. Richard Sheehan and Joe Robinson have maintained a good standard of basketball all year and should look to lead by example as Seniors next year. Jonathan Tipper and Eren Battaloglu are showing particularly pleasing promise (with Jonathan representing and shining in the U19 team on regular occasions).

I, as ever, have enjoyed this season and look forward to what next year may bring. If the level of interest and commitment is anything like what it has been in the squad this year, then I am hopeful and expectant of next year's season. I must also thank Mr Birch and the two Old Edwardian coaches Ranjan Chopra and Asad Kayani, who have put in a great deal of their time, interest and knowledge: which without, the KES basketball dream would not be possible.

Tom McLeod

CHESS

At the beginning of the 1998 academic year, rumours circulated that amongst the new Shells was a Chess player who was 'rather good'! This pupil was Ameet Ghasi, whose Chess rating was far better than anyone at KES and indeed far better than any school pupil in Birmingham. Ameet went straight to the 'Top Board' in the KES first team, a position that he held, unassailed, until he left as Chess Captain in 2005. Playing probably about a 100 competition games for KES, Ameet was only ever beaten twice – both by the same player, a similarly talented schoolboy from Magdalene College School, but when they met Ameet usually prevailed. He has only ever missed two competition matches, these while he was playing for England in the World Junior Championships in Cyprus. Ameet was placed 16 out of some 40 players in his age group – this world-class performance is neither paralleled nor even remotely approached by any other KES extra-curricular performer in recent years. Three years earlier at age 13, he had shared first place in the British Rapid Play Tournament with a Grand Master, creating somewhat of a stir in the Chess world.

Declaring him a prodigy from an early age, some of those who coached Ameet felt he had the talent to become one of the world's leading players, perhaps in the 'top ten'. But Ameet wisely eschewed these speculative opportunities for greatness, preferring to build a solid academic record, make friends and enjoy his 'rites of passage'. There was nothing of the dysfunctional genius about Ameet: modest, unassuming and 'normal', no one would suspect his talent. But those that did know were very frightened of him over the board. "Is Ghasi playing? He is - Oh!" was a conversation I had more than once with Chess Masters nationwide. How did he win? There's a lesson for us all here. He sat down and played his openings, quietly demolishing opponents as he went, and inevitable victories usually followed. But just



Modest, unassuming and 'normal', no one would suspect his talent. But those that did know were very frightened of him over the board.

sometimes opponents could match him and he would transform! His eyes focussed fully on the board; head almost still, he rocked gently to and fro on his chair; as he calculated the moves, he would nod; his hand went over the piece, taking care not to touch it; he thought again, sometimes more than once. He made the move, pressed the clock, stood up sharply and immediately walked away, never looking back. Stalking the playing area, he seemed to be in another world; one could almost smell the brain activity and taste the determination. Keeping a long-range eye on his opponents, he seemed to sense immediately when a move had been made without really looking; he returned to the board almost at a run, sat down, focussed – and the cycle began again. Opponents just seemed to crumble under the pressure that he generated.

As spectators, it was simply exhilarating to watch him, as though part of his now supercharged persona had spilled over into us as well. I once asked him why he did this. "Fear", he said. "I'm so afraid of losing, it hurts so much – I just don't allow myself to contemplate failure". A charming companion, always prepared to turn out for the school whatever the quality of the opposition, and encouraging of younger players, his service to the school Chess Club has been exemplary and his contribution to our success immeasurable. We all thank him and wish him very well.

Other Chess News

It has been a fine year for KES in many ways, particularly at Shell level. I would like to be able to mention a great many more players than space allows; I hope they will forgive me. Dani Malik and Kaiser Malik effectively won their age groups in the Tetrafinal of the nationwide British Land Tournament. Nathan Molnar, Colin Hock and Bilal Syed showed great promise, and their Shell team won the Birmingham League tournament. The BCF (formerly the Times) team won through to the national rounds and were very competitive, although eventually knocked out by Magdalene CS.

Ameet Ghasi won the lucrative UKIC National Tournament outright. A most pleasant 'friendly' was held with the Old Edwardians. A number of sixth formers left, in particular Dan Price, whose record of service was similar to Ameet's, so 2005/6 is going to be a year of 'building and consolidation'. With so many good young players the future is bright indeed.

CRICKET

KES v KE V1 COLLEGE, STOURBRIDGE

Wednesday 20th April 2005 At Stourbridge
Cancelled - Rain

KES v OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL

Saturday 23rd April 2005

At Eastern Road (55 overs)

KES	251 all out
A Gatrad	48
J Metcalfe	47
N Chase	46
S Patel	38
D Neale	20
OLD SWINFORD	128 for 8
N Chase	5-21

Won by 123 runs

KES v PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL, EVESHAM

Wednesday 27th April 2005

At Eastern Road (38 overs)

KES	218 for 8
N Chase	73
D Neale	44
J Metcalfe	29
H Hussain	27
PRINCE HENRY'S	61 all out
S Patel	4-28
N Chase	3-20
J Botha	2-5

Won by 157 runs

KES v SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Saturday 30th April 2005

At Shrewsbury (50 overs)

KES	66 all out
Z Khan	24
SHREWSBURY	67 for 2

Lost by 8 wickets

KES v ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL WORCESTER

Saturday 7th May 2005

At Worcester (60/52 overs)

RGS	284 for 5
L Virdee	2-30
N Chase	2-47
KES	161 all out
L Virdee	34*
J Botha	23

Lost by 123 runs

KES v MALVERN COLLEGE

Wednesday 11th May 2005

At Malvern (35 overs)

MALVERN	174 for 5
J Botha	3-48
KES	170 for 7
N Chase	64
D Neale	47

Lost by 123 runs

KES v SOLIHULL SCHOOL

Saturday 14 May 2005

At Eastern Road (60/52 overs)

SOLIHULL	232 for 8
S Patel	3-32
D Neale	2-32
KES	197 for 9
A Gatrad	61
N Chase	55
V Banerjee	20

Match Drawn

KES v XL CLUB

Wednesday 18th May 2005

At Eastern Road

KES	208 for 5
N Chase	59
D Neale	50
W Arnold	38
J Metcalfe	20
XL CLUB	167 for 7
N Chase	3-35
J Metcalfe	2-38

Match Drawn

KES v WARWICK SCHOOL

Saturday 21st May 2005

At Eastern Road (60/52 overs)

KES	205 all out
J Metcalfe	49
A Gatrad	34
P Neale	26
Z Khan	24
S Patel	21*
WARWICK	4 for 1

Match Abandoned - rain

KES v WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Saturday 11th June 2005

At Eastern Road (55 overs)

KES	162 for 9
D Neale	35
W Arnold	24*
J Metcalfe	20
WGS	163 for 7
V Banerjee	2-25

Lost by 3 wickets

KES v KING'S SCHOOL, WORCESTER

Saturday 18th June 2005

At Worcester (60/52 overs)

KES	152 all out
P Neale	52
N Chase	37
KING'S	153 for 4
N Chase	3-10

Lost by 6 wickets

KES v. TRENT COLLEGE

Saturday 25th June 2005

At Trent (40 overs)

TRENT	160 for 6
N Chase	2-24
KES	162 for 3
N Chase	55*
D Neale	41
J Metcalfe	36

Won by 7 wickets

KES v REPTON SCHOOL

Wednesday 29th June 2005

At Eastern Road (40 overs)

REPTON	127 all out
S Patel	3-30
J Metcalfe	2-10
N Chase	2-25

Match Abandoned - rain

KES v HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Saturday 2nd July 2005

At Hereford (50 overs)

HEREFORD	197 for 7
J Metcalfe	3-19
N Chase	2-18
KES	201 for 5
J Metcalfe	49*
N Chase	42
P Neale	32*
D Neale	31

Won by 5 wickets

KES v WELLINGTON COLLEGE

Tuesday 5th July 2005

At Eastern Road (35 overs)

WELLINGTON	7 for 1
------------	---------

Match Abandoned - rain

KES v MCC

Wednesday 6th July 2005

At Eastern Road

MCC	207 for 8
S Patel	7-57
KES	207 all out
N Chase	72
D Neale	55
T Burn	38

Match tied

KES v PRINCE ALFRED'S COLLEGE, ADELAIDE

Thursday 7th July

At Eastern Road (55 overs)

PRINCE ALFRED'S	182 all out
N Chase	4-47
J Metcalfe	3-42
KES	53 all out

Lost by 129 runs

KES v MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Friday 8th July 2005

At Manchester GS

MGS	186 for 5
N Chase	3-63
H Hussain	2-24
KES	140 all out
L Virdee	46*
S Patel	35

Lost by 46 runs

KES v OLD EDWARDIAN ASSOCIATION

Saturday 9th July 2005

At Eastern Road (40 overs)

OEA	222 for 8
S Chase	100
J Huxley	41
A Singh	38
J Botha	2-25
N Chase	2-38
D Neale	2-42
KES	205 all out
T Burn	34
J Metcalfe	31
D Neale	31
P Neale	23
H Hussain	20*
S Chase	4-24

Lost by 17 runs

KES v THE KESTRELS

Sunday 10th July 2005

At Eastern Road (40 overs)

KES	144 for 8
A Gatrad	31
W Arnold	29
D Neale	25
K Phillips	2-7
J Neale	2-33
KESTRELS	120 all out
R Milne	52
A Duncombe	31
J Metcalfe	5-12

Won by 24 runs

KES v OLD EDWARDIAN CRICKET CLUB

Tuesday 12th July 2005

At Eastern Road (40 overs)

KES	176 for 8
A Gatrad	49*
OECC	125 all out
R Hall	3-5
A Shanghavi	2-24

Won by 51 runs

KES v NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday 13th July 2005

At Nottingham (50 overs)

KES	231 for 7
D Neale	101*
J Metcalfe	31
T Burn	22
W Arnold	20
Nottingham High	233 for 4

Lost by 6 wickets

The 1st XI faced many challenges in the summer of 2005, as numerous players were relatively inexperienced in first team cricket. Nick Chase captained the side and we started the season well with a victory against Old Swinford. Adam Gatrad, Nick Chase and James Metcalfe all batted well and were unfortunate to land their scores short of half centuries (48, 47 and 46!). After notching up 251 in 55 overs, Old Swinford collapsed to 128-8. Nick Chase led with his bowling and captured five victims. KES again scored over 200 in their second game. Nick Chase scored a brilliant 73, supported well by Dan Neale (44). In reply King Henry's were bowled out cheaply as they slumped to 66 all out. Sameer Patel bowled especially well with figures of 4-28. KES lost some of their momentum when bowled out by Shrewsbury for a total of 66. Only Zaahid Khan (24) offered any resistance.

The next fixture was against RGS Worcester: after they scored a large total of 284-5, we only managed 161 in reply. Lionel Virdee was the top scorer with an innings of 34*. In a tense encounter Malvern were restricted to 174-5, with Jon Botha taking three wickets. KES ended on 170-7, but there were highlights in our batting display with Nick Chase (64) and Dan Neale (47) both playing excellently to get KES within reach. We played Solihull at home, who managed to get a good first innings total of 232-8. Sameer Patel's spin prevailed in difficult circumstances and he finished with three wickets. KES lost quick top-order wickets but managed to hold on for a draw, the end total on 197-9. The main contributors to the batting were Adam Gatrad (61) and Nick Chase (55), who prevented a collapse. We batted first against the XL club and scored a good first innings total of 208-5. Nick Chase (59) and Dan Neale (50) led the way again and were well supported by Will Arnold (38). The XL club managed to hold us to a draw and finished on 167-7, despite excellent bowling displays from Nick Chase and James Metcalfe.

Only half the game was played against Warwick due to rain, but it seems unfair to miss out some superb innings. James Metcalfe scored an explosive 49 with Flintoff-



esque batting that included an array of sixes. Our aggressive batting line up quickly took the initial advantage away from Warwick and we scored 205. KES travelled to King's School Worcester and were unfortunately bowled out for 152. Phil Neale scored 52 with an excellent knock but eventually ran out of batting partners. Phil's refusal to be out was described by Dave Collins- 'you could come back next year and Phil would still be batting'. James Metcalfe did prove that it is possible to hit the ball out of King's Worcester and onto nearby housing, but also that the chances of repeating this feat every ball are quite small. King's Worcester matched our total despite Nick Chase's excellent bowling display (3-10). In our next game Hereford were limited to 197-7. KES reached this total with James Metcalfe's innings of 49* and Nick Chase, Dan and Phil Neale all chipping in.

KES drew with the MCC when Sameer Patel produced his best display, bowling cleverly to get seven wickets. Nick Chase and Dan Neale both scored half centuries and Tom Burn produced an innings of 38, using his signature 'cover drives' aplenty. The lowpoint of our season was when we crashed to 52 all out in response to Prince Alfred's College Adelaide's 182. Nick Chase bowled well to get four wickets, but it was a tough game for the 1sts. We next came up against the Old Edwardians Association. Simon Chase (last year's co-captain) scored 100 and their strong

1st XI

James Metcalfe did prove that it is possible to hit the ball out of King's Worcester and onto nearby housing.

batting line-up ended with 222. KES scored 205 in reply, Tom Burn scoring 34. KES batted first against the Kestrels and Adam Gatrad (31) and Will Arnold (29) played well. KES scored 144- a total that the Kestrels were unable to match as they went down to 121. Although R Milne scored an eloquent 52, James Metcalfe finished with figures of 5-12, with a top display of pace bowling. In our next game against the Old Edwardian CC, KES scored 176 with Adam Gatrad scoring 49*. In response the Old Ed's were bowled out for 125, Rob Hall finishing with bowling figures of 3-5. In the last game of the season, the highest individual score came when Dan Neale scored an outstanding century (101*) against Nottingham and led KES to 231. Nottingham batted strongly to achieve this target and with this final fixture the season came to a close.

The 1st XI would like to thank all involved in KES cricket, especially the caterers and scorers. We give our many thanks to Dave Collins, who made us all into better players with his coaching, and changed us into a more competitive side. We would most of all like to thank Mr Stead for his amazing contributions to the XI, (not just in the season, but throughout the year) and for organising everything that is KES cricket. We are confident that next season will be just as enjoyable and beneficial for all involved.

Vishal Banerjee

2nd XI

Harjit Bhogal masterminded a rearguard action that Australia would have been proud of, and we escaped with a draw.

This season was a vast improvement on last year's solitary win. This time around we managed four victories and also a creditable draw with Shrewsbury. So what was responsible for the change? It seems obvious that it must have been a talented bunch of 5th formers or a resurgence of the older players. Well, I think that the winning factor was Vidu Shanmugarajah's back pain. It managed to keep the co-captain from playing all but a couple of our games. The ones he did play in he tried vainly to scupper, but fortunately the rest of the team managed to compensate for his attempts at catching (looking at the ground, admiring the grass while being hit on the chest by the ball).

But we did have an excellent group of talented 5th formers: Rob Hall and Adhuv Prinja both bowled well, Rob probably earning bowler of the season for his consistent pace and accuracy. Joe Russell and Dan Lavender became a regular part of the middle order. Harjit Bhogal, our illustrious captain, had an incredible season. Since last year he has always claimed to be a bowler, but it became obvious that his powers in that department waned. In response to Vishal Banerjee's

departure to the 1st team he tried his hand at opening the batting, and never looked back.

The first game of the season was against Old Swinford, who, having been put in to bat, were knocked over by a devastating 4-wicket spell by Rob Condie. Solid support from the other bowlers left the opposition on 85 all out. In response a solid batting display from Richard McDonnell, Vishal Banerjee and Tom Burn set up a convincing nine wicket win. Next up was the cricket juggernaut that is Shrewsbury. Facing a large total on a placid pitch, a few poor shots left us in a hole but Harjit Bhogal (11 runs from 27 overs) masterminded a rearguard action that Australia would have been proud of and we escaped with a draw. Against RGS Worcester, a poor batting performance left us on 120-9 although Qasim Khattak (41) and the last pair (23 run partnership) gave us some hope. Our bowling more than made up for the disappointing score. Harjit gained a never-to-be-repeated 4 for 22 and in the last over with the opposition No.11 gamely trying to block out, a Rob Hall outswinger found the outside edge and was caught by Tom Burn, our substitute keeper. The team then succumbed to Malvern to end our hopes of an unbeaten season.

The last game before the exam break was against old rivals Solihull. We scored 198-8 on a fair pitch with a tiny boundary due to building works. Tom Burn scored 58 and Jack Hambleton hit the ball for six through what was apparently the library window. Extras added a considerable number of runs to the total, as anything missed by the keeper was perpetually 4 bytes. Our bowling fell considerably short of the required standard, so the Solihull team reached our total with the loss of only three batsmen. Returning fresh from our exam leave we travelled to Wolverhampton Grammar School. A solid start from the top 4 left us on about 90 off 24 overs. Then Dan Loyo-Mayo came to the crease and hit the most destructive innings I have ever seen: a majestic 83 in very quick time. Ably supported by Richard McDonnell with 24 not out, we scored 201-5. This total was too huge for Wolverhampton, who crumbled under an accurate onslaught from all the bowlers. Harjit got hit for 21 runs off 2 overs, including a 6 into the neighbouring road. However the final game against Hereford proved a memorable finish, particularly with Will Keogh keeping, and dropping every chance that came his way. An inexperienced team were bowled out for 57(8 bowlers were used) and the runs were knocked off quickly. Thanks must go to KDP and TFC for giving up their time and thanks to anybody who played for us this year.

Nick Chan

U15A XI Cricket Report

We were all looking forward to a busy and exciting season ahead, especially as we were in the national knockout tournament. But we were under some pressure after having had a great previous season. We had lost Phil Neale to the 1st XI, but we did have Australian exchange student Pat Swann, who contributed well with the ball. Mr Roll had to find a new captain to lead the team through the season and gave Dan Christopher, Mohammed Saqib and Haidar Lone a chance to show what they could do at different stages.

Our game against Shrewsbury, in the first round of the national tournament, was a tough encounter, which we lost by 9 wickets. The game was a lot closer than the margin of defeat suggests. Nitin Saul took the only wicket and bowled exceptionally well.

During the season, contributions were made with the bat by Kieran Iyer, Pavan Grewal, Karan Modi, Dan Christopher and Man Sedgewick, who all scored 50+ at least once. Nitin Saul, Haidar Lone, Sarus Jain and Mohammed Saqib bowled well, taking wickets and keeping the runs down on a number of occasions. Henry Arnold did a fine job behind the stumps.

'Thank You' to everyone who played for the team during the season- especially to the Australian Pat Swann and to Anupam Kumar, who scored in all of our matches. We also express our gratitude to Dave Collins for helping us during the season, and a big 'Thank You' to Mr Roll for all his time and effort in making us a better team. 'Well done' to Kieran Iyer and Pavan Grewal for making it into the 1st XI and 'Good Luck' to everyone for next season.

Haidar Lone

U15B Cricket

Rain halved the number of fixtures the team played but at least both matches resulted in victories- the first, against Royal Grammar School Worcester, convincingly by 169 runs; the second was much closer- Malvern were beaten by only four runs in a 25 over match. The highlight of the RGS game was without doubt Satnam Reehal's innings of 72- a brutal demolition of what was in truth a very ordinary bowling attack. He was well supported by Jamie Fox, who made 44, and by Shiv Sivanesan, who scored 40 as part of a massive total of 243. Satnam then went on to share the bowling honours with Naveesh Kenth, each claiming 3 wickets as RGS were bowled out for 74. The second game was much more nerve wrecking. A KES total of 134, Allen top-scoring with 34, always looked vulnerable on a

fast outfield, and Malvern should have won but lost their last 5 wickets for 11 runs. Pick of the KES bowlers was Shiv Sivanesan, who picked up 5 crucial wickets to peg Malvern back.

Despite only a few matches being played, the whole B team squad remained committed and enthusiastic about their game throughout the season, and this is what impressed Mr Deeley and myself most of all.

GAW

Under 14 Cricket

We started the season eager to do well and fulfil our potential. After losing only one of our matches, we can look back on success, especially as in all but one of the wins we batted first and won by bowling out the opposition. The one loss was arguably the most important match of the season, the third round of the Lords Taverners Trophy against Solihull. We lost this match by three wickets and with three balls to go, the most disappointing part of the season. Our total of 148 was just short of what was needed, despite a fine 65 not out from Ed Botha. In the earlier rounds of the competition we beat KE Aston and Holte School. Along with Solihull, Holte have the distinction of being the only opponents not to be bowled out, although it was a 20 over match.

Our first match of the season saw a convincing win over Old Swinford Hospital School. Good performances came from Ed Botha, with 35 not out, two wickets and two catches. From there followed good wins against Shrewsbury and RGS Worcester, where Amar Shanghavi bowled well to take five wickets. Amar showed his ability with the bat, getting 63 in a convincing win against Wolverhampton. Last season we had had a disappointing defeat at King's School Worcester; we gained revenge this year with Rowan Khanna taking 4 - 3, and Harry Sharma scoring 42. We rounded off the season with good wins at Malvern College and Hereford Cathedral School in two tight games. We only just managed to retain our record of bowling out the opposition at Hereford when Vivek Shah took two wickets with the last two balls of the game.



The bowling attack was based mainly on four contrasting spin bowlers.

We regularly put a good score on the board. Steady early batting meant that we had wickets in hand so that the middle order could accelerate in the last 15 overs of the innings. Ed Botha regularly scored runs quickly, but he was well supported by Roly Grant and Simon Gateley. On the occasions when we lost more wickets Rowan Khanna batted sensibly and showed that he could score quickly when required.

The bowling attack was based mainly on four contrasting spin bowlers. Hari Sharma bowled his leg breaks accurately and opened the bowling on several occasions. Amar Shanghavi mixed up his chinamen and his googlies; at his best he was a real handful and topped the bowling averages. Ed Botha took the role of stock bowler with his off spin and also picked up useful wickets. Faisal Karim turned his off spin sharply, and frequently picked up cheap wickets. Rowan Khanna carried the seam bowling; he was always accurate and was able to apply early pressure on the opposition. He was well supported by Vivek Shah and Dani Malik. Greg Jones sadly did not play a full season because of injury, and we seldom saw him at his best. He is capable of adding sharpness to the bowling attack. Simon Gateley kept wicket efficiently as well as leading the side with increasing authority and tactical acumen. Vivek Shah stood out in the field; he was always alert and brave.

A highly successful season for a really good group of boys; they practised hard and can look back on a season of real progress, and forward to more success.

TM & Simon Gateley

U13B

We had a respectable season, winning three of our five matches. Pavan Deu recorded our best batting performance (55 runs), though Nishil Patel, Joe Harrison and Alex McPherson also batted well. Among the bowlers, Kaiser Malik nearly managed a hat-trick twice and Matthew Chatwin and Aakash Patel were also successful. Seb Hall had a great season as wicket-keeper. Thanks must go to both of our coaches, Messrs Tanner and Milne, for all of their support.

Alex McPherson

U12A

The season started well with a convincing 8 wicket win over Old Swinford. We bowled them out for 41, including a hat trick from Aaron George. We went on to win the next two matches against RGS Worcester by 5 wickets (Aaron George 52*, Wrik Ghosh- 3 wickets)

and Solihull by 58 runs (Will Watkinson 38, Oli Dixon 3 wickets). We then came to our first match in the Gladstone Small Cup against Golden Hillock. Jack Cornik (69*) and Will Watkinson (47) built the foundations for a solid 100 run win. We played Wolverhampton GS and won by 50 runs. Gaurav Budhwar (40) and Jack Cornik (49*) did the work with the bat whilst Ben Harkcom again featured with the ball with 3 wickets. His spin bowling was becoming a vital asset to the team. We won the next two cup games and therefore progressed to the Semi-Final stage, firstly beating Waverley by 10 wickets (Wrik Ghosh 4 wickets, Oli Dixon 32*) and then a much tighter affair against Warwick by 1 run, Will Chesner recording a great half-century. We lost our first game of the season on a very hot day against King's Worcester, who were mainly made up of county players. Our next match, against Hereford Cathedral, was a useful warm up for our cup semi-final against Moseley School. This was certainly a spinner's wicket with Ben Harkcom and Wrik Ghosh picking up 2 and 3 wickets respectively. They were bowled out for 61 and Aaron George and Jack Cornik finished off the job with the bat. Next up was the big semi-final and after we were set 118 to win it went down to the wire. Jack Cornik (54) and Will Watkinson (23*) put together a crucial partnership and we eventually won by 7 wickets.

Our next match was our last of the season and it was also our most important, the final against Aston. On a tricky wicket we were put in and useful contributions came from Amar Sodha, Matthew Richardson, Will Chesner and also Hugo Clay, who had proved to be a very reliable keeper throughout the season. We managed 137-8 from our 30 overs but unfortunately it wasn't enough and Aston reached the total in 27.3 overs with the loss of 3 wickets.

After the match Gladstone Small presented the trophies to us, a great moment for the team to remember. I would like to thank the whole squad for all their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the season and also Mr Lye for coaching us.

Jack Cornik



CROSS COUNTRY

Junior Cross-Country

The Junior Cross-Country team had a very successful season in 2004. We managed to reach the final of the English Schools Cup, which we had failed to achieve on two previous occasions. In the qualifying stage of the competition, every member of the team ran exceedingly well and gave 100%. We won the Regional round and, in doing so, beat a very strong team from Helsby who went on to win the final! Even though we had such a promising start the finals did not go as well for us as we had hoped. Most members of the team had never competed in a race with such a large field of runners (150 plus) and so at the start of the race found themselves quite a way down the field with a lot of work to do. Although our eventual placing was a disappointing 17th, every member did give his all and we gave the title a shot. There is always next year!

The other main achievement of the season was winning the Worcester Spring Relay, a race in which 6 boys take it in turns to run a 2 km cross-country course. As every member of the team plays a vital role in this competition, it is always very exciting to watch. After strong legs from Danny Elphinston, Simon Gateley, Liam O'Brien, Joe Kiff and David Benhamou we were lying in 2nd position. Greg Divall took the last leg and won the race. In doing so he recorded the fastest lap of the day and set a new course record. Liam O'Brien also ran a quick lap – the fourth fastest on the day.

Greg Divall



Other Cross Country

The efforts of the Senior team were rather eclipsed by the successes of the Juniors this year. Several key runners had left and the team struggled to be competitive, but the spirit was good and all worked to get the best out of themselves. The Minors had some success, progressing to the Regional round of the Schools Cup and only narrowly missing a place with the Juniors in the National final: Dan Sutton won both races outright. Dan also won the Greater Birmingham Championship. Greg is characteristically modest about his own achievements. He actually came second, by a metre, in the National final after a thrilling sprint to the line. At Worcester he took 50 seconds off the runner in front of him over a 6 minute lap, and the record he broke had stood since 1988. But he is right to praise the whole team, who all worked extremely hard to put him in the position to win the race.

RTB

FIVES

In another successful season the KES Fives team has managed to win four matches out of seven. A total of nine pairs represented the school in the Annual Championships at Shrewsbury. KES are particularly strong at the under-13 level, but had limited success as our young players had to play against older boys in the under-14 section.

At the Senior level, two pairs reached the last 32, including the fourth pair, consisting of Sumit Dheir and Ben Heap. However, our greatest success was the second pair - Richard McDonnell and Rohan Chopra - who went all the way to the final of the A plate, where they lost to Eton by 2 sets to 1.

Elsewhere, Old Edwardian Simon Purkis played in the second pair for Cambridge and won in the Varsity Fives competition, in which Cambridge were victorious by two matches to one.

Finally, many thanks must go to Mr Worthington for his work-ethic and drive, which have helped many Fives players achieve their goals. May Fives continue to blossom as a sport for many years yet.

Hassan Bhatti

GOLF

The annual match against the Old Edwardians was played in March at Edgbaston Golf Club. The School team won by $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. The KES team, consisting of Tom Burn, Vishnu Aggarwal, Lionel Virdee, Oliver Cooper, Jack Robbins and Messrs Dancey, Roden, Tinley, Roll and Everest, displayed their golfing talent to secure a comfortable victory. Congratulations go to debutant Lionel Virdee who, with MR as his (occasional) back up, single-handedly destroyed an Old Eds' pairing 7 and 6. Also to Jack Robbins, Oliver Cooper and Tom Burn, who all played in winning matches, although none by such large margins. Only 'Tiger' Tinley (as he likes to call himself) managed to halve a match, adversely affecting the performance of his partner Vishnu Aggarwal in the process! Thanks must go to MR who organised the whole afternoon, and also to Edgbaston Golf Club for hosting this annual match. The course was in great condition for the time of year. We hope for a similar result next year!

Tom Burn

HOCKEY



The First XI

of winning the County Cup were dashed by our losing in the semi-finals against a powerful side from Rugby, despite a heroic 1st half performance which saw us go into the break with a 1-0 lead. The season ended with another trashing of Bablake, resulting in an aggregate score over the two matches of 10-2 in our favour.

The team was led by a determined Jon Ashton, who was outstanding throughout the year. Will Murphey was his usual inspirational self, and the youngster of the team, Simon Clapham, proved that he possessed both great maturity and quality in defence, whilst Rich Roberts provided the athleticism and competitive edge in midfield. Special mention must go to Harjit Bhogal, whose legendary sliding tackle will go down as one of the best tackles in KES Hockey history. The Division year were again the driving force behind the team. The experience and talent of Sam Patel, the resilience of Vivek Balachandar, the finishing of James Harper, the unpredictability of Oliver Adams and the defensive displays of Rich McDonnell all deserve special mention. This year was marked by a cameo appearance towards the end of the year by Manish Jogia, who showed that, despite his surprise inclusion in the 1st team squad, he was more than competent between the sticks, and was deserving of his award of "Find of the Season". Well done, lads, for all the effort over the course of the season: let's keep it going next year.

Rich Roberts



2nd XI

It has been a mixed season for the 2nd XI. Training began well: we beat the 1st XI on a couple of occasions in practice matches. But this was followed by some poor performances in competitive matches, notably against KE Aston 1st XI, to whom we twice lost 1-0. In fact, after six matches we had managed to record just one victory, against a traditionally poor Bishop Vesey side. However, the last of these games showed promise for the future as we battled hard with Solihull, emerging with a deserved, if scrappy, 0-0 draw.

Following this, a few matches against weaker opposition and a welcome continuity in who played for the team (the "Where's Jack Reynolds?" campaign had succeeded in getting the player in question promoted, if not all the way to the 1st XI) and where they played, bred

confidence and teamwork throughout. The 2nd XI produced some good performance and, importantly, wins, including a 13-0 drubbing of King Henry's. Unfortunately, though, these were still interspersed with the odd defeat, against Loughborough and RGS Worcester. Two wins to round the season off ensured that the 2nd XI won the majority of its matches, scoring almost double the number of goals conceded. 2-0 down to Bablake at half-time in the final match, with the team reverting to the poor form of early in the season, it was left to Mr Roll to produce a fiery team talk, rightly questioning our commitment and attitude. We returned for the second half suitably motivated and duly won the match. Many thanks to Mr Lye and Mr Roll for coaching, team-managing and umpiring during the season.

David Woods

3rd XI

Once described as the "true heart and soul" of KES hockey, this year's 3rd XI set out to earn this accolade in emphatic style. Traditionally consisting of a rare mix of washed-up veterans looking to ease their way into retirement and a few eager youngsters dreaming of a tracksuit with their name on it, the mere mention of Tinley's boys incites fear in even the hardest of opponents. And even by the outstanding standards set by past 3rd team greats, this season was a spectacular one: fifteen games played, with only 3 losses and an incredible 61 goals scored.

While it may have been the forwards who grabbed the headlines, they will be forever indebted to the tenacious defending of Alex Brooke, Matthew Southern and Kiran Sodha, whose stoicism gave the team the freedom to play what can only be described as "fantasy hockey". As ever, Dan Yeomans, our very own "Super Sub", was brilliant. Although the team was undoubtedly talented, great players are nothing without great leadership, and once again, Tiger Tinley proved his doubters wrong. His work ethic ("I don't really see the point in training"), authoritarian style and tactical insights were all crucial factors in this year's success and for that we thank him.

Some may move on to further glory in hockey, while some may never touch a stick again; but whatever the future holds, the 2004/2005 season will live forever in the hearts and minds of all those associated with this phenomenal team.

Jack Reynolds

U15 XI

The Under 15's picked up from where they left off last season, playing well against strong opposition but losing unluckily to Loughborough and Uppingham. As the season progressed we came together as a side to beat a very good Bishop Vesey team. The position of goalkeeper was fiercely contested for between Luke Tisdale and Prathiba De Silva, who both put in exceptional performances and saved games for us many times. The team played fourteen games, winning seven, losing five and drawing two. Even after losing Pavan Grewal, the team pulled together and played consistently well with a reformed line up. Next year the team will be split up but I feel the players can continue to improve, perhaps reaching their full potential and having successful careers in KES hockey.

Matthew Sedgwick





U15 B XI

This season the team's skills and tactics have improved drastically, but the results have not: we did not win any matches. Throughout the winter we practised hard, but the cancellation of several matches and practices owing to adverse conditions prevented development in the areas where the team could improve as a whole. After a 1 – 1 draw against Solihull, our annual match against Loughborough was played and we managed to draw one of the games. In that match, Mark Davies, Mohammed Saqib and Jamie Baxter were excellent. In our final match, against Bishop Vesey, neither team scored, as the KES midfield of Ab Reddy and Dan Christopher dominated the game, preventing the opposition from getting through into the 'D'.

Sarus Jain



U14 XI

September 2004 saw the beginning of several promising hockey careers. Many people had never even picked up a hockey stick before, but looking at how the team finished the season, compared with how they began it, it is obvious that all the players have improved tremendously. Going into our first match, everyone was very eager to see how we would measure up to other teams: the result was a 0-0 draw against Warwick School, a strong side. Over the course of the season the skills of many players began to show, as we started to improve in our flow of play. Most schools' players begin their hockey careers in the first year, whereas our team had just made a start three years into the school: therefore we had to learn quickly. There were

many valuable contributions from individuals, including a high level of skill from Andrew Halton, some encouraging play from Amar Shanghavi, and continuous sporting aggression from Faisal Karim. We came across a number of very good teams, and finished the season winning a fair number of our matches. Near the beginning of the season we lost games owing to inexperience, but as the season progressed we gained in both skill and understanding, and began to win more. We finished on a positive note, winning our final match 3-0. I feel that the team did very well and show a lot of potential. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mr Roll for his patience, help and encouragement. This was our first season together: bearing that in mind, it would seem that the future of KES hockey is in safe hands.

Rowan Khanna

RUGBY

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL RUGBY CLUB 2004 - 2005 SEASON

	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against
1st XV	20	15	4	1	599	239
2nd XV	15	10	5	0	373	131
3rd XV	10	4	5	1	173	109
U16A XV	16	4	12	0	196	443
U16B XV	1	0	1	0	0	45
U15A XV	18	15	3	0	336	84
U15B XV	14	8	6	0	295	117
U14A XV	16	10	6	0	303	175
U14B XV	15	10	5	0	368	138
U13A XV	16	8	6	2	255	270
U13B XV	13	10	3	0	284	128
U13C XV	5	3	2	0	125	52
U13D XV	5	3	2	0	59	85
U12A XV	12	6	6	0	148	156
U12B XV	12	6	4	2	229	105
U12C XV	9	4	3	2	155	133
U12D XV	7	3	3	1	91	123
U12E XV	1	1	0	0	12	7
TOTAL	205	120	76	9	4001	2540

Team Honours

1st XV

Round 4 of Daily Mail Cup
Winners Siviter Smith Cup

U 16 XV

North Midlands Cup Quarter Finalists

U15A XV

Reached Round 4 of Daily Mail Cup
Winners Greater Birmingham Cup

U14AXV

Winners Greater Birmingham Cup

U13A XV

Third place Greater Birmingham Cup

U12A XV

Winners Greater Birmingham Cup

Individual Representative Honours

Under 18

Greater Birmingham Schools

W Keogh, J Metcalfe,
C Rees, M Benjamin

North Midlands selection

C Rees, J Metcalfe,
M Benjamin

Midlands Trial

J Metcalfe, M Benjamin

England 18 Group AER

James Metcalfe

Under 16

Greater Birmingham selection

D Kennea, S Flaherty,
D Lavender, G Jackson

North Midlands selection

D Lavender

Under 15

Greater Birmingham selection

W Arnold, W Murcott, K Iyer, M Haig,
E Battaloglu, P Campbell.

KES Rugby Club Individual Player Awards

1st XV

Player of the Year

Rob Hill

Most Improved Player

Matthew Riddell

2nd XV

Player of the Year

Jonny Dawkins

Most Improved Player

Luke Blackburn

3rd XV

Player of the Year

Magdi Adab

Most Improved Player

Jack Flaherty

Clubman of the Year

V Shanmugarajah

Hon Colours

J Metcalfe, C Rees, M Benjamin

1st XV Rugby Club Ties awarded to

James Metcalfe

Dan Loyo-Mayo

Miles Benjamin

Rob Hill

Manish George

Charlie Butler,

Charlie Rees

Phil Satterthwaite.

Full Colours

Omar Hafeez-Bore

Richard Thebridge

Lee Raji

Dan Loyo-Mayo

Rob Hill

Phil Satterthwaite

Matthew Riddell

Miles Benjamin

Manish George

James Metcalfe

Charlie Butler

Charlie Rees

Half Colours

Ian Sheldrake

Euan Stirling

Dan Lavendar

Charlie Hall

Tom Weaver

Oliver Carter

Hassan Bhatti

A J Campbell

Patrick Carslake

Ed Clarke

Will Keogh

Tom Cadigan

Vidu Shanmugarajah

Amer Shafi

Lewis Chatterley

Karan Goswami

Jack Johnson

Oliver Grauers

Magdi Adab

The First XV

The 2004-5 season of KES 1st XV Rugby started at RGS Worcester on Saturday 11th of September. Roughly half of the previous year's team remained, leaving opportunities for a number of younger players to make their 1st XV debuts. We luckily won our first game, largely owing to some dogged defence and those flashes of individual brilliance from Miles Benjamin that we were to become used to as the season progressed.

This win did help to build confidence and we began a run of successes, including comfortable victories over King's Worcester, KE Camp Hill and Nottingham. This run ended frustratingly against Solihull: our late arrival led to poor preparation, which showed on the field. The team as a whole misfired and we were deservedly beaten: we did, however console ourselves with the fact that, as a team, we were remarkably better looking. We lost narrowly to Adams' Grammar, a game in which the lack of some of our key players (absent at trials for representative teams) meant that a severely weakened KES side went down in a tense encounter.

The annual 'David vs. Goliath' fixture was played on the 4th December at Eastern Road. The giants of school rugby, Bromsgrove, lined up against a humbler KES team. On paper the

sides were not as ill matched as in some past years, and secretly we harboured a glimmer of hope of pulling off what would be the biggest win of our lives. The game itself was played at a furious pace and tackling was ferocious: Charlie Rees went "out to munch" on his opposite number with a ridiculous dump tackle that pleased the KES crowd, who were baying for blood. Somewhat unbelievably the infamous "Russell" manoeuvre, (which usually results in Rob Hill, crunched by three opponents in midfield, being concussed for the 457th time) actually worked: Rob went in to score under the posts. Despite my temporarily forgetting how to pull off a goal kick, we went in to Half Time with a 12-6 lead after Miles, who had become the "go-to guy", cruised round his opposite man to score in the corner.

Believing that we could win the game, we started the second half with renewed vigour. Some outstanding cynicism from both Charlie Rees, who feigned a near-fatal punch to the face which led to their scrum-half spending ten minutes in the sin bin, and also from Lee Raji, who persistently knocked on, meant that with five minutes remaining we were 15-9 up. The final five minutes were a blur to all involved as we repelled a brutal onslaught on



our line by the Bromsgrove forwards. Having driven a lineout to our line, a scrum was called and we only had to stop them for one more play. However, their number 8 knocked on at the base of the scrum, handing KES the Siviter Smith Cup for the first time in a number of years. The victory was particularly sweet for those who had been mauled in the previous two years' games, and we partied until dawn.

After our victory against Bromsgrove everything else seemed less significant. We were knocked out of the Daily Mail by a disappointingly poor performance against Northampton School. The only other defeat of the season came against a strong Old Swinford side with really cool haircuts. Possibly the strangest game I have ever played in was the one against KE Stratford. They were patently one of the worst teams we had faced, so we quickly established a big lead. In the second half, the situation began to get out of hand. Eventually in the 145th minute (Tom Weaver having spent nearly 57 of those minutes in the sin bin) Stratford equalled our score and the referee quickly blew for full time. In fact, Lee Raji, believing the referee was clearly on Stratford's side, figured he might as well join too, and conceded 2 penalty tries: one offence was a high tackle and the other was one of the stupidest pieces of Rugby I have ever seen. Sitting cross-legged in the middle of a ruck, Lee, seeing the ball next to him, decided to pick it up and, being next to the touchline, throw it out, much as a baby would throw its toys out of its pram. Stratford was awarded a penalty try and a draw was the result. Whatever next?

So another 1st XV season ended with



the traditional end of season dinner at Eastern Road, at which Phil and Manish gave entertaining speeches. Special mention must go to Mr James and Mr Roden for their help and support throughout the season: I thank them on behalf of the team. Certain players deserve a mention: Rob Hill, Miles Benjamin and Charlie Rees were consistently star performers; Euan Stirling and Matthew Riddell emerged as unexpected talents; Lee Raji, despite reversing William Webb Ellis' famous invention of Rugby when he "picked the ball up and ran with it", preferring always to "put the ball down and kick it", nonetheless made an invaluable contribution. All that is left to say is to wish the remaining players well on their tour of South Africa, which will no doubt be a wonderful experience.

James Metcalfe

Only in the 2nd team could a loose-head prop come out as top try scorer: it's certainly been one of those strange, up-and-down, anything-goes kind of seasons.

After a somewhat disappointing first match against RGS Worcester back in September, the 2nd team soon reaffirmed the winning ways of last year's side. In fact, in the following 3 games before the Autumn half term, Mr Phillips' merry band of rugby talents racked up an extremely sobering 147 points (47 from Jo Robinson) to nil against Kings Worcester, Camp Hill, and Solihull 6th Form College. Our displays of pace and power boded well for the big boys who were lined up in the weeks before Christmas.

Sadly however, in the first game back, despite holding well against some very strong Warwick opposition, our failure to convert far too many chances led to a close 5-10 defeat. We immediately bounced back in another tight game in which we beat a decent Nottingham

HS team 24-3. Our 'hit and miss' nature continued into the subsequent weekend, as we lost to a much inferior Solihull side after some quite abysmal mistakes and brainless rugby. A solid performance against the tough farmer boys at Adams Grammar School got us back on track for our old rivals - Bromsgrove.

The next, and biggest, match definitely proved to be the real low light of the 2nd team season. In spite of our immense efforts across the pitch, and despite the addition of heavy weight Oli Carter to the side, we were left gutted, having been well beaten, 14-38, by an extremely strong and professional Bromsgrove outfit. Yet that in itself did not prove to be the main hardship: as we stumbled off the field battered and bruised, salt was forced into our wounds as we learnt that, over the road, the 1st team had gone and retrieved the Siviter-Smith Cup.

The new calendar year was celebrated with plenty more of the Champagne rugby that had

The 2nd XV



been on display in the earlier stages of the season: the likes of Bishop Vesey, Bablake, KES Stratford and Shrewsbury were all polished off with consummate ease, the latter 3 under the foul mouthed, but nonetheless inspirational leadership of Will Keogh. The last match worthy of comment is our final game, against local rivals Aston. Always a tricky fixture away from home, the team pulled together wonderfully for the culmination of this challenging season, as we defended strongly and finished clinically, earning our 3-15 win.

My personal thanks go to everyone who represented the 2nd team this season, all of whom maintained that unique spirit that only a 2nd team member can know and feel. In

particular I congratulate the prowess of our gutsy, hard-hitting front row of Ali Sharaki, Jack Jeffries and Seb Heaven. The halfback combination of AJ Campbell and Owen Chan proved a very sexy attribute, while Lewis Chatterley became an equally special replacement during Owen's injured spells. The huge kicking boot of Joe Robinson, clinching over 100 points, was an integral feature of our side, as were the new boys Matt Pitt and Luke Blackburn who blended excellently into the side, scoring a wealth of tries. The doggedness of 'player of the season' Jonny Dawkins, who refused to miss a single minute of 2nd team rugby this year, deserves definite praise. And finally, the combination of cotton-wool-legged Rob Shipley, accompanied by the less conventional, carpet-legged Paddy Carslake, ensured our supreme dominance in this year's lineouts.

The most heart-felt thanks of all, as ever, go to the one and only Big Keith. We all thank him greatly for his superb support and encouragement throughout, as well as the immense effort he always invested in the team. A highly successful and extremely enjoyable season: all in all nicely summed up by the words from a good old sing song back in the Aston changing rooms, later echoed at the Rugby Dinner, and now to be cried for eternity... "I'd rather be the Seconds than the Firsts!!"

Ed Clarke

U16 XV

Ableak, cold winter loomed: the rugby had begun. The forwards pushed hard whilst the pretty backs ran. Like a bird, our confidence soared: Five Ways the prey, we fought and scored. Some great performances soon did follow, Whilst big boned Turner continued to swallow (a double bacon cheeseburger he had packed for half-time). Our lively team spirit was a promising sign. But the fixtures were tough: great victories or not, The team had progressed and improved a lot. The North Midlands Cup seemed at arms' reach, But the quarter final saw a narrow defeat. A spate of injuries, 1st team games came Which added frustrating defeats to the winter rain. Five foot giant Victor, the rock of our pack Despite his moaning about his back. Some ill-timed parties didn't help our cause But the efforts of this season? Worthy of applause! Eager to see what next year holds, New challenges, jerseys, players and goals

Special mentions go to Guy Thomas and Greg Jackson for some excellent performances. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for any long term back injuries Mr R.J Dancey may have sustained during the season.

3rd XV

The third team season was full of highs and lows: 'total domination' over Solihull and the bitter pill of a narrow loss to Bromsgrove. Not only did we play some outstanding rugby (at times), but the 3rd team managed to keep a sense of style. Jack Flaherty's red, white and blue scrumcap added a flash of colour and Tom Jackson dispelled the myth that the mullet is dead.

We were allowed the pleasure of having Vidu Shanmugarajah play for a few matches, which added an often-needed comic lift. When Vidu was absent there was always Gaz Ahmed, with such lines as, 'I don't think I'll need any boots....' Veteran 3rd teamers such as Magdi Adab and Karan Goswami were there, with words of wisdom on how to get through a 3rd team season (Magdi swears by a good Friday night and a couple of beers) and a helping hand when times were hard.

I would like to thank all the players for a fantastic season. By the last match we were truly a team.

Ben Anderson

Max Dowd

U15A XV

It was a season of mixed success for the U15 A's. Despite only losing three games all season, our defeat by Chosen Hill (0-5) in the Daily Mail Cup still haunts us, especially as we had defeated old rivals Warwick 3-0 in an earlier round. I believe that if we played them a dozen times they wouldn't beat us again: it was just one of those days.

Particularly rewarding was our defeat of Old Swinford 8-0, as they had been previously unbeaten all season. The season saw the largest number of team changes since the first year, but our performances settled and great team spirit was shown by members new and old alike. The 366 points that were scored, with only 84 against, reflected this. All in all it was a pretty good season, which seemed to end all too soon.

Once again, several players were selected to represent Greater Birmingham at County level.

Max Haig

U15B XV

It was another successful season for us, even though over the season the team changed a lot, many of the players going up to the A team. Everyone tried his best and we worked well and improved throughout the season.

We had an outstanding game against Rugby School, whom we beat 30-0, and probably the best game of the season was against our old rivals Bromsgrove. Even though we lost we showed grit and determination and kept trying till the end, when we lost narrowly, 24-17.

Over the season we had a few players who were consistent and played a key part in the team. Joe Kiff, Ci Yao, our highest try scorer, Ryota Nishikawa and Izu Chuckwolabelu all played excellently. Finally I would like to say well done to the whole squad for being committed and determined, and also a thank you to the staff that coached us, in particular Mr Connor.

Prasant Desai

U14A XV

Our season did not start well. Our players had had too much of a break over the summer holidays, and a lot of us did not manage to get any practice in before the season started. Our first match, against RGS Worcester, was a disappointing loss. But once the season had started we were putting time into practices and so we were soon to improve as a team.

Next we were up against strong opposition: King's Worcester. In this match we got into our normal stride but only during the second half. Sadly, by this point they had scored too many tries in the first half, so we unfortunately lost this match. The next side we played were KE Five Ways, who were not a strong side. Even though we were missing some of our key players we still managed a reasonable victory. We always knew Warwick was going to be the toughest of our matches, so we were really set and up for it.

But we were not playing our best rugby on the day. Although the score sheet reads otherwise, actually the match was a very close and thrilling encounter. Warwick got a few easy breaks from our errors in defence. But then we had picked up our game and came across two reasonably talented teams, against whom we had excellent wins. After this we played one of our main rivals, Solihull, but we could not continue with our winning streak.

We played against Bromsgrove School, known for having an amazing rugby team. But we proved otherwise, and annihilated them. One of our highlights of the season was winning the Greater Birmingham Cup, to regain the shield. Thanks should go to Mr Milne for his endless effort with the team and to some of the players for their outstanding performances: Sam Scon, Mahdi Taqi and Nathan Ken.

Ed Botha

U13A XV

Going into this year's season, we were optimistic about building on last season's success. Playing Old Swinford Hospital was undoubtedly the best performance of the season. It was a physical game, with both sides putting in some strong tackles, but late on in the game Harris Ismail scored a terrific try, his first of the season, to secure a memorable victory.

The team continued to improve throughout the season. Strong performances came from fullback Jack Manners, whose tackling was a vital part of our success this season. Number 8 Alex Winyard's powerful performances resulted in some match-turning tries. Matt Chatwin, our fly half, consistently kicked well, converting many tries. In particular his cross-field kick to winger Mike Hawrylak in the last game of the season resulted, in my view, in the best try of the season.

I would like to thank Anish Mehay for his contributions in the first half of the season and for his support during the second half, after his season was halted by a compound fracture to his left arm. Many thanks to Mr Stead for his coaching and I believe this side will be a strong force in years to come.

Aiden Wilkinson

U13C XV

We first played Warwick away, and our backs played very well, not letting the opposition through and clearing the ball at the right moments. The match ended with a narrow loss by 10-0. Full back Joseph Neary played extremely well, stopping an almost certain try and doing some excellent runs in our next game. We were unlucky to lose 27-10 but both teams played extremely well.

Against Camp Hill our backs didn't perform as well, but we kept ourselves on top through some stunning play from Matthew Haywood. We ended the match with a good but improvable score of 30-10. The whole team played well but extra credit must go to James Travers and Gaurav Kumar. We played Bishop Vesey next and Rory Singh performed well, passing the ball round and keeping a good pace. The side was unlucky to be denied many tries but we still came out on top with a score of 32-5.

The team has played extremely well all season and I am very pleased with the effort everyone has made.

Ed Hobbs

U12A XV

The under 12's had an enjoyable and successful season, winning just over half of their matches and finishing as Greater Birmingham school champions. It took a short while for us to settle down, after which we enjoyed victories over Camp Hill, Bishop Vesey, KE Aston, and a closely fought game against Bishop of Hereford School. These wins were built around solid teamwork. Tries were shared between 13 different players rather than relying on one outstanding individual. Some highlights of the season were Tim Barnes' hat-trick against Fairfax, Morgan Hirsch's line-out skills and Edward Davies' terrier-like tackling. The team finished in style, winning all of their matches without conceding a single point at the Greater Birmingham Schools Tournament on a gloriously sunny day at KE Camp Hill. I wish to thank our two coaches, Mr Emery and Mr Witcombe, for their sound advice and support in putting together a new and enthusiastic team.

Oli Dixon

U12B XV

Although we started with the traditional defeat by Warwick, we played well together throughout the season. However, in the occasional game we did not play our best. For example, we lost to Adams Grammar School 12-10, when we really should have won. There were some quite pleasing victories, notably beating Camp Hill 50-0! We completed the season with 6 wins, 4 losses and 1 draw. Overall a pleasing season. Here's to the next one!

U12C XV

We played our first match against Warwick, losing 42-0. We started to give up hope after 15 minutes, due to Warwick's mounting total of tries and our lack of experience! We got off to a better start against Camp Hill, scoring four tries and clinching a victory of 35-0. When we played King's Worcester we defended well and drew 10-10 (a score we repeated against Bishop Vesey later). With the score at 28-0 at Old Swinford we produced a scrum on their five-metre line. I went round the blind side to score and we won 35-0. We played Warwick again, but the result was the same due to missed tackles. Our quick wingers played especially well against Stratford so that we left the field with a very good score line.

Hugo Clay

U12D XV

We began the season by learning how much room there was for improvement: Warwick thrashed us twice in succession, away and at home. Two fixtures against KE Camp Hill were much more satisfactory since we won both convincingly, 15-10 away and 10-5 at home. Motivated by this improvement, we finished the season with a 29-5 victory over Bishop Vesey. My congratulations to all the team, though Peter Alton's ferocious performance in the last match deserves special mention.

Ian Malhotra

SWIMMING

Most people don't even know the KES Swimming Team exists, but after seven years in the dark we are ready to re-enter the *Chronicle*. Through the natural talent of a few swimmers and the help of the school's Water Polo players, KES Swimming Club has managed quite a good season overall. Dan King has led from the front in the U15 age group, inspiring his team to two first places, in the Warwick and KES Invitation Galas. The U13 team hasn't had such a good season, coming last at both galas despite the efforts of Ameer Allybocus. For the veterans in the U18 squad, this season was the best in many years. They came first at Warwick and second at KES, along with two fifth places at the Bromsgrove relays: special mentions go to Matthew Sullivan, who receives Half Colours, and Oliver Grauers, who receives Full Colours.

Oliver Grauers

TENNIS

1ST TEAM

(Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3)

The team, captained by Tom Rutter, started with a difficult fixture against a strong Shrewsbury side. Only the first pair, of Tom Rutter and Ben Brown, managed to pick up points. The next fixture, however, was comfortably won against Nottingham, with both the first pair and the second pair, of Rohan Chopra and Oliver Cooper, winning all three matches. The following game turned into a drubbing, thanks to a particularly talented Repton team: the only highlight was an excellent effort by Nick Waddell, who eventually lost a hard fought set. The Malvern match was by far the closest of the season and the result would have been reversed if only Tom and Ally had managed to convert a 5-1 lead against an impressive first pair. The season ended on a positive note though: we beat RGS Worcester comfortably.

All players deserve credit but the most improved player during the season was undoubtedly Chris Morton, displaying tremendous fighting spirit which he combined with definite ability. David Arnold stepped in when we were short of one of the starting six and played very capably.

The second team played two games, struggling to cope against Shrewsbury but performing very well to gain a win against Malvern.

UNDER 15 TEAM

(Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2)

The team performed valiantly against Nottingham School, with James Warnaby and Ben Spannuth winning all three of their matches. The fixture against Repton was extended to include the Under 16 players and Tim Kovoov did well to win two of his matches. In the local league we were able to field a much stronger side including Pavan Grewal and Henry Arnold. Captained by Ravi Soni, the team won all three league matches comfortably. Pavan was the most improved player, appearing to be an excellent prospect.

UNDER 13 TEAM

(Played 5; Won 4; Lost 1)

The first fixture against Nottingham was slightly disappointing but the score line was particularly unflattering. In the local league the team was captained by Andrew Philpot, who played with Will Chesner as part of the first pair, while the second pair included Nick Watson and Aidan Wilkinson. Both groups won all of their doubles matches. In the singles the Camp Hill fixture was by far the most difficult. Andrew lost against a good player, while Nick Watson was on the edge of defeat, losing 5-1 and 40-0 before dramatically turning the tables on his opponent. In the King Edward's Aston match, Andrew performed particularly well to overturn a 3-0 deficit against a strong opponent.

In the Malvern Preparatory Schools Under 13 tournament Nick and Andrew performed impressively to finish joint third. Will Chesner partnered Will Watkinson and they won the plate competition.

School Colours

FULL - Tom Rutter
Oliver Cooper
HALF - Rohan Chopra
Nick Waddell
Chris Morton

SJT

WATER POLO

SENIOR WATER POLO

Having lost a number of key players from the Senior team over the last two years, we hoped, but could not expect, to continue this year the recent success enjoyed by the school. The addition of Old Edwardian and ex-School Swimming Captain Mr Pitt to the coaching staff brightened our prospects for the future, and the year started well with a trip to Bolton for the first round of the national competition. Bolton, as always, fielded a strong side with a number of England players, but a good team performance meant that we allowed them only a narrow victory. Victory against Manchester meant that we expected to progress to the second round: however, the result was reported as a draw, so a rematch was required. A trip to the impressive Commonwealth Games Aquatic Centre repeated the first result, with a convincing performance especially from the young players Simon Gateley and Dan King. Nonetheless, for various still unknown reasons, we did not pass on to the next round and our passage in the competition ended much earlier than usual.

Little success was enjoyed in the Warwickshire Cup either. Missing the swimming ability of Oliver Grauers, and with too little training as a team, we fell to arguably weaker opposition. The Under-16 season, however, brought much greater success: we won the ESSA North of England Championships. This was especially

impressive because of the average age of the side. All but two of the players will be eligible to play in this age group next year, suggesting that even better results are to come. George Hancock and Kieron Iyer deserve particular mention: both showed great improvement over the year, obviously benefiting from the experience of playing in the Under-19 age group.

The final game of the year was, as always, against the Old Edwardians. Playing against many of the team that won the National Championships in 2002, we were not expected to do well; but with a good start we finished the first quarter 3-0 ahead. The Old Boys' greater size and strength gradually began to take its toll, and things were not helped by Euan Stirling and Oliver Grauers being 'wrapped' late in the game. Although eventually we lost 14-11, the quality of our performance was most pleasing. Hopefully, under the leadership of Charlie Hall this can lead on to greater success next year.

Thanks must go to the three VI formers, David Woods, Oliver Grauers and Euan Stirling, leaving this year, though as always it is the staff who give up so much of their time to make these activities possible that deserve the greatest credit. Our thanks therefore go to Mr Pitt and Hayley Bettinson for their fantastic efforts over the year.

Euan Stirling

UNDER 14

The Under 14 squad has successfully reinstated KES as one of the best Water Polo schools in the country. The attitude, skill and style of this side over the course of the year earned them a well-deserved third place

in the National Finals. The natural talent of Simon Gateley and the speed and strength of Daniel King form the backbone of the side, but the main quality of the Under 14s is their outstanding teamwork combined with their ability to come back from early setbacks. Nowhere was this better displayed than on National Finals Day. King Edward's started poorly in the finale of the Water Polo season, losing their first two games and looking as if a top three finish were out of the question. It was then that the team rallied and produced their best Water Polo of the year. A victory over Eltham College started the momentum, followed by a hugely impressive victory over Bolton, the reigning champions. A final draw with Bedford Modern School was then enough to cement a well-deserved bronze medal finish. I would like to offer a special thanks to Euan Stirling and Oliver Grauers for offering their free time to help in coaching the Under 14s team.

JMP



U13s

The Under 13 squad started the year well, coming second in the National President's Shield Trophy. This impressive display, which included victories over such illustrious opponents as Bedford Modern School and Manchester Grammar School (the Under 14 National Champions) and a draw against Bolton School (the then Under 14, 16 and 19 National Champions) illustrated that King Edward's lower school has the capability to emulate their predecessors in this highly competitive sport. This under 13 side, under the captaincy of Alex Cattabeo, has also gone on to win the Warwick Tournament and has only lost two games, once in the final of the President's Shield and on another occasion to the current Welsh Schools Champions.

The hard working nature of this side, along with the talent of young players such as Will Divall, Ameer Allybocus and Alex Bion, means that they should be aiming high in next year's National Championships.

JMP

U12s

It is very easy for people unfamiliar with Water Polo to think that "just turning up" ensures a top six finish in the country. This is far from the case: around fifty schools start in round one of the National Tournament and only through hard work and commitment do our boys push themselves to the highest levels. This is nowhere more clearly displayed than by the First Year side.

They started the year losing by ten goals to the South Birmingham Sharks, then lost to Warwick School by a twenty goal deficit. Since that first term a lot of work has gone in, and the teamwork and communication between the boys has helped them to develop greatly. This has resulted in a massive turnaround. Recently the side beat South Birmingham Sharks by ten goals, and only lost to Warwick by five goals. The final matches of the year also included a first place in a local tournament against the strongest Club sides in the Midlands.

With players in this side of the standard of Morgan Hirsch, James Cull, Tim Barnes and Gurpreet Kainth, the future of King Edward's Water Polo is in safe hands.

JMP

