



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Chronicle

2015

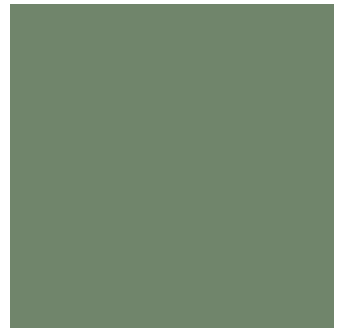
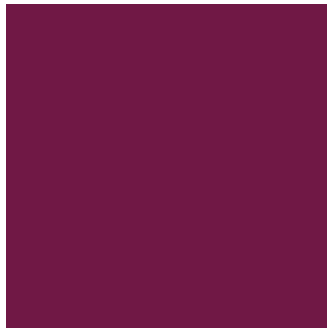
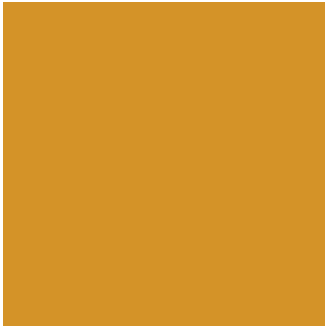
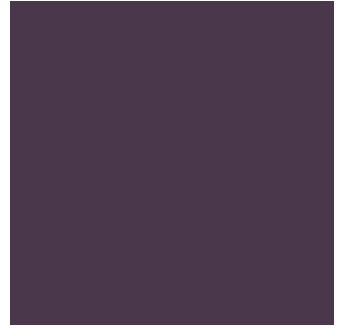






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Hellos

Goodbyes

School news

Performing Arts

Trips

Outreach

Leadership

CCF

Words

Societies

Houses

Sport

Nikhil Handa and Dev Mehta

Will Mills and Shiv Sarna

Josh Kimblin

Guglielmo Vecchio

Edwin Bahrami Balani and Elliot Barber

Josh Kimblin

Jules Desai and Tom Oldham

Raghav Aggarwal and Henry Thompson

Josh Kimblin

Jules Desai and Tom Oldham

Jawwad Raza

Kieret Dhaliwal, Tom Garfield and Daniel Vincent

Staff Editor

Art Editor

Matthew Bartlett

Bradley Spencer



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**Hellos and
goodbyes**



Edward Aston

Mathematics

Life before KES

Before I came into teaching I studied Maths at the University of Birmingham and then did some maths tutoring and office work before starting my teacher training a few years ago. I did that part-time to balance teaching with an athletics career, competing over the 800 metres specifically and seeing how far I could take the sport.

Why Maths?

I was always fairly good at Maths throughout school but I didn't really start to enjoy it until the Sixth Form. Once I got to Sixth Form, I enjoyed helping my friends out, breaking down topics and trying to explain why things worked. I think that was probably when I thought I might go into teaching. I guess I liked that feeling of explaining something to someone and then seeing when it clicks.

Hobbies

Athletics is the main one and tends to take up most of my free time. I competed for Great Britain at the World Indoor Championships in 2010 which is the pinnacle of my athletics career so far. I'm currently training side-by-side with teaching with a view to going into teaching full-time when I finish running. That tends to keep me pretty busy and then just the usual outside of that: catching up with friends and that sort of thing.

Favourite...

Food: I'm a big fan of curry but every day it would probably be some sort of pasta dish.

Book: Maybe *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel or *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer.

TV programme: Probably *The Office*. Going back a bit now.

Film: *The Truman Show* or perhaps one of the *Lord of the Rings* films.

Life before KES

I went into teaching straight after graduating from Warwick University. Up until then I went to a school in Gloucester for seven years, did my GCSEs, A-levels, went to Warwick for three years and that's, academically, what I got up to.

Why Maths?

It was what I was good at when I was at school. I found out all of my options, I considered 'Well, what are you best at?' Maths, because I'm not that good at anything else and so it was always the default option. I kind of knew I wanted to study Maths at university before I went to secondary school. I knew that was where my speciality lay.

Hobbies

I play badminton for Warwickshire County and I used to play table-football for Great Britain: that's a bit of a random fact there. What else do I do? I play generally most sports, far too seriously.

Favourite...

Food: Thai food.

Book: Probably *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. It's a 12th century story about a builder in England who goes to a town and builds a cathedral under the backdrop of various wars and kings coming in and out: I love it.

TV programme: At university I watched the first season of *24* in 24-hours during the holidays, because that's the sort of thing you do at university, not this studying business. That had me hooked on those sorts of themed series, so *Spooks*. *Bluestone 42* is quite funny as well.

Film: *The Godfather Part I, II and III*. *The Godfather Part III* is very good no matter what people say. It's one of these hidden classics. It really is under-appreciated and it's got lost in the other two.



Tom Burdett

Mathematics



Dr Hannah Cocksworth

Philosophy and RS

Life before KES

I studied Theology at Edinburgh and stayed on there to do a master's degree, with a focus on New Testament study. Then I decided to do a PhD at Cambridge. I wanted to do English Literature at university, and I even had a place at university to do English, but I didn't quite get the right grades in my A-levels. However, once I got involved in the world of Theology, I never looked back.

Why teaching?

Well, I never thought I'd become a teacher, but when I finished my PhD I decided to give it a crack. I worked in a school in Wednesbury for a year, but within a couple of weeks I absolutely loved it.

Hobbies

I love spending time with my family. I am a huge cat fan, and have a kitten called Gatsby. I love reading, too. I also play the piano, and have piano lessons at school.

Favourite...

Food: Thai Food.

Book: *Rebecca*.

TV programme: *House of Cards*, *Game of Thrones*, *Downton Abbey*, *Broadchurch*.

Film: *The Great Gatsby*.



Andrew Dutch

Music

Life before KES

I started playing the piano when I was six (my mum was a piano teacher) and took up the trombone when I was eight. I guess I just took to it pretty naturally. I went to a specialist music school when I was 13, Wells Cathedral School in Somerset, on a government-sponsored music scheme. Then I went on to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and I've just carried on since then really. When I left college, I actually worked in the music industry for about six years, for record companies and for distribution and management.

Why Music?

I have always done music of all sorts. In school, I was in rock bands as well as orchestras and choirs, and I turned to teaching because it seemed to marry up my skills. It got to the point where I was working in music but I wasn't doing that much practical music and I really wanted to get back to playing music again and be involved practically so it made sense to combine all the different skills I had and become a music teacher.

Hobbies

I don't have a huge amount of time because I have two daughters, aged three and one, who keep me pretty busy. So most of my time outside of school is spent looking after them but I do quite a lot of exercise, running, a bit of swimming and the gym. I normally do something every morning, before school. I play badminton a little bit. I follow Arsenal Football Club, less avidly than I used to; I used to be more of a full-on supporter. I like cooking, do a lot of cooking at home. But most of the time I am looking after very, very tiring children.

Favourite...

Food: Probably, Thai food.

Book: *Lord of the Rings*. I've read it quite a few times.

TV programme: *Great British Bake Off*, hands down. It's the only thing I actually bother to watch.

Film: If I had to choose, probably the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.



Dr John Fennell

Chemistry

Life before KES

I went to King Edward's Southampton and then to Winchester College, where my dad taught. I did a PhD in hydrogen fuel cells at the University of Birmingham, which was fun – it was published in the Journal of the American Society. I did quite a lot of travelling, both during my degree and before: I went to China for eight months where I taught English in Middle School. I also went to Greece during my degree for a year. They were on strike for six to seven months so we just went to the beach and relaxed... I did what I could.

Why Chemistry?

My love of lab work. I was a bit rubbish when I was younger – I once burnt a bench. Basically, there was a beaker of ethanol, I didn't see the flame and I knocked it over. I do like the theory but nothing beats the labs. I love my PhD because I got to do some cool stuff like make precisely sized gold nano rods and coat them all with the same amount of platinum in specific areas of the rod. That's what my publication was about and it was really exciting.

Hobbies

I go on nine-mile runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I love to cook, too and like recipes that take 10-48 hours to prepare. On *Come Dine with Me*, I made vodka and beer foam-battered turbot with triple-fried chips, which I think was the stand out dish of the week. The dish I am thinking about for the next cookery society show is chilli con carne, which will take approximately 30 hours to prepare – I can't wait. At the moment I'm into baking. The trigger was the bread machine I got on my birthday. I love travelling – I went to Rio over New Year and it was immense. I plan to go to Tokyo next.

Favourite...

Food: Paella. There's no limit to how good it can be. You can blag it with seasoning and poor ingredients. It can be amazing, good or unbelievable; it all depends on the ingredients used and how it's cooked.

Book: I like foreign books because I'm a quarter Greek and half Russian so I like *Crime and Punishment*. It's quite dark and I also like *Anna Karenina*. I also like this modern Greek book called *The Sarcophagus*, which is a bunch of short stories about the German occupation of Greece during the war and the Asia Minor Catastrophe.

TV programme: I like any sport and I love Love Film.

Film: *The Last Metro* with Gérard Depardieu. *Casino* with Robert De Niro is very underrated.



Caroline Gillow

English

Life before KES

I've been teaching for over 10 years in state schools and I was the head of English at Moseley School. Brummy born and raised, I went to Camp Hill. At KES, it's nice to be able to focus on my lessons rather than have to worry about everything else.

Why English?

It's amazing! I love English. It was my favourite A-level, so I knew that being 'stuck' with it at university for three years would be amazing. I really didn't feel like that about any other subject. Reading and talking about books all day? That's not work! That's fun!

Hobbies

I spend time with friends – I enjoy socializing and organizing social events and keeping people together. I have two small children so much time is spent in parks and soft play! I have a cooking blog, too. I adore cooking! I think it comes from my love of sciences at school. I'm good at making Italian food and roast dinners. Szechuan cuisine is amazing! I love it!

Favourite...

Food: Italian.

Book: *Oscar and Lucinda* by Peter Carey.

TV programme: *Game of Thrones*.

Film: *The Royal Tenenbaums*.



Rupert Heathcote
Deputy Head (Pastoral)
Geography

Life before KES

I started off as an IT consultant in London, working for Accenture. Then I wanted a complete change in career so I trained as a teacher and I taught Geography at Fettes College, in Edinburgh. Then I went on to be Head of Geography and a Housemaster at Merchiston, a boys' boarding school, also in Edinburgh.

Why KES?

I thought it was a big, successful school – very different from the other schools I have worked at. What's really struck me is the incredible social and ethnic mix. When you're sitting in front of a class, you've no idea of anyone's social background or where they're from. Staff and boys work closely together; all the boys are extremely able and focused, and everyone works very hard to do as well as they can, both in and out of the classroom.

Hobbies

I love anything outdoors. We do a lot of camping and canoeing as a family. I spend some time gardening, fruit and vegetables, and I also like to go running and cycling. I have three young children, so they take up quite a lot of time too. I follow rugby and cricket but don't play so much anymore.

Favourite...

Food: I love a good steak, but also seafood.

Book: *Call of the Wild*.

TV programme: *Homeland*, *Top Gear*.

Film: *Top Gun*.

Dr Shukla Kulkarni

Physics

Life before KES

My degree in Physics and Masters in Solid State Electronics were awarded by the University of Mumbai. I obtained an MPhil in Electronics and Electrical Engineering from the University of Birmingham. Thereafter, I completed PhD research into MOSFETs.

Why Physics?

I have always been inquisitive and Physics provides answers to pretty much why everything happens.

Hobbies

Flower arranging, sewing and reading.

Favourite...

Food: Indian, very predictable, and the saltfish ackee that my husband cooks.

Book: *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.

TV programme: *Have I Got News for You*.

Film: Probably that Shah Rukh Khan classic *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*. Forget all those Satyajit Ray slow pans over the rural Indian heartland, give me the heart on the sleeve emotional veracity of Bollywood any day!





Dr Martin Leigh

Director of Music

Life before KES

I spent a long time avoiding being a teacher. My parents were teachers and said 'Never be a teacher!', so I did my PhD and I spent a long time working in universities, teaching in universities, writing bits of things, performing. I spent about 10 years being a freelance conductor, but I taught more and more over that time and slowly realised that teaching was very much part of what most good musicians are. It became inevitable that I was a teacher; it is the thing from which I get most satisfaction.

Why Music?

Music is one of those subjects that you have to be completely obsessed with. It's something that's necessary to you. It's not really a choice, it sort of chooses you. So really, I've always been a musician, there's never been anything else that I particularly wanted to do. I'm interested in lots of things but music is the thing that has it all, the feeling, the passion, the intellectual challenge, the fun.

Hobbies

Music is pretty all-consuming but I do read widely. I like spending time with my wife. I garden, fairly obsessively.

Favourite...

Food: I don't really know. Some pasta concoction I've made myself, generally with too many extras in.

Book: The book that I've enjoyed most recently is *For Common Things* by Jedediah Purdy, which is a lovely extended essay on the nature of society and the good in society, fascinating stuff.

TV programme: Anything by Aaron Sorkin. I like *The West Wing*, that's something I do watch fairly obsessively.

Film: I haven't got one to be honest, sorry.



Alex Mason

History

Life before KES

Well, seven years of my past were spent in this school. When I left here, I spent a year in Australia, a gap year working in a boarding school and travelling the country. I then went to Oxford University to study Ancient and Modern History and then came back here to teach History and train as a teacher.

Why History?

History is really all about the stories and lands of the past. They've always fascinated me and I've just found those stories really interesting. When I started to mature a little bit, it became really interesting to analyse and unpack what those stories were and understand what happened and, actually, how the world around us is defined by what happened previously. Understanding that is utterly fascinating.

Hobbies

Rugby and cricket, so, sport would be a major one. I also, when I have free-time, which I don't often, try and do some writing. I also love reading.

Favourite...

Food: Anything cooked by my girlfriend's mum. I'll have to apologise to my parents for that one.

Book: An impossible question because there are too many books. I'm really disappointed I didn't say Tolkien.

TV programme: *Doctor Who*: been a fan ever since it came back a few years ago... 10 years ago... I'm feeling old.

Film: Most things that Christopher Nolan has ever produced: *The Prestige*, *Inception*, the *Batman* trilogy, *Memento*. I haven't seen *Interstellar* but I've heard it's quite good.



Benjamin Orlin

Mathematics

Life before KES

I grew up in Boston, went to college at Yale, and then lived in California for five years. I taught in Oakland at a small high school, just 150 students.

Why Maths?

It's the philosophical side that I like: the logic, the rigour, the proof. In other subjects you actually have to know things; in Maths you have to know maybe two things, and then figure the rest out for yourself.

Hobbies

I've done a little freelance writing for sites like *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Huffington Post* (not sure if any of those are familiar out here). I also have a blog called *Math with Bad Drawings*, where a lot of my free time gets poured into.

Favourite...

Food: Anything with enough sugar. I'm pretty unsophisticated.

Book: Well, if I have to pick just one: *Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino.

TV programme: *Community*.

Film: Why are these questions so hard? Let's go with *Casablanca*.



Neil Shepherd

Head of Maths

Life before KES

I started teaching in Bradford, then I worked for two years in Italy in an international school. We then moved back to the UK. I taught for four years at Five Ways but I wanted to be Head of Maths so I moved to the King's School, Chester.

Why Maths?

The more you learn about Maths, the more it gives back. There's a satisfaction to be gained from getting Maths right but it can also be quite dangerous because you start to view the subject in binary terms. The idea of 'Tick, I got it right' or 'Cross, I'm wrong' can be compelling but misleading. Mathematicians get excited about the idea of being able to solve any problem. Maths is highly creative and very experimental so you're playing around with different ideas until you find something that connects with the way you're seeing it. As a mathematician, what gets me excited is the idea of being able to see problems in different ways and then to move between them for an elegant solution.

Hobbies

I'm a big film buff. I've run a film society at each of my schools where students watch a film and then we talk about it and the director. I have no qualifications whatsoever other than reading up and I've not been on media studies courses, but I can talk a fair bit! Films as a hobby and Maths as a profession, those are the two sides of my 'nerd coin'.

Favourite...

Food: Something exceptionally predictable I would imagine. A spicy chicken salad?

Book: I don't read much fiction any more, I find myself reading more political stuff, books about Maths or stuff about films. When I was a kid, it was *Catcher in the Rye*. *Catch 22* is a lot of fun. As a starting point, the key book on Maths and its history is *Fermat's Last Theorem*.

TV programme: When I was a kid it was *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Deep Space 9* but I've finally caught up with *The West Wing*, which was outstanding. Right now *Game of Thrones* is amazing and *The Flash* is fun. *24*, *Quantum Leap*, *Red Dwarf*, basically all the sci-fi, geeky cornerstones you'd expect are etched into my childhood.

Film: I can do a top 10: *2001*, *Back to the Future*, *Casablanca*, *Ghostbusters*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Jaws*, *Mary Poppins*, *Schindler's List*, *Seven Samurai* and *Star Wars*.



Justin Abrahams

Director of Rugby

This year we said goodbye to Justin who was with us and in charge of rugby in the school for five terms, or maybe more appropriately, two rugby seasons.

Justin joined us in September 2013 when he, his wife Zoe and daughters Josie and Alice moved back to England from Australia where Justin had been teaching at Canberra Grammar School. 'Back to England', though Justin was clearly originally from Australia, as he had previously been in charge of rugby at Bromsgrove School and before that played professional rugby at Bedford Blues Rugby Club. Such is the cyclical nature of life that Justin left us to return to Canberra Grammar in order to take over as Head of Rugby and also House Master duties at the school. We are taking bets on how long it will be before he is 'back in England' again!

We thank Justin for all he did within the department and most especially for rugby at KES. At a time when there is a significant amount of adverse press and publicity about the sport, we frequently receive correspondence and communication from parents regarding the physicality of the sport and frequency of injuries. Justin, however, has helped to not only maintain the number of teams we field each week, but also increase the number of matches we scheduled in a season by 35 additional fixtures along with further developing our Sevens programme and even introducing our own U12 Sevens Tournament on South Field.

Though he left us after a brief stay, he made a significant impact on the school and we shall miss his weekly emails and updates – especially the inspirational addendum or 'thought for the week' quotes he would sign off with.

CAPJ



Nick Bandurak and Stuart Loughrey

PE Assistants

Nick Bandurak and Stuart Loughrey have been valuable assets to the PE department in their roles as PE Assistants, and we shall sorely miss them.

Nick came to us as a graduate of Birmingham University and member of Cannock Hockey Club. With his prodigious hockey talent, he has represented England and is currently part of the Senior Training Squad.

Nick leaves us to move to London to play for Holcombe HC and pursue a career as a professional hockey player and, as such, he continues the tradition of KES PE Assistants following in the footsteps of Emily Scarratt.

Stuart is another in the long line of Loughborough University graduates. He joined us two years ago as a PE Assistant and stayed on this year to study for his GTP. We are delighted that he has secured a job at West London Free School. This PE teaching role also allows him to continue to pursue his hockey career as he will move clubs to play for Hampstead (coached by a certain Mr Michael Johnson) in the Premier Division.

Stuart's playing career has suffered somewhat this year with injury, but we wish him all the very best for both his teaching and playing career in the future. Qualifying as a teacher, Stuart follows Natasha Hunt and Jamie Taylor as former PE Assistants who have furthered their teaching careers post KES and we hope Stuart achieves a similar level of both teaching and sporting success as Mo and Jamie.

CAPJ

Dave Collins

Cricket Professional

The word 'outstanding' is often overused, but when it comes to Dave Collins and his cricket coaching career it is very apt. In 2015, he retired from all cricket coaching after an incredible career with Worcestershire CCC at various levels and coaching Education and Assessment nationally, as well as at KES.

It all started in 1979 and he joined KES in 1998 and finished after 18 seasons with the school. Dave Collins' roots were in local club cricket in the Birmingham League where he was a nuggety, hard competitor who amongst other honours won the national knockout in 1986 with Stourbridge. When Dave arrived at KES in 1998, we were lucky to get a friendly, convivial man who gave generously of his time and had a dry and ready sense of humour.

Dave made an incredible impact on KES cricket and all the boys who came into contact with him. He helped set up the winter training programme for the 1st XI squad and coached all age groups from the U12s right up to the best players who went on to play first class cricket. A man who set store upon core values and principles, he worked tirelessly to make every player who was lucky enough to come into contact with him, into the best that he could be.

KES has lost an outstanding coach, who had the ability to analyse a player, see what was wrong and what needed changing, and then convey that message with clarity and good humour. Indeed, Dave's skill also enabled the rest of the teaching staff to become better coaches as a result of his input. It was also a pleasure to see the great affection that the boys (especially in the 1st XI) had for 'DAVE'. He had a relationship that was different from the teachers and the boys readily took him into their confidence and had a friend on the staff.

In 2015, he was awarded an ECB lifetime achievement award and was nominated for an outstanding achievement award. He thoroughly deserved these awards for his efforts in all cricket, but he could quite as easily have got these awards for his contributions to King Edward's School cricket alone.

LMR

“KES has lost an outstanding coach, who had the ability to analyse a player, see what was wrong and what needed changing, and then convey that message with clarity and good humour.”



“We shall miss him,
and we shall not see
his like again but
we salute him for
enriching our lives.”



Jonathan Davies

History

I was first introduced to Jonathan Davies 20 years ago when he was still Head of History, with the words: ‘This is Jonathan, he’s history’. ‘Not yet I’m not!’ he responded. But despite his protestations, that’s exactly what he is – the embodiment of history at KES – and that history is living, and will continue to be. He has given his life to dragging the past into the present, or the present into the past, and as we all know, the past is a foreign country, and they do things differently there. And Jonathan is definitely the master of doing things differently.

It’s all about an imaginative approach to history and the amazing power of Jonathan’s imagination brings the past alive. It leads to the eruption of Tudor camps, medieval banquets and some exceedingly loud explosions, and it fuels the amazing inner life of the Davies mind. And here in true IB style, I have to acknowledge my sources: one Josh Kimblin has been keeping a little red book for the last year in which he writes down the choicer Davies’ utterances to be preserved for posterity. And they tell you much about what goes on in his head.

For instance, on returning from a morning of introducing primary school children to the wonders of experiential history: “I was surrounded by screaming eight year olds. It was awful. That said, maybe I shouldn’t have used the flamethrower.” And it doesn’t even have to be a weapon of mass destruction that prompts such disturbing reflections. On being asked a most innocuous question in class, “Do you have a hole puncher Sir?”, he replied, “They won’t trust me with a hole puncher these days. Not since that dreadful accident with a Rem.”

No wonder his students love him to bits. He plants ideas in the mind. And when he’s not messing with their heads by making them imagine exactly what you could do to a Rem with a hole puncher, he is planting a rigorous and scholarly approach to history. His students are encouraged to aspire to deep and detailed knowledge, and scholarly critical awareness, all tempered with that imaginative streak that brings history alive. And it is further tempered with a real love, not just for the subject, but of teaching, and of his students. There are few lengths he will not go to in the interests of a student in trouble, or a colleague in trouble either.

I could go on, but I’d never do justice to Jonathan’s career. It’s not just the dressing up, it’s not just the memorable phrases, and it’s not just the awesome teaching and the deep care for students. It’s not even the happy-go-lucky admin, the unique minibus driving, or the creative approach to rules, regulations, and codes of conduct. Above all, Jonathan is a true schoolmaster. Deeply involved in so many aspects of school life, enriching it with his presence, his wit, his care, his scholarship. We shall miss him, and we shall not see his like again but we salute him for enriching our lives.

DHR



Julia Helm

Modern Languages

When Julia Helm first came to England, at the tender age of 18, it was probably not with teaching in mind. She settled in Kings Norton, where a large family comprising of six children, three dogs and a cat were in need of an au pair. Unsurprisingly, two years later, she was ready to move on, no doubt wiser, inevitably more patient and equipped with robust parenting skills.

Her next step was back into education. A degree in German and French at Wolverhampton University, followed by a PGCE, led to a first teaching post at a school in Sandwell. She was offered the job as she qualified and stayed for seven years.

By the time she applied for a post at King Edward's in 2007, she had not only proven her worth as a superb classroom teacher in a demanding state comprehensive, but had met and married her husband Tiaan, a South African Geography teacher who, like her, had left his homeland in search of exotic adventure and who found it and his future wife in the Black Country.

Two daughters and a son later, it was as a family of five that they decided to take the huge step of leaving England behind to root their growing family in German soil. Both providentially found full-time teaching jobs in the same school and it is a mark of Julia's versatility and ambition that, after years of equipping English students to speak her language with accuracy and confidence, her skills will now be focused on teaching German to the Germans.

Julia invested herself to the hilt in King Edward's, teaching French in the first three years and German with great success to the higher reaches of the IB, setting up and running seven annual exchanges with the school she attended as a girl in Dorsten and taking the Sixth Form to Berlin every two years. Over a period of eight years, she rose to every challenge King Edward's threw at her with flexibility, energy and creativity. Her refreshing can-do attitude, her admirable efficiency and her enviable reserves of sunny optimism not only inspired and encouraged the boys, but made an immeasurable contribution to the life of the Modern Languages Department.

She has also been one of the reasons why German at King Edward's has continued to thrive at a time when more and more schools in the UK are struggling to keep it on the curriculum. For that, and for all that she has given of herself, we thank her and wish her and her family every happiness in the new life they have chosen.

DJA



Colin Irvine

Economics

Colin joined KES in 2010 after stints teaching in Edinburgh and Ascot, and in doing so helped to expand the Economics and Business Department to the giddy heights of three full-time teachers.

Given how much Colin managed to fit into his short five years here, it often felt like he was a part-time teacher and part-time superhero. With commitments to the 2nd XI hockey team, CCF Navy Section, DofE, the Birmingham Running and Triathlon Club, kayaking and Iron Man training, as well as helping to run the IB, it often felt like he never sat down. He left us to run his own department and help to grow the IB at Bradfield College, a boarding school near Reading, so it is unlikely he will slow down, even after the birth of his first child Lochan over the summer holiday.

Colin was a terrific find for the school, at a time when good Economists were hard to come by. He moved to Birmingham, probably against his better judgement as it lacks the hills and outdoor adventure that he needs to keep himself occupied, and quickly fell headlong into a busy life at the school. He quickly picked up the mantle as Head of Heath House, and transformed it into a serious contender for the Cock House, although he never could quite get enough standards points to make it over the final hurdle. A little piece of the House Shout trophy is still sitting, broken, above his desk from when he triumphantly bore it into the office and clattered the shelf with it.

Given his capacity for efficient management, it was unsurprising when Mr Fern asked him to assist with the running of the IB as his deputy. I'm sure many boys will go through the rest of their lives with a cold shiver running down their spines every time they hear their name called for fear of being asked where their Extended Essay is.

Colin will be hugely missed, and our loss is definitely Bradfield's gain. No one will forget how he transformed 'Iron Man' into 'IB Man' in Big School, just at the moment we were trying to convince the first IB cohort that they weren't really working that hard. He was, after all just trying to get people to work to his high expectations, which is what makes him such a terrific schoolmaster. We wish him all the best in his new life.

HMC

“I hope you can feel the positive impact you’ve made on my life and countless other students too.”

Stan Lampard

Biology

How do you summarise 38 years of service to the school in a life as rich as Stan’s? Part of the difficulty is that each cohort of boys stays a maximum of seven years and some staff much less – so few people can be aware of many of the uncountable scout camps, field courses, and expeditions; the times and experiences Stan lived through. It is difficult to comprehend the number of lives he has touched and truly influenced.

What the school loses in Stan is a true professional, the equivalent of a master craftsman. He joined the school in 1977, making a biology department of two, and planning on staying a couple of weeks. To put the department in context: Lunt had just left two years earlier, having famously said: “If you want your son to do nature studies let him do biology... If he wants an intellectually stimulating subject he should do the classics.”

Although I am sure approaches change in all subjects, it sometimes appears that some have remained largely the same for decades, centuries, even millennia. Not so biology. The last half-century has seen major advances in cell biology and biochemistry; massive improvements in medicine; the discovery of DNA and the birth of genetics; the emergence of conservation, ecology and climate change. Through all these times Stan has kept himself informed and up-to-date so that he remained absolutely authoritative about the subject up to the day of his retirement.

But Stan has not just been the font of knowledge; as important is the effective way he has imparted this knowledge to his charges. It is difficult to encapsulate Stan’s character and playful teaching style. He retains a sense of fun in and out of the classroom. But it is the influence he has had on his students that is the critical thing:

“I’m now in my third year of medicine, and really appreciate the school foundation that I received from you... I hope you can feel the positive impact you’ve made on my life and countless other students too.”

“From DofE paper recycling schemes to expeditions, to visiting that tropical greenhouse, to terrifying students with a visual display of the effect of DNA helicase, thanks for all the laughs along the way.”



The other thing I admire is his passion, for wildlife, the outdoors and environmental education. Like his teaching this is centred on passing on his interest and spreading the word. There isn’t room here to catalogue all the Venture Scouts’ jamborees, the biology field courses, Andrew’s Coppice visits, DofE and KES awards, the wildlife and field studies societies, bio-blitzes, the greenhouse and the carnivorous plant and cactus societies, and of course the expeditions with World Challenge and Frontier as well as his beloved OPWALL.

“My personal memories begin in the Biology labs with some really engaging and interesting lessons. The MSc which I began last year is surely rooted in the scientific interest generated in the laboratories of King Edward’s. My best memories come however from our expedition to Borneo in 2000. That month, enabled by the hard work of Stan and Chris Boardman, was a key formative experience in my school life. The trip was extremely enjoyable and the fantastic places which we visited are just as fresh in my memory today. I’ve travelled in many helicopters since then, during my three tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, but the flight to evacuate Stan from the jungle to hospital after an accident still stands out! I hope that his knee hasn’t given him any problems since! On behalf of generations of pupils, thank you for your work at KES Stan. I’m certain you will have myriad plans for retirement. Enjoy it!”

JP

Peter Webber

Catering Manager

Peter Webber, the Man in the White Coat and one of the most recognised figures in the whole school, came to work in the twin dining halls of King Edward's and KEHS for a fortnight in 1983. 32 years later, that fortnight has finally come to an end.

However, his links with the school go back beyond 1983. His mother, the wondrous and legendary Pat Ford, had started work here in 1978 and she it was who volunteered him for his long fortnight: it was always wise to do what Pat told you to do. There is also a second link: at the time, Peter was working in the restoration of antiques with a man who had worked for the architect Holland Hobbiss on our great school building and Peter gives that as a reason – or an excuse – why he has in his garden a gargoyle salvaged from the original New Street building.

Peter's temporary position soon became permanent and in 1984 he became the Assistant Catering Manager and then, in 1998, the Catering Manager. In the last 17 years, Peter has done a number of remarkable and significant things, some more visible than others, but all of great importance to the sum of human happiness. Above all, Peter, with his mum Pat until her death in 2012, and with a staff of unique cheerfulness, has generated an atmosphere that makes everyone, boys and staff, look forward to lunchtime (and break). That's why it is so full of boys and grown-ups and goodwill and noise and laughter. School dining halls don't have to be that way and it doesn't just happen.

Peter has also in recent times performed the miracle of providing proper healthy food, both at lunch and at break, to boys who eat and enjoy it. Our dining hall has never been fuller and Peter serves 1,000 pupils and 200 staff each day – somehow. At the same time, he has performed another mission impossible by transforming the finances of the dining hall from a serious deficit to equilibrium. And he and his staff have coped heroically with the doubling, tripling and quadrupling of events that take place here, alumni dinners, careers events, Parents' Association jollies, concerts and lectures in the Ruddock Hall, openings of new buildings. And he combines the best of British and continental cuisine in providing, for meetings of Form Tutors, the finest bacon sandwiches and pains au chocolat in the known world.

However, Peter has been more than the sum of these things. He has a great presence and a great sense of purpose. He is meticulous in his standards, clear about how things should be done and ferocious in his defence of his staff. I have learnt, albeit slowly, that it is best to do what Peter advises. After all, he is always right. Above all, he has a great pride in what he and his staff and the dining hall have done and do for these two schools and a great pride in working for a great school. Napoleon may have said that an army marches on its stomach, but a school lives in its dining hall and we have all been fortunate, through Peter's labours, to have lived in the best of all dining halls.

JAC

“Peter, with his mum Pat until her death in 2012, and with a staff of unique cheerfulness, has generated an atmosphere that makes everyone, boys and staff, look forward to lunchtime (and break).”



Dr Lindsay MacDonald

1972-2015

Lindsay MacDonald died on 26 September 2015 at the age of 43 after a long fight against cancer, leaving behind a husband, Scott, and two young sons, Robbie and Billy. She had been the Head of Physics here from 2010 until 2013 but decided at that stage to reduce and then end her teaching so that she could spend more time with her family.

Lindsay had lived a life of extraordinary richness and variety before she came to King Edward's. She was the only candidate for a job here whose PhD was in the mechanical clearance of land mines or whose curriculum vitae included being 'Chef and First Mate' on a yacht sailing out of the British Virgin Islands. Lindsay was passionate not only about sailing but also about horses, riding at county and national level, playing polo and even being Master i/c Polo at Eton College. There's grand for you. Her list of interests in her application, dog-walking, mountain biking, scuba diving and swimming, suggest that she didn't spend much of her life indoors or sitting down.

After her degrees at Loughborough and Warwick, Lindsay worked in a number of roles in industry before seeing sense and becoming a teacher, first of all at Highgate School and then at Eton College. As Head of Physics here, she was an unfailing source of energy and enthusiasm and she was a teacher who won the respect and affection of all the boys she taught. She was always smiling, always positive, even when she was beset by illness, operations and continual concerns about her health. When you met Lindsay, you could never have conceived that there was anything to trouble her and, even when she had retired, she took great delight in working with local junior schools in the school's Outreach programme. Lindsay's life was cut short much too soon but, she, if anyone, had lived that brief life to the full.



Lindsay's death was a terrible blow to all who knew her here and that is best encapsulated by the words of a boy who left last year who wrote spontaneously on the news of her death:

"Dr MacDonald was an inspiration to many of us and her passion, determination and positive outlook never failed to make her lessons and her subject a pleasure to be involved in. Like many others, I am completely lost for words. As my friends and I begin university next week, we will undoubtedly keep Dr MacDonald in our minds as she continues to be an inspiration to us all."

JAC



And a huge farewell
to the Class of 2015

We wish you every success in the future.



2

**School
news**



King Edward's School and the Great War exhibition

In November 2014 an exhibition to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War and remember Old Edwardians who lost their lives opened in the school's Memorial Chapel. The exhibition called 'King Edward's School and the Great War' will run for four years and develop throughout that time to mark some of the key events that took place 100 years previously.

The names of 245 Old Edwardians who died in combat in the First World War are listed on bronze memorial plaques in the chapel and visitors to the exhibition are able to browse through biographies for each name via a virtual Roll of Honour. The exhibition also explores the school on the eve of war, the involvement of Old Edwardians in raising the Birmingham City (Pals) Battalions, and a short film reveals the impact of the conflict on JRR Tolkien and his school friends.

1,400 boys from King Edward's School fought in the First World War and 245 of them died. It is thanks to the service records compiled by Charles Heath, Head of Classics at the time, that there is so much detail about what happened to our old boys. Robert Cary Gilson, who was the Head Master at the time, lost his own son in the conflict.

As part of the school's commemorations, 40 boys visited the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France during the October half term. A plaque was dedicated to Old Edwardians who lost their lives in the conflict at St George's Memorial Church in Ypres and boys from the Combined Cadet Force took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres where a wreath was laid.



Illumination Day

King Edward's School has been, for the past 100 years, a supporter of the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. What began as donations for cots (from which the 'Cot Fund' derives) is now a varied and important part of school life, donating to local, national and international charities each year. However, our relationship with the Children's Hospital has continued. We now work with the Hospital to help with funds which the NHS cannot provide.

Each year, therefore, a group of 12 boys, working with Mr Johnson, visit the Hospital, gain a first aid qualification and talk to the staff about aspects of the Hospital which require funding. Meanwhile, back at school, the 12 are divided into groups of four; each having to create a fundraising idea. The Board of Birmingham Children's Hospital then choose their preferred option – à la *Dragons' Den*!

By January, our idea had been finalised under the leadership of Siddarth Singh and Ed Whelan. We decided to light up the Sacred Sod with LED candles reading 'BCH'. We were fundraising to facilitate the purchase of fibre-optic lights, which help with sensory development of bed-bound children.

Once the date had been set, our publicity campaign began. It seemed that to appreciate the fibre-optic lights, parents and pupils had to witness their effects and their importance. Thus the idea of a film arose. Four of us visited the Hospital, where we interviewed the family liaison officer, and filmed in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. We showed this film in our assembly. The decision to send the same film to parents seemed apt for sensory devices and fitted with our shift to donate electronically.

Skip to 24 March after much deliberation. The candles, all 900 of them, were set up in Big School. Through the day, any boy could take a candle down to the Sacred Sod and lay it down to build the letters 'BCH'. To have the candles here represented our long standing partnership with the Hospital, reinforcing the importance of the Foundation's mission to contribute to the community, and to support those less fortunate.

By nightfall the Sacred Sod was illuminated by our candles, making a beautiful change to the drive of our school. Overall we raised £5,853, meaning that each boy donated an average of £7 – a massive achievement. Since Illumination Day, the Hospital has been able to invest in new equipment, which has had a real impact on children's development.

We would especially like to thank Jay Talbott, Ms Estevez, and Mr Johnson for all their help over the year.

Ed Whelan

School Election

2015 was the year of the General Election and, as has been the case in the past, KES held its own Mock Election.

Sixth Formers were invited to run for different political parties and there were eight of us running in total, representing parties as varied as Labour, Conservatives, Communists and Monster Raving Loony Party, for whom I myself stood. In true political fashion, we all began churning out propaganda and filling the corridors with posters, ranging from the serious efforts of the Sixths to the somewhat more comical posters produced by the Divisions.

On 11 March we held our own version of *Question Time*, with Geog A full to the brim for the occasion. Credit goes to Joshua Kimblin for his best David Dimbleby impression as he hosted a lunchtime meeting that perhaps demonstrated the lack of research done by a number of the candidates. However, political debate did break out and UKIP's Daniel Pett was in fine form as he followed Nigel Farage's approach to debates by making as much noise as possible. One-liners from Ed Cooke and bizarre policies from myself interjected a debate otherwise dominated by the larger parties but there was plenty of humour to keep the hour going.

The day before the election each candidate made a minute-long speech in Big School in order to earn as many last gasp votes as possible and the election did perhaps swing as a result of that. There were cheers and laughs galore as the candidates largely went for stand-up comedy rather than political persuasion and the fact that whenever I walked down the corridor I was met by people shouting 'Vote right, vote Nutty White' encouraged me that I had done a reasonable job in my attempts to get cheap laughs.

Ultimately, the result came perhaps as a consequence of KES boys' preference for the ridiculous and they voted with their hearts more than their heads. I was greatly surprised by the fact that out of the 487 votes cast, I received 141 of them, a great deal more than second placed Konrad Suchodolski (Conservatives) with 85. Junaid Khan (Greens) earned a respectable third but Daniel Pett (UKIP) gained a startling number of votes from the younger years to earn fifth place. Messrs Wernham, Yin and Cooke took 4th, 6th and 7th respectively whilst Ojasvi Sharma of the Respect Party was understandably a little disappointed with a grand total of three votes.

It was an enjoyable experience for those of us involved and thanks goes to Mr Smith for organising the election and all others who sacrificed their lunchtime to count the votes. I feel that the greatest lesson that we can learn from the Monster Raving Loony Party's victory is that it may not be entirely wise to lower the voting age in the near future.

Nathan 'Nutty' White, Leader of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party (KES branch)

News in brief

The 1st XI cricket team was awarded the XL trophy by the Forty Club for having performed best against the club during the 2014 season.



Worcester Warriors launched the first of six Junior Academy Centres at King Edward's School.



Dougie Dolleymore, David Callear, Dylan Johal and Vishal Aurora won the Biology Big Quiz 2015.



Declan Bradley was overall winner of The Chemical Reaction Challenge and Raunak Jain came third.



Harrison Green, Clement Chan, Jeremy Ho and Vidy Reddy scored a perfect score to win the Maths Challenge National Final.



Emily Scarratt, England Centre and KES PE Assistant, played a key role in England's win in the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup final and then won Rugby Writers' sport's personality of the year award.



A concert given by Choral Society and Senior Swing Band raised £863 for the South Birmingham Young Homeless Project.



6

Performing arts

Cabaret

As a director of student drama, you nearly always worry that the next show is going to be the one that's a total disaster; that the billion and one decisions, hours of rehearsals, weekends spent worrying, hours of sleep lost and grey hairs added are, this time, going to result in utter embarrassment and humiliation for all involved. There were no such worries with this year's senior production: *Cabaret*. From the moment the show was chosen and the creative team of Miss Proops, Mr Monks and I started to consider potential casting, we knew that we had an opportunity to create something that was going to be pretty special.

Cabaret tells two love stories set against the early days of the Nazi Party's rise to power in 1930 Berlin. American writer Cliff Bradshaw falls for the cabaret chanteuse Sally Bowles while his landlady the ageing Fräulein Schneider begins a tentative engagement with Jewish shopkeeper Herr Schultz. The growing social unrest and unpleasantness ultimately proves the undoing of both relationships.

Kander and Ebb's musical was turned into the famous film starring Liza Minnelli as Sally Bowles – but it told a very different story in that incarnation. However, the ghost of the film hangs over all productions of the stage play. In capturing the seedy decadence of Weimar Germany, productions have increasingly sought to emphasise the sexual freedom of the play's principal setting, the Kit Kat nightclub, and its host, the mysterious Emcee. In order to help today's audiences understand the shocking debauchery of those times, modern productions are often tediously rammed with thrusting, grinding and nakedness. As directors of a school production, we knew we had to take a different approach – but as artistic directors we also knew that the historical situation, the story and the characters demanded and deserved something more serious, and more appropriate.

So the four central characters became more important than the club – their romance provides the narrative thrust of the story and their personalities provide its emotional heart. We were lucky in having four outstanding students to fill those parts. Nikhil Handha came of age as an actor with a heart-rending portrayal of Herr Schultz. Nikhil's progress through school drama has been a joy to watch, and the humour, subtlety and beautiful tenderness he brought to the middle-aged part were particularly impressive in one so young. Relative newcomer Pratinav Sinha also impressed with a witty and powerful central performance as Cliff. It was brilliant to watch a student fall in love with things theatrical – I don't think any of us will forget our first run-through off script, in the unglamorous surroundings of a dark and wintry Dance Studio, when Pratinav found himself genuinely crying as Cliff said goodbye to Sally for the last time.





Those performances were matched by the girls. Harriet Harkcom proved that she has the acting talent to match her extraordinary voice as Sally Bowles. Her rendition of the famous title number, ripped from her soul as her relationship crumbled and Berlin ignited around her, was completely unforgettable. Another newcomer to the KES stage, Iona Cameron, was equally impressive as tortured matron Fräulein Schneider; her delivery of the show's best song *What would you do?* placing the horrendous moral dilemmas of ordinary German people centre stage.

Perhaps the most wonderful achievement of the show is the way it combines its characters' innocence with the audience's total awareness of the horrendous atrocities that are just around the corner. This awareness is embodied most powerfully on stage by the Emcee – the master of ceremonies at the Kit Kat Club, the voice of many of the show's most popular and appealing tunes, and the social and moral conscience of the production. He knows what is going wrong, he knows what the future brings and he knows there is nothing anyone can do to stop it. Sam Wilson's performance was without question one of the finest student achievements I have seen. Always in total command, always witty, engaging, playful and knowing, he was terrific. There was a moment during a performance when he stopped the audience's applause with a single look: there are few professional actors who have the ability and confidence to do so. It was a fitting ending to a career at the school, during which Sam took advantage of every dramatic opportunity that came his way from Gavroche in *Les Mis*, through the Shakespeare Schools' Festival and Senior Drama Club, to having the experience, confidence and skill to stop 400 people with a single look. He goes to university to study drama and will be much missed.

As always, the principal performances of the school's productions are supported by a phenomenal number of students on and off the stage. The chorus this year were a super bunch, who took everything we threw at them with good humour and rose magnificently to Michael Barry's complex choreography (as well as our own more simplistic stuff!). The company were grateful to Messrs Fern and Milton of the History Department who gave a fascinating insight into the reality of Weimar Germany and the Holocaust. Stage Crew, as ever, did a super job of organising the massive complexity of Miss Proops's costumes and the demands for historically accurate and convincing props. For the first time the publicity department produced a professional programme, complete with articles, rehearsal photos and cast biographies. The orchestra, as we have come to expect but not, I hope, take for granted, were outstanding.

Ultimately, I hope that the show was respectful to the memory of the suffering under the Nazis, and moving at the end, when the final image of a pile of shoes outside a gas chamber reminded the audience of the horrors of the holocaust. I also hope it was entertaining and a lot of fun! My sincere thanks to the whole cast and company for being brilliant, and to my two co-directors Proops and Monks.

MJB



The Witches

The Witches by Roald Dahl, was delightfully transformed into one of the most exciting Junior Plays of all time. The 2014 Junior Production brought us an enthusiastic line-up of cast and crew under the prowess of Director, Mrs Babb.

The Witches tells the story of the dastardly beings' hideous plan to turn all of the children of the world into mice by poisoning their sweets' supply. Accidentally stumbling on their annual convention, Grandma, Boy and Bruno have to race against time to prevent the Grand High Witch from achieving her ultimate goal. Of course they're successful – even if Boy and Bruno are destined to remain as mice for ever!

Terrific performances fleshed out the central roles of Boy, Bruno, Grandma and the terrifying Grand High Witch. Particularly noteworthy were Harry Atkins and Dylan Poole as the two lads transformed into rodents. Fantastic cameos from hotel staff Shirom Aggarwal, Ed James and Sam Jackson were hilarious.

The crew put life into the visuals of the production with Miss Proops's intuitive puppets, Scenic Art's sweet bag stage design and Lighting's novelty of pyrotechnics and smoke effects to accompany the High Witch's magic. Who can forget, however, the dragged-up chorus of Upper Middles – managing to make witches look more properly scary than a Halloween costumer ever could!

It is with great pride that I thank my fellow stage managers and members of stage crew, who have worked hard alongside rehearsals, show nights, weekends and Friday afternoons. Along with all the staff that have facilitated the show and most notably Mrs Babb for working her passion into the production. Here's to next year's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*!

Zain Rishi





Choral and Orchestral Concerts

The Choral and Orchestral Concerts serve to showcase the musical talents of both schools in two performances in early spring. Featuring the KES Choir, Choral Society, and the Symphony Orchestra, the music department presented pieces ranging from Bernstein's tribal renditions of *Hebrew Psalms*, to Dvořák's Brahms-inspired symphony.

The tone of the first concert was slightly at odds with the daffodils sprouting outside of the Performing Arts Centre. The Choral Society opened the concerts with a performance of Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* - a vesper's mass penned for the austere cloisters of Salzburg Cathedral. Set in complete movements, rather than in the freer, operatic style of contemporary liturgical works, the Vespers betray a strict, Baroque influence. However, the work is undeniably beautiful. Sophia Jin's rendition of the famous fifth movement - the *Laudate Dominum* - displayed both an exceptional lung capacity and a quiet gentility. Solos were also performed by Grace Mupanemunda, Haine Hock and Patrick Charles.

Mozart's formal work was followed by Tchaikovsky's intensely emotional *Violin Concerto*. Performed by Arpan Sharma, the piece is one of the most technically challenging Concertos; not least because, as Perlman once remarked, Tchaikovsky "wore his heart on his sleeve" and he was recovering from a bout of depression while composing the piece. The standing ovation

which concluded the exhilarating final movement suggested that Arpan took the work in his stride. This brought both the first concert and Arpan's career as leader of the Symphony Orchestra to a fittingly wonderful conclusion.

The second concert opened with another choral piece; namely, KES Choir's performance of the *Chichester Psalms*. With Mr Monks conducting once again, the choir of 180 boys presented a tribal display of riotous musical colour. Whereas traditional Christian psalms are repetitive and chant-like, Bernstein's setting moves from a dance-like and dissonant first movement to a menacing, almost frantic second. Rising above the chaotic arrangement (which seemed to feature nearly as many percussion instruments as boys), Joseph Ward sang a beautiful solo, before the piece came to its beautiful conclusion. Tom Iszatt, Sajjan Sanghera, and George Forshaw also performed solos, whilst Matt Madden deserves recognition for his admirable percussion skills.

The series of concerts concluded with Symphony Orchestra playing Dvořák's *Seventh Symphony*. A contrast in intellectual rigour and refinement to the *Chichester Psalms*, the *Seventh Symphony* has strangely political origins. Dvořák penned it in support of the Czechoslovakian search for national independence; it therefore features a number of themes borrowed from Czech folk music. Upon completing the first draft, the composer exclaimed to a friend: "God grant that this Czech music will move the world!" It certainly moved the audience, ending with a series of powerful chords and, in the words of Dvořák, "complete exultation".

No doubt the music staff will be similarly exulted with the success of the concerts. Thanks must go to all those who helped to ensure such a success: both KES and KEHS music departments; the students' instrumental teachers; and the Performing Arts Centre staff.

Josh Kimblin

Lunchtime recitals

Last year's recitals started off with some of the most talented musicians from lower down in the school. Peter Murphy, on clarinet, and Philip Edwards, on violin, gave terrific performances of some excellent 20th century repertoire by Finzi, Arnold, Bloch and Kreisler whereas Jeremy Ho played some more traditional 'tunes' by Chopin: one of his virtuosic *Études* and his well-known *Funeral March*.

The second recital is traditionally held in the Barber Institute opposite the school. Arpan Sharma gave one of his final and finest performances in his school career on violin whereas Lauren Zhang showed the audience that she will be a musical presence in the schools for the rest of her time at KEHS. Arpan Sharma, Oliver Bealby-Wright and Adelaide Yue rounded off the concert with a movement of Fauré's *Piano Trio in D minor*.

The third recital was a showcase of the talent in the middle school years. Daniel Yue and Aloysius Lip (Fourth) and Alex Pett (Fifth) performed piano, trumpet and violin solo pieces respectively. Again, a wide variety of musical periods were represented from the Baroque (Purcell's *Trumpet Sonata in D major*) to the Romantic (Brahms' *Violin Sonata No.2*) to Jazz (Kapustin's *Concert Étude No.1 for piano*).

Arpan Sharma and Adelaide Yue performed in the next recital. Adelaide stuck to old favourites with a Mozart sonata and two pieces by Brahms whereas Arpan (for whom this was sadly his final school recital) perfectly contrasted Adelaide's repertoire with a thoroughly virtuosic and technically staggering rendition of Vieuxtemps' *Variations on 'Yankee Doodle'*.

Audience members who felt they wanted an even more ridiculous contrast of music than Mozart and Yankee Doodle, got what they wanted with the next recital, which began with Daniel Pett performing Hindemith's *Viola Sonata Op.11 No.4* and ended with Grace Mupanemunda singing *Fever* as well as a few songs by Gershwin. Sandwiched between these two unusual performances was Jedidiah Cheung whom decided to stick to Schumann and De Falla. Dr Leigh gave an impressive performance as well, accompanying Daniel on the piano without a page-turner, but Mr Dutch outdid him with his subtle accompaniment of Grace, on his bass.



The next solo recital featured Lizzie Madden on cello, Matthew Wong on violin and Oliver Bealby-Wright on piano. This was the final school recital for all three performers and their renditions of Beethoven, Vivaldi and Schubert showed that they were musicians of the highest calibre, even though none of them were going on to do music in the future. Now at university, Matthew, Oliver and Lizzie all continue to play their instruments.

The penultimate recital was an all-female affair, with Isabel Russell, Naomi Bazlov and Beth Zheng giving fine performances. However, KES did have one final performer to showcase in the final recital of the school year. Even though Teresa Czepiel played Franck's *Violin Sonata* with great delicacy and precision and Harriet Harkcom gave lively renditions of *Funny Girl* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, Shivang Shastri stole the show with his virtuoso harmonica playing. He gave a performance of pieces by Gordon Jacob that would've made anyone fall in love with the quirky tone of that wondrous instrument.

It's fair to say that last year's recitals have been the most eclectic in years. Is it a coincidence that this happened on the first year of Mr Bridle's absence? Probably not but let's hope that the recitals of years to come remain just as bizarre and interesting whilst also being of the same high standard as the recitals of years past.

Daniel Pett

Strings masterclass

String players from King Edward's School and King Edward VI High School for Girls took part in a musical masterclass with renowned musician and teacher, Krysia Osostowicz.

The young musicians enjoyed the opportunity to work with the distinguished musician and teacher in the masterclass in the Ruddock Hall in January 2015. Technique and musicality were explored and worked on, to the benefit and enjoyment of the students.

Krysia Osostowicz enjoys a busy career as a chamber musician, soloist and teacher. In 1995, she founded the Dante String Quartet which is recognised as one of Britain's finest ensembles. She currently teaches at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has performed all of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas across the UK in 2015.





4

Art gallery

◀ *Hugo Easlea* Mixed media (GCSE)



▲ **Junias Wong,**
Elijah Amiss
Lino print



◀ Top row (L-R):
Khalid El-Lahawi,
Mahathir Ibrahim.
Bottom row (L-R):
Henry Whitehead,
Jeevan Dosanjh,
Jimmy Yuan
Ceramics



▲ From top: *Alex Lau, Aryan Parmer, Isa Khalil, Albert Ashley, Jiaqi Cao, Ryan Mirbagheri, Gurjyot Mann* Lino print



▲ *Ejaz Khan* Still life painting



▲ Clockwise from top left: **Jimmy Yuan**, **Oliver Clarke**, **Shirom Aggarwal**, **Michael Luo** Still life painting

▲ **Kishen Khosla** Painting and lino print

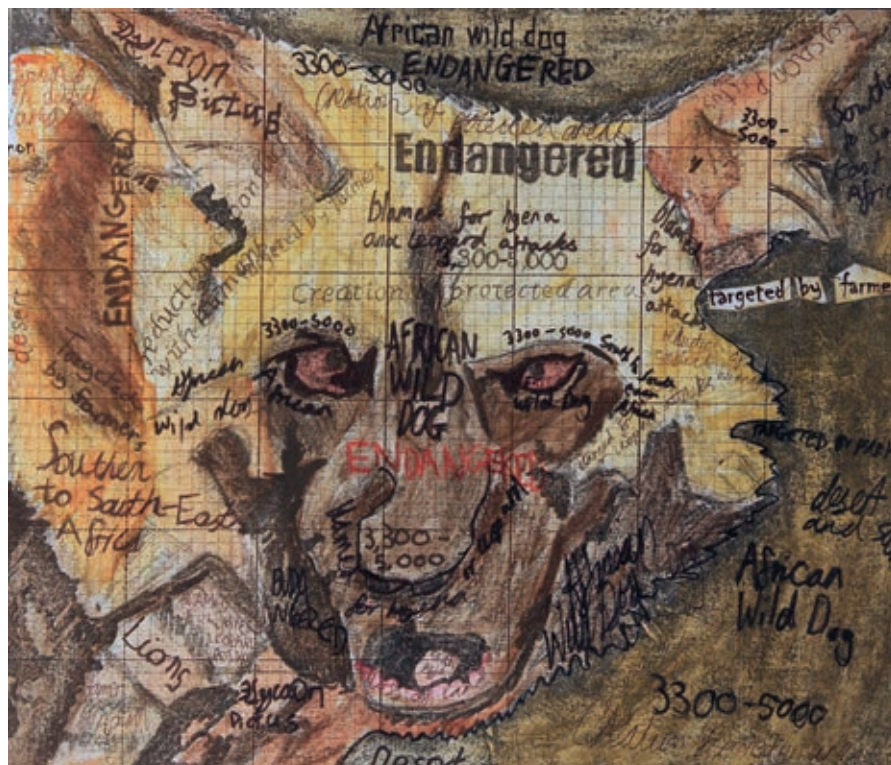


◀ **Zain Mahmood**
Still life painting

▼ **George Forshaw**
Ceramics



◀ **Oscar Laight**
Lino print



◀ **Daniel Li**
Painting and drawing

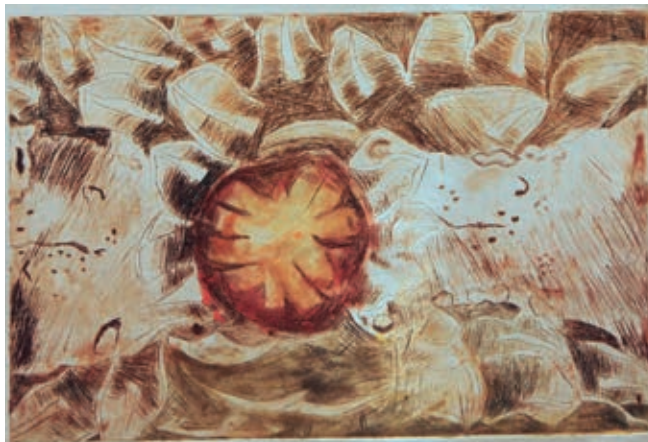
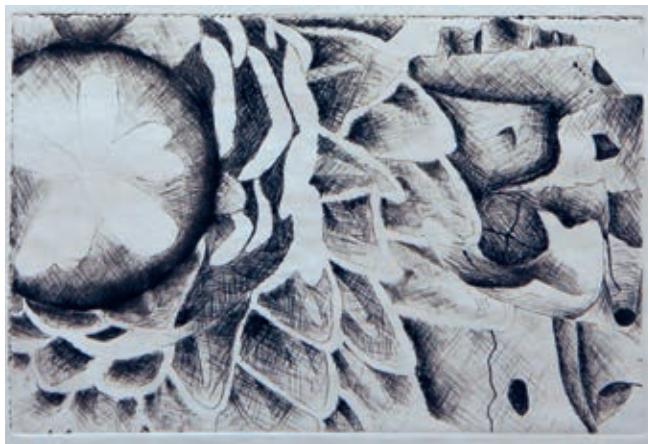
▼ **Shyun Patel**
Lino print



▲ Top (L-R): **Reece Velangi, Yash Machani**. Bottom (L-R): **Saurav Sharma, Aadil Ali, Ben White** Ceramics



▲ Left: *Usmaan Yaqoob*. Right: *Dharam Panesar* Painting





▲ Clockwise from top left: **Eduardo Sanchez**, **Opeoluwa Odubiyi**, **Arjun Sharma**, **Sulaymaan Khalil** Painting

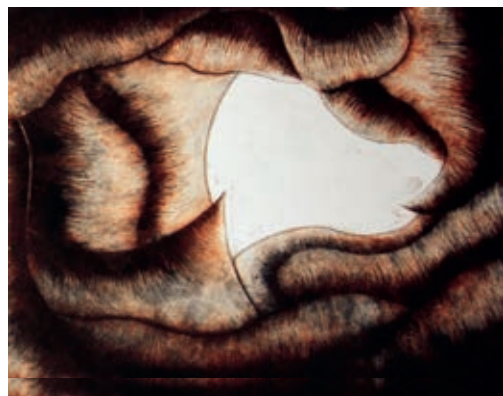


▲ Clockwise from top left: *Matt Price, Raunak Jain, Eshan Da Silva, Ben Bellavia* Painting

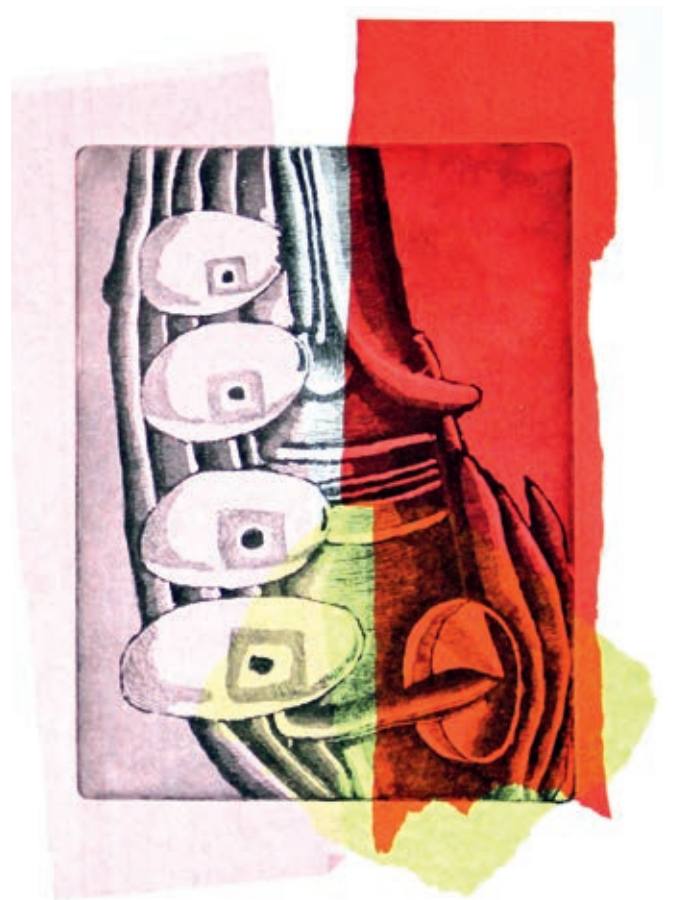
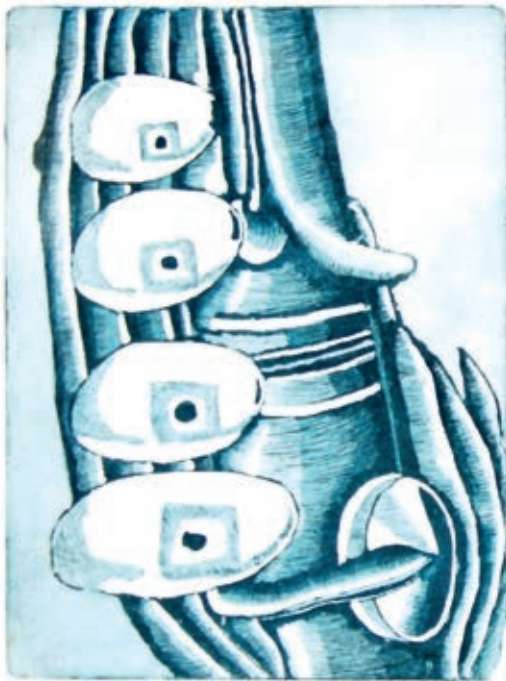
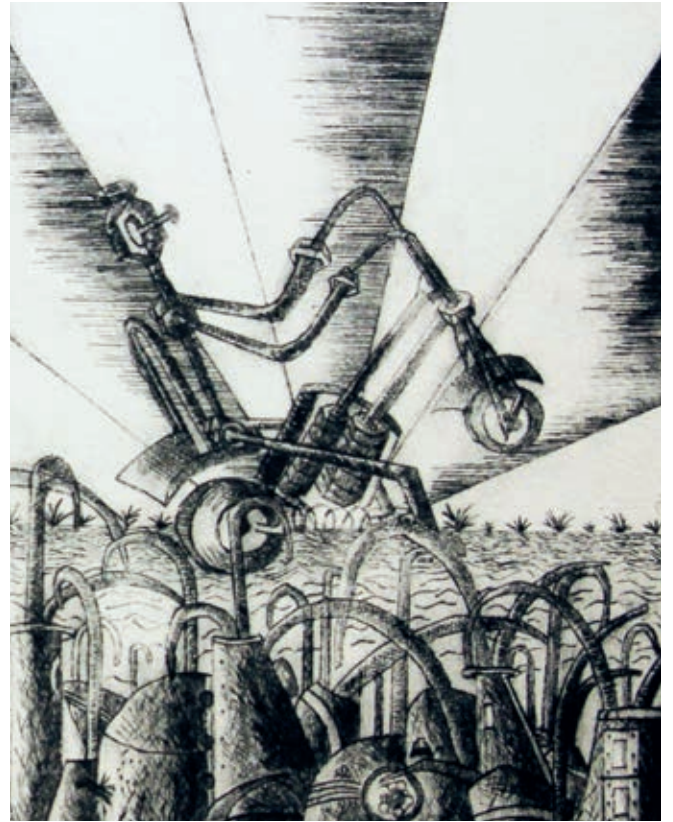


▲ **Richard Chapman**
Mixed media

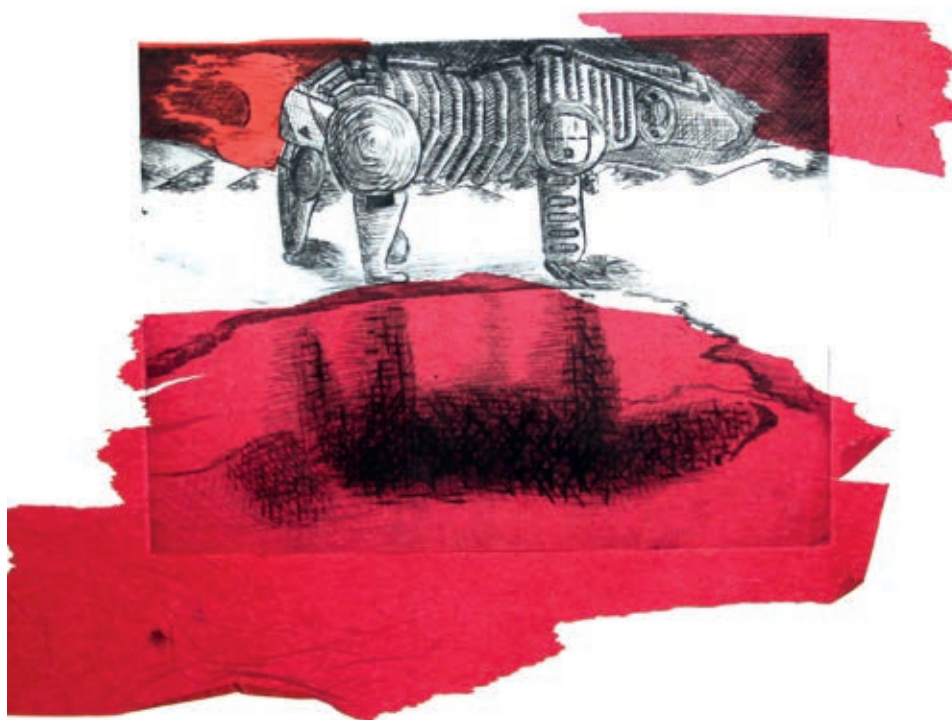
◀ **Samraaj Hullait**
Mixed media



▲ Clockwise from top: **Peter Carey** Pen and ink, **Jedidiah Cheung** Ceramics, **Joseph Tedd** Intaglio print



▲ Top: *Kaler Wong* Intaglio print. Bottom: *Joseph Tedd* Etching



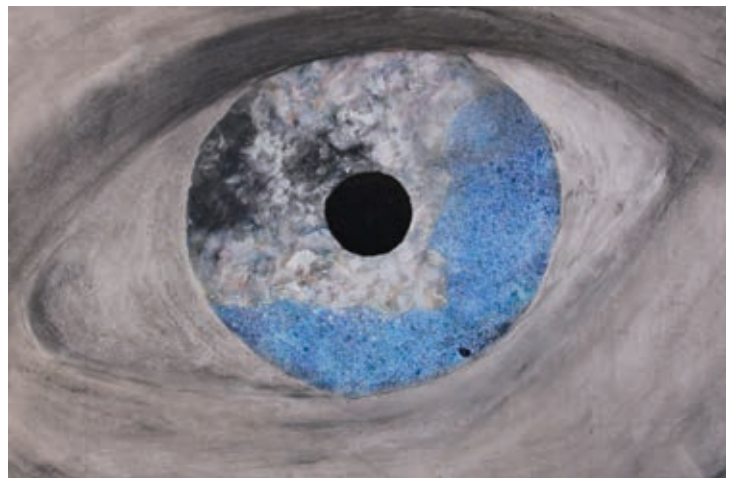
▲ Clockwise from top left: **Oliver Morgan** Etching, **Hanzalah Yaqub** Painting, **Gabriel Yoong** Drypoint



▲ Left: **Gabriel Yoong** Ceramic and paper. Right: **Cameron Shaylor** Mixed media



▲ Clockwise from top left: *Matthew Smith, Akshith Dasari, Michael Fernandes* Ceramics



▲ **Max Levell** Clockwise from top: *Mother's Eye* Mixed media, *Maddie's Eye* Mixed media, *Looking* Etching

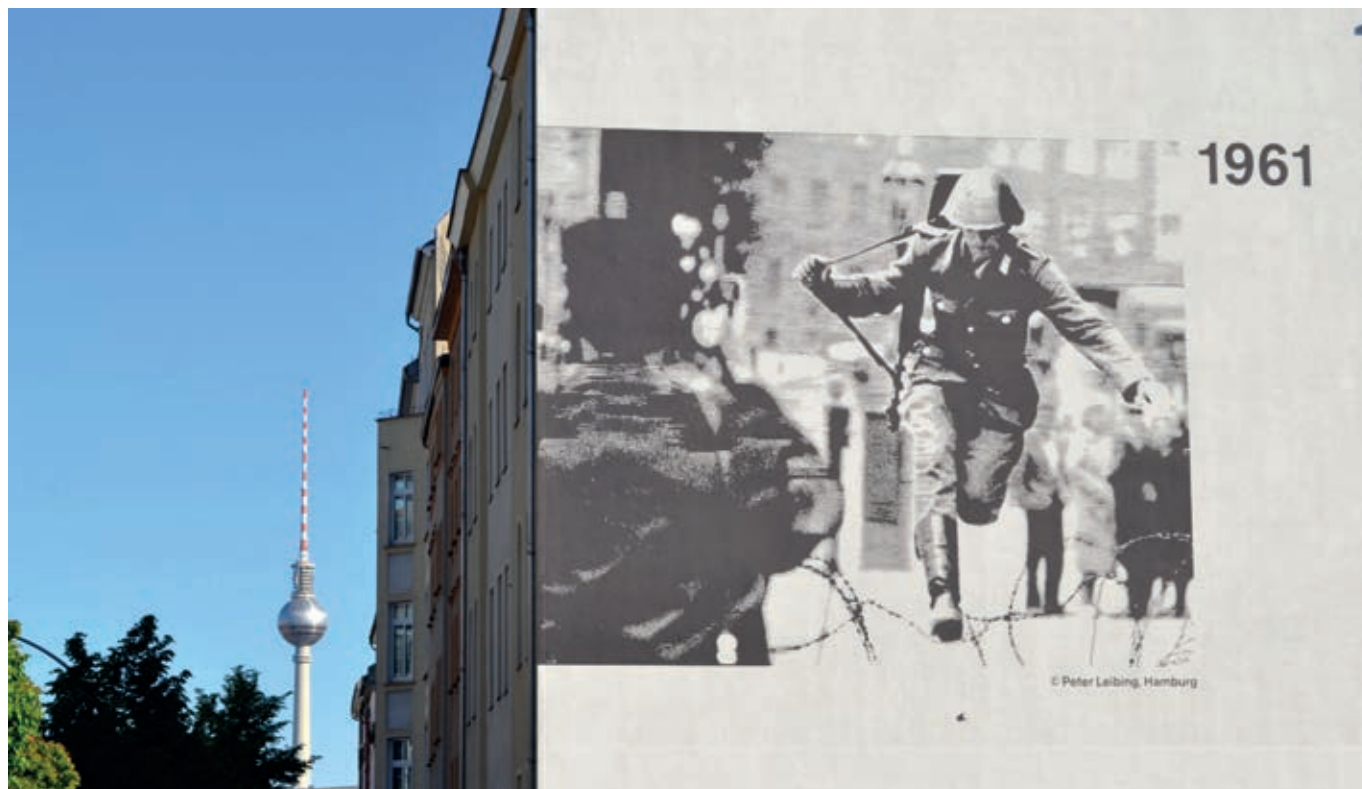


▲ **James Harman** Clockwise from top: *Extinction* Collograph print, *Behind Bars* Painting, *Polluted Pelican* Mixed media



5

Trips



History trip to Berlin

On the first Saturday of the summer half term holidays, we set out for five days in Berlin. After a short and somewhat hectic flight transfer via Düsseldorf we arrived at Berlin on Saturday lunchtime. We briefly dropped our luggage off at our cheap and cheerful hotel and immediately commenced our first walking tour, which involved seeing many of the historical sites in central Berlin, notably the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie.

After our well-earned rest, Sunday saw us pre-empt the footsteps of Messi and co. by going on an extensive tour of the Olympiastadion, built by Hitler for the 1936 Olympics. The Nazi influence was still clearly seen, with the dramatic architecture and many statues of the ideal Aryan man still left intact. Later that day we went on to see the Berlin Wall memorial, in part dedicated to the 136 people who lost their lives trying to cross.

Monday saw us visit an incredibly poignant exhibition dedicated to all aspects of resistance to the Nazi regime, located on the site where General Stauffenberg was hastily executed in 1944 after his failed coup. We ended our trip with visits to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, which was an incredibly moving and harrowing experience, and to Wannsee, the affluent and leafy suburb where the SS plotted the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question' – to commit genocide in systematic extermination of the Jews.

In all, this was such a powerful, exciting and interesting trip and thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Milton and Mrs Ostrowicz for accompanying it and for planning our trip to such an impeccable degree.

Will Mills



Caving in Vercors

Day 1:

After a quick stay in Frankfurt and Geneva, we arrived in France late in the afternoon. Despite the long and arduous unpacking, we still had time to look around the campsite. It was great; there was a small swimming pool with flumes, activities such as beach volleyball and table tennis and a place to play football.

Day 2:

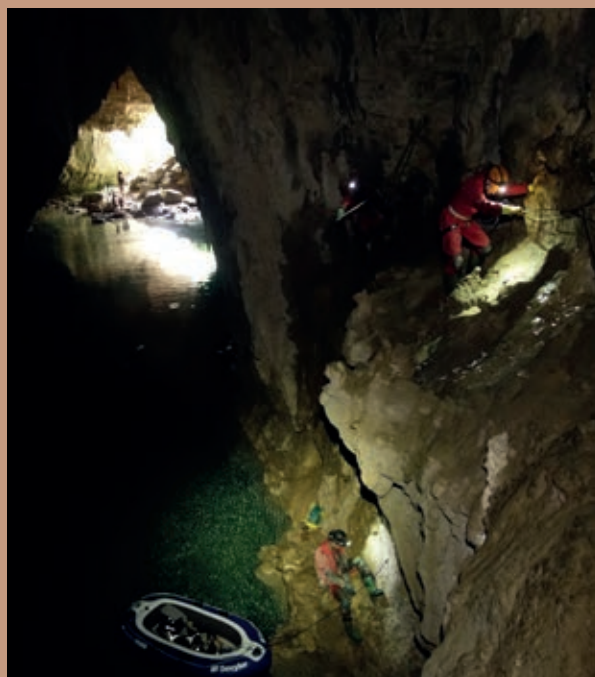
The first cave we went to was called 'Pot du Loup' (Cave of the Wolf). One would think being in 10C heat would be unpleasant, but it felt amazing in contrast to the 30C heat outside. We were all rather slow on the first few pitches (a steep section of the route requiring rope to ascend/descend) as we were getting back into the swing of things. But once we had got to grips with it all we were able to really enjoy the caving. After a few pitches down we reached a huge 40-metre drop. It wasn't frightening because we were now used to those sorts of heights, but I did still get the thrill of lowering myself down whilst looking around at the beautiful limestone structures around me. However, there is a downside to large pitches, namely the ascent. What seems like a simple climb when looking up at the end of the pitch, turns into a gruelling and painful climb, which feels like you've just done a workout once you reach the top!

Day 3:

After a traditional French breakfast of pain au chocolat, we set off to the 'Cave of the Bears'. We didn't need our harnesses in this cave, which was helpful as it included three extremely tight squeezes through which we had to crawl with our heads to the side, not having a clue where we were going or what was around us, whilst being directed by one of the other members of our group at the end of the squeeze. This was a traumatic experience for some, but we all made it through injury-free and very pleased with ourselves. In the afternoon we went to a local high ropes course, which we all really enjoyed, especially the long zip wire that brought the course to an end.

Day 4:

This was the day we were most looking forward to as we went to the 'Grotte du Grenier'. The cave entrance was beautiful; a huge lake situated in the awe-inspiring chamber. There were amazing stalactites which hung from the ceiling. We crossed the lake on a small blow-up boat which was pulled to the other side with a rope. It took about an hour to get us all across but it was definitely worth it. We then had a long walk through some enormous chambers which housed many stalagmites, some nearly four metres tall, which had taken thousands of years to reach that height. We walked until we reached a river in which we waded through waters up to our chests! Despite getting soaked, we really enjoyed following the river and took part in a challenge to try and not make a sound, the first one to scream or squirm lost. It was hard as the water was freezing, but we had great fun!



Day 5:

After a few days of straight caving we were all tired, so we had a 'chill day'. In the morning we went to a local show cave, which was great! The way the lights lit up the stalactites and the water was beautiful. Later on we went around the local town, had crêpes for lunch and then went back to the campsite. We had fun in the pool and playing mini golf, but the highlight of the day for me was the beach volleyball we played in the evening. There were the five of us Upper Middles on one team against a mixture of older boys and instructors. We played late into the night and everyone really enjoyed it.

Day 6:

We had been told that the drive was going to be a windy one, which it certainly was, but it was worth it. There were beautiful views from the car of tall limestone cliffs, one of which held the highest cave entrance in Europe. The cave in which we were caving had non-stop pitches, which meant there was considerably less waiting around. This made things much easier, as you can get very cold standing still! The downside was we were a lot more tired when we ascended, but we all managed well.

Day 7:

I was really looking forward to this day. We were rigging in the cave (putting in the crabs, setting up the ropes and tying all the knots). We had had some practice at school but this was our first ever time in a cave and I loved it. It was a big responsibility, which I think made it even more enjoyable and rewarding. Although we weren't as quick as our instructor, we didn't make any mistakes, thankfully! It was a superb end to a memorable trip.

Ben Andrews



Holland cycling tour

The cycling tour of Holland was one of the most exciting and challenging trips I have ever been on. Not only did I get a taste of life in Holland, I also learnt a few things.

One of the most important parts of the Holland cycling trip was organisation. Organisation was key in my experience as I depend on my parents to wash my clothes and dry them. You realise how much your parents take care of you and when I got back home I appreciated them more. Money was part of organisation as my money decided to run away. When we live with our parents and they buy all the necessities money doesn't mean much. Once we buy things for ourselves, it becomes a little harder so you have to plan when you are going to spend it.

You learn more about yourself. When you are in a different culture, self-discovery takes you to a whole new level. I was forced to step out of my comfort zone and find new solutions. I was surprised that I was capable of overcoming my fear of heights as we had a bunk bed and I was always at the top. Change is a good thing and eventually it will all make sense.

The adventures you have on a trip like this are irreplaceable. I have many memories and photos of this trip and it will always be in my mind. Despite the fact I lost my shorts in the first week, the tiredness and the hostel food I detested, the Holland cycling tour was a beautiful experience.

Seth Khag



Economics trip to Frankfurt

During February half term 25 economists in the Divisions visited Frankfurt. It was a great opportunity to see first-hand how and why Germany's economy is doing so well.

The trip started with a look at some of Germany's more troubling and disturbing times when we took a walking tour around Frankfurt. The guides showed us reminders of the Second World War through the Jewish Holocaust Memorial Wall, which had over 12,000 names on it, and the outline of the synagogue destroyed during Kristallnacht. This was an incredibly humbling start to the trip and really put into perspective how Frankfurt, a European financial centre from the time of Charlemagne, has adapted to its varied history.

On Thursday, we really got into the economics as we visited Deutsche Bank and the Frankfurt School of Economics. We learnt that one of the possible reasons for Germany's success is that it has employed a coordinated economy, whereas in the UK we have a liberal market leading to a more volatile business cycle. The highlight of many people's trip was later that evening with a production of *Ghost*, the musical; it was a really fun and entertaining night.

Friday was our final full day in Frankfurt. In the morning we took the trusty S-Bahn to the Commerzbank Arena, where we were given a stadium and museum tour of Bundesliga's Eintracht Frankfurt Football Club. The stadium was immense and the feeling of chanting the school song from the top of the stands is something we'll never forget. Following this, we set off to visit the Boerse (stock exchange) where we were given a presentation about Germany's stock market and how Frankfurt was the financial capital of the Eurozone. Later, we had the opportunity to see the trading floor from a viewing platform and marvel at the stockbrokers doing their jobs, being present for some news on the Grexit situation that saw the index rise dramatically before falling away as reality crept back in; a classic market overshoot! We ended the trip on Friday night with bowling and it's safe to say that we were all a little surprised, witnessing Mr Coverdale turn into a bowling crackerjack bagging himself strikes all over the place.

We'd like to thank Mr Coverdale, Mr Mason and Mr Wareing for taking us on such a memorable trip.

Kieret Dhaliwal and Kush Sinha



Grasse exchange

When one thinks of the French Riviera, perhaps three stereotypes come to mind: beautiful weather, stunning views and, of course, *l'amour*.

Although it wasn't as hot as we expected, the town of Grasse was still breath-taking. However, the main aim of this trip was to improve our French speaking skills and to learn to speak the lingo like a local. It would be fair to say that this was quite a daunting mission, considering that the most that some of us could say stopped short at essential pleasantries and "je fais mes devoirs", but everybody dived into the task with admirable enthusiasm.

We found ourselves fully emerged in French culture and this was an opportunity we relished, making new friends, tasting new food and meeting new people. In particular, I think we were all touched by the incredibly warm nature of the French – not least our exchange partners and their host families, who did their best to ensure we had a smashing week and made the most out of the limited time available. Although much fun was had cooking tarte tatin with Lycée Fénélon's chefs, and playing basketball against the locals, albeit rather badly, highlights of the week included visits to Cannes, Nice and Monaco.

I would like to thank Madame Esnault and Manise Basile for organising such an unforgettable trip – we had a fantastic week and memories were created that shall be long treasured. Grasse, adieu, but we'll be sure to return soon!

Devak Mehta





2015 KES Rugby Tour

The 2015 KES Rugby Tour party consisted of 42 players, five members of staff and a team doctor. The tour was to see the party travel to the cities of Toronto and Ottawa, as well as a two-night stay in Algonquin, a huge national park the size of Wales.

On our first full day we travelled to Canada's Wonderland theme park and waterpark, where we spent the day enjoying ourselves on a multitude of thrill rides. All of the boys enjoyed themselves, but Mr Johnson was allegedly the biggest adrenaline junkie on the tour.

Our first match was against Brantford Harlequins, the team of our billet hosts. This provided us with our first taste of Canadian rugby, and brought us up against a very physical side. The Canadians play a very confrontational form of the game which involved most of their players simply smashing into our defences. The 2nd XV played first and despite battling hard they came out second best, losing 36-14. This match was shortly followed by the 1st XV's; the KES team put in a very convincing performance, winning 20-9 and without conceding a single try.

The next day we left our billet families and travelled to Toronto University where we would spend the next four nights in student accommodation. During our time in Toronto, we visited The Eaton Centre and The CN Tower. We then went on a day trip to Niagara where we visited the legendary Niagara Falls: without a doubt the most breathtaking experience of the tour. Going on a boat trip got

us all soaked, as we were enveloped in clouds of mist created by the force of the falls, but provided us with some fantastic photos. A 4D cinema showed us a unique insight into the creation of one of the natural wonders of the world. The highlight, however, was a Whirlpool Jet boat trip. This exhilarating activity was a unique experience and we were all thoroughly drenched by the end, especially the teachers who were on the front row. We were taken along the Niagara River, travelling over grade 4 rapids and having gallons of water hurled at us. On the Sunday we watched a round of the Pan Am Games sevens rugby tournament and saw some great rugby as well as a cameo by Carlin Isles, rugby's fastest man. Mr Pavey was eager to get a KES tour shirt signed by some of the Canadian players, including the Canada Captain.

Our second fixture was against Oakville Crusaders. Once again the 2nd XV were first to play. This match was arguably even more physically demanding than the first, and with the temperature around 30C many bottles of water were required. Despite putting in a much stronger performance, they lost 19-12. The 1st XV's game was even closer, finishing 8-7 in favour of KES. This was an important win for the team as the opposition were much bigger and more physical than the KES side. On the next morning, we travelled out of the city to watch another event of the Pan Am Games: a baseball match between Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The next part of the tour saw us travel to Algonquin National Park, where we would spend a night camping out in the wilderness,

and one at an eco-lodge, which generated its own hydro-electric power via a waterfall, overlooking a picturesque lake with various boats and a hot tub. This break allowed us to see a different side to Canada and relax a little. Despite the bugs, everyone had a great time in what really was a beautiful setting.

We then travelled to Ottawa, where we played our next game against Ottawa Indians. The 2nd XV put in a good performance to win 48-0. The 1st XV followed, and also came out convincing winners, 34-0. Both teams put in very strong performances against two physically imposing sides and it was nice to score as many tries as we did.

The next day we took part in an event run by The Gloucester Recreation Development Organisation, which delivers activities and events for children in Ottawa who are not normally able to participate due to social, cultural and financial barriers, as well as children with special needs and those who have only just moved to Canada. This allowed us to share our love of rugby with those perhaps less fortunate than us, and we had great fun playing and teaching them. In the evening we had planned to go to a buffet, but were delayed after a group of boys managed to get stuck in an elevator at our accommodation. The fire service was called, and after 30 minutes they were free.

The following few days saw us play our last rugby of the tour at the 'National Capital Youth Rugby Festival', where we faced off against teams from across Ontario. Both teams performed strongly, with the 1st XV not losing a single game. This was our last rugby of the tour and it was very satisfying to finish so strongly. Our journey back into Ottawa was prolonged by the tour bus breaking down as a thunder storm began to brew overhead. Luckily we were back up and running before the torrential downpour that soon followed.



On the final day we went white water rafting, travelling over many fierce rapids and having to handle boats capsizing and many people falling in. Someone also managed to lose a shoe. The rafting was a unique and exhilarating experience and a wonderful way to end the tour. We finished with a meal at a sports bar in Ottawa where awards were handed out to some players, and each teacher was given a selection of presents. The raffle draw for the Rugby World Cup tickets resulted in Mr Johnson receiving quarter-final tickets, which was very fitting as he was the one who made the tour possible.

On behalf of the whole tour party we would like to thank all the staff for their efforts on the tour, Mr Pavey, Mr Weaver, Mr Connor, Mr Browning and Emir Battaloglu (Team Doctor, who was kept very busy by the large number of injuries sustained during games). A special thank you goes to Mr Johnson, who assumed the duty of tour leader and sacrificed lots of time and effort in order to make the 2015 KES Rugby Tour of Canada an experience many of the players shall never forget.

Josh Dowdeswell and Joe Tedd

Particle Physics: a week at CERN



Back in August four of us (Nathen Chung, Lucas McCollum, William Ingamells and Jeremy Ho) flew to Geneva, Switzerland to visit CERN. Kindly hosted by the University of Liverpool, 15 students from KES, KEHS, Dulwich College, James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS) and Whitgift School were lucky enough to be able to spend five days among the best nuclear physicists from around the world. Despite, unfortunately, being unable to go underground due to health and safety, this was more than made up for by the fact that we could watch the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in operation at an unprecedented 13TeV.

Right at the start, there were clear divisions between the schools, with three distinct circles formed at the airport terminal. However, as the week progressed, we grew closer together and soon became just one big group of friends on a trip with some amazing teachers. The hostel we stayed in was great in that it was a five-minute walk from the lakeside, and a 10-minute walk from the main terminal. Despite the communal showers and toilets, there was free WiFi and a filling breakfast, so no one really complained. The staff at CERN were very friendly, with the PhD students being especially approachable and keen to sate our physics-related desires. Even the bus driver was entertaining in his own duck-noisy way.

In order to teach us the fundamental ideas behind the LHC, we were given a number of talks upon our arrival at CERN. These talks mainly outlined the purpose of CERN, and covered the basic concepts we would need to understand for the activities of the following week. We were first given a quick guide to the standard model and the place where the Higgs Boson sits in our understanding of the universe, helping to explain the importance

of the discovery of the Higgs-like particle in 2012. Then the more pressing issues were discussed, such as the matter-antimatter imbalance causing a CP violation that meant total annihilation did not occur at the Big Bang, and CERN's efforts to study the nature of antimatter to help understand this enigma. CERN's major objectives are to test the validity of the standard model and to explore the workings of the universe at the smallest level.

Although the lectures were both enlightening and enjoyable, the main attraction was the LHC itself. After a brief refresh of the history of CERN at the main reception, our tour started with a visit to the CCC (CERN Control Centre), where we received a general overview of the LHC and a look into the control room of the entire collider. We then visited the SM-18 superconducting magnet testing facility to gain an insight into linear and curved electromagnet accelerators that are cooled to temperatures colder than outer space. Although our visit to the ATLAS detector did not progress past the control room, thanks to our PhD students, we were able (after a short trek into France) to take a look at the LHCb. Accompanying a peek inside the control room were various displays that enlightened us about the inner workings of the LHCb, describing features such as the Rich Detectors that measure particle velocity using Cherenkov Radiation. There was also a backup VELO (Vertex Locator) on display, which was perhaps the closest we got to seeing a real detector.

Next, split into groups of twos and threes, we were given competitive tasks, with the incentive of our very own CERN standard model mug for the winners. The competition was split into two sections: a programming task and a presentation task. For the programming, we were tasked with filtering out background signals in a sample of collisions data with ROOT (CERN's in-house software

framework) by altering data cut-offs. The filtered data was then tested for purity and efficiency and given a score based off the product of the two. The second task was to design and present a detector to detect electrons, muons and photons, which would be marked by the PhD students based on feasibility and creativity. The results ranged from semi-serious proposals to create a multi-directional version of the LHCb called the SPIDER (Surrounding Particle DetEctoR) to more inventive proposals to build a detector on the moon to minimise background interference... while also making it cheese shaped to minimise the environmental impact. Through the weird and wacky concepts and ventures in space, sanity prevailed and Nathen's group with their SPIDER, who also performed best in the programming task, won by unanimous vote from the PhD students.

Contrary to popular belief, physicists do have lives outside the lab. At lunchtimes, despite eating in the same room as the great scientific minds of today, we ate as quickly as possible. Not because the food was bad (we can assure you as to the contrary), rather because there was a hotly contested table tennis table, which beckoned for our attention. Also, for those of us daring (or is it foolish?) enough to brave the early morning chill, there was another side to Geneva, far away from the physics and the intellectual endeavours that had brought us to Switzerland in the first place. Most mornings, a small party of students and a particularly excitable teacher from Dulwich College would venture out to Lake Geneva for a swim. The water was bitterly cold and the light was low, but, when we timed it right, we were in the water in time to see the sun rise over the peak of Mont Blanc. We enjoyed it so much that there were actually some days when we managed to go swimming twice.

Other than the lake, Geneva itself is a beautiful city, given both its cultured history and importance as a hub for the EU and all things international and organisational. We were able to spend a morning wandering the streets, hopping between the medieval churches, the picturesque lakeside and the numerous (expensive) souvenir shops. In the evenings, the staff organised activities to refresh our minds after a hard day's physics-ing. This included bowling, where Mr Tuohey showed a hidden talent, and a pub quiz, luckily in English, at a local pub that served an excellent Mexican burger. The week was rounded off by a formal meal in an out of town restaurant. The food was top quality, and the view of the valley and mountains, save for the construction site, was breathtaking.

Expressions of gratitude are directed by us to Mr Tuohey for investing his own time to organise the trip and for putting up with the four of us for a week. We would like to thank the staff from Whitgift, Dulwich and JAGS for their roles in organising and supervising the trip. Finally, we would like to thank the University of Liverpool and CERN for hosting us and allowing us to have an amazing week in Geneva. Overall, we found the trip to be greatly beneficial to our understanding and appreciation of the physics and engineering behind the LHC. It has been an amazing experience and we would highly recommend this trip to anyone considering applying for it next year.

Nathen Chung and Lucas McCollum

Hay Festival



The Hay Festival takes place each year, with the aim of bringing readers and writers together to explore a plethora of subjects in the remote, if picturesque, town of Hay-on-Wye. As in recent years, a group of Divisions joined them for a day.

Talks given by notable personalities like Alex Salmond and Bear Grylls proved to be the most popular. The former offered some fascinating anecdotes and judgements on the Scottish referendum campaign; talk of independence seemed fitting in a town made famous by Richard Booth's declaration of sovereignty in 1977. By contrast, the latter offered excellent selfie opportunities.

Those interested in history had a field day, with big names like Simon Schama, David Starkey and Andrew Roberts discussing subjects from Magna Carta to Napoleon. Other topics discussed included the Ichigo Offensive of 1944, feminism in the Middle East, climate change, and how language shapes our identity.

A day spent listening and questioning some first-rate speakers could not disappoint. I would like to thank Mr Arbuthnott, Mr Tuohey and Mrs Ostrowicz for making the trip possible. Hopefully it will run again next year.

Josh Kimblin

Senior Cycle Tour: Land's End to John O'Groats

Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) had been advertised as the greatest tour on a bicycle in the UK. Mr Phillips even told us that it had a profile that was a 'net' downhill, and that it was only around a thousand miles.

On the first full day – billed as 'choppy' – we had visitors in the form of Mr and Mrs Milton, waving madly from the roadside and feeding us delicious flapjacks, a fitting dessert after our lunchtime pasties. We stayed in an old coastguard station on the top of a very steep hill, overlooking the surfers' bay at Perranporth. The third day in sunny Cornwall was relentlessly hilly, with a free ferry trip across the estuary at Padstow and steep climbs on to Bodmin Moor, where we then stayed in the very nice Trethorne Golf Club.

As we rode through the rolling hills of Devon we were introduced to rain, with which we would become very familiar over the course of the trip. The arrival into Cheddar that evening was made easier by the Somerset Levels. However Mr Phillips, being the hill-loving cyclist that he is, still managed to find a short and sharp hill for us to climb just before the end.

Day six was a day of two halves; the first flat and easy, the second the complete opposite. It was now that the group captained by the Sanghera brothers assumed their role as 'Lotto-Burger King', eschewing Mr Phillips's carefully prepared GPS route in favour of navigation by a fast food app, and thus finding themselves in the centre of Bristol. On the other hand, the other two groups followed a clever rural and suburban way around the city. The crossings over the Avonmouth Bridge (on the cycle path on the hard shoulder of the M5) and the Severn (on the swaying old suspension bridge) were memorable. The tour then battled through the hilly terrain of the Forest of Dean to the luxurious hotel. It was here that the Chief Master attempted to join us for dinner but failed to find us, deep in the forest.



Nonetheless, we rode on through Herefordshire and Shropshire in searing heat. After the longest day (93 miles) and the day with the most climbing (over 1,800 metres), we arrived exhausted at 6.30pm in Ratlinghope. Then followed another 80+ mile day to delightful Warrington, the highlight being a sumptuous picnic provided by the Golightly family in Ellesmere. Our rapid progress through England (the best part of 300 miles in three days) thereafter led us to Arnside along the picturesque Lune Estuary cycle path and the equally attractive Carnforth Canal towpath.

Day 10 was a shorter ride, to Ambleside in the Lake District, billed as a rest day, though the hills were as steep as those in Cornwall. Day 11 was a slog in the rain up Dunmail Raise and around Thirlmere through the Lake District, with Harry Anfilogoff sadly being forced to withdraw from the tour following a crash on a wet descent. The day ended near Carlisle where Mrs Ashley's family provided the most enormous amount of fabulous food and locally brewed ale. With cake, Cumberland sausage and roast chicken all in abundance we all found it rather difficult to ride the four miles to the hostel.

Day 12 saw us entering Scotland, with torrential rain to welcome us. Nobody was really able to comment on what was meant to be a scenic end to the day, as the water dripping from our helmets and the spray off the road made it rather hard to make out the cyclist in front, let alone the landscape that we were cycling through. From Sanquhar, having caught a ferry, we cycled along a very scenic coast road and over an enormous climb to Lochranza, on the Isle of Arran. The hostel is beautifully situated by the water but plagued by midges. Fortunately, they found Matthew Clegg irresistible, so the rest of us were spared.

Day 14 – starting with a ferry trip back to the mainland – was a day characterised by tough hills, beautiful scenery and the coastal road. We ended the day in Oban, where many of us enjoyed a meal in the local fish restaurant. Day 15 was a flat and short day on which we all arrived in Fort William mid-afternoon. A taskforce was then established to find the local bike shop, the demands of the tour so far proving too great for some of our machines.



Day 16 was a long day along the Caledonian Canal and then Loch Ness. This boasted stunning views but the worst surface I would ever take my road bike on (which resulted in Amarjit having the most spectacular of tyre blowouts). After Fort Augustus we encountered the toughest climb of the tour, General Wade's Military Road. At five-miles long and with 350 metres of climbing this was the LEJOG equivalent of Alpe d'Huez. We then arrived in Conon Bridge, weary, wet and hungry after a day that felt like it had gone on forever. The next day we set off along the east coast for Helmsdale, spending most of the day on the A9, where we finally felt like we were nearing our destination.

Day 18, our final day, had been a long time coming. This 55-mile day was expected by many to be like stage 21 of the Tour de France, a ceremonial roll in. How wrong we were. The northeast of Scotland had been waiting for us: the first 10 miles were ferociously hilly. This combined with a strong headwind blowing off the North Sea made the day hard going. And just when we thought the whole trip was over, Matthew Clegg, riding for Team 'Etixx-Coffee Stop' [there is a real cycling team called 'Etixx-Quick Step'], rode over a piece of glass three miles from the end and punctured. Nevertheless we arrived at John O'Groats elated and exhausted, and posed for the obligatory photos and a drink of champagne.

Overall we had cycled 1,083 miles, with 19,300 metres of climbing. Thanks must go to Mr Phillips for organising the most ambitious of KES cycle tours, to Mr Golightly for being his right-hand man, to the Sangheras for their repair skills and innovative approach to navigation, to the friends and family who visited, fed and in some cases even cycled with us en route, to our drivers who drove all the way to the ends of this island (which I can now confirm is very large) and of course to all the riders, whose company, sense of humour and slipstream made this adventure so enjoyable.

Henry Thompson

Shell Camp

How many times had we been told legends of this trip?

The few days that supposedly stripped your shell away and threw you out into the world to fend for yourself. We had all had it drilled into us that these were the days to remember.

No matter how early the sun woke you up, how many times you fell in the lake or how often you got lost in the forest you would always look upon these memories with a rose-tinted glow.

Our first day landed us on an hour and a half coach drive to Beaudesert Park, where we started the day with what I can quite confidently say was the hardest task of the three days, putting up the tents. With no instructions and a five minute brief on what not to do, we chose our spots, and unravelled our bags.

It would be fair to say that the only things we heard for the next hours were: lots of screaming, bags being kicked out of frustration, and the occasional cry of glee from someone who had had the sense to practise beforehand, and so could boast a world record time of one and a half hours to put up a one-man tent – in which we were supposed to sleep in groups of three.

The early morning sun woke us at a punishing four in the morning, which feels just that extra bit worse when you only got to sleep two hours before. We set out from here to our first activity: orienteering. "Go find 10 wooden posts dotted around the park and write down the letters on them." Not too hard right? Well when you consider that the park in question is around a square kilometre of relatively un-pathed forest, it gets a bit trickier. Although extremely hard this had to be my favourite activity of the camp. In groups of three, we spent our first hour following the paths, and then decided to venture off-road, and after getting stuck in a ridge and suffering a grand total of 47 nettle stings, we realised this had been a bad idea. With 30 seconds left to get back we sprinted to the reception only having found 14 of the 15 letters. But upon meeting the instructors, we realised that they were all too happy to help us and, with the 15th letter, we returned triumphant.

Although orienteering was my favourite, I loved all the activities we did. Whether we were jumping out of coracle boats to rescue our oars, abseiling (falling is probably more appropriate) down moss covered walls or searching for twigs to start a fire with, I had a great time every day and I came away with many brilliant stories to tell.

I don't know if we changed into teenagers over those days, I don't know whether we became men or not, but I can say for certain that when we left we had all been prised from our shells, whether we liked it or not!

Joe Roberts



Ex Dragon KES Kayaking

The Kayaking Club at King Edward's School is a small but keen group of boys who meet every Thursday lunchtime to hone their skills in the swimming pool. Once or twice a year we load up the boats and kit and head out for a weekend to rivers across the UK to transfer these skills to challenging but rewarding water. During July 2015 two vans were filled with more gear and more boats than ever before to transfer the KES Kayaking Club to the southern French Alps. The aim of the trip was to improve everyone's abilities and skills on challenging water, whilst also working towards the 3 Star award.

After the day and a half of travel from Birmingham, navigating delayed Euro tunnels and closed Cols, camp was set. The morning was spent on the lake at the campsite shaking off the cobwebs and reminding and revising the key skills for the river: edging, sweeping, sculling, drawing and, of course, rolling – skills which would later be called upon regularly. That afternoon was spent on the first river of the trip, the Durance. Paddling down the deep blue icy water in 30C heat with a gentle breeze proved a welcome change from the cold, brown rainy rivers of North Wales in October. After some gentle rapids and a cold introduction to the faster moving current to one member, we finished after the slalom course at Le Seras, where the more experienced paddlers got their first taste of larger alpine rapids.

Day two followed suit as we returned to the lake in the morning to improve skills, returning to La Durance after lunch. The culmination of the day saw the stronger paddlers taking on Rabioux rapid. After a motivational talk from one of our leaders, Mr Irvine, who described it as 'a massive punch in the face... by a big, white, bunny rabbit'; we one by one ran the rapid blind, trying to remember whether we were supposed to go river right or just right of centre. After what seemed like a gentle stroke across the face we all returned to shore with big grins after what we thought had been a big rapid, we were told we'd missed all the good stuff by going too far right!

Returning to the Durance on the third day saw some slight complacency from the conquerors of the rapid the previous day, as, fired by the insults from taking the easy line the day before, we all decided to run the rapid again as one chain straight into the stopper. A head over heels flip and a swim by myself and a three boat stopper pile up from the group reminded us that perhaps Rabioux was bigger than we thought. Following on down to Embrun we rolled through the long grade 2 wave trains, which provided great fun as well as upgraded water to push skills. The following day, having spent the morning in Briançon, we moved to the Guisane river in the afternoon. A much more technical, low volume creek; the Guisane provided the group with the opportunity to change the skills we were building as we needed to adapt the eddy hopping to a more continuous flow where the line was key. However, the numerous swims of the day saw the adaptability of the group tested as we all collaborated to help the guys in need. A very rewarding river, especially as it moved to a 2/3 grade later on.

Day five returned to the Durance to revisit the large volume skills then onto the reservoir downstream to test the flat water skills required for the 3 Star award. The final day saw the more experienced paddlers drawing on our skills on the Ubaye as we tackled a solid grade 3 river.

The trip proved to be as exciting as it had sounded when described to us the year before. It was the most challenging any of us had ever seen, but was also by far the most rewarding. The entire group bonded well and increasingly became hugely more confident paddlers.

Thanks must go to the staff: Trevor Collins for providing shuttles, Colin Irvine for his vast knowledge and teaching ability and to Craig Storey, who organised the entire trip and coached us throughout. Furthermore, we would also like to thank the Ulysses Trust for helping us to run the trip.

Conor Parkes



6

Outreach

Outreach 2015

It has been a year of innovation and progress for the Outreach programme. In total, we have worked with 163 schools, 150 in the state sector, and 12,000 individual children. This is the largest state school network that any independent school in the country interacts with.

By pioneering the model of a hub school, providing training, support and inspiration to schools across the city of Birmingham, we are making a genuine contribution to national debates about partnerships between the sectors. We were delighted to be nominated for a TES Independent School of the Year Award in this area – by the time *Chronicle* is published, we will know our fate!

The new initiatives are featured here. As in previous years, Jenny Herbert continues to go into lots of schools saving their Christmas shows; Jonathan Davies hauls his trebuchet round over 50 schools a year enthusing them about history in his own inimitable style; boys have been running debating workshops and taster days; teachers continue to come in for training in Maths, Reading, Writing, Shakespeare and Cricket.

TJMA



Sport

This year, with the sterling work of Sue Davies as Outreach Administrator, we have fulfilled a long-held ambition of the Chief Master in recruiting numerous junior schools to come to Eastern Road in the mornings for training in rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics.

Under the command of Nick Bandurak, Kelly Evenson and Ben Weaver, hundreds of children from Year 4 to Year 6 have come to use these wonderful facilities at times when they weren't in school use. The schools have really appreciated the free coaching, and this has been an important element in King Edward's School's independent school/state school partnerships.



Nature Day

In May 2015, we launched a new collaboration with Winterbourne House and Garden, our so-called 'Nature Days'. On these days, state primary schools have the opportunity to spend the morning within the University's Botanical Gardens exploring horticulture and apiculture. In the afternoon, they come to KES to be treated to an afternoon of mathematical challenges with Dr Rackham and his merry men.



Borchers Shield

This year, we launched the Borchers Shield, a city-wide Maths competition for the most able young mathematicians from across the City. Every Friday afternoon, phalanxes of rather nervous-looking primary school children can be seen waiting in reception to be ushered up to Big School, where, under Dr Rackham's tutelage, they are treated to 90 minutes of athletic – and complex – Maths.

Vidy Reddy, Suhayl Fazal and Jeremy Ho were responsible, this year, for running and writing questions for this competition, which saw 48 Year 6 teams and 63 Year 4 teams enter. Children came to KES from Sutton Coldfield, Handsworth Wood, Solihull, Longbridge and all the areas in between. The Year 4s were invited to come again for a meeting with Kjartan Poskitt, the inspiring author of the 'Murderous Maths' series of books, who presented the prize to the winning team.

Harborne Primary won the Year 6 Borchers Shield in December. The Year 4 competition was won by Greswold School. The prep school competition was won by Ruckleigh School. Well done to them! 94 teams have entered the 2015 competition, which shows that this is an initiative which will go from strength to strength.

Physics workshops

Throughout the year, Dr Lindsay MacDonald, along with Will Chamberlain, Dr Kulkarni and assorted other helpers, visited primary schools on Thursday mornings with a wonderful series of Physics workshops. These looked at aspects of the primary curriculum, and undressed the Physics inside it – hence, sessions on the Physics of Castles and Bubbles have been held across Birmingham. Lindsay will be much missed.

Ogden Trust Forces Training

On a cold day in February, over 80 teachers assembled to build a set of resources and pedagogical skills related to the teaching of Forces in primary schools. The training was delivered by the Ogden Trust across the Physics Department and the Brode Quadrangle, where the presence of a miniature Formula One racing car drew a few envious glances from passers-by. The training was evaluated as highly impressive: we will be holding a follow-up day in 2016.





Outreach Summer School

Part of this year's Outreach activities involved a one week summer programme, run from 9-15 July. The principal idea behind the programme was that it would be staffed by KES pupils and run for local primary school children, who may not otherwise have had the possibility to experience an educational environment like King Edward's. The main aim was to inspire the children to push for places at high achieving secondary schools, by demonstrating the opportunities available at schools like KES.

In total, the Summer School took on 250 children, who were split up into various 'pods'. Each pod was looked after by two KES pupils. Throughout the day, the children went to various different lessons in their pods, stopping for break and lunch. The lessons were diverse and entertaining: solving a 'crime' using English skills; identifying different pond creatures in Biology; competing in a Maths Olympiad; acting out the plays of Shakespeare in History and much more besides. Alongside these lessons, the children were also able to take part in extra-curricular activities, including rounders and dodgeball competitions in the day and talks and musical performances in the evening.

Too much went on over the week to be fully listed here, but what was clear was that the children loved their time at KES. Many regretted that they had to go back to 'normal school' at the end of the week! However, the real strength of the Summer School wasn't just in what it did for the children – it was also in the valuable lessons learnt by the KES pupils who worked with them. Both the children and their leaders came away from what will hopefully be the first of many summer schools with important life experience and knowledge.

Barney Hobbs





7

Leadership

Leadership overview

The primary goal of the KES Leadership programme is, in fact, exactly what it says on the tin. Each Friday afternoon, a team of Sixth-Formers takes charge of a group of Upper Middles, Fourths or Fifths and runs activities for them, with the main aim being to teach them leadership skills. These skills will hopefully go beyond the bland old adage of 'Communication, Delegation and Organisation' and teach the boys who are in the option how to relate to each other, how to work as a team and how to take charge and make important decisions in difficult situations.

The option itself is broken up into different years, with each year entailing different sorts of activities and teaching. The UMs is where young KES boys get their first experience of Leadership. Throughout the year they get three 'taster' afternoons, with the hope being that, if they enjoy what they've done, they will choose to do the option each Friday afternoon when they get into the Fourths. The Fourths is where we lay the groundwork for the students in the option: afternoons are run each week for the Fourths which will be not only entertaining, but also begin to develop in them some leadership skills. For example, some of the students in the Fourths take part in afternoons where they make film trailers, create their own sports and perform as a rock band. In the Fifths it gets slightly more serious. The aim for Fifths is to get the Leadership students ready to take over from us, the Sixth Form, in the running of afternoons for UMs, Fourths and Fifths.

One of the flagship events of KES Leadership is 'The EDGE Festival'. The EDGE Festival is put on each summer term for younger boys in the school and for local primary schools around the Edgbaston and Selly Oak area. The Festival consists of an afternoon of fun activities and performances, with stalls and rides organised by pupils from the KES Leadership option; with the end goal being to promote King Edward's Outreach programme to children of the local area, whilst also raising money for the various charities that King Edward's supports. The Edge Festival also serves as the main Leadership event of the year, with all the boys in the option – from years 10 to 13 – involved in the event's organisation; including the running of various fair-style stalls and the booking and setting up of rides and obstacle courses. The Edge Festival is a unique, pupil-organised event that allows not only local primary school involvement with KES, but also the personal development of KES boys and the promotion of charitable causes.

In a way, the EDGE festival sums up what the Leadership option is really all about. It is a particularly 'Leadership' style event – in that it is almost entirely organised, set up and run by students. This sort of responsibility and teamwork is really what we try to teach (and in fact what we try to learn) in the KES Leadership course.

Barney Hobbs

Fourths and Fifths Leadership

It has been an action packed and fun filled year in the two foundation years of the option. The Fourths in particular embraced the multitude of opportunities and brought energy and good humour to their Friday activities.

The early afternoons focused upon presentation and communication skills with challenges ranging from political speeches and promoting music bands to making videos for selling new commercial products. Then they were challenged outdoors with obstacle courses, shelter building and various team building games. As the ability of the boys progressed through the year, they were put into the real-life scenario of 'Paintballing' at the Beechwood centre in Solihull, soon followed by the flagship EDGE Festival where they produced their own stalls and ran a variety of games for junior schools around Edgbaston. The summer term saw a fitting finale of their very own General Election and BBQ in the cloisters. The year showed much potential with Aloysius Lip and Jack Barron leading the way on numerous occasions, and Ashwin Kalyana, Siraj Hussain and Alex Jarvis showing that they have a great deal of potential.

The Fifths started the year with the residential weekend at Taste for Adventure in Herefordshire. It was a great success with a variety of testing situations, namely caving, climbing and survival skills being the order of the day. It looked as if the small group of participants were beginning to come together in this challenging environment. The aim of this year was to develop the previous year's grounding and ask individuals to take a greater responsibility for those around them. There were more demanding afternoons involving: carrying out surveys on university students and creating new board games as well as putting together an election manifesto. Toby Jowitt and Hanzalah Yaqub began to shine demonstrating plenty of leadership potential within a group that began to struggle to embrace the demands of the course.

LMR



Divisions Leadership Residential

The aim of the Divisions Leadership Residential? To challenge and polish our 'leadership' skills so that we are fully equipped to take over and improve the KES Leadership option.

Each year, the Divisions group travel to what feels like the middle of nowhere and enjoys various activities including kayaking, orienteering, orienteering and more orienteering. As both one of the most significant features of the leadership calendar and our answer to the CCF Expeditions, the Residential is very testing and demanding of constant engagement, teamwork and resilience in every sense of the words, although we didn't have the same privilege of sleeping in tents completely at the mercy of the outdoor temperatures.

I found the weekend away to be above all a learning experience with its fair share of highs and lows; being woken up in the day's early hours for a forced scavenger hunt (what it was for I still can't remember) across narrow country roads wasn't particularly enjoyable, yet the mental strength that you gain from such activities is invaluable. Taking part in extensive outdoor

activities directly challenged our command of those well-known leadership buzz words that are thrown around from time to time i.e. showing the extent to which we were really capable of harnessing great teamwork, delegation, creativity and common sense to our advantage.

The importance of good communication between teams became more and more evident as the weekend progressed and proved to be vital in stopping us from capsizing our canoes and walking into walls – evidently we couldn't stop ourselves from losing Jay Sanga and Mohammed Adnan briefly to the wilderness, but we've learned from such experiences, and that's what matters.

It goes without saying that the Residential demands the right amount of motivation from everyone to be a success, and I'm confident that most of us were motivated enough. To what extent we can channel this motivation to running the option successfully, time will tell!

Nathan Pitan





8

CCF



Contingent Commander's overview

It's been a funny old year. What you might call transitional: a smaller CCF at KES, with no RAF Section for the moment, which is a sad development; the CCF movement in a national funding crisis, which has certainly made life tougher for senior staff, even if cadets were blissfully unaware; huge national restrictions on scuba diving, which meant the cancellation of the Gozo trip which has run annually since 2009; KES swimming pool out of action for months, which meant our own in-house scuba course was cancelled. But hey – out of every problem comes a new opportunity.

Quite a few RAF cadets decided to transfer to the other two sections, and they certainly brought a fresh perspective, which was nearly always welcome. It was notable that two of them picked up awards at the AGI in the summer, and they have made a strong contribution overall. NCO teams were strengthened, especially in Navy, and both remaining Sections have stabilised at about 70 cadets – a healthy number and one which we aim to maintain. The final opportunity for a chosen few to wear their RAF uniforms came when they paraded at the Menin Gate in October as part of the KES party who accompanied the Chief Master as he laid a wreath for Old Edwardians. Will Evans blew *Last Post* in remembrance of Old Edwardians at St George's Ypres, and at the Thiepval Memorial: more on this moving visit elsewhere.

Expeditions Weekends have been a mixture of the old and the new – the Army's tactical weekend in the field at Swynnerton in the autumn was balanced by an Adventurous Training weekend at Capel Curig in the spring, which was a good innovation and

will be repeated. Captain Storey's kayaking programme has gone from strength to strength, with a number of UK weekends and the climax of an overseas white water expedition – see report in the Trips section! At the same time, the cadets who stayed in this country went with Lt Follows to a joint Summer Camp with Solihull School CCF at Thetford: thanks to them for hosting us. With Capt Storey went the oldest and the newest of our officers – Major Collins was wheeled out once again for driving and logistical support, and was able to tell all his old stories to 2/Lt Chamberlain, who has transferred from RAF and is proving a huge asset to the Army Section. We are sad to say goodbye to the fourth officer on the exped, S/Lt Colin Irvine, who is moving to Bradfield College; he has been of huge value to the CCF and we thank him for all that he has done for us.

Meanwhile the Navy has maintained the sailing and kayaking programme on the Reservoir, and went down to Pembrokeshire in September for a warm and sunny weekend of surfing and coasteering – our last at that Centre, regrettably, as it was closed down by its operators soon after. Spring saw us visit Portsmouth, staying aboard HMS Bristol, with all year groups undergoing training including powerboating, harbour tour, helicopter escape training, and orienteering, as well as visiting the Historic Dockyard and HMS Victory. A new departure was our entry in the Birmingham Schools Summer Regatta, which resulted in a couple of individual medals and a narrow miss for the Team Trophy – we'll try again next year...

The most exciting development is our new partnership with Selly Oak Trust School, which has an established RN Section that has been left high and dry by the failure of its parent Contingent at Lordswood School: we have been happy to take on that relationship and look forward to working with them – plans are already in place for swim tests in KES and some joint training. And young Sam Claughton who is joining Selly Oak School in September will thus get the chance to become a KES CCF cadet!

The partnership was announced at the AGI, which was a happy occasion on which we welcomed our senior serving Old Boy, Lt Col Nick Keen, back as Reviewing Officer, and he was good enough to



mark his long and happy association with the CCF by presenting us with our very own Banner, complete with heraldic device approved by the arcane and byzantine authorities of heraldry – more from Col Keen elsewhere in this section. Capt Storey worked out some convincing drill for the Banner Party and its presence will enhance our future parades. It was really good to see serving Old Boys back with us for the occasion, including Major Matt Clarke (RRF), and Captains John Ashton (RRF), Chris Guest (Royal Lancers), Harry Joseph (Royal Signals) and Sam Meredith (Royal Military Police). On a more poignant note, it was shortly before the AGI that Lt Cdr Raynor joined the Chauhan family at the Armed Forces Memorial at Alrewas, to witness the unveiling of the name of Flt Lt Rakesh Chauhan RAF. He is still much in our minds.

It remains only for me to thank this year's Senior NCOs and Officers for all their service to the CCF, to thank the Chief Master for his support – and to drop hints that we have plans for the future! Watch this space...

DHR



A Year in the Life of an Army Cadet: The Conolly Platoon

I stood alongside a group of boys from my year who had signed up to join the Army Section of the school's CCF. We hadn't a clue what to do when the rest of the CCF was brought to attention and dismissed. 10 months later, we had just taken part in our first AGI (Annual General Inspection) and marched in front of British Army officers, many of them being Old Boys of the school.

So, what exactly happened within those 10 months? Well, we started with our first Expedition weekend, where we slept under bashers (one sided tents), and took part in two-night exercises, abseiling and weapons handling, as well as being taught how to survive by filtering water through moss and learning which plants were edible. We continued through the year with afternoons spent at the school's shooting range, learning how to march, having weapons-handling lessons and map work, to name a few activities. Our second expedition was to Snowdonia, where we went mountain-bike riding, climbing and a group even climbed Snowdon.

So, after 10 months we participated in our first AGI, where we showed what we had learnt throughout the year in a variety of displays, such as navigation, cooking and life on expeditions, and finished with an assault across South Field with blank ammunition. This capped off our year as members of the Conolly Platoon, and we look forward to joining Vyse Platoon next year where we will continue our training and expand our knowledge.

Cdt Jack Thompson



Banner presentation

At the start of the CCF's Annual General Inspection on 3 July 2015, the Contingent was presented with a Contingent Banner by the Senior Inspecting Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Keen, himself an Old Edwardian, who commanded the parade as a cadet in 1977.

The design of the Banner is based on the Regimental Colour of an infantry battalion of the British Army. On the traditional blue background is a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrock, known as the Union Wreath, representing the nations of the United Kingdom. Above this is the crown of Saint Edward, the crown worn by many Sovereigns, including Queen Elizabeth II, at their coronations. Within the wreath is a circlet bearing the name of the Contingent in gold lettering. Right at the centre of the Banner, within the circlet, is an emblem specially created for the occasion by the College of Arms. The emblem is a lion, one of the 'supporters' from the full heraldic arms of King Edward VI. Known as a 'lion rampant guardant', he faces forward towards the pole on both sides of the banner representing courage and strength. At his neck he carries an 'in-escutcheon' of the coat of arms of the School's founder, the familiar quartered shield with its fleurs-de-lys and 'lions passant guardant'.

Explaining the significance and symbolism of the Banner in a short speech of dedication at the start of the Parade, Lt Col Keen said: "Even though this Banner may appear to be just a new and shiny piece of cloth, it already bears the traditions, the spirit and the proud history of the countless young men from King Edward's who have served over the last four and a half centuries. When you see it, remember them, their leadership, their service and their sacrifice. More importantly, I hope it will inspire you and future generations of Officers and Cadets to follow the example they set and show that same sense of honour, integrity and devotion to duty in everything you do."

Navy first aid course

The Royal Navy Section of the CCF continues to provide opportunities to attend a variety of exciting summer courses. During the first week of the holiday myself and two other cadets attended a six day first aid course. We travelled to Plymouth to HMS Raleigh Naval Base where the chiefs of the base, along with other NCOs, welcomed us. The course was dedicated to learning the vital first aid skills required to successfully handle basic emergency situations, in addition to achieving a level 3 first aid qualification.

Each day focused on a different aspect of first aid; the first day was dedicated to learning the basic DRS ABC checklist until we were comfortable with following the checklist instinctively. In the days that followed we learned how to tie basic slings and fixtures using only the contents of a basic first aid kit. We learned how to react to and treat bleeding, an unconscious casualty and a conscious but deteriorating casualty. We learned the symptoms of hypoxia, were taught the difference between hypothermia and hyperthermia and how to respond to and treat each one with simple methods. This is just a taster of what we repeatedly practised until we knew what to do and more importantly what not to do by instinct in certain situations. In addition, as part of the practical side of the course, we were given scenarios with multiple casualties. In the evenings we took part in team building exercises, which the chiefs called Dogwatch, usually a sport in which members of every course participated, making the experience incredibly sociable as well as useful. We also finished the course a day early, so were taken to the local town to explore it.

Overall the experience was as enjoyable as it was valuable. The three of us who went completed the course and received a licence confirming we are first aid trained, but the course gave us much more; we made new friends and learned valuable life skills. We also left the course with an experience worth remembering and one that is definitely worth repeating. We would like to thank Lt Wareing for organising this trip and would absolutely recommend this, or any other course, to every cadet in the section.

Ojasvi Sharma



The battlefields of the First World War

This was not, perhaps, a usual trip for the selected bunch of CCF Cadets that took part in it. It did not involve dawn raids, coasteering or surfing, yet it did have an equally important, if not greater, purpose of remembering those that were lost in combat in the First World War. With the CCF party being part of a larger cohort comprising of UMs and Fourths, it became clear that the trip was of a truly insightful nature to all.

The group attended a service at St George's Memorial Church in Ypres, during which a plaque was dedicated to the Old Edwardians who lost their lives in the First World War. During the service, extracts from letters written by Old Edwardians during the war were read out along with the names of all 254 OEs who were killed in the conflict. The contingent from the CCF also represented the school at the Menin Gate ceremony, where a wreath was laid. This ceremony also coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Indian Army's entry into the First World War and was therefore attended by the Indian ambassador to Belgium.

The trip also visited sites such as Vimy Ridge, where the Canadians lost 3,500 men and is today a memorial site in which trench lines and artillery craters have been preserved. The visit to Langemark cemetery was perhaps more harrowing. This unimpressive and relatively small cemetery reminded us that the war had two sides and that the British and French were not the only countries to suffer losses. It was here, after all, where 25,000 unidentified German soldiers were buried in a space smaller than the Sacred Sod.

Standing at the Thiepval memorial on the Somme also highlighted the senselessness of war, as we overlooked the area of land in which the British Army lost over 19,000 men on 1 July 1916 alone, making it the worst day in British Military history.

No history teacher or textbook can ever fully relay the impact of standing next to the Monument at Vimy Ridge or next to the graves at Tyne Cot or Langemark. Only by standing there can you begin to comprehend the scale of the loss of life. Perhaps a more personal connection is that 254 of the names on these graves, or even just names on a monument, were Old Edwardians who, like us, used to wander the halls and classrooms of this school.

A special thanks must be given to Mr Fern for organising the entire trip, which is no easy task considering that over 40 boys took part, and to the rest of the staff, comprising of Mr Barratt, Mr and Mrs Milton and Mr Golightly. The CCF contingent also owes an enormous thanks to Lt Cdrs Raynor and Leaver.

Henry Thompson

KES/Solihull School Summer Army Camp

A trip like this departing the moment school finishes may put people off since it can interrupt holiday plans. However, the time missed is definitely worth it if you have a taste for adventure.

Staying in a military base, last year's Solihull School cadets vastly outnumbered those from KES. Since this was military housing and not a five star hotel, the beds were uncomfortable, there was no place to keep your bag except by your bed and there was a communal shower. The initial few days comprised of activities to prepare for the main exercise and night exercises designed to ruin your sleep. There was also a range day for all the sharpshooters and CoD enthusiasts. If you were lucky and nice enough to your senior officers, they allowed some luxuries, such as a trip to the convenience store or the privilege to watch a movie so you weren't completely cut off from the world.

The next few days were even more of a struggle. We camped out in a forest with only two ponchos for shelter... the definition of bliss! With one or two section attacks in the day, an attack or ambush at night and constant sentry duty surveillance even throughout the night, the exercise was gruelling (particularly with the ration pack food and endless midge bites!). Small snacks that won't melt and small insect repellent are recommended for future attendees. If you survive, you can claim your rewards on the last day in the form of a t-shirt or some waterproof goods (like a notepad or pencil case) or even some webbing.

Maybe it was the sense of accomplishment. Maybe it was the prizes and badges you earned at the end of it. Maybe it is because I am out of my mind (highly likely), but this was one of my favourite trips to date that I would highly recommend to others.

Cdt Samuel Miah



September Navy Expeditions Weekend

The first expedition in mid-September would come as a shock to any normal human being. With the majority of the naval section just getting used to the whole idea of getting up for school after a long summer holiday, the idea of giving up an entire weekend where sleep is limited would not excite many CCF Cadets.

However, we were visiting the Pembrokeshire Adventure Centre in South Wales and the activities put on were good enough for us to completely ignore the inevitable lack of sleep. After arriving on the Friday evening, we took part in a stealth activity which involved moving around the centre undetected to get to different activities with the aim of getting parts to a code, and which culminated in a final race to an undisclosed location. The next day was a combination of surfing and 'coasteering'. Surfing obviously needs no explanation, but coasteering can best be described as swimming into caves and climbing up to ledges at various heights and then jumping off them into the waves below. Saturday evening was organised by the Cadre, with the obligatory game of football and the now habitual bonfire and marshmallows.

After all of this, it was time for the section to return back to landlocked Birmingham and it is safe to say we were rather more tired and worn out than when we left. But that aside, this extremely enjoyable weekend was a great success and one that should be really looked forward to. Many thanks to Lt Wareing, Lt Cdr Raynor, Lt Cdr Leaver and Sub Lt Johnson who organised such a great weekend for the whole section.

Henry Thompson



March Navy Expeditions Weekend

The annual CCF Royal Navy expedition in March never fails to be a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, and this year it certainly was no different. The contingent stayed, as usual, on board the decommissioned type 82 destroyer, HMS Bristol, and by spending two nights here, with its narrow corridors and stairs, and marching to meals in uniform every day, we really got a sense of what it would be like as a real Navy Cadet. That was just one element of a vast array of things the various year groups had on offer to experience during the expedition – from powerboating for the Fourths and orienteering for the Fifths to helicopter underwater escape training for us, the Divisions, we all had a truly great Saturday to look forward to.

With everyone off on their respective activities, the cadre, after visiting the Royal Marines Museum, headed to the ANDARK diving and water sports centre where we were to enter an experience like no other – being strapped into a minibus-sized yellow capsule and told to escape, upon it being submerged underwater. Sound scary? Well, with the prospect of being submerged in this 'dunker' we all did, at the least, feel a slight sense of fear upon entering, but this would be, for the majority, the most enjoyable activity undertaken in the CCF so far. This dunker represented the type of cabin you would normally find in commercial helicopters/small aircrafts and being taught how to escape in the unfortunate situation of the pilot having to ditch the aircraft in water was definitely a great survival skill to have. We performed three escapes – one with 45° submersion, a second the same but with windows attached to the dunker which we had to remove, and a final one with us being turned a whole 180°; being turned upside down, this was definitely the trickier one to master. But, the fun didn't end there – we, of course, had to learn what to do after escaping the hull. This involved jumping from a considerable height, interlocking with the others and swimming backwards, flipping an upside down raft and finally entering it, all while being sprayed with water.

Everyone returned to Bristol in the evening having had a very enjoyable time and, while some embarked on a night sail, we completed the day with the usual football tournament. The following day involved a visit and tour in Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, and this would mark the completion of another great expedition. Having learnt so much, it really comes to show how much we gain by being part of the CCF Navy Section, and I'd like to thank all the teachers, Lt Wareing, Lt Cdr Raynor, Lt Cdr Leaver and Sub Lt Johnson for putting in the effort to make these expeditions possible.

Raghav Aggarwal



9

Words

Ode to Ohm, or A Long Limerick

There once was a man named Ohm,
Who spent much of his life on his own,
Despite being a teacher, and a gentle creature,
His laws are things we cannot condone.

Above all, Ohm gave us a sign,
Which he nicked from the Greeks to define,
A measure of obstruction, dissimilar to Conduction;
Like a metallic picket line.

Imagine an electron called Bryan,
Who's picked on by an enormous ion; (We'll call him Dave)
Bryan says to Dave, "Get out of the way!"
- You can't blame the little guy for tryin'.

You see, Dave is ten thousand times bigger,
And although Bryan tries with some vigour,
It's a difficult feat, and makes a lot of heat,
But Dave's got a backside like a digger.

So Bryan turns up late for work,
And his conceited boss gives him a smirk,
Saying, "What took you so long? Where d'you go wrong?"
And Bryan reaches 'positive', quite irked.

Ohm was into domestic violence;
He saw the plight of electrons in wires,
He gave it a name; slowing electrons the aim:
And the cognomen – it was inspired.

Ohm called his idea 'Resistance',
A measure of an ion's persistence,
In slowing electrons, behaving like felons
(And Bryan's boss offers no assistance.)

And so the odious Ode to Ohm ends;
For resistance gains as the poem extends –
I'll keep the boundary short, but please spare a thought,
For Bryan and the message he sends.

Nick Dowling

In Achilles' Wake A sonnet after Homer's Iliad

Lame, impotent conclusion to youth's dreams
Vast as the whole heavens! *See, what glory lies*
Entangled here in these base stratagems,
What virtue done to death! O glorious sighs,
Sublime beseechings, high cajoleries,
Fond wraths, brave raptures, all that sometime was
Our daily bread of gods beneath the skies,
How are you destroyed, in what utter loss!
Time was, Time is, and Time is yet to come,
Until even Time itself shall have an end.
These were eternal – and, behold, a tomb.
Come, let us laugh and eat and drink. God send
What all the world must one day need as we,
Speedy oblivion, rest for memory.

Anonymous

The Capital A sonnet for Karl Marx

The harried business man, strong, marching,
Yet hurried, panicked, by a deal impending,
Immoral incarnate, irreligious notwithstanding,
The nature of the capital of capital coping,
With countless small faces, empty, passive, passing,
Aged by days of years of chaos – progress stifling.
Like the warm wind of the Underground rushing
Nightmarish to the rat of work and labour, now fleeing;
From the oncoming storm of destruction;
whilst gagged or gagging,
The evil stench of rot and corruption, decaying
Into dust, slowly, under the sickle disappearing,
A culture, a city, being hammered or harnessed; not seeing
The merchants turning, learning, teaching,
The unfortunate nature of living and being.

Anonymous

'What all the world must one day need as we,
Speedy oblivion, rest for memory.'

The Mole

The velvet coat, black as the night.
Slightly ruffled, no longer tight,
The unknown gardener twists left, right.

The forlorn monk, down to earth,
Yet as blind as a baby, new from birth,
He lives in a prison, absent from mirth.

Anonymous

The Goddess of the Green

In a place far, far away
It was never night and always day,
Where beds of tulips and roses lay
Amongst maple trees that did gently sway,
The Land of the Serene.
There was not an inkling of vice
That this land did entice,
And in the centre of this paradise,
The Goddess of the Green.

Yet whilst she moved through the light
Past her creation's mystical sight,
Her one wish was that she might
Have someone with whom she could unite
In the Land of the Serene.
And so she tried to create
But Man she could not cultivate,
Thus she entered stalemate,
The Goddess of the Green.

And one painful morn she cried
That she did not have one by her side,
No one in whom she could confide
She therefore bore Chance, cruel and snide,
Into the Land of the Serene.
Then Chance offered her a deal,
Which only her abdication could seal,
Ready to give up her powers, she did kneel,
The Goddess of the Green.

And so Man came, and love she found:
She thought her love would have no bound
But Man ravaged the sea and ploughed the ground
And went hunting with his hound,
No longer the Land of the Serene.
In her mind she made a plan
And did away with cunning Man,
Thus she healed her gentle clan,
The Widow of the Green.

Indraj Gandham

The Outside World

What I am about to tell you might seem scary,
The world outdoors is not that friendly.
In here, we are in a safety bubble,
But out there you will struggle.

First of all, the cars zoom past,
Soon you will be in a cast.
They rev those engines to intimidate,
And they are too slow to slam on those brakes.

Secondly, crime is high,
Every now and then people die.
Guns, knives and weapons of all sorts,
Gangs are rarely taken to courts.

Next are those sounds known as noise,
They are not so coy.
They mark danger,
Just like an invader.

These are just one or two lessons;
They are for you.
These are only a few,
So beware as there are many more too.

I saved the worst for last,
I feel it coming, I will tell you fast:
Darkness,
It is for the heartless.

Listen, there is one thing I must say,
One message I hope to convey.
Outside
Is not where you want to stay.

Harjeevan Kang

The Stag

A proud head rises from the snow;
The others, fearful, turn to go.
A fight is imminent, they know.

The two launch off, the savage beasts;
Their reputations, neither will keep
Into the white snow, red blood will seep.

In five minutes, the fight is over.
Both have fought for a shared lover.
Little do they know, she loves neither.

Tom Hao

The Battle of South Field

We marched across the rain-soaked ground
With the absence of despair;
Our pride was with consequence,
As us fifteen would dare.

What we saw in front of us
Was a ground of disarray,
Though this did not frighten us –
To the enemy's dismay.

"Hark!" I cried to my scared men.
"Make them pay with blood!
For this is the time of victory;
So charge with me through mud."

Then the words of foe did sound;
These words I do recall:
"Fight against these foreign men
So they will speak no more."

But as the Captain of my team,
Strength I showed to them:
"Our Pride is something given by God,
Unlike these wretched men."

O how we ran through mist and fog;
What troubles lay ahead
Through collisions, mines, and artillery –
Yet none amongst us fled.

Fifteen men nearing hither;
How would each man fall?
With only twenty paces left
Until the Devil's hall.

For the greatness of the field
When the day was done
Defeat delivered on th'Achilles' heel:
Victory had we won.

That is how I remember it
The victory that we sealed –
On that cold winter's Saturday;
The battle of South Field.

Wai Ho Chui

The Battle of the Somme, 1916

We are the restless, haunted by the ghosts of war. Death is imprinted onto our minds and around us lingers a longing to return to the days of the past; through life or death. I know that it's useless; no number of men could win this now. But the idiotic bravery, that drives us forward, is the fire that we burn with. That flame soon to be extinguished. 'We must push on,' they say; 'we are not dead yet'. No not yet; I am not one of the dead, the fallen warriors, but any time I could join them. No, I am not one of the bodies that lie scattered across no-man's-land. A land scarred by wars of man.

Forward where the knocks are hardest, some to failure, some to fame.

The days of comfort are gone, replaced with suffering. We learn only the art of war; how to inflict the pain we feel. What I wouldn't give to be back in the upper corridors of the school, with its stone walls; the rock that sheltered me from the world that I now know to be so horrific. I sometimes wonder why we fight for it. We are the pawns in the games of leaders, cannon-fodder. We are tiny specks of dust on a board upon which the game of power is being played.

The dark spires of the school façade that stretched ever upwards, are replaced with dead trees; their trunks erupting from the ground and jagged branches piercing the sky. The stone walls that I have grown so fond of are changed to dirt barriers, scored by the scrabbling of men that went over the top, willingly; they too are long-dead. And remembering what life was like before is hard; the things that I remember are far too few. And now the irony of the song of the school; once would've been sung heartily but it now speaks of our despair.

Never mind the cheers or hooting; keep your head and play the game.

When the time came for me to cross the trench, a cold seeped into my veins, unlike any feeling I could have imagined or experienced before. A terrifying alertness suddenly awakens in me; realising how many men were being sent to their deaths. My hands grab the mud and I pull myself up, fingers leaving the cursed marks for the next soldiers to see. More bodies have fallen on the barbed wire; making it disgustingly easy to cross. I see comrades fall around me hands clutching at a wound that sends blood flowering across their bodies. I charge and though I hate it, hate them – these monsters of men. I charge because I'll *die of service; not of rust...*

Elijah Amiss

'I charge because
I'll die of service;
not of rust...'



10

Societies

Biomedical Society

Biomedical sciences is a fascinating discipline combining knowledge of diseases and the human body to contribute to the development of the health care sector. As a new and enthusiastic society, we aim to explore a wide range of medical areas and to bring to light various weird and wonderful conditions. To do this, we not only engage our members, we also invite professionals who are experts in their fields to give talks and to inspire our members to consider a medical or scientific career.

For our first ever event we had an interesting presentation from a Division, Mohammed Adnan, on the topic of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (also known as Motor Neurone Disease), a debilitating neurological disease that has recently drawn public attention and funding in the craze of the 'Ice Bucket Challenge'. Throughout the talk, Adnan showed a real passion and interest in neurology. From a brief explanation of the action potential of motor neurones to an overview of the characteristic symptoms, such as muscle atrophy and dysarthria, Adnan provided details of potential treatments for ALS.

In March, Mr Johnson, a member of the Clinical Laboratory Services Management at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, kindly gave a talk on a career in the biomedical sciences. Armed with a range of medical nomenclature, he guided us through the different services in the NHS and examined a variety of pathogens, from the infamous MRSA to the deadly flesh-eating bacteria, *Streptococcus pyogenes*. This event was also attended by some from KEHS, who were clearly as interested in the biomedical and clinical professions as we were.

As a brand new society, this year has been more successful than we could have hoped. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the society for dedicating their Thursday lunchtimes and for their enthusiastic participation. I would also like to thank our supervisor, Mr Witcombe, for giving us so much support and advice in setting up the society. We all look forward to building on what has been a great start and in the future we hope to give all year groups the chance to learn about this scientific field.

Magnus Yap

Agora

Kyri Koumi, Russell Evans and Sol Rosier did a great job this year of running Agora Society, where any topic, be it philosophical, religious or ethical, may be presented and discussed.

A good number of the Sixths prepared and presented talks themselves including Ben Lumley asking, 'Is Pleasure the Highest Good?' and Russell Evans raising some of the many controversial assertions in German philosopher Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals*. Inspired by an Open Day lecture at King's College London, Guy Withers presented 'The Changing Faces of Jesus in Art', and Will Ritchie-Moulin delivered an impressive talk on 'The Ethical Implications of the Multiverse Theory'. Humza Ahmad hosted the very first junior Agora debating 'What is the Appeal of Islamic State?' Following group discussions Humza spoke from his own faith perspective about why he cannot see the Qur'an as coincident with such an organisation.

All of the above are 'IB philosophers' but the society welcomes any pupil to prepare and deliver a talk. We were delighted to welcome back OE Kit Fowler, in his final year at the University of Cambridge, who gave a wonderfully enlightening and dynamic talk on what it is like to study Theology at university. We were also privileged to welcome Dr Ashley Cocksworth (Dr Hannah Cocksworth's husband) who spoke on 'Evil in Pop Culture' focusing on *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Batman*, and *The Dark Knight*, aligning JK Rowling's interpretation of evil with Augustine's, who he was sure she would have studied given her academic background. As ever, meetings were well attended, mainly from upper school but with some brave lower school pupils also.

Nathan White

Careers Club

Careers Club provides students with fascinating tours through a range of different employment sectors. It aims to give them some initial exposure to jobs they may like to pursue after school or university, stimulate their interest and even be a form of motivation.

Meeting at least twice a term, the Club invites external speakers to the school to give presentations on their career paths and provide a taste of what is on offer to them in the future.

The Club aims to feature both more common careers, and also those which are a little more unusual. Speakers so far include Matin Durrani, an Old Edwardian who is currently editor of the popular scientific magazine *Physics World*; Captain James Feasby of the Royal Marines; Miriam Gaskell, a senior physiotherapist; and Divisional Directors of engineering company Mott MacDonald, Ashley Taylor and Richard Green (another former pupil). There have even been talks from the lead curator of Spoken Word at the British Library, Jonnie Robinson; and James and Annie Andronov, members of the police force.

Next year's diary is already filling up and is set to be a year with an interesting and diverse range of speakers. Careers Club is thoroughly recommended to all students in the senior years, and those who are younger as well. Even if they have no idea which career they want to pursue, at the very least, the Club supplies them with some idea of what is available. Who knows? It may even be an inspiration!

HAF



Bookworms

Once again KES bibliophiles came together as the Bookworms society to share another year of fantastic fiction-reading. A brilliant 25 boys from Shells and Rems and nine boys from Upper Middles and Fourths took part over the year. Of course, as tradition now dictates, this also included the sharing of several large slices of cake!

As always, the boys themselves chose the books to be enjoyed. The UMs opted for the thought provoking titles of *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. The Shells and Rems enjoyed laughing along with Ben as he joined in an adventure with his criminally minded Grandmother in *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams. They partook in a bit of time travel back to the 1950s with Ali Sparkes's *Frozen in Time*. We were scared silly by the creepy ghost stories from *Thirteen Chairs* by Dave Shelton.

But the book to make the biggest impression this year was the novel *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. The Shells and Rems (and Mrs Babb, Mrs Fletcher-Burns and Dr Galloway) went on an emotional rollercoaster with August, a 10-year-old boy facing all the usual

stresses and emotions of being 10 and starting a new school, but having to do so with the added pressure of severe facial disfigurement. The boys responded with maturity and empathy. And nobody involved could say they didn't finish the book feeling ever so slightly changed. The hallmark of a great book! In fact, it is the only book in the history of Bookworms to get a resounding '10 out of 10'!

As we begin the new school year, the new tiny Shell Worms have been already wiggling into the library to sign up. Who knows where the next books might take us! We are also looking forward to the return of the Grand High Worm herself, Mrs Babb, from maternity leave.

A big thanks to Mrs Atay for running the club for the older boys. A further thanks to Lee Child for his donation that goes towards the purchase of the books and the sustenance (i.e. cake!) that we need to keep us going through such incredible, emotional, hilarious, dangerous and scary booky adventures.

KAFB

Cookery Society



This year saw the launch of Cookery Society: a society with the aim of giving boys a solid grounding in cookery, allowing them to develop their knowledge and skills. There is nothing quite like discovering a passion for food and ensuring you having the ability and confidence to access a healthy and acceptable diet. For too long, beans on toast, pot noodles and ready meals have been passed down by men for generations. In today's society, boys must also know and learn how to cook, even if it is a routine and drudgery. It is evident that the 21st century man can only benefit from learning how to cook – it's a necessity!

In its first year, Cookery Society was lucky enough to secure two guest speakers: Brendan Lynch, the runner-up from series three of *The Great British Bake Off*, and Solomon Akhtar, a finalist in the 10th series of *The Apprentice*. Brendan spoke to us about his time on the BBC cookery show, where his passion for baking began, as well as the different ingredients that he uses and the problems with modern hybridised wheat. He strongly encouraged the boys to ditch the convenience, learn to cook, and give ourselves a healthy future. As for Solomon, he didn't really speak much about cooking, but we did organise the talk!

Perhaps one of the highlights of the year was having Dr Fennell, our very own Chemistry teacher, who appeared on the highly popular Channel 4 show, *Come Dine with Me*, demonstrate his take on cooking. He told us of his experiences on the show and how he tried to incorporate Chemistry into each of his meal courses.

Amongst these three notable talks, there have been countless talks given by members of the Society, including our youngest member, Gillis Robbie, on making chocolate éclairs and various boys in the Divisions on the topics of healthy eating, the history of tea and possible solutions to the global food crisis.

The Society is new and still finding its feet, but we are confident that it will prosper, given the exuberance of our members, and next year promises to be just as exciting. We would like to give special thanks to Miss Lee, our supervising teacher, without whom Cookery Society would not be possible.

Shiv Sarna and Chris Dillon

Mace Debating Competition

This year, Mr Stacey audaciously picked Greg Lecky and me – two meek Fifth formers – to represent the school in this year's ESU Schools' Mace Debating Competition. A contest in which we would encounter seasoned and more experienced debaters often two years our senior, we couldn't help but be apprehensive.

The competition released its motions (the topics to be discussed) to the debaters before it began, allowing us to do some research and preparation. Each round involved four teams and two separate debates, each with two teams of two. The four teams were then ranked by performance.

With slight trepidation, we entered the first round, hosted by Edgbaston High School for Girls, having been pitted against Old Swinford Hospital School. We were tasked with proposing an interesting but difficult motion of introducing a system of 100% inheritance tax! After much research and consultation with our coach, we had formulated a line of argument which impressed the judges as we qualified in first place (much to Mr Stacey's surprise!) alongside Camp Hill Girls who took the final spot in the next round having beaten EHS in their debate.

The second round was held at Queen Mary's Grammar School, where we faced Camp Hill Girls and opposed the topical debate that 'Politicians who break election promises should trigger a by-election'. Once more, the solid structure of our speeches and well-developed ideas resulted in a win as we overcame Camp Hill in our debate. We surpassed Queen Mary's and Tamworth Sixth Form Academy (who discussed the idea of creating a universal basic income) to qualify in first place and take the only place to the next round: the West of England Final.

A place in the national final was up for grabs, but we tried not to get our hopes up too high – we were still novices in comparison to our rivals and with only one team out of four progressing, the competition was fierce. We arrived at Royal Grammar School Worcester to face Cheltenham Ladies' College, with the aim of opposing the introduction of compulsory infant vaccinations.

Having had limited preparation, we struggled yet still narrowly managed to defeat our opponents in our debate. However, we were still being ranked against the second debate between RGS Worcester and Solihull School. After the first few speeches, it was clear to see that the sheer quality of this second debate meant that third place was all we could achieve – the home team of RGS Worcester qualified for the national final with a team worthy of their success.

So debating at a national level eluded us this year. However, as a young team rapidly gaining experience (who are lucky enough to be under the watchful eyes of Mr Stacey), hope is high for further success next year!

Lokesh Jain

Islamic Society

The Islamic Society takes pride in including boys from every year group. Arguably, this has allowed us to achieve one of our most successful years so far: the new Shells are included from the very beginning. Every Friday, the Society gathers to hear our youngest members give religious speeches - known as the 'khutbah'. They also make our prayers much more memorable by providing some welcoming noise and music.

A long-standing tradition of Islamic Society is to host the KES Eid Party. Run by the Sixth Form, the party is open to anyone in the school - regardless of religion or belief - and is a highlight of the school calendar. This year, the Sixth Form hosts organised an incredible event, particularly Sheharyar Khan, who ensured the party ran as smoothly as possible. The event was also attended by many Old Edwardians: this made it that bit more special for both pupils and teachers alike.

A second highlight of the year was when Talha Ghannam, president of LSE's very own Islamic Society, came and gave a talk on Islam and finance. His talk was mainly focused on how a combination of Islamic teachings and economic principles could lead to a better vision for the future of finance. His talk was as intriguing as it was inspiring.

Lastly, I would like to thank Reverend Raynor for his permission for the Eid Party to take place, and also Mr Phillips, who allowed the funding for our marvellous food (there was a lot: without him, there would be none). I will also thank every single Old Edwardian, teacher and pupil who attended any or all of our events: it is because of you that Islamic Society can flourish.

Eyad Abuelgasim

Junior Debating Society



This school year has been extremely eventful for junior debaters. From Shells through to Fourths, Wednesday lunchtimes have been filled with excitement, fun and games (and even an occasional sweet treat!), and of course the excellent leadership of Fifths pupils Josh Markman Morris and Toby Jowitt. They passed the baton on to Altay Gardiner and Aloysius Lip in the summer term, and of course, it wouldn't be the same without the ongoing support and dedication of Mrs Atay and more recently Mrs Gillow too.

Debates covered topics as wide ranging as gambling, privacy and drugs. In each session, the mentors aimed to develop speaking and thinking skills in order to prepare boys for occasional debates and competitions which take place in the Fourths and Fifths. A variety of games have been introduced this year to provide entertainment for everybody, both students and teachers. It is always great fun to watch Shells take on Fourths or to have boys of all ages 'challenge' Raheem Humphreys in an all-new game of Flip-Flop. Raheem withstands the abuse admirably and remains unbeaten!

Two competitions took place this year that followed the Public Speaking and British Parliamentary styles of debate. For the ESU Public Speaking competition KES put forward two exceptionally strong teams, and between them they won all awards going. Team A members Alex Pett, Toby Jowitt and Lokesh Jain won the Birmingham competition after two rounds, restoring the Birmingham Cup to KES with Best Speech (Alex), Best Chair (Toby), and Best Questioner (Lokesh). Team B, made up by Fourths Aloysius Lip and Ben Cudworth, with Josh Markman Morris from the Fifths also filling in, likewise performed excellently. They were runners-up to KES Team A, Aloysius taking an award for Best Personality in both rounds. Alex, Toby and Lokesh won through to the regional final of the ESU Public Speaking Competition against stiff competition from King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls (eventual runners-up) and Solihull School (whose team, featuring the same speaker as last year, won through to the National Final on that occasion in 2014). The topics covered by the teams ranged from Aloysius ably discussing Islamic Extremism and Western Intervention to Alex speaking maturely and fluently both on the role of Art and later, why the EU must be preserved at all costs.

The second competition, ICYD, was the national British Parliamentary competition that took place at the Oxford Union. With little experience, the pair of Aloysius Lip and Altay Gardiner managed to finish a respectable 15th. Their biggest success of the day was winning the all-important prepared debate on the motion 'This house would not give development aid to countries that abuse Gay Rights'.

Debating is very useful for improving public speaking, confidence and other important life skills, but it is also very good fun! One of the best things about debate is that there is always a winner. When you join our Junior Debating Society, you will find yourself winning arguments both in JDS and beyond; it's really worth it!

Altay Gardiner

Economics Society

Economics and Business Society doesn't exactly fall into one category very easily: it's not uncommon for our talks to range from serious current affairs to economic theory applied to everyday happenings. With bi-weekly meetings on a Wednesday lunchtime, the Society aims to spark an interest in these two subjects which are only offered on curriculum at IB level. Of course, depending on the topic of our talks and discussions, the crowd we receive is often varied.

Interaction is key in a society such as this; not only do we hold group discussions, as we did when the topic of Scottish independence was making headlines all around the UK, but we try to create a friendly, inclusive atmosphere. Generating an interest in a new subject or topic is sometimes best achieved by participation, so, in the summer of last year we held our first '£1 Challenge', where participants try to gain as much profit as possible over a period of one month, beginning with just £1. The sense of entrepreneurialism and creativity was insuppressible once the competition was underway, and the winner ended up making over £200!

Of course we also hold more light-hearted talks, and, with an audience of both boys and girls, teachers and students, we held our most popular talk on the economics of marriage and sex. We attempted to portray the supposed market for marriage, and how gender stereotypes might affect decision making, concluding that for more marriages to be successful, a contract would probably have to be drawn up specifying wants and needs (however we did take all emotions out of the equation!). Ahead of us, we have a talk performed by some of our top economics students, analysing the drug market in America and its relation to crime from an economic perspective.

To the Sixth Formers undertaking the IB, the Society ticks the CAS box as we tackle global issues occasionally, as well as donating the proceedings from the £1 Challenge to a charity of our choice. For those students aiming to apply for either Economics or Business Management, university applications, in particularly for Oxbridge, can be boosted as attendants show an interest in the subject outside of the standard curriculum by showing up. We are also closely linked with the School's Target 2.0 team, where four students are selected to take on the role of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, and assess how they could achieve the country's ideal rate of inflation of 2.0%. The School boasts an admirable record in the competition, having reached the national finals on various occasions.

I'd like to thank Mr Coverdale for providing us with the opportunity and room for our society. Hopefully, Economics and Business Society can continue to inspire future economists and businessmen and lead them along their chosen career paths.

Pratinav Sinha

Senior Schools' Challenge



This past year saw another run of extraordinary success from the various KES Schools' Challenge teams. The year began with three senior teams taking part in the Regional Round of the competition, held in Birmingham in mid-November.

Our 3rd team (Phillip Holt (c), Alex Pett, Raheem Humphreys and Gabriel Bruce) lost to the 1st team from KECHB (who, ultimately, competed with our own 1st team in the evening's Final) while our 2^{nds} (Nick Wyatt (c), Josh Kimblin, Aloysius Lip and Aroun Kalyana) lost by just 100 points to the KE Stratford 1st team, also in the first round. Fortunately, our 'A' team of Yanbo Yin (c), Patrick Wernham, Alex Jarvis and Howard Kordan ran through their opponents like the proverbial hot knife through butter and took the evening's honours in the Final.

We then moved on to the Inter-Regional Round, travelling away to Leicester Grammar School in late March to play this qualifier for the National Finals. After 10 minutes it was all square at 250-250 and looking like it was going to be a close-run thing. At this point the KES boys got out of first gear and the poor LGS boys hardly got another look-in during the final 20 minutes of the match.

On to Westminster for the National Finals at the end of April, where we were drawn against the host team in the Quarter-Finals, running up an early lead which was never relinquished despite a very strong late run by the Westminster boys. We then went on to a comfortable victory against Abbey Grammar School, Newry in the Semi-Final, before meeting the unbelievably good Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School in the Final. Thus, the KES team had to settle for the National Runners-up trophy, which still represents a monumental achievement on their part. Congratulations indeed to Alex and Howard, who will no doubt fight again in future as seniors, but especially to Yanbo and Patrick, who (alas) have represented KES for the last time, having served faithfully for several years, and now leave for pastures new.

Post-script: At the time of writing, former KES Challenge captain Ben Fernando is appearing on TV in the current series of University Challenge for the Imperial team. They won their first-round match with the highest score (thus far), and with Ben performing very impressively indeed.

TFC

Senior Debating Society

KES Debating Society must surely be one of the most secretive societies at school, at the best of times. One evening after school each week barely a handful of boys gather in Mr Stacey's classroom to discuss current affairs or try and form a practice debate. Matters are somewhat confused by insufficient numbers for full debates and this can often lead to boys taking on more than one role in the debate, or even one of SLS's semi-legendary 'remember boys I'm doing this without any notes' speeches. This year, however, as IB and Oxbridge preparation took its toll, we arrived at King Edward's Sheldon Heath for the first round of the Oxford Union competition after a single practice, sandwiched between mock exams on the same day.

The first round was a challenge, with both Solihull and Camp Hill Girls providing tough competition. We fielded two teams: one made up of myself and Yanbo Yin; and the other of Tom Barrett and Lokesh Jain. The first debate was on the topic of whether security services should be allowed to assassinate foreign dictators and warlords – a difficult topic for the opposition, who found themselves essentially defending the right of dictators to commit massacres. The second debate was concerned with whether parents should be forced to split parental leave equally. Evidently, both teams impressed the judge as we progressed to finals day in March.

The Oxford Union Finals always offer some unusual motions, like 'This House Would Use Torture', which appeared in the first

debate. This left the sensitive, Amnesty-supporting writer lauding the merits of Guantanamo Bay. Our liberal judge wasn't overly enamoured towards our arguments but we fought hard and managed to scrape third place out of four. That result meant we found ourselves in a slightly easier room for the second debate, where the topic was on the dangers (or not) of payday loan companies. Once again finding ourselves on the 'harsher' side of the debate, Yanbo convincingly argued for the importance of responsibility and dignity, and we came first. Further debates featured the abstract motion 'This House Regrets the Rise of the Women's Magazine' and the slightly more contentious topic of whether the UK should open its borders to migrants completely. Against a field of arch-feminists, we came fourth in the former but won the latter.

Both KES teams gave a great account of themselves on the day, and our results of third, first, fourth and first left us in 33rd position. The team of Tom Barrett and Aloysius Lip finished in 46th position after more consistent finishes of second, second, third and third. These results were out of 96 teams on the day, and some 800 overall, and both teams were the highest-placed Midlands teams by some distance. As ever our thanks go to Mr Stacey for both transport and his words of wisdom. Our time spent debating these past four years has never been less than entertaining, and the leavers will always remember to think outside of our 'liberal consensus'!

Patrick Wernham

Junior Schools' Challenge

We started our Junior Challenge season in January with practices every Tuesday lunchtime. Through these sessions Miss Bubb selected the teams to go through to the Regional Round of the Junior School's Challenge Competition, which this year was held at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall. King Edward's was represented by two teams: the 1st team being Aroun Kalyana, Joseph Ward (c), Shiv Mandal and Toby Wallis and the 2nd team of Andrew Fung, George Zhang (c), John Philip Stolberg and Rishit Harsh.

Both teams won their first two matches taking them through to the third round but unfortunately the second team then narrowly lost to Queen Mary's 1st team. Our 1st team happily carried on their winning streak, regaining the regional trophy by beating the Queen Mary's team by a convincing score, 760-590.

Winning the regional competition took us through to the Inter-Regional Round, which we played against The Perse School, Cambridge in June. The journey east took longer than the match itself; being two and a half hours each way with the match lasting just 30 minutes! We competed positively throughout, answering a huge variety of questions on different



subject matter and of differing difficulty from 'Which animated series and films feature four teenagers and a dog who call themselves Mystery Inc?' to 'The inhabitants of which country call it Österreich?' and 'What chocolate bar used to be called Marathon?'.

Unfortunately, The Perse were just a little faster than us on the buzzer on the vital starter questions, and beat us in what was a close match. What a sad ending to our enjoyable season!

Aroun Kalyana and CRB

Living History

Most Living History articles serve to review the year's events, and offer a rare insight into the mysterious workings of the Group. More importantly, most of these articles are written by Mr Davies. This year is unusual, however, as Mr Davies is retiring and has not penned an article. Instead, a celebration of his work over the past year is required, as it is representative of his efforts over the past 17. Given that he once observed that ordinary people get epitaphs, whereas great men get epithets, it seems fitting to consider what epithet posterity will grant him.



Davies the Conqueror

Bereft of a Medieval History set and the opportunity to teach them about the Fall of Constantinople for one last time, Mr Davies decided to assume Mehmet the Conqueror's mantle. For the past year, therefore, he has been conquering places as a pass-time. It started with the siege of Bolsover Castle. Then the Daviesmarcht captured Carlisle, and Kenilworth quickly followed. He then defended Chepstow, Raglan, and Tretower in quick succession, before rounding off the year by bombarding the Tower of London. Mehmet needed 70 cannon to take one city. Davies the Conqueror took four castles with three. Never, in the field of human combat, has so much been won with so few (cannon).

Davies the Logician

These military feats are all the more impressive when one considers that Mr Davies organised nearly all of them. Ably assisted by Miss Asher, Miss Leaver and Miss Baker, he authentically fed the group on over 25 days of re-enactment. He transported entire siege trains, including a three-tonne trebuchet, from Dover to the Scottish border. What's more, he made or renovated nearly all of the Group's kit; for example, two of our three cannon were built by hand. Every bow-string oiled; every arrow knock attached; every piece of armour polished. The most impressive aspect of Mr Davies' logistics is that every item of kit arrives, (reasonably) clean and functional, wherever we go. The importance of this can't be appreciated unless you have spent three nights sleeping rough, having forgotten a tent pole.

Davies the Wise

When not conquering places, or preparing to do so, Mr Davies has contributed substantially to the school's Outreach programme. He has visited over 50 primary schools, and many more have visited him during Friday afternoons. He has taught everything from the Romans to the First World War, often with the appropriate dress. As he once commented: "My attire is unusual at best. This afternoon, I will be an Egyptian, wearing a loincloth and some sand, so count yourselves lucky that you got me wearing a suit." No doubt they have enjoyed his lessons as much as KES boys have done. Davies the Wise is never less than engaging. He once returned from a class of enthusiastic but loud eight year olds and reflected: "Then again, maybe I shouldn't have used the flamethrower..."

Davies the Retired?

Is Mr Davies' final epithet truly to be 'the Retired'? The Group will continue to operate – thrive, indeed – in the future. Regardless, retirement doesn't suit Mr Davies' character. On his final day as a teacher, he noted that he was eligible for a free bus pass. Having shuddered at the thought, he climbed into a van and drove an invasion force to Leeds. No, History will remember Mr Davies as 'Davies the Irreplaceable' and 'Davies the Everlasting'. Long may he prosper.

Joshua Kimblin



Maths Challenges



The UK Maths Trust runs two Maths Team Challenge competitions, each entered by more than 1,000 school teams from across the country.

The senior version, run in conjunction with the Further Maths Support Programme, started in November with a Regional Round. The KES team of Harrison Green (capt.), Clement Chan, Jeremy Ho and Vidy Reddy travelled to Solihull to compete against teams from a dozen local schools. The evening comprised three rounds of mathematical problems, each of which had to be solved under timed conditions with great accuracy. Amazingly, they managed to answer every single question correctly on the evening, and only dropped three points on the very last question by failing to answer it in time to collect the time-related bonus. This gave them a total score of 161/164 and made sure they took the evening's honours by a significant margin. If this seemed to be an extraordinary achievement, they went on to better that performance with a perfect score in the National Finals, held in London in early February. In a competition lasting nearly all day, and involving 77 teams of regional winners, the boys earned joint first place alongside two other teams with a total score of 176/176 – a truly fantastic accomplishment.

The junior KES team of Anyi Wang (capt.), Mingke Peng, Mark Li and Aroun Kalyana began their labours in the Regional Finals of the JTMC held at Wolverhampton Girls' HS in late March, involving almost 30 teams from the West Midlands/Black Country area. Unlike their senior counterparts, the Junior KES team brought shame and dishonour on the School by getting three questions wrong (out of 112). They then compounded the horror of their crimes by being slow on a further two questions, meaning that they failed completely to score anything more respectable than a measly 221/236 in total in order to seize the title of Regional Champions. Thus, they too went on to compete in the National Finals in London, this time in late June, where they faced off against 87 teams in a day's worth of competitive activities. Sadly, a poor first round meant that they had an uphill struggle in the remaining rounds, and they managed only 14th place by the time the final whistle went. Nevertheless, their performances throughout the year were a tremendous credit to themselves and to the School, and 14th place out of almost 1,800 schools is no mean achievement.

Congratulations to all these boys for their efforts.

TFC

Scientific Society

Scientific Society celebrated one of its finest years this year, welcoming a wide variety of guests from across the country and from a great number of fields to talk about all sorts of topics.

The year began with a talk from Dr Timothy Jackson from the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Birmingham. Dr Jackson gave an exciting talk about the future of communications with his talk on the 'Characterisation of Electronic Materials with Microwaves'. Dr Jackson gave us a look into how communications are evolving and the work the University of Birmingham is doing to achieve futuristic technologies which will one day be embedded in our phones!

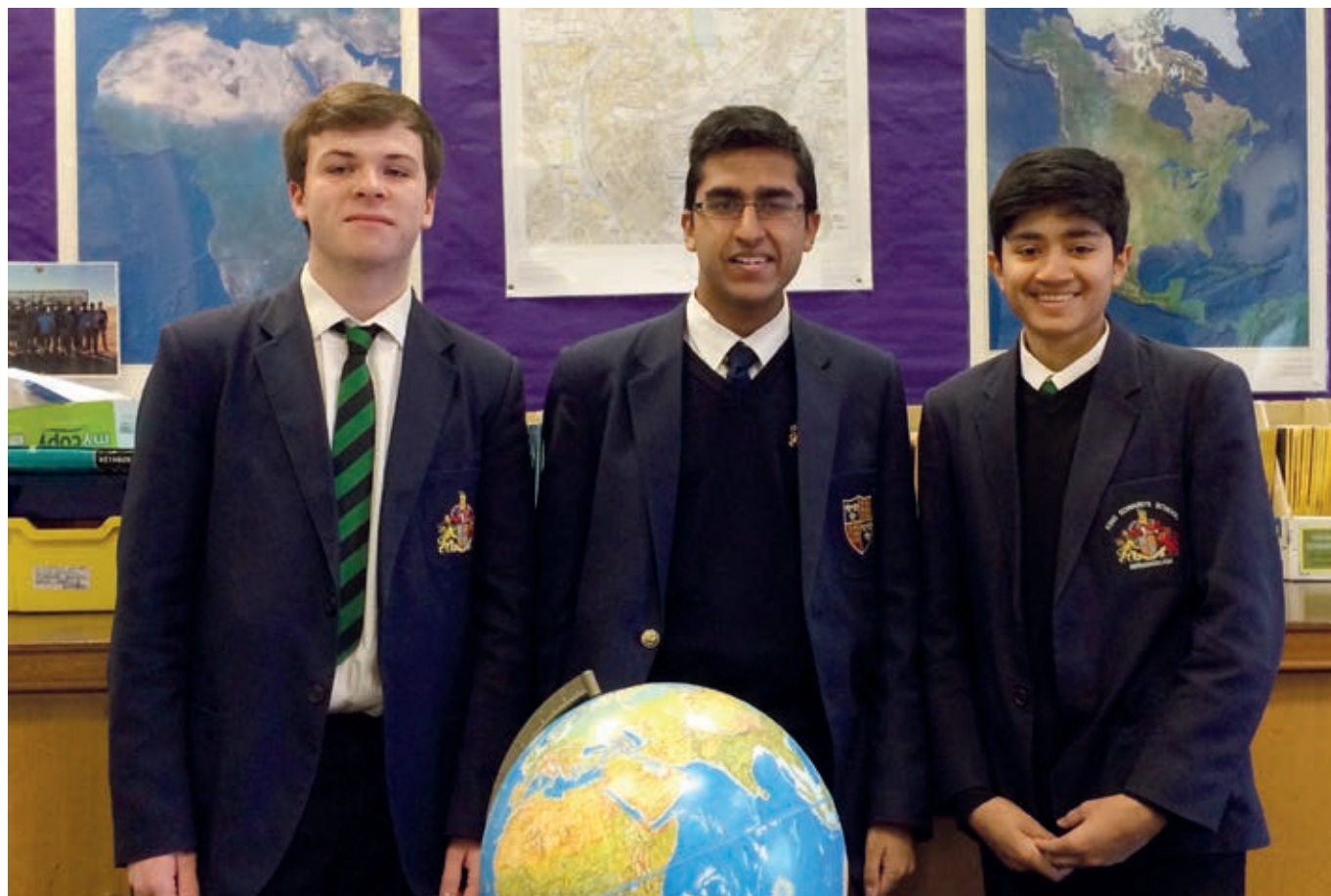
We then welcomed back Gopal Rao from the University of Cambridge. Mr Rao is an Old Edwardian and former KES teacher who attracted a crowd of over 50 people to talk about 'The Role Science Plays in Entrepreneurship'. With his references to *The Lion King* and *The Thick of It*, Mr Rao provided us all with a very entertaining, yet informative talk. We all learned a lot from what he had to offer and I'm sure many of us will remember his advice and put it to use in years to come.

Moving into the spring term, we welcomed Professor David Phillips from Imperial College, London and former head of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Professor Phillips gave a fascinating talk on the applications of light in medicine in his talk 'A Little Light Relief'. He had some attention grabbing demonstrations including exploding heads, peeing babies and flying glow sticks. The talk was incredibly interesting and gave an alternative perspective to the world of medicine – a talk that everyone enjoyed, I'm sure.

The year ended with a talk by Dr Andrew Quigley from the Structural Genetics Consortium (SGC) at the University of Oxford who spoke about the 'Rise of Molecular Machines: Toxins, Transporters and Transformers'. Dr Quigley talked to us about the importance of proteins and the role that the SGC plays in drug discovery. The talk gave a great insight into the pharmaceutical industry and reminded us how vital it is to our everyday lives.

Overall the Scientific Society had a very successful year and was able to entertain folks with talks about Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Working within the team has been a great experience and has given us the opportunity to meet and work with some incredibly interesting people – something for which I am extremely grateful. I would like to extend my thanks to Ketan Chavda and Jack Walton who have been incredibly helpful in crafting such a fantastic year.

Alok Kumar



Geography Society

After its undoubted success last year, Geography Society commenced with a prestigious reputation which we had to fulfil. So naturally, fellow geography enthusiast Yusuf Khan-Cheema and I had a lot to live up to as the new administrators of the Society.

While previously orientated towards human geography, we took the decision to shift Geography Society to the physical side of the discipline. We aimed to provide an enjoyable method of introducing students to the sides of geography not necessarily covered in lessons.

We began the year with a competitive 'Big Geography Quiz', where any member of the school could pit their general geography knowledge against others. The Society then went on to host a talk on desert processes, landforms, wildlife and the issues that deserts pose to humans: a successful start to the year. Our personal highlight of the year so far was the Chief Master himself attending Yusuf's fascinating talk on the methods of predicting volcanic eruptions. Our most successful turnout, however, was a collaborative effort with Parliamentary Society: a presentation by Rohit Bansal on the electoral geography of the general election.

We learned of the election's unpredictability due to the rise of smaller parties like UKIP and the Green Party. Since Rohit was the previous head of Geography Society, this made a fitting end to his contributions.

More recently, we ran another quiz, this time on 'Countries, Capitals and Flags' to bring the spring term to a close. The summer term was opened by one of our younger members, Suchir Salhan, who gave a riveting talk on tourism. His presentation covered a range of topics from the economic role of the industry, and the benefits and disadvantages of safari tourism in Kenya to the need for sustainable tourism in the future: a fine example of the contributions of our younger members.

I'd like to give thanks to Yusuf Khan-Cheema, for helping me to run this exciting society and also the Geography Department, for providing the Society with a fitting venue. I'd also like to thank everyone who has supported the Society so far, whether they have presented or simply attended the events. The Society is very much looking forward to what will indeed be a bright future.

Ethan Dockery



11

Houses



Cary Gilson

Position: 1st House points: 598.5

Captaining Cary Gilson to victory has never been an easy job. The well-drilled mantra of Mr Turner stating that “it is your house, not mine: you lead it” always plays on your conscience. Yet somehow again we managed it.

I have constantly been reminded of the dark days of the past when Cary Gilson was forever coming last but this could never apply to the House as it stands now. The dedication of Gilsonites really is something to behold, whether it is Shells starting to get to grips with what it takes to be winners at KES or stubborn Sixths refusing to leave the school without making their mark, as everyone did their part and once again it paid off.

Following 2014's landslide victory, 2015 was never going to be an easy year. All started well with some fantastic results coming in from Indoor Competitions, the Seniors leading by example right from the start securing 1st place in Table Tennis and Badminton, and a close 2nd in Fives. The Shells quickly followed suit serving up a great victory in Badminton showing the older boys that they were also fighting for their place in the winning house.

Everything seemed to be in order outside of the sports hall too under the auspicious leadership of Josh Kimblin, who took the Seniors to the top of Debating as well. However, it could not last and soon we found ourselves falling out of the desired top three in more events than we were comfortable with, and victory seemed to be slipping away.

What the Shells did not know at the time is that today's Cary Gilson has a secret weapon...Standards! From athletics to swimming, Standards give everyone the chance to earn much-needed points. Not everyone is blessed with the sporting prowess of Mason Gain and Oli Brown, yet every year people crawl their way over the finish line exhausted, and in some cases literally half-drowned. To me this is what being a member of Cary Gilson is all about and the results speak for themselves as we ended up coming top in both Swimming and Athletics.

To sum this year up then is a difficult feat, quite simply down to the fact that as always there has been so much going on; dancing it off on stage at House Shout to the tune of Bruno Mars' *Uptown Funk* or battling it out on the track, everyone has given their all and the Cock House trophy has now been returned to its rightful place in Cary Gilson's ever-filling trophy cabinet. Good job boys, now let's see if we can bring home the fifth one!

Will Evans



Evans

Position: 7th House points: 455

In the autumn term, Evans trudged wearily out of the starting blocks trailing in the footsteps of the other houses. Debating was a debacle, in Chess we put ourselves in 'zugzwang' and in Challenge we knew all of the answers but not necessarily to the right questions.

Senior Indoor Competition performances were respectable rather than dazzling. We needed a spark to ignite our year and it came in the way of Minor House Drama with a fine performance of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* by Dylan Poole and Ibrahim Din which deservedly resulted in victory. Last place looked likely at Christmas until the Shell rugby team inspired by a Matty Ibraheem try-fest won the competition outright. We moved up a place and went into the festive period in 7th position.

In January we returned weighed down by Christmas pudding and ignoring the well-known adage that those that over-indulge bulge. Rugby was rubbish, Hockey was jolly and Basketball a bit better. We, however, did well across the board in Cross Country with the Removes winning and the Seniors coming second. The Indoor Competitions went quite well, highlighted by a win in UM Fives thanks to Ed James and Neelesh Prasad, a win in Fourths Squash starring Luke de Waal, Tom Mills, Dougie Dolleymore and Ellis Owen, and a second place in Rems Table Tennis with Manraj Chohan, Tom Mathers, Tom Kenchington and Oscar Laight. We were also placed second in Mathematics led by Dougie Dolleymore. We jumped to fourth position in House Shout and third in House Music thanks to the efforts of Tom Iszatt, Sol Rosier, Oliver Bealby-Wright and Caleb Turner amongst others. We had dragged ourselves up to a more respectable 5th place by Easter.

The April showers came and went and we returned more in hope than expectation. In Athletics we were too slow, too low, too short and too weak. Cricket may be a national pastime but we struggled to score runs or take wickets – not a recipe for success. The Juniors coming third was a highlight in a fairly dismal dismissal of a summer. In Swimming we have found a future superstar in 'Billy the Fish' Alex Hindle, and Richard Newton and Will Mills inspired us to second in Senior Tennis. Tom Mills and Luke de Waal achieved second place in Fourths Tennis, and we came first in UM Tennis due to the efforts of Ed James and Aidan Van Den Broeck. Swimming Standards were much improved, especially our all-conquering Minors and the efforts of Chris Dillon and henchman George Turner who helped us to bully, cajole and inspire the House into sixth place in Athletics Standards. Mr Arbuthnott presided over the final House meeting announcing a final 7th position, whilst Tinnars skived off to the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

SJT



Gifford

Position: 5th

House points: 471.5

The 2014-15 campaign was filled with mixed emotions and outcomes for the mighty Gifford House. Having sunk to a lowly place of 7th at the end of the previous year, the formidable and highly charismatic partnership of Manpreet Nijjar and Scott Geelan looked to improve upon this dire position in the Cock House standings.

We managed to improve on our position, but were unable to break into the top half of the table with an ultimately disappointing result of 5th place. However, this year gave us a real sense of optimism and confidence, especially for the future.

Victories in competitions such as Minor Hockey, Tennis, Table Tennis, Cricket and Basketball shows just how successful the lower years were. Although the points weighting of Minor events are not as significant as Senior events, our younger breed of Giffordians certainly pose a potent threat for many years to come. Our successes this year did not end there. As ever, aquatic veteran Isaac Hinchliffe and GB Water Polo star Matt Madden guided the House to yet another 1st place in Senior Water Polo – a highly commendable feat.

Undoubtedly, and most notably, our greatest success has to have been in the most competitive and highly anticipated

event of the year – House Shout. With the Sixths having to endure the most difficult period of their KES career in what's commonly known as the dreaded 'Term 4', House Shout rehearsals were very few and far between. Considering the fact that the band had not confirmed a song until one week prior to the performance, we needed an uplifting speech from House Captains, Mani Nijjar and Scott Geelan, who stressed the importance of a memorable and exciting performance. This speech then inspired Gifford to victory with our rendition of Macklemore's *Can't Hold Us*. Our House Captains' memorable rapping performance, combined with surprisingly impressive vocals from Arjun Goswami meant that we were able to, much to our astonishment, come out as winners for the first time since the era of George Hims.

On the whole, Gifford can take a great deal of optimism into next year. With a new generation of Giffordians proving to be high-achievers, we can genuinely strive to do well come next summer. Perhaps this year our lack of strength in Athletics Standards may have led to the disappointing outcome of 5th place, however I can honestly say that the future is looking bright for the mighty Gifford House.

Arjun Goswami





Heath

Position: 6th

House points: 459.5

"Sixth."

"Sixth? Did I hear that right?"

"Did we really come sixth?"

Yes. Yes we really did. However, it was not the number itself that had Heath House so shocked. It was the fact that nobody actually knew whether we should be proud or upset. True, there had been glory years under the leadership of Colin Irvine, the big Irishman, and those of us old enough to remember a few years ago will know that we did come second at some point, but it is hard to forget times when even the great Dan Mort could not place Heath anywhere other than sixth in House Shout.

On the one hand, sixth did not feel like a fair result. Heath has had a resurgence in the past few years under the leadership of Sam Wilson and James Kuo, and last year we stole second place right from under the noses of Cary Gilson. Did we deserve to beat them?

Sam kept up his winning trend when he and Alex Cheswick squashed the competition in Indoor Competitions. With Jay Reddy at the helm, we were placed a respectable third in Hockey. To all in the House, it seemed certain that a top half finish was on the cards.

However, if we should be upset, we aren't. Heath will continue to buzz and will start to move up the table under the new leadership of Mr Fair. I'm certain that he, along with Messrs Smith, Ollis, Golightly and Browning and Mme Esnault and Miss Seamark, will be more than able to fill the hole left by Mr Irvine, and I would like to thank all of the teachers on behalf of the House for all they have done. As a House, we can only move from strength to strength. I mean, we cannot do any worse, can we...?

Lucas McCollum



Jeune

Position: 8th

House points: 426

Unfortunately for those within Jeune House, the 2014-15 Cock House was not ours this year. However, we were not without merit in a tight-finishing competition.

The Red House had started the year well, coming last in very few competitions (the secret to winning the Cock House is to not come last in anything instead of achieving greatness in only a select number of areas). We fought hard but were let down by our performance in the summer term, as is so often the way with Jeune. Sports were not always best supported, with us failing to put out a full team in some Senior Indoor Competitions casting us down into the depths of seventh and eighth place play-offs without our best efforts to remedy situations.

In other major KES sports, the story was the same. We fought hard with an ill-equipped team but were not able to perform well in either Senior Hockey or Water Polo. However, with younger years coming through with better players, the future is brighter for Jeune in both of these sports. Contrastingly, we did well in competitions where we often succeeded such as House Challenge being an area of strength as we had two of the school team, but also those we weren't expecting to perform well in at all. For example, strong performances in Rugby gave us victory in areas unprecedented for our House. More intellectual pursuits resulted in better outcomes, with Jeune using the strength we have within our House to do well in competitions old and new. Chess and Debating were areas of strength, as were newer competitions such as Drama.

But, there is always pride before the fall, and we felt we were in a strong position until the announcement of many a house's downfall: Standards. By some miracle, we didn't finish last in Swimming Standards, but were poorly placed in the triple-weighted Athletic Standards. Overall, we came eighth in the Cock House, but there are areas in which we can take pride in our performances and, with the correct amount of effort, Jeune House should be able to succeed again.

Finally, as with every year, the Ruby Army was marvellously led by Mr James, who never fails to put a smile on the faces of his Jeune soldiers. Thanks must also go to the leadership of the Sixths through their IB year, as they were also helpful in organising the smooth running of the House.

Tom Garfield



Levett

Position: 4th

House points: 475

Levett House is becoming a joyous place to be! After many years of languishing in the doldrums, the rallying call of Nick Porter the previous year had awakened this sleeping giant. The initial momentum of that revolutionary year has been maintained, and 2014-15 saw Levett maintain a fine showing in the Cock House table. Also, there is a spring in the step of a boy wearing the black and white tie as they are able to walk the corridors knowing that they have vanquished many a foe passing by with heads slightly bowed.

The start of the year proved testing and a struggle for Levett in the more academic of activities, namely Debating and Challenge. But things changed around at the newly situated Swimming Standards. A fine turnout of boys ensured that many points were gained, and the Juniors in particular started the year well, as they would continue, with some fine point-scoring. Indeed, the numbers game proved effective and the Seniors gained a respectable position even if the style and strength of the swimming was slightly below that of Olympic qualification. Unfortunately, only the stipulated number of players was allowed to take part in the Senior Indoor Competitions, and not many points were raised from this section of events, and we went into the Christmas break with ground to make up on the usual front runners of Cary Gilson and Prince Lee.

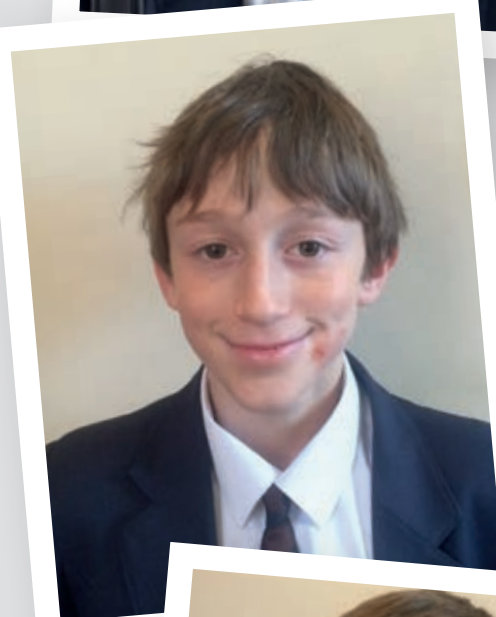
Following a successful Basketball and Hockey set of results, the two major winter competitions of Rugby and Cross Country continued to bring a lot of success and a good number of points for Levett. It was terrific to see the attitude and effort across the sports that showed Levett were keen to get going and climb up the Cock House table. But it was the many foot soldiers who raised their personal efforts that really swayed the results in our favour. The dreaded, and treble-rated, House Shout finished off the term and unfortunately Levett were outrageously placed last, which served to hold back the march up the points table.

The summer term brought unrivalled and glorious success. The cricketers exceeded all expectations and managed a good couple of victories with Oscar Henrick leading the way in the Juniors and Sid Sawlani marshalling the Seniors. The Fourths dominated in the swimming pool with George Davies quite outstanding, but it was the athletics track that brought success after success. There were too many individuals to highlight, but it was fantastic to see the organisation and effort given by all. I thank all those concerned and hope for a repeat in 2016.

Alex Hardy (House Captain) rounded off a fine school career with another tremendous year; Sam Rot won the Levett Cup and Chris Otite the Levett Junior Cup.

Levett finished a creditable fourth in the Cock House, but there was so much more than that achieved this year. The House is on the up, there is hope in Levettian hearts and a bit more fire in their bellies. Success is coming...watch out!

LMR





Prince Lee

Position: 2nd House points: 523

In my seven years at the school, Prince Lee has shone as the champion of the Cock House Competition twice; claiming the runners-up title once, and it was with great expectations that the boys in pink and black entered the year.

Under the captaincy of Harry Jennings, the House stamped its mark on the competition in the autumn term, with victories and top table finishes in Challenge and Debating, thanks to exceptional performances from the likes of Lokesh Jain and Greg Leckey, both potential Prince Lee legends in the making. This was followed by successes in the Senior Indoor Competitions, which included a 2nd place finish for the badminton team, captained by Kush Sinha, as well as the brand-new House Drama competition, in which we topped the table. The term was suitably summed up with a well-deserved 1st place finish in the Senior House Hockey competition, as we would expect with the sheer number of '1st-teamers' in our midst.

The spring term has a reputation for being our weakest, but with great determination the boys stepped up to the mark and achieved success in numerous areas. The Shells performed admirably, achieving top four positions in the majority of competitions, and particularly shining in both House Rugby and Hockey. Louis Bowker showed his potential from the offset to do phenomenal things for the House. A band of five took home a rather disappointing 5th place in the House Shout Competition despite excellent performances from Nick Spencer and Abhinav Jain. However, Jeremy Ho and Daniel Yue merited 1st place in House Music in compensation.

The commitment and perseverance of members of the House came through in the summer term with Guglielmo Vecchio taking charge of athletics and ensuring the vast majority of the boys gained points at Standards. We also dominated the main competitions, with Patrick Charles leading us to a top table finish in the pool, and Harel Thompson ensuring a 2nd place finish in the cricket.

In the end, Prince Lee was once again named runner-up in the Cock House, second only to Cary Gilson by a (meagre) difference of 100 points or so – the details are unimportant. However this wouldn't have been possible with just the boys' efforts; it was under the watchful eye of Mr Porter that we found motivation to lead the house to this position. Mr Fair should also be acknowledged, as he resigns from his pink post to take over as head of Heath House, renouncing all hope of triumph; he will be missed.

Pratinav Sinha



Vardy

Position: 3rd House points: 512

If the typical cliché in football is that it was a game of two halves, then it could certainly be said that for Vardy 2014-15 was a year of three terms.

We started miserably, despite some strong Indoor performances, and were soon left trailing many houses. Our debut into House Drama was promising, yet our poor show at Swimming Standards left us stranded in 7th place by Christmas. But 2015 was a new year and a new attitude. After some sensational House Rugby performances including coming second in the Seniors, combined with a comprehensive victory in Senior Cross Country, all of a sudden we were back in it. Moreover, when the Shells maintained their impressive start to school house life with another solid performance in House Hockey, things were looking up. Whilst the results hadn't all been dazzling 1st and 2nd place finishes, the consistent 3rd and 4th results were seemingly paying off.

However all this was to come crashing down in a disastrous House Shout performance. After all the hype and build up that our young squad had what it needed to win, in the end a naïve technical failure and lack of coordination proved our downfall. It felt all too reminiscent of an England World Cup campaign. Yet all was not lost as we had still managed to claw our way back to 2nd place by Easter – truly sensational. At this point our inspirational leaders of Will and Vikram left us, and were replaced by the charismatic duo of McPheely and Singh.

If the first term had been consistent poor results, and the second a range of highs and lows, the summer term was to be a combination of the two. Another solid term and a strong Sports Day and Standards meant that we had retained our top three status, with Prince Lee narrowly pipping us to second place. At the end of year meeting it was clear to see how far we had improved as a House, as evidenced from the boys' disappointment in finishing 3rd, when at Christmas we were laughing about coming 7th. As always we are forever indebted to the incredible tutors who were as much a part of the turnaround as the boys. Mr Barratt's unwavering enthusiasm was a key part to the campaign, and overall it was a reasonably successful year with all things considered – well done lads!

Cameron McPheely & Siddharth Singh



11

Sport

Hockey

2014-15 season

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Points difference	Win Ratio
1st XI	18	17	0	1	92	27	65	94.40%
2nd XI	18	12	4	2	90	21	69	66.70%
3rd XI	15	11	1	3	66	15	51	73.30%
4th XI	12	11	1	0	57	4	53	91.70%
5th XI	8	6	1	1	27	5	22	75.00%
6th XI	6	2	2	2	5	5	0	33.30%
7th XI	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	100.00%
U16A	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	100.00%
U15A	18	12	2	4	81	19	62	66.70%
U15B	12	8	3	1	43	6	37	66.70%
U15C	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0.00%
U14A	26	18	3	5	70	28	42	69.20%
U14B	15	10	0	5	25	10	15	66.70%
U13A	17	10	3	4	52	31	21	58.80%
U13B	11	4	2	5	21	18	3	36.40%
U12A	12	5	2	5	24	18	6	41.70%
U12B	3	2	0	1	12	2	10	66.70%
Totals	195	130	24	41	676	221	455	66.70%

Team achievements

1st XI

An outstanding season, only losing one regular fixture
National Cup 3rd Round: Lost 4-2 Away at Trent College

U16

County Champions
Midland Finalists: Runners-up
National Finalists: Last eight in the country

U14

County Runners-up
Midland Finalists: Finished in the top four

U13

County Runners-up
Midland Finalists

Warwickshire League Champions

1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI, U14A XI

Individual achievements

Ellis Owen: England Futures Cup
Jay Reddy: Represented England at the UK School Games
Tuschar Roy: England Academy Training Group
Harry Gwynne: England Academy Training Group
Siddharth Singh: National Club Finals, Cannock U18

Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC)

U18: Rory Kenney-Herbert, Jonathan Leong, Siddharth Singh
U17: Angus Bradley, Finlay Geelan
U16: Vishal Aurora, Tanay Kulkarni
U15: Declan Bradley, William Cook, Saihej Mangat

Players Ties awarded to:

Alex Georgevic, Matty Jolley, Tom Lamb, Jonathan Leong,
Goutham Meda, Jay Reddy, George Sadler

Full Colours awarded to:

Alex Georgevic, Tom Lamb, Matty Jolley, Jake McCollum,
Goutham Meda, Jay Reddy (re-awarded), George Sadler (re-awarded)

Half Colours awarded to:

Alex Cheswick, Rory Kenney-Herbert, Jake McCollum, Sachin Singal,
Siddharth Singh, Pratinav Sinha, Keith Tang

Junior Colours awarded to:

Finn Azaz, Gursahib Bal, Declan Bradley, Will Cook, Isaac Elliott,
Jake Johnstone, Sam Johnstone



1st XI

This was always going to be an outstanding year group. Throughout their time at KES, they have dominated in matches. At U13 level, they finished 5th in the country at the National Finals, so we had great hopes for the season ahead. We were not disappointed.

The side started the season in South Africa, playing in the Brothers International Festival in Cape Town. Out of 22 teams we finished in 6th place, only losing one game in the 5th and 6th play-off against Somerset College, Cape Town. Highlights included a draw against Rondebosch, who went on to win the tournament. The tour was certainly a great way to start the season.

On return from South Africa, it was the chance to try to win the Buttle Tournament. Agonisingly we lost in the final, 4-2 to the Irish school side Banbridge Academy. This was an outstanding game of hockey in which the Irish side fielded a number of junior and senior internationals.

Onto the main season and the results speak volumes for the quality of our 1st XI. Key men in the side included Captain Jay Reddy. He has been an inspiration to the team and has given so much to KES Hockey. Jay was leading goal scorer as well as player of the season. Other members of the side who contributed throughout were George Sadler, Alex Georgevic, Matty Jolley and Tom Lamb. Jake McCollum and Sachin Singal also made valuable contributions at different times throughout the season.

It was a wonderful year, with a great group of players.

MEJ

1st XI results

Opponent	Result	Type of game
King Henry VIII School, Coventry	Won: 10-2	Warwickshire League
Old Boys	Won: 6-1	Friendly
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	Won: 5-1	Warwickshire League
Warwick School	Won: 1-0	Warwickshire League
Oakham School	Won: 5-3	Friendly
Bromsgrove School	Won: 4-2	Friendly
Solihull School	Won: 4-3	Warwickshire League
Loughborough Grammar School	Won: 5-0	Warwickshire League
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield	Won: 7-0	Friendly
King Henry VIII School, Coventry	Won: 10-2	Friendly
Nottingham High School	Won: 4-0	Friendly
Bablake School	Won: 7-1	Warwickshire League
Sandbach School	Won: 3-1	Friendly
Magdalen College School	Won: 4-2	Friendly
Adams Grammar School	Lost: 4-8	Friendly
Princethorpe College	Won: 7-1	Warwickshire League
Bloxham School	Won: 4-0	Friendly
Magdalen College School	Won: 2-0	Friendly

3rd XI

The 3rd XI were supplemented with some very promising Fiftths at the start of the season and developed into a strong team.

We retained the 3rd XI Warwickshire School's League title and put in some very impressive performances including a 6-3 victory at Wolverhampton Grammar School and a 9-0 victory against Warwick School. We scored 66 goals in 15 matches and only conceded 15.

Up front Daya Mandla was prolific, Charlie Roberts was athletic and talented, and Harry Wilson dynamic even if he was allergic to scoring goals. A special mention must also go to our captain, Kieran Nandhra, who was solid in left back throughout the whole season.

Our midfield was centred around an engine room of two Camerons: Shaylor and Hundle, both of whom were highly influential. Dev Soni and Alex Woolley both played pivotal roles on the flanks.

At the back Tom Fenemore was immense, ably assisted by Ed Whelan. Hugo Easlea displayed excellent ball skills, whilst Lochan Sidhu played well. Hari Chauhan made many excellent saves.

I am sure that the team enjoyed the season and I hope they continue to impress.

SJT



U16A XI

Despite the school not operating an U16 side in league fixtures, the team enters the national championships.

The journey to the Olympic Park began with the county tournament based at Rugby School. Despite only coming together just before this tournament, the team played superbly well and dominated the championships. In the pool stages, there were victories against Bishop Vesey's (2-0), Solihull School (2-1) and Princethorpe College (2-0). In the semi-final, the team beat Bablake School (2-0). The final went according to plan with a 1-0 victory over Bishop Vesey's GS. This meant the team progressed to the Midland Zone Finals. In a tough pool, the team finished runner-up to Trent College on goal difference.

In the Midland Finals, the team had to play a gruelling competition of three games in the pool, followed by a further two full games. After victories against Uppingham, Oakham and Bishop Vesey's, the side would meet Trent College in the semi-final, with the winners guaranteed a place in the National Finals. After a tense game, the team scored early and held on to the lead to win a place at the Olympic Park.

The National Finals was a tough but great experience. It pitched the best eight schools from around the country into a competition over two days. First match was against Whitgift School and it was a close encounter, with Whitgift running out eventual winners 2-0. Pool game two was against Dean Close and it was a very close game with a goal being conceded in the last minute to end the hopes of qualification into the semi-finals.

Well done to the side on making hockey history at King Edward's.

MEJ



U15A XI

Overall, the U15s had a successful season. Throughout the year we competed in the Warwickshire Hockey League, in which we came second, being narrowly beaten by Warwick School.

However we put in some good performances in that league, beating Princethorpe 3-2, and also had our share of emphatic wins including a 10-0 win over Newcastle-Under-Lyme. Special mentions go to our top scorer, Reuben Elphinston, as well as our keeper, Tushar Roy, who pulled off some outstanding saves which often proved vital in close games.

Several players also received a chance to play in the U16 cup team which managed to reach the National Finals at the Olympic pitch, an unforgettable experience. This season was to be our last playing together, next year moving up into the senior teams, and so we wanted to go out on a high and that we did, beating rivals Bromsgrove 4-2 in an intense last match of the season.

Thanks must go to Mr Fair who invested a lot of his time in taking us to matches, often outside of normal school time, on top of his coaching, without which we would never have improved the way we did.

Vishal Aurora

U14A XI

The season was quite terrific, playing 35 games, of which we won 22, drew 6 and lost 7. 103 goals were scored and only 37 goals conceded which is quite good attacking and defending: especially playing against the country's top hockey schools such as Magdalen, Whitgift, Repton, Oakham and Trent.

Our highlights were winning the Warwickshire League, being runners-up in the Warwickshire Cup and getting to the regional semi-final; even though we managed to win 1-0 against national winners Repton and beat Bromsgrove 3-0, we narrowly lost on penalties to Trent (although we ultimately took revenge with a 2-1 win in the last game of the season). Our biggest win was 14-0 against Redhill Academy and we also had a six game clean-sheet run.

The whole team improved loads as individuals and as a squad, with William Cook being player of the season for a solid season in goal, and goals up front from Joe Taylor, Finn Azaz and all the other forwards. On the whole it was a great season in all departments of the field and we look forward to topping that next season.

Saihej Mangat

U13A XI

Overall we had an excellent season playing a total of 17 games, of which we won 10, drew 3, and lost 4.

Before Christmas we started the season brilliantly winning our first six games. We finished second in the County Championships narrowly losing to Bishop Vesey's in the final, having beaten Bilton Grange 1-0 on the way. This meant that we qualified for the Regional Finals where we finished third out of seven in the group because of too many draws.

We had a disappointing end to the season where we only managed to win one of our last five games. Despite that the team continued to develop under Mr Loughrey's coaching. Our leading goal scorer was Loulseged Belayhun, with Burhaan Siddiqi leading the defence. Our biggest win came in a 10-0 match against Lawrence Sheriff School, however our best result came against Bishop Vesey's in a tight 3-2 away win. The team is in great shape for next season, and we look forward to continuing our form.

Jake Litchfield

Rugby

2014-15 season

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Points difference
1st	16	5	1	10	229	308	-79
2nd	14	7	2	5	307	262	45
3rd	8	1	0	7	73	315	-242
U16A	16	7	0	9	219	425	-206
U16B	8	2	1	5	166	279	-113
U16C	1	0	1	0	27	27	0
U15A	19	12	0	7	537	317	220
U15B	11	6	0	5	221	238	-17
U14A	16	5	0	11	306	575	-269
U14B	12	7	0	5	324	259	65
U14C	6	1	0	5	89	262	-173
U13A	17	12	0	5	447	172	275
U13B	14	11	1	2	431	130	301
U13C	10	8	0	2	238	64	174
U13D	4	0	0	4	15	115	-100
U12A	15	3	0	12	105	479	-374
U12B	16	7	1	8	216	341	-125
U12C	12	9	0	3	277	159	118
U12D	5	2	0	3	76	114	-38

Team achievements

U16

North Midland Plate Winners

U13 VII

Warwick Sevens Plate Winners

Individual honours

Alex Bartley: Warwickshire County U15 Development Squad and Worcester Warriors EPDG

Oliver Pegler: Greater Birmingham U15 Development Squad

Aadil Ali: U13 Public School Lambs and Worcester Warriors DPP

Emil Ali: U13 Public School Lambs and Worcester Warriors DPP

Tom Corbett: U13 Public School Lambs and Worcester Warriors DPP

Ben White: West Midlands Public School Lambs and Worcester Warriors EPDG

KES Rugby Awards 2014-15

1st XV Player of the Season

Scott Geelan

1st XV Most Improved Player

Rotimi Akindeinde

Clubman of the Year

Max Dixon

2nd XV Player of the Season

Harel Thompson

2nd XV Most Improved Player

Russell Evans

1st XV

Full Colours awarded to:

Chris Dillon, Ben Lumley, Jacob Rees

Half Colours awarded to:

Guy Marston

Players Ties awarded to:

Saahir Mubarik, Karan Sood, Harry Wain

2nd XV

Half Colours awarded to:

Harel Thompson, Russell Evans,
Alex Racca

Junior Colours awarded to:

Yousuf Ali, Mubashir Amin, Declan
Bradley, Ben Coward, Ed James,
Hugh McMenamin, Henry Simmons,
Joseph Taylor



1st XV

With a fixture list that involved confronting sides that take rugby almost as seriously as their academia, we all knew from the start that we would face a challenging season. The team started well with a win against Wrekin College, and continued onto some other memorable victories such as beating local rivals KES Five Ways and KES Camp Hill. With impressive tries from individuals such as Max Dixon (captain), Scott Geelan, Alex Hardy and Guy Marston, alongside ruthless aggression from forwards such as Oliver Brown, Karan Sood and Sam Whitworth, the squad proved itself to be a very talented side.

However, the season was unique in the sense that the proudest moments were not the games we won, but the games where we performed to a standard much higher than what was expected of us. Despite being a physically small side, we almost defeated Solihull School (a team with England academy players) and were devastated to have only lost by two points (19-17). Regardless of how big the opposition were, regardless of how many times we were told to 'work harder' in training, each member of the 1st XV was dedicated to giving 100% for each other and for the school.

I'd like to say thank you to Mr Abrahams and Mr Johnson for all the efforts they put into helping the team and to give a special mention to other critical team members, such as, Chris Dillon, Harry Wain, Vikram Thakur, Mason Gain, Angus Crombie, Oliver Bland and Jacob Rees. It was an experience that made us all proud to play side-by-side, with memories that will remain with us for years to come.

Ben Lumley

2nd XV

After a painfully slow start where we suffered a succession of heavy defeats, the 2nd XV soon began to flourish. Under the guidance of a sterling captain (Harel Thompson) we turned a season that seemed destined for loss after loss into one that was unanimously agreed as our best and most enjoyable year of rugby.

The backs ended up playing some great rugby with consistent performances from Owen Davies, Hari Pannum, Cameron McPheely and Sam Shah. These performances would not have accounted for anything had the forwards not had an incredible work rate and players such as Russell Evans, Luke Nash, Sunny Chatha and Alex Racca performing on a consistently high level. It is without doubt that the highlight of our season was our win over Solihull where the team put in a valiant performance, resulting in an emphatic win. Special thanks must go to Mr Pavey, to whom all this success is accredited.

Patrick Edwards



3rd XV

In what was a tough season for the 3rd XV, we recorded only one victory. But what a victory it was. In a much touted rivalry clash against the giants of Warwick's 4th XV, the plucky 3rds took their first win in their final match of the season.

Never had the team looked so dynamic; the back line stars of Ed Cooke, Hashim Butt and Ayo Ogunremi carving up the Warwick defence whilst the monstrous forwards Sunny Chatha, Ethan Dockery and of course the heroic captain Barney Hobbs won the physical battle. But whilst the players put in a golden performance, the true star of the day was interim manager Mr Barratt, whose wise words and slick in-game changes inspired the team to push for victory.

Although it was Mr Barratt who took home the final victory, he reached his high point by standing on the shoulders of a giant... who else but long-term, mastermind-coach Mr Mason? It was he who steered and guided the players through a long season; he who stood in the rain as line out after line out went tragically wrong; he who watched in despair as Nottingham put 97 past his team (without response). In many ways he was more a father figure than a coach, and he deserves as much credit as Mr Barratt for the 3rds' eventual success.

The team's thanks goes to these great men for a season whose highs and lows made us not only better players, but better men.

Barney Hobbs

U15A XV

This year, the U15A XV, coached by Mr Porter, went from strength to strength, winning key matches against local rivals, such as KES Camp Hill and KES Aston. We also travelled further afield to play against teams such as KES Stratford and Rugby School to name just two. However, the majority of our success came via the rugby sevens tournaments we attended.

Our most successful of these tournaments was at Warwick School, where teams from around the country had come to play. We won every game in our pool and advanced into the quarter-finals where we lost, but it was a great experience and we played against some of the best school teams in the country.

This capped off a good year for the U15A XV and we are looking forward to moving on to the U16A XV. Also many thanks to Mr Porter for giving up his Saturdays to come and coach us in sometimes appalling weather!

Jack Thompson

Cricket

2014-15 season

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Abandoned	Cancelled
1st XI	17	8	7	2	0	1	2
2nd XI	12	7	5	0	0	1	3
3rd XI	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
U15A	13	9	4	0	0	0	1
U15B	12	11	1	0	0	0	1
U14A	12	7	5	0	0	1	1
U14B	9	6	3	0	0	1	2
U13A	14	10	2	0	1	1	3
U13B	7	4	3	0	0	1	1
U12A	12	4	8	0	0	0	1
U12B	9	7	2	0	0	0	1
U12C	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	123	76	43	2	1	6	18

Team honours

U15A XI: 2nd in Magdalen College Independent Schools T20 Competition

U15B XI: Warwickshire Cup Runners-up

U13A XI: National Runners-up

U12A XI: Warwickshire Cup Runners-up

Individual honours

Full Colours awarded to:

Rishi Gandhewar, Alexander Georgevic, Hugh Lilburn, Saahir Mubarik (re-awarded), Jay Reddy

Half Colours awarded to:

Hamza Ajaib, Karan Gangurde, Tarush Gupta, Matty Jolley, Josh Ray, Sidhant Sawlani, Vignesh Sriram

Junior Colours awarded to:

Ben Andrews, Ben Coward, Daniel Dixon, Jake Johnstone, Sam Johnstone, Saihej Mangat, Hugh McMenamin, Samay Patel, Joseph Taylor, Arvind Sharma

Representative honours

U15

Adam Hussain: Warwickshire U15 Solihull District
Tanay Kulkarni: Worcestershire U15 County

U14

Dan Dixon: Worcestershire U15 District
Jake Johnstone: Worcestershire U15 District
Sam Johnstone: Worcestershire U15 District

U13

Aadil Ali: Warwickshire U13B County
Emil Ali: Warwickshire U13B County
Oscar Henrick: Worcestershire U13 Central District
Arnav Kulkarni: Worcestershire U13 County (DofE)
Yash Machani: Warwickshire U13 County
Suyash Poshakwale: Warwickshire U13B County
Raj Sandhu: Worcestershire U13 County (DofE)
Varun Sinha: Warwickshire U13 County
Haris Sohail: Worcestershire U13 Central District

U12

Milan Dogra: Warwickshire U12 Solihull District
Pranav Gajula: Warwickshire U12 North Birmingham District
Fadhil Mir: Warwickshire U12 County
Vinesh Patel: Worcestershire U12 District

1st XI season overview

Date	First innings	Second innings	Result
22 April	KES 78-4	v Bromsgrove	Lost
25 April	RGS Worcs 247-8 S Sawlani 3-40	v KES 151ao	Lost
29 April	KES 139-0 A Georgevic 71*	v Bablake 124-5 S Mubarik 3-20	Won
2 May	KES 132-4 S Mubarik 67*	v Solihull 99-4	Won
9 May	Wolvs GS 179-8 H Ajaib 3-14	v KES 159ao	Lost
16 May	KES 122ao	v Kings, Worcs 126-0	Lost
3 June	Malvern 277-6	v KES 132ao	Lost
6 June	Bloxham 137ao S Sawlani 3-23	v KES 141-7	Won
10 June	XL Club 198-5	v KES 199-3 S Mubarik 75	Won
17 June	Repton 202ao R Gandhewar 3-34	v KES 62ao	Lost
20 June	KES 156-7	v Warwick	Abandoned
24 June	Bishop Vesey 162ao K Gangurde 3-15	v KES 150-9	Lost
27 June	Loughborough GS 269-6	v KES 272-4 H Lilburn 90	Won
29 June	KES 235-9 T Gupta 57	v CMXI 202-9 H Ajaib 3-22	Draw
30 June	MCC 241-4 S Hoonjan 3-63	v KES 178-9	Draw
1 July	KES 223-9 H Lilburn 68	v Notts HS 206ao H Ajaib 5-28	Won
2 July	KES 186-2 H Lilburn 101*	v Old Eds CC 113-6	Won
4 July	KES 194-5	v OEA 189-8	Won

Batting

	Innings	Not out	Runs	Highest score	Average
HJP Lilburn	17	3	551	101*	39.4
SJ Mubarik*	17	2	525	75	35
AM Georgevic	15	1	321	71*	22.9
T Gupta	11	3	253	57	31.6
A Hussain	9	0	205	68	22.7
H Ajaib	11	2	189	46	20.6
J Reddy	13	2	172	30*	15.6
JS Ray	12	2	120	36	12
MT Jolley	9	2	95	25	13.6

Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
H Ajaib	80.1	11	340	21	16.2
S Sawlani	50.2	1	282	15	18.8
RR Gandhewar	99.5	10	469	14	33.5
SJ Mubarik*	91	9	430	12	35.8
KS Gangurde	94.5	5	487	12	40.6
J Reddy	59.4	2	303	9	33.6
VA Sriram	43	3	218	7	31.1
S Hoonjan	25	0	165	5	33





1st XI

After a successful winter training schedule the 1st XI squad looked forward to the season. A fairly new squad had been assembled after a large cohort had departed in 2014. The hopes for the batting lay in the hands of the experienced Sixth Formers: Hugh Lilburn, Saahir Mubarik and Alex Georgevic. Jay Reddy had been entrusted with leading the fielding team and there was a good balance to the bowling attack with the seamers Karan Gangurde, Saahir Mubarik and Hamza Ajaib along with three spinners Rishi Gandhewar, Sid Sawlani and Sarban Hoonjan.

The team had a mixed start to their matches during the hectic start to the term where the spectre of IB and public GCSE examinations loom large. Great credit must be given to all the boys for their maturity and desire to continue playing during this period and there is no better break from studying than the ground at Eastern Road. The team managed two wins and four losses in the period before half term. There was plenty of evidence that this team had the potential to succeed by the time cricket would conclude in July. Saahir Mubarik and Alex Georgevic led the way with the bat, scoring impressive half centuries in the victories against Solihull and Bablake respectively and Rishi Gandhewar showed that he is a great bowler.

After half term and a heavy defeat by a strong Malvern team, things started to move in the right direction. Saahir Mubarik started to score consistently and a number of the younger players in the team: Tarush Gupta, Vignesh Sriram, Hamza Ajaib and Adam Hussain, started to feel that they belonged at this level and were having a growing influence

upon the games. The highlight of the season came in the last Saturday fixture of term against Loughborough GS. Jon, our outstanding groundsman, had produced a quality wicket at Eastern Road. Loughborough set a formidable 269 to win in 50 overs. Hugh Lilburn responded with his best 1st XI innings of 90 and Saahir and Adam helped with fifties to gain a tremendous six wicket victory. The team were ready for cricket week and the weather and matches did not disappoint.

Two draws against the CMXI and MCC were a prelude to three victories that concluded a highly enjoyable festival of cricket. Hugh Lilburn went from strength to strength, culminating with a hundred against the Old Edwardians CC and Hamza Ajaib bowled with great accuracy and aggression to end the season as top wicket-taker with 21 wickets. Against a strong MCC team on the Tuesday, Rishi Gandhewar produced the bowling performance of the year with 17 overs in succession against some top quality players. This effort and the fact that he performed so well throughout the season earned him Player of the Year, although he was closely pushed for this honour by the captain Saahir Mubarik who had a fine season with both bat and ball.

A final word must go to Dave Collins, the school cricket professional, who has retired after 18 seasons with the 1st XI and coaching all age groups within the school. He has been a fine coach and good friend to the many players who have been fortunate to come into contact with him.

Saahir Mubarik

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a very successful season last year, winning seven out of 12 games including matches against King's Worcester, Nottingham High School and Warwick School. The team was captained ably by Patrick Wernham for the games that the Sixths could play in; for the remainder of the season Rory Kenney-Herbert was captain.

A solid performance against Bromsgrove first up was a sign of things to come, with a strong performance with the bat from Mason Gain in particular. A disappointing fixture against RGS Worcester followed before an impressive win against Bablake. Tarush Gupta and Samraaj Hullait scored 62* and 53* respectively to see KES post 199 for 4 off 20 overs. Four wickets from Sarban Hoonjan helped restrict Bablake to 91 for 8. As the season progressed the 2nd XI showed themselves to be adept at chasing totals as well as at restricting sides. An example of this was the match against King's Worcester, where the side was able to chase 193. Rory Kenney-Herbert scored 100* and there were telling contributions with the bat, as there were throughout the season, from Usman Khattak, Pratinav Sinha and Abishek Sudhakar. The game against Warwick featured three wickets from Sidhant Sawlani and a good performance behind the stumps by Nick Wyatt, including a key stumping.

One of the strengths of the team was bowling. This included Avisay Mehra and Abishek Sudhakar bowling with tremendous speed, causing problems for many opposition batsmen. The spin of Sarban Hoonjan, Vishal Sriram and Nirad Abrol helped to tie down teams in the middle overs. Runs were scored quickly due to the large number of aggressive batsmen in the team, including Mason Gain, Usman Khattak, Saroop Nandra and Samraaj Hullait. The all-rounders in the team such as Pratinav Sinha, Samraaj Hullait and Rory Kenney-Herbert provided valuable options with both bat and ball. The wicket-keeping of Patrick Wernham and Nick Wyatt was crucial in taking chances and limiting extras.

The success enjoyed throughout the season would not have been possible without Mr Johnson's guidance as coach, which we would like to thank him for. We should also thank Mr Phillips, Mr Mason and Mr Evans who took over when Mr Johnson was away.

Rory Kenney-Herbert



U15A XI

Having had a successful season in 2014, winning seven of our 10 matches, we were confident that we could convert more of our losses to victories. We were also to have the benefit of two cricket exchange boys from down under, Charlie Hocking and James Gray, who would strengthen our side after 4 June.

We started off the season with our regular match against RGS Worcester. Winning the toss, we decided to bat first. Posting a strong total of 220 off our 35 overs, we were in control of the game. Our bowlers were able to restrict them to 180, meaning we won. Our next game was against Solihull School; history was on our side. Mr Claughton returned as Mr Loughrey was away. Winning the toss, we decided to bat first again and posted a huge total of 270 off 35 overs. Going to lunch feeling buoyant, we were yet to experience why cricket is such an unforgiving game: they won the game with two balls to spare owing to our failures in the field. We learnt how important fielding is to the game that day. It was now time to play King's Worcester but unfortunately, with players being away on other duties and others playing in the senior teams, we lost this game.

As the Australians arrived, we knew that our team would be strengthened. Mr Loughrey returned and we thanked Mr Claughton greatly for his cricketing expertise and took his advice on board. We now came across a new fixture, Bloxham. We batted first and did not get off to the best of starts. Luckily, thanks to the Australian players, we were able to reassert ourselves and posted a strong total. Felix bowled extremely well and in the end we won the game comfortably.

Our next fixture against Warwick School we had been looking forward to all year. We had never beaten them in our cohort and fielded a depleted side owing to unavailability. As with the Solihull fixture, it was a cold, damp, miserable day resulting in a game reduced to 20 overs. We took to the field and, once again, Tanay shone with the ball, taking five wickets, and Jamie chipped in with three. They posted 131 off 20 overs. It was a game we were desperate to win and were determined to make history by beating Warwick. With Charlie making 38 and Tanay 37 we chased it down with two balls to spare. After that, we played a T20 against KES Stratford who won the toss and decided to bat, posting a total of 120 on a good batting wicket. I made 60, Cameron was 44* and Tanay 4*.

I would like to thank Mr Loughrey and we wish him all the best in his new career. I would also like to thank Mr Claughton for sharing his knowledge of the game with us and it was an honour to have him coach us. I would also like to thank Mr Roll for organising all these fixtures for us. We are also very grateful to Mr Johnson for taking the time out to go to Oxford. On behalf of the team, thanks go to Dave Collins who has unfortunately decided to retire, though we are in the process of devising a cunning plan to entice him back, part-time or odd-time at least! We greatly thank Dave for coaching us and giving us tips that have truly revolutionised our games for the better. Our final season as a year group has been an extremely enjoyable and successful one.

Adam Hussain

U15 Oxford Festival

The U15 Oxford Cricket Festival takes place in the surrounds of Magdalen College School, Oxford, and it represents the pinnacle of the season. No KES side had ever reached the finals before: ours did and we thoroughly enjoyed our two day tournament in Oxford.

However, the team was hit by injuries in the run up to the tournament, leading to the addition of a few new players. We put in two strong batting performances on the first day: against The Perse School, Cambridge and the Sydney Cricket Ground Junior Members. We won the toss against The Perse and decided to bowl, restricting them to 135. This was a rather comfortable chase which we won by eight wickets. We won the toss again against Sydney Junior Members and decided to bat. We lost two early wickets and Umar (35) and I (71) managed to build a partnership to get us to a more stable position.

We learned one thing from playing Sydney: that Rayan De can hit the ball a long, long way and he struck two huge sixes. Meanwhile, Saihej played a very useful cameo. We posted a good total of 175. Oscar, Elliot and Tanay opened the bowling well, picking up two wickets but some extremely good batting from Sydney meant the match started to get close. The match remained very much in the balance, despite Raj taking a wicket with his first ball. Oscar bowled the last over of the day to see us through to victory and a good night's rest.

We woke up the next day and found out we were playing Rugby School. We batted an unconvincing 125 and Rugby began their reply brilliantly. All changed when Oscar came in to bowl, he did a superb job and suddenly, the game was back in the balance. It came down to the last over and the opposition needed 10 to win. Elliot Hick decided to stand up for the team and volunteered to bowl the last over; this was very courageous of him, as it would determine if KES got into the final for the first time. After three runs off the first ball, I began to question my decision to bowl Elliot. But the very next ball, he took a wicket. He then went on to take another and won the match for us.

It was now time for the final. We were playing against the hosts, Magdalen College School. We won the toss and bowled first. Despite falling short of the total posted and coming runners-up, I can truly say that, as captain, we put 100 percent in on the pitch and that I am proud of this.

Adam Hussain

U15B XI

The U15B enjoyed an outstanding season, becoming the most successful side of the school by winning 11 out of the 12 matches played.

We steadily worked our way through the cup rounds with Rhys Davies taking an abundance of wickets building on the platform set by Muhammad Khan and Syed Gillani. From the batting perspective, quick runs came from the cameos of George Davies and staying power of James Draper. We progressed quickly through the cup rounds without much of a problem and soon reached the cup final to face a team who we knew would be a tough ask to beat. Unfortunately, they set a target just out of our reach and we fell agonisingly short. It was an unfortunate ending to what was otherwise a stellar season.

Ashwin Kalyana



U14A XI

The U14s had a good season winning more than we lost. We did well to beat RGS Worcester but next year would like to beat Warwick and Solihull. Three players scored half centuries: Saihej Mangat, Daniel Dixon and Ben Coward. Our top two wicket-takers were Jake Johnstone and Joe Taylor, and Sam Johnstone deserves an honourable mention for his off spin. However, we did have an injury hit season missing Ben Andrews throughout and others picking up injuries during the season.

There were some very encouraging performances from the players who came into the team and it is hoped that Hasan Rahman, Rayan Kamal and Mubashir Amin can develop further next season to cement a place.

Thanks must go to Mr N Bandurak who did a fine job as our coach and we shall miss him next season, when I believe that we can do even better!

Dan Dixon

U14B XI

The U14B team had a successful season, with a strong six wins and three close losses. Unfortunately, they were quite unlucky as three games were cancelled due to the weather and the opponents being unable to play.

The team also managed to win consecutive matches in the cup reaching the semi-final where they were narrowly defeated in the penultimate over. They played especially well against Coundon Court who they annihilated, dismissing them all for a mere 24 runs. All players contributed all they could to the team. The bowlers formed a strong attack and were always consistent restricting teams to low scores. In the batting, a special mention goes to Gursahib Bal, who got two 50s for the team and was a terrific wicket-keeper. For the next season the U14B team need to practice their fielding as there were quite a few drop catches and misfields but overall, this was a good season.

Ibraheem Malik

U13A XI

We felt before the season started that we had the opportunity to make history for KES cricket. We started the season with a three-team T20 tournament against two local club teams who had also been unbeaten as U12s. We managed to lose one match and tie the second. It was a useful reality check; we had a lot of work to do, especially with our fielding.

We won the first school match against a strong RGS side with a strong performance from both the batsmen and the bowlers. We then moved into the Bunbury Cup, where our first match was against Abingdon School. A satisfactory start to our campaign as we won but only thanks to Arnav Kulkarni (34) and Aadil Ali (52) who produced a match winning partnership and Andy Fergusson hit a quick, useful 16 to get us to 198. We had a convincing win against Solihull School, easily reaching their total of 110 thanks to the strength of our batting order.

Our second national fixture was our only home match and we started badly, but ended up winning. Mr Roll summed up the match well by saying that we won the match because our opposition was poor. We won our next two matches against Wolverhampton GS and The King's School, Worcester convincingly. The highlight was Emil Ali's brilliant 103 not out against King's.

The third round of the cup was against Nottingham High School where we again lost early wickets but were saved by the rest of the batting order and the bowlers. We then travelled to Worcester for the Midlands regional final of the Bunbury Cup against The King's School. Once again we lost quick wickets with three of our top four batsmen getting just one run. However, we managed to scrape ourselves together, resulting in a comfortable win; but we learnt our lesson.

The disappointment of the season came when we lost to Solihull School in the semi-final of the Neil Abberly County Cup. We lost but bowled well, however we gave them about an extra 30 runs in the field. Oscar bowled well with figures of three overs 1-10 and Yash bowled a tight spell of four overs for just 15 runs. Suyash top scored with the bat with a fluent 30.

The national semi-final was away against RGS Newcastle, KES again batted first reaching a nervous 133-6 in 32 overs built



around an excellent 69 not out by Emil Ali. Unfortunately, we then had a very heavy downpour: we had to resort to a bowl-out. Five players from each team bowled two balls at a set of stumps. KES were soon 3-1 down and the dream of a national final looked over. However, the KES players kept their heads and we ended up winning 5-4 with a ball to bowl. Oscar Henrick had his moment in the limelight by hitting the stumps twice.

Probably our best performance of the season came against Loughborough Grammar School. Loughborough had lost to Nottingham HS in the national cup and were determined to show that they were better than that and to inflict defeat on us. Batting first, Loughborough posted a competitive 204 in 30 overs. We had batted first in nearly every match, so this gave us a chance to practise chasing, with our two closing batsmen sealing the final runs for the win.

On the last day of term, we played Millfield Prep School in the final of the ESCA Bunbury Cup. We knew that Millfield would be strong, however, we felt that we had a chance as we had a strong side and did not rely on any superstars. All of the players had had at least one good performance and we were hoping to give Millfield a competitive game. We reached 138 with one ball unused, whereas their openers chased down our score comfortably, so we lost by 10 wickets. We hope to have another successful season next year and win the County Cup to get in the national competition the following year. I would like to thank Mr Mason, who supported us throughout the whole season and was an excellent coach.

Yash Machani

U13B XI

The season for the U13B was quite successful as a whole. We had an excellent team performance throughout the season with some great individual efforts. Our first match was against RGS Worcester, which was 35 overs a side. We batted first; Anish Kanda and Matthew Rimmer got us off to a great start with an 80 run partnership. The bowlers came out confidently, bowling RGS Worcester out in 17 overs. Solihull was next in a T20. We batted first but got off to a dreadful start as our top three all got out for ducks. Sadly, the match was abandoned due to heavy rain.

Next we had our first cup match against Finham Park. We were made to bat first and we lost two quick wickets, but ended the innings with 126. We got their openers out very quickly, after that we dominated the rest of the game and were into the next round. Priory was our next game. Once again we elected to bat first as it was bright and sunny. It was an excellent overall batting performance as we tried to replicate with the ball. As soon as we got rid of the openers we were quite comfortable, taking wickets regularly.

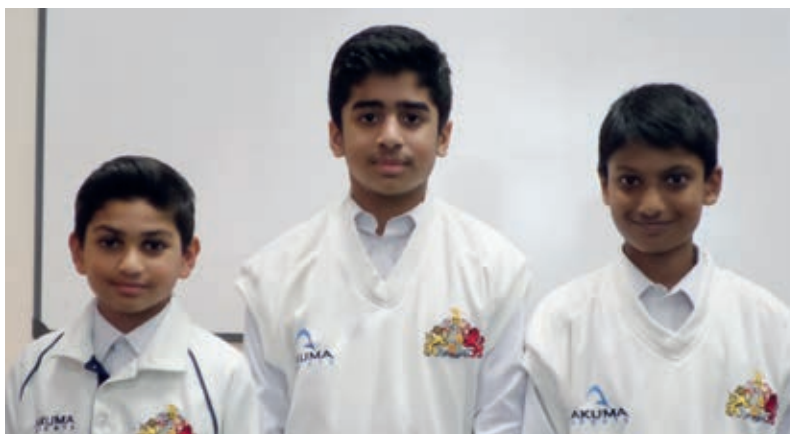
Next round of the cup we were against President Kennedy and bowled first on an overcast day. We bowled superbly as a team and restricted them to 62 all out. It was an easy chase but our top order collapsed and we sadly lost by two runs and were out of the cup. Bishop Vesey's was our next opponent and we batted first on a sunny day. Gordon Gittins and Andrew Fergusson made a colossal 125 run partnership. Our bowlers were tight with their lines and were rewarded with wickets: we won by 76 runs.

Our penultimate match was probably our hardest fixture against Warwick on a miserable rainy day. It was initially a good toss to win as we bowled first. We put pressure on them immediately but Warwick finished on 121, a gettable total by our standards. Things went well when our openers came to the crease until we lost two quick wickets. We couldn't make up the ground and finished 36 runs short.

Our final match was against Bishop Vesey's 12A team. We lost the toss and bowled first. The openers took no time to settle in on some tiny Eastern Road boundaries as they smacked 23 runs off the first over. They continued to hit their way through until we got our first wicket from a great run-out from Eshaan Rai. Our bowlers worked tirelessly to maintain good economies but they finished on 183. After some promise, our batsmen began to fade away culminating in our loss by 25 runs.

It was a good season on the whole for us as we learnt from our defeats and will come back strongly in the UMs hoping to be more successful.

Karamveer Handa



U12A XI

This was our first year of cricket at King Edward's School. We were all aware of how strong the previous U12 team was, so we were determined to be successful. It took us some time to get going and we lost our first two games, one against a very strong Solihull school team.

Eventually, we got our first win against Wolverhampton Grammar School. We ended the season with wins over Bloxham, King's Worcester, Bishop Vesey's and Aston. The highlight of the season was reaching the county final. Unfortunately, we came up against an outstanding Solihull team. Various members of the team contributed well: Milan Dogra, Fadhil Mir and Pranav Gajula all scored fifties. Vinesh Patel, Saif Mukadam and Inaam Ghaffar all bowled well throughout the year.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank the coaches. Mr Johnson and Mr Roll have been exceptional in helping us with any technical or tactical problems. Personally, I felt my team made great progress from match to match. I couldn't have asked for a better team or coaches. The facilities like Eastern Road cricket pitch have been incredible. I am sure we will come out strong next season and win the cup.

Pranav Gajula



Athletics

There's no doubt that it's getting harder to be successful in athletics, and it's harder to find the right level of opposition. Increasingly schools are giving up when it comes to producing teams on a regular basis. Schools like Loughborough have failed to produce a Senior Team for the last three seasons, and we've been fortunate (except when they beat us) that opposition like Welbeck College have been able to provide us with competition on Saturdays. Equally the demands of IB exams which coincide with the early part of the athletics season meant that this year only two Sixths competed for the Senior Team: the Divs were therefore competing against older, and more experienced, opposition.

On the track Will Ritchie-Moulin was unbeaten in both Hurdles and the 100m, where he was backed up with good performances from Olly Beardmore, Patrick Edwards and Ayo Ogunremi in both the 100m and 200m. Lucas McCollum was a very good second-string hurdler, and along with Josh Kimblin and Tom Garfield, these three beat most of their opposition in the 800m and 1500m. Olly Brown and Kush Sinha, in Shot and Discus, always gained good points despite being significantly smaller than their opposing throwers. Without the Yap twins, we would have missed out on massively-needed points in the Long and Triple Jumps, and they were both able and willing to compete in the Hurdles when required.

In the Intermediate age-group, there were really encouraging performances from key athletes who were well supported in a numerically small team. Will Kilgallon was another unbeaten athlete. His 1500m times improved with every race, and only in the final match against Shrewsbury did he meet a quicker 800m runner. Also unbeaten was Alex Gissen in both the Shot and Discus: competing for the Seniors in the final match at Uppingham, he managed to extend his unbeaten season. A very good prospect – is he the new Seb Heaven? But he wasn't alone in being unbeaten: Charlie Roberts in the Hurdles managed the same success, and Roodi Gent, on the track and in the jumps, was another athlete who was rarely beaten. These U17s were well supported by Joe Tedd on the track and in the circle, Aaron Jackson in Discus and Javelin, Angus Bradley on the track and Akash Thota in the High Jump who gained much-needed points.

Can I thank Mr Turner for getting everything organised: from Saturday matches to the running of endless heats of House Athletics that culminate in Sports Day. To all the staff who give up their time, particularly on Saturdays, and especially those who have had their first experience of judging this season, our immense thanks – quite literally without you we can't compete.

Will Ritchie-Moulin



William Ritchie-Moulin

Since Will in his usual quiet, unassuming way, has not referred to his own success on the track, it falls to me to ensure the Chronicle records his success. Culminating in 3rd place in the 110m Hurdles at the English Schools National Championships, Will has been the model athlete.

Much of his training with a specialist coach has taken place at the Alexander Stadium – we have been the fortunate recipients of the hours of training throughout the year that Will has had to fit in. He has been top-ranked nationally in the Hurdles for the last three years, he's competed in the English Schools Finals for each of the last three years, and in between these he's competed at the top level at meets such as the Bedford International Games. And would we have learned of these from Will? Probably not unless a thumb-screw had been applied.

We have been fortunate and privileged to have seen such a class athlete in action at Eastern Road, (and immensely grateful to his mother for her photographic skills). We hope for his continued success under the aegis of his new coach at Newcastle. A very special athlete – some very special performances.

RET



Badminton

Badminton continues to grow at KES. Our senior squad trains after school every Thursday but there are now two sessions for the lower school: one on Monday lunchtime, and the other after school on a Tuesday. It is great to see how popular the sport is becoming, especially among the younger years, as these sessions are often packed with more boys turning up than there are spaces on the court.

The senior badminton team had a great season last year, competing against schools such as Bromsgrove and Camp Hill in a regular series of home and away fixtures. We had a nearly unbroken record of success, losing only one match. Our junior team was equally successful, coming second in the West Midlands regional stage of the Center Parcs National Schools Team Championship.

Looking to the next season, four members of our senior team have left the school, creating the opportunity for some younger players to step in. We look forward to seeing some new faces in the team and to the challenge of improving on our performance last year. Thanks to Mr Johnson and our coach Mr Dave Eddy for their continued support throughout the year.

Conrad Yap

Squash

The National Schools Squash Competitions are played over two terms. In the autumn term the U15 team were runners-up in their pool so qualified for the Championship knock-out rounds. The team consisted of Declan Bradley, Tom Corbett, Ben O'Hara, Ed James and Tanay Kulkarni for the pool matches, with Oscar Jobes playing in the knock-out match.

In a pool of four, the U15 team came second by beating Wolverhampton Grammar School very comfortably by 5 ties to 0, no player lost a game in this match. We then faced Cheltenham College, whom we beat narrowly by 3 ties to 2. The team then had to face the mighty Wycliffe College, a school that has a dedicated squash academy. We lost 5 ties to 0.

In the first round of the Championship, we travelled to Manchester Grammar School where we just lost by 3 ties to 2. There were valiant performances by Tom Corbett and Oscar Jobes, who both won 5-game ties.

The U19 team were less successful. In the pool matches, we lost to Kenilworth, a specialist sports college, by 5 ties to nil. We did slightly better against John Cleveland, losing 4-1, and better still against Rushcliffe School, only losing 3-2. All matches were played on one day at the Priory Club. Unfortunately, we were missing two of our better players who were playing hockey. However, Charlie Roberts had an excellent afternoon winning his ties against both Rushcliffe and John Cleveland and coming close in his tie against

Kenilworth. Sam Shah also won his tie against Rushcliffe and took his tie against Kenilworth to five games.

Nevertheless, all teams progressed to the knock-out phases of the competition. In our case, we were in the Trophy and travelled to Bedford School with a full-strength team but unfortunately we lost 4-1. Sam Shah, the captain, won an epic five-game contest and Charlie Roberts took his opponent to five games before losing. All the other ties were competitive. The rest of the team were Angus Bradley, Alex Cheswick and Harry Jennings. We are grateful to Lawrence Isherwood, Kieran Nandhra and Sam Wilson for their efforts in the pool matches.

The U19s also had home and away matches to Bromsgrove winning the away match 3-2 and losing the home match by the same margin. In addition the recreational players on a Wednesday afternoon took part in a competition at the Priory Club in March.

The school is now in its strongest position in terms of the quality of its squash players for some time and next season provides a chance for these teams to do well in the national championships. We look forward to next season, even if it will sadly be without Mr T Mason, who has gone a long way to reviving squash at KES. We would like to thank him for his great efforts in leading the team all over the country over the last few years.

Sam Shah and Declan Bradley

Tennis

Junior team

The junior teams performed well at both U15 and U13 level with perhaps the most pleasing aspects being the depth of the squads and the enthusiasm of the players.

Ying Hou is obviously the stand-out player and it was unfortunate that injury prevented him from playing against Warwick in the last 32 of the U15 Aegon Schools' Championships. He has been playing for Yorkshire at U15 level in the county championships.

In the summer we comfortably won the U13 Aegon League with a squad of Andrew Fergusson, Jamie Draper, Ahmed Sherif, Tom Mathers and Rohit Mehta. There is much promise here for the future.

Michael Ollerenshaw, Vishal Aurore, Oscar Jobes, Miles McCollum, Tushar Roy and Ellis Owen have all been particularly impressive.

SJT

Senior team

The first VI were particularly strong especially when everyone was available. In the summer the team performed well winning the majority of their matches.

Olly Cull and Sam Rot were unbeaten at first pair. Guy Marston was impressive throughout but equally pleasing were the performances of the boys new to first team tennis in particular Richard Newton, Hugo Easlea, Finn Geelan, Cameron McPheely and Rohan Thawait.

Olly Cull has represented Warwickshire at U18 and leaves us on a tennis scholarship to North Carolina University. He is a fabulous player who has been an excellent tennis captain, fiercely loyal to school tennis. Rohan has represented Staffordshire at U13 this year and he came fourth in the Magdalen College U15 tennis championships.

SJT

Water Polo



U18 team

The U18 English Schools Water Polo National Finals quest began with solid first round victories against both Manchester Grammar and Warwick. In the second round tournament we secured top place, securing our position in the finals.

Our first game on finals day in the group matches was against last year's winners Bolton. Despite goals coming from our main pitman, Patrick Charles, it was not enough to beat them. The following game against Dulwich was a must-win if we wanted to make the semi-finals. Thankfully our desire to achieve was reflected in a 6-0 victory.

The semi-final against Haberdashers' Aske's nearly ended in an earlier than desired exit from the tournament had it not been for the last minute goals from Matt Madden and George Davies. At the end of normal time the score was level 4-4, and so penalties decided who would have a place in the final. After a great battle we won 9-8.

The final was against Bolton and perhaps a lack of confidence due to the earlier result, prevented us improving as a team, much to the frustration of our coach, and the final result was a 10-1 defeat.

All in all a heroic performance from all the boys and the honour of 2nd in the country, adding to the great achievements KES has gained in water polo over the years.

George Sadler

U16 team

The U16 team walked away from Walsall Gala Baths this year feeling proud of their result after performing well in the English Schools Water Polo Championship finals.

We qualified first in our group after the initial group matches, conceding only three goals in total against both Haberdashers' Aske's and Manchester Grammar, mainly due to consistent displays of talent from George Davies (in defence) and Gus Liff (goalkeeper).

We began the play-offs facing Bolton School. An early goal from KES gave us a 1-0 lead filling us with confidence, but perhaps too much as the depth in Bolton's team and their fast-paced play allowed them to overtake us. A final score of Bolton 12-1 KES didn't leave us too disheartened as Bolton went on to win the tournament.

Our last match was against Haberdashers' Aske's, competing for 3rd place. As before we won comfortably with a final score of 7-4 and were content to leave with bronze medals.

Matt Madden





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