



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Chronicle

2016





Contents

1	Hellos and goodbyes	05
2	School news	25
3	Performing arts	29
4	Art gallery	37
5	Trips	57
6	Outreach	69
7	Leadership	75
8	CCF	79
9	Words	85
10	Societies	89
11	Houses	97
12	Sport	103



Hellos	Josh Ray
School news	Ashwyn Aulak
Performing arts	Alex Pett and Charlie Roberts
Trips	Jordan Chan
Outreach	Lokesh Jain
Leadership	Taher Esmail
CCF	Daniel Taiwo
Societies	Greg Leckey and Josh Sagoo
Houses	Nirad Abrol
Sport	Akash Kumar, Ed Pracy and Kaler Wong
Staff Editor	Matthew Bartlett
Art Editor	Bradley Spencer
Words Editor	Mercedes Romon-Alonso

Many thanks to David Ash, Chris Boardman and David Corns for providing many of the photographs used in *Chronicle*.



1

Hellos and goodbyes



Sarah Behan

Biology

Life before KES

Before taking this job, I taught in state schools for 10 years. Previously, I was the Head of Science at Tudor Grange Academy, Worcester. Before teaching, I went to the University of Birmingham to do biological sciences and got out with a first class degree. Having graduated, I knew I wanted to get into teaching so I did my PGCE straightaway. I've always wanted be a teacher, ever since primary school. I've always been passionate about wanting to teach.

Why biology?

Biology is obviously the most important subject! Our health is essential in wanting to stay alive and biology is fundamental to this. Everything from art and history to romance is based around our biological nature. I'm always surprised at how little people know about their own physiology, anatomy and evolution. The how and why is so important to our existence. Biology is the building block of all other subjects. But I'm sure lots of other teachers would disagree!

Hobbies

I've got a dog, so dog walking is a big part of my life right now. I like to cook. Socialising and seeing friends is also very important to me. I like seeing my nieces as well.

Favourite...

Food: At the moment I've got a weird craving for ice (must be a pregnancy thing!), but most probably a fresh fruit salad. Oh and I love cereal; it's like a food and a drink.

Book: *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins. I definitely recommend it, especially if you like biology.

TV programme: *Game of Thrones*. Big fan.

Film: *Theory of Everything*.



George Browning

Director of Rugby

Life before KES

I grew up in Norwich (hence why I support Norwich City) and then moved to Shropshire, where all my family is currently based. I went to The University of Manchester to do anthropology. I then worked for a sports advertising agency for four years called M&C Saatchi. Since then I've worked at Bromsgrove School (boooooo) for three years as a PE teacher and then three years at KES Bath, as Head of PE. However, after spending a year at Bromsgrove, I took a sabbatical and travelled the world with my wife, Lindsay, for a series of mountain expeditions. We went to places like the Himalayas, Andes, Alps; you name it, we climbed it! Finally, I then ended up at KES Birmingham and I've never been happier!

Why rugby?

I've always played rugby. I played for two Premiership Academies until the age of 21: Worcester Warriors and Sale Sharks. However, when it got to the stage where I couldn't play any more, I knew I wanted to stay involved. I really like the secondary school vibe. I enjoy all the different challenges throughout each year group. I love cricket as well; it's probably my second sport. I used to play non-stop from the age of 11 but it's slowed down after having my kids, Isla and Barney. I also like hockey but unfortunately, I can't do it as I'm involved in all the rugby during the winter.

Hobbies

Golf; I'm a very social golfer. I'm in a rock covers band called The Burn where we have a burnt pizza as our logo. I'm also in an acoustic trio group called The Gordons. I basically play very bad rhythm guitar and I definitely don't sing... I dance!

Favourite...

Food: Oh yes, please. Pretty much all food but if I could only ever have one it would be sandwiches.

Book: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez or *Bounce: The Myth of Talent and the Power of Practice* by Matthew Syed.

TV programme: *The Thick of It*.

Film: *A Night at the Roxbury*.



James Butler

English

Life before KES

I grew up in Wimbledon. I went to a school very much like KES called King's College School, Wimbledon where I had a very privileged upbringing. At the age of 17, I became a Christian from a non-Christian family (my parents didn't like that!). After school, I took a gap year and worked as a neurological rehabilitation assistant for six months. I made some money and in 1999, I went to Mexico where I taught in an orphanage. After my gap year, I went to the University of Birmingham to do English. At university, between my second and third year, I went to Mozambique to teach. Finally, I did a PGCE and worked at Lordswood Boys' School for nine years until I came here in September 2015.

Why English?

I've always been good at English and found it easy. I enjoy ideas and talking about books rather than reading them. I also love reading books out loud to students; that's my favourite part of the job.

Hobbies

I don't have any time for hobbies. I run or cycle to school, there and back every day. I try to swim every morning at school or do yoga. All my activities outside of work are based at school including playing table tennis and running with Dr Fennel and beating Mr Rackham at squash. I definitely want to get back into painting and pottery and I'd like to pick up the trombone again. I enjoy playing strange sports like fives and making up sports like 'crocker' or 'ragga'.

Favourite...

Food: Whatever the school canteen serves every day; I love the school food. I also like anything my wife cooks or anything with a load of chili.

Book: *A Plea to Return to the Lord* from the Book of Hosea or anything written by Donald Barthelme.

TV programme: *Arrested Development*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Red Dwarf* and *Breaking Bad*.

Film: Anything that makes me cry or anything that is to do with fatherhood or substitutionary atonement (i.e. any Disney film).



Tony Bussey

Economics

Life before KES

I was at Solihull School for 11 years as Head of Economics, appointed by John Claughton who was the Head at the time, funnily enough. Before that, I taught at Bromsgrove School for four years and even before that, I was at The Sixth Form College, Solihull. I've always stayed local as I was born and brought up here.

Why economics?

It's the most important subject for everyone to study. It helps us to understand the world in which we live and yes, some economists did predict the financial crash of 2008!

Hobbies

I mainly played cricket and basketball but I don't do much now as I've got kids. Chasing the boys around, Daniel (10) and Thomas (6), is a good hobby! I played a reasonably high level of cricket, for the greatest cricket club in the world, Moseley Ashfield, but, unlike half the staff here, I didn't make it to the Olympics!

Favourite...

Food: Rocky Mountain oysters (even after I found out what they were!).

Book: *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean Dominique-Bauby.

TV programme: There's loads but I'm going to go with *Lilyhammer*. I watch way too much TV!

Film: *Cling* (ba dum tssh). Any film that doesn't have Nicholas Cage in it or the *Toy Story* trilogy (what's not to love?).



Anneliese Havel

Modern Languages

Life before KES

I'm obviously from Germany where I did a degree in hospitality. In my third year, I had to go abroad so, in order to improve my English, I came to Birmingham. I stayed and worked in the Novotel on Broad Street. At the time, Novotel had a scheme to support the community where they sent their foreign staff to help out in deprived secondary schools and teach languages. I was a language assistant at George Dixon Academy, which is how I got into teaching. In between my two stints at KES, I moved to Gloucestershire for private reasons. During that time, I worked in a veterinary referral hospital doing admin and marketing. But I always knew I wanted to go back into teaching. A year ago, I was in the process of applying for a PGCE when Mrs Helm told me she was leaving. I then re-applied to KES and had an interview and lesson observation with the current Sixths; they were so sweet, so I decided to come straight back!

Why languages?

I want to make a difference in how languages are perceived. I want to give students a passion for languages and cultures. In regards to why teach languages in the UK, I think schools in this country are far behind in terms of languages and so I'd definitely like to be a part of changing that.

Hobbies

Non-existent as I work full-time at KES but I have two dogs which I've had for three years.

Favourite...

Food: Anything. All of it and a lot of it! Absolutely love the dinner ladies and the food here.

Book: I don't tend to have favourites in general (I also tend to forget immediately what I've read!) but a book that was memorable in my late teens was *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit* by Daniel Quinn in which a student and a teacher discuss the state of the world.

TV programme: I quite like *Mock the Week* and *Have I Got News for You*. Anything with a bit of British humour.

Film: Again, I don't have favourites as such. I tend to enjoy indie rather than mainstream films. There's a nice Swedish movie that I like: *As it is in Heaven*.



Polly Higgins

Drama

Life before KES

I've been a teacher for 16 years. I initially trained and taught in London and then moved down to Devon, Torbay, and taught there for about 12 years (on and off). I have also taught in Bristol and was part of a team that launched a new academy in the south of the city. I also introduced the IB into that school. And before I became a teacher, I used to work in television for various TV companies in London.

Why drama?

I've always been interested in theatre and drama and I love directing!

Hobbies

I run and swim. I like travelling and travel as much as I can. I've been all over the world, particularly to central America. I've also been to Costa Rica, Argentina, Venezuela, India, Australia, Thailand and pretty much all over Europe; I'm really interested in people and places. I also like cooking. I make wedding cakes for friends. I've made about four or five: they take a week usually to make.

Favourite...

Food: Greek cuisine.

Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

TV programme: It depends. Currently, it's *Game of Thrones* but in the past it would have been *The Wire* or *Dynasty*.

Film: *It's a Wonderful Life* (I watch it every year to mark the start of Christmas!) or *Some Like It Hot*.



Natalie Lockhart-Mann

English and IB Coordinator

Life before KES

I was born in South Africa where I did my schooling, education and first university degree. I then decided to move to the UK to teach but then got really lucky and got a teaching job in Ankara, Turkey. I spent a couple of years there, learning the language and the culture and it was then when I started to like the idea of international teaching. From that moment, I knew that was going to be my career path. In terms of teaching, I have taught in countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Kuwait and many more.

Why English?

I've always been good at it and I've always loved reading. I couldn't really imagine myself not doing something I love for the rest of my life. It's definitely very important to do something you have a great passion for and my passion is English.

Hobbies

I work too hard to have a hobby! Sometimes, if I have the time, I will do yoga or Pilates. I still make space for reading but most of my free time involves me going home and collapsing on the couch, wondering where the day went! I'd like to say that travelling is also a hobby, having travelled everywhere as an international teacher.

Favourite...

Food: Biltong, a South African snack which is made from dried, cured meat.

Book: There are too many, just too many. It depends on the mood I am in and when I read it. I don't have a single favourite as I genuinely think it's impossible to nail down one book; there's just such great variety. A book I'm reading right now is *Swamplandia!* and I'm reading it because it was the unseen IB text for this year's exam. I read it in the exam paper and got so immersed in it I had to find out how the story would pan out!

TV programme: *Friends*.

Film: It's been a long time since I watched a film! Probably *The Big Blue*.



Lindsey Mephram

Development Director

Life before KES

I was a student of the University of Oxford where I studied English Literature. I was also actually the first in my family to go to university, so going to Oxford especially was a big deal for me! Before arriving at KES, I worked at the University for seven years leading fundraising for outreach and bursary provision. During my time there, I raised over £5m for students who needed financial support.

Why KES?

Going to Oxford and getting a great education changed my life and strengthened my commitment to social mobility. So, when I was approached about this job and the AP100 Campaign, I was really excited and really wanted it (especially being from Birmingham)! I myself was a student on financial assistance, so being able to facilitate support for other people is really heart-warming; it's a personal as well as a professional mission for me.

Hobbies

I love reading, cycling and baking. I'm also very much into indie and rock music.

Favourite...

Food: Anything that can be shared, so tapas or mezze.

Book: It always used to be *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy. I used to be able to recite passage after passage from the novel! Lately, though, *NW* by Zadie Smith has taken its place.

TV programme: I really like long-running dramas, for example, *The Sopranos*. Right now, I'm just finishing *Mad Men*.

Film: Probably *Amelie*.



Nathan Round

Cricket Coach

Life before KES

I spent the last 11 years working at Winterfold House School. Prior to that I played professional cricket for Worcestershire and Warwickshire County Cricket Clubs. Before that I was an overseas player for four years at Fish Hoek Cricket Club in Cape Town. In my youth, I played for England U19s, Halesowen College and Cradley High School. I also played Birmingham league cricket from the age of 14.

Why cricket?

It's my older brother's fault this one; he has a lot to answer for. He joined a local club at the age of 12, and so as a keen four-year-old, I decided to go and see what it was all about. I fell in love with the game and the social life that accompanies cricket. My dad was a keen sportsman, specialising in football and scuba diving. So that's where my love of sport/cricket came about. I spent endless hours in the garden, ruining anything that looked like it didn't belong on a cricket field; we even had a light roller and covers.

Hobbies

These have changed a lot over the years. As a teenager, I played football ahead of cricket. I played club football for Forest Falcons and district for North Worcestershire. I also played for West Bromwich Albion U13s through to U15s as a right winger/right midfielder. I used to love playing the piano when I started at the age of nine but sadly I stopped playing by the age of 18 as I couldn't give it the time it needed to progress. Right now I play a lot of golf and tennis, but my very recent hobby has been road cycling and that's my down time, so to speak, at the moment. I also have a very lively three-year-old Sprocker Spaniel so I spend lots of time walking/throwing and retrieving him from sticky situations!

Favourite...

Food: I enjoy a variety of foods, such a variety in fact I'd eat most things. I've learnt a lot from Mr Browning! I like Argentinian, Mexican and Indian, to name but a few, but I do love a roast dinner, and of course anything that our delightful school kitchen staff have in store.

Book: I do like an autobiography; I recently read Francois Pienaar's book about when South Africa won the Rugby World Cup in 1995, which was a fantastic read.

TV programme: I don't watch a great deal of TV; if I did have a favourite programme it would probably have to be *Top Gear*, not the new series I might add. Good old Clarkson, May and Hammond.

Film: I have a rather diverse range; I couldn't give you one specific favourite film. My favourites range from *Scarface*, *The Godfather* and *Point Break* to *The Dark Knight*, *Iron Man* and *Star Wars*; but those are only a few!



Benjamin Weaver

PE Assistant

Life before KES

I went to Bablake School where I was 1st XV rugby captain. I then studied sport and exercise science at the University of Birmingham but after graduation I just wanted a job so I worked in social media for Holland & Barrett. Whilst I worked there full-time, I also did part-time coaching. I then did some personal training for a Welsh sevens rugby player and was part of the strength and conditioning GB pentathlon team. Soon after, I joined KES.

Why PE?

I really enjoyed it at school; I was quite sporty. However, at Bablake I didn't have much guidance and I don't want others falling into that trap where they have potential but don't have the right support to take them to the next level. For example, as a young boy, I was told I was too small to get into the Warwickshire or Midlands rugby side but no-one told me to go away to train and work and get bigger. In terms of PE, I also teach a bit of sport science. There's so much stuff the body adapts to when training or under stress which I find really interesting.

Hobbies

I still play rugby when I can. I've also started training at Birch Field Harriers for the 200m and 400m athletic events. Obviously, I'm always hitting the gym. I go to quite a lot of gigs at the O2 Academy and I've just started drum lessons with Mr Hill too.

Favourite...

Food: Steak.

Book: *Special Strength Training: Manual for Coaches* by Natalia Verkhoshansky and Yuri Verkhoshansky.

TV programme: *House*.

Film: *Jurassic Park*.

Tom Arbuthnott

English

In the spring of 2010 KES advertised for two experienced English teachers. It employed one – and Tom: a German and Italian graduate, with an MPhil in something European and zero years of English teaching experience. So, a person might wonder what magic Mr Arbuthnott wove to get his foot in the door of this august institution and kept him here for six years?

It has become more than apparent over the time I have worked with Tom that this was the same magic responsible for the energy he brings to his English classroom, for the multitudinous trips to the theatre for which he has been responsible, for the workshops and MUN conferences he has organised and for his truly astonishing work with Outreach, which has seen in excess of 11,000 students from approximately 205 schools pass through KES's doors in the last year alone (up from just 11 in 2011 when he was appointed). It is a magic, the ingredients of which, as far as my careful study of his alchemy has revealed, comprises:

- one part dynamic energy that knows no bounds;
- one part complete, devotional love of books and language and especially their combined transformational capacity;
- one part wry sense of humour and of fun that finds life generally a very silly place to be;
- one part complete commitment to the idea that his students deserve to have English lessons that are exploratory, varied and touched with just a little lunacy.

He is leaving us for pastures very, very old – indeed he will be able to gaze from the window of his double-fronted, five-bedroomed, rent-free Georgian house across the road to the window from which he gazed as a boy to the double-fronted, five-bedroomed, rent-free Georgian house across the road. He is leaving us to take up a role created just for him, which just goes to show that Eton College, much like the Chief six years ago, knows a good thing when it strides through the door.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with Tom. We thank him for all he has done for the boys, for the English department and for the School. We wish him and his family much love and every success.

GJB

“He is leaving us to take up a role created just for him, which just goes to show that Eton College, much like the Chief six years ago, knows a good thing when it strides through the door.”



Hayley Bettinson

Swimming and water polo

Over the past eight years, Hayley has not only driven and moulded the swimming programme in the School but has contributed across many other areas of the games programme and volunteered on numerous extra-curricular trips and activities. To say that Hayley Bettinson has been the KES swimming teacher would be to grossly underestimate the extent of her contribution to the School.

Hayley represented Great Britain as a swimmer at the age of only 17, achieving an impressive set of accolades and records. Hayley considers her greatest swimming achievement to be winning the first ever 50m front crawl sprint in the Great Britain Championships where she beat Sharon Davies in the final. This was the first swimming race to be televised live on BBC. A couple of days later, on her school geography field trip to the Port Talbot Steelworks, Hayley was recognised by the plant foreman from her appearance on *Grandstand*.

Sport, and especially elite sport, is not only incredibly rewarding but can be fickle and cruel and Hayley's career was cut short only months later by a wrist and forearm problem; she was forced to retire two weeks before the GB trials for the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

As a complete change in direction, Hayley went to Crewe and Alsager College to study art and design and began building furniture and throwing pots. This led to a 15-year career as a self-employed interior decorator before she was lured back into swimming by an old swimming coach who offered Hayley the opportunity to take on a couple of lunchtime swimming sessions at KEHS. A gap opened up coaching water polo at KES and a surreptitious offer was made and accepted.

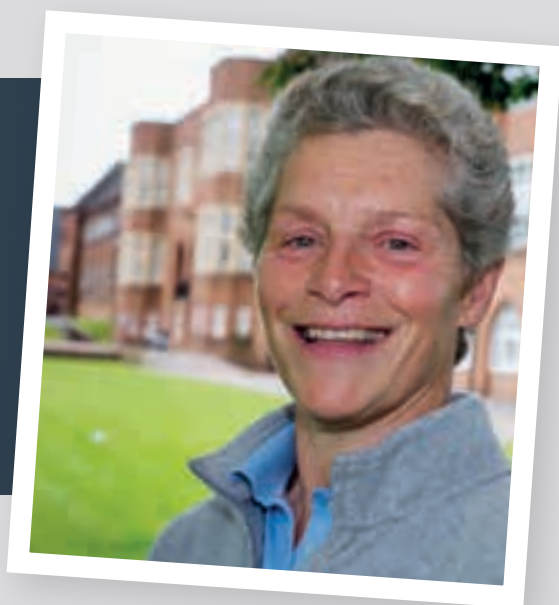
What started out as a couple of afternoons a week of senior water polo and a swimming club, has grown exponentially under the guidance and attention of Hayley. Our successes nationally, both with our school teams and with the representative honours of our pupils, are quite exceptional and almost exclusively down to Hayley's dedication, delegation and endless patience. Under Hayley, KES teams have won five gold medals, eight silver medals and 13 bronze medals.

After school Hayley ran her swimming club on a Monday as well as water polo two to three nights a week AND coached staff and pupils alike before school on a Thursday morning. Then there are the Outreach Junior School Swimming Galas, KES House Swimming and Water Polo Competitions and the record keeping for every boy's five-minute swim throughout his time at KES.

At the same time, she has pursued her own Master's swimming career and with typical commitment and pursuit of excellence has once again excelled. Hayley has held the world record in the 50m fly and is the current holder of the freestyle relay world record. She has held European records in the freestyle and individual medley along with an impressive 17 British records.

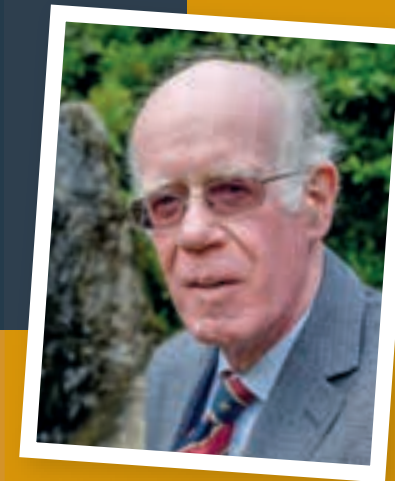
Hayley Bettinson has been the embodiment of the sort of sports teacher that I personally would like to be and her dedication to KES has been seemingly endless. The cyclical nature of time has now seen Hayley look to move back towards her creative side as she is once again studying to pursue a career in garden design. We wish Hayley all the luck and success in the world with her new venture.

CAPJ



“What started out as a couple of afternoons a week of senior water polo and a swimming club, has grown exponentially under the guidance and attention of Hayley.”

“Richard is a thinker, an appreciator of beauty and talent in all its guises, and that rare individual with the ability to step outside his own viewpoint, abandon his preconceptions, and see clearly when all around is chaos.”



Richard Bridges

Mathematics

In 1972, one of the most intelligent men I have ever met left Brierley Hill Grammar School and went up to Cambridge. His name is Chris Baker, and he studied engineering, graduating with a first class distinction before moving into research and becoming the leading professor in the University of Birmingham's Civil Engineering department. He once told me he became an engineer rather than a mathematician because he knew he would never be as strong in that field as his good school friend, Richard Bridges.

Having worked with Richard for 16 years, he ranks firmly as the most intelligent man I have ever met. I do not make this comment lightly, but Richard trumps all others not because of his mathematical intelligence (which is stellar) but because of his emotional intelligence. Richard is a thinker, an appreciator of beauty and talent in all its guises, and that rare individual with the ability to step outside his own viewpoint, abandon his preconceptions, and see clearly when all around is chaos.

Richard joined the School 38 years ago, as plain old Mr Bridges and at that point was Form Master to Shell B. A former pupil remembers his high expectations and robust support:

“Shell B, 1982, two chairs in the corridor outside room 146. Dr B sat first. Then me. Topic for discussion – the end of year report. “It wasn't very good was it?” “I thought it was alright, sir.” “No, it was not alright. You are better than that.” And that, I never forgot. Someone thought I was better than I thought I was.”

In more recent years, Richard has forsaken his form duties to take on the role of exam secretary, and we have all seen him do this fiendishly complicated job with the utmost diplomacy, calmness and care for the welfare of the boys. I have only twice seen Richard in less than total control. The first when his carefully devised computer programme for the starts, ends and warnings during the IB exam season simply dissolved under the strain, and the second on a roasting summer afternoon when I was invigilating the Fifts in Big School as they did their Spanish Listening exam. There was a sudden commotion and a lot of noise: looking out into Chantry Court it became clear that a small and very yappy terrier was having the time of his life out there. I, of course, couldn't leave the exam room, and phoned Richard. The image of him chasing the little dog and being persistently outwitted is one which will stay with me forever.

Of course, running with dogs was not restricted to that one occasion. As part of his Wednesday afternoon cross country games option, Richard frequently exercised my border collie for me and once even wrote him a report. There are plenty of boys who have fond memories of Richard's Wednesday jaunts too. Many of them also remember his visits to the hills. They describe his patience, support and ability to keep going, even uphill, in 100mph blizzards. In this role, as well as computing teacher in the 80s, Richard was seen as ‘a true pioneer’. Richard extends his love of the wild places into his personal time too, and completed the Munros in 2005, dedicating this feat to, amongst others, Nick Holliday, RIP.

There has also been music, computing, general studies, ToK, yoga, astronomy and too much else to mention. Richard has done too much and meant too much to too many people to do his career justice here. But there is no skirting around Richard's amazing gift and passion for mathematics, and for passing that passion on to others.

“I was incredibly fortunate to have been taught by Dr Bridges between 1996 and 1998, mostly during his free time and often informally on topics above and beyond the curriculum. He encouraged me to read around the subject. At the time I didn't quite appreciate how selfless the role of a teacher is and the profound difference it can make on your life; it is thanks to Dr Bridges and my other maths teachers that I gained a place at Cambridge. I cannot thank him enough for his help and the thoroughly enjoyable, engaging lessons and the confidence he gave me. I just wish I could find the numerous books he loaned me!”

In a maths department meeting this year, Richard declared himself “a passing good mathematician”. Looks were exchanged as every one of us silently acknowledged that, on that basis, it was time for us to hang up our calculators and admit defeat. You see, foremost amongst the many things he is, Richard is modest in the extreme. Confucius said that wisdom is knowing what you don't know. Richard is wise; we will miss his wisdom and we will miss his company.

BL

John Claughton

Chief Master

It was scrambling over another fence before hacking our way through undergrowth to find a path that might possibly lead towards the School, a school of which John was not only Chief Master but had attended as a boy and had now somehow lost, that first made me wonder ‘who is this man?’ Eight years on, I do still wonder at times. It was certainly the most unorthodox start to a job interview I have ever had. Yet I was soon to learn that, whilst mishaps happened to the Claughton family on an unerringly regular basis, John’s passion, commitment, intelligence and drive were infectious and in many ways super-human. It was also the personal connection which he made; that knowledge and belief that he really truly cared, which is why I, like so many others, joined the School. It was this personal commitment that persuaded so many parents to send their sons to the School and why so many Old Edwardians parted with their cash, time and expertise to support projects that he made happen. The transformation over the last 10 years has been incredible, relentless at times, chaotic at others but always with the same aim: to make King Edward’s the great school that it was and should be. And he did just that.

“If King Edward’s is once again the Great School of Birmingham, then it is thanks to John Claughton – a Great Chief Master.”



The decision to move to the IB was a huge one, and John certainly demonstrated several characteristics of the Learner Profile during the process, not that he realised it at the time (or possibly since). He was definitely a risk-taker. As he sat rocking under his desk in March 2012 following a series of troubling meetings, the enormity of the situation was obvious. Maybe the ‘Big Bang’ approach was indeed very stupid and was about to swallow us up rather than create a new dawn. Yet it did work out, somehow, like so many of his ideas and decisions. It was not always comfortable or easy: sometimes his drive could be exhausting and he could be rude and leave the odd casualty strewn along the way, something which hurt him more than most ever realised. The fact that James and then Tom were also going through it added that strong family connection, and one that John never took lightly.

Indeed his love of and commitment to his family was the only thing that superseded his love of the School and without

Alexandra and Sammy there it is hard to see how he could have functioned. Although, I’m sure they couldn’t see that sometimes when he was immersed in school and so many of his great projects: the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, the Brode Wing, unlocking the swimming pool on a Sunday morning, the AP100 Campaign, the IB, locking the Sports Hall at night, the Outreach programme, admissions, writing a ridiculous number of reports, helping transform the Foundation, changing the pastoral structure of the School, attending more plays, concerts, debates, matches and fixtures than should have been humanly possible and the list goes on. John’s love of the School as both boy and man led him to put King Edward’s back at the top. Not just in terms of league tables, trophies and awards but in a more moral and socially meaningful way. If King Edward’s is once again the Great School of Birmingham, then it is thanks to John Claughton – a Great Chief Master.

JCF



John will wince at the imperfect link between Aristotle’s ‘virtues’ and the modern concept of ‘character education’, but there is no doubt he demonstrates not only the unique, vibrant personality which means many who meet him refer to him as “quite a character”, but also the classical traits acknowledged as being of ‘character’.

Wisdom: his intelligence and knowledge are of intimidating levels. **Courage:** to go with his ‘gut instinct’, to admit if an error has been made. **Gratitude:** for the opportunities he had and his determination to provide this for others. **Humility:** his love of his family and for the School.

John is not only ‘quite a character’, but a man of great character.

RDH



50 words? Hilarious, caring, unpredictable, bewildering, inspirational, determined, heart-on-his-sleeve, energetic, enthusiastic, thoughtful, Renaissance man, cricketer, cyclist, art-lover, Springsteen fan, classicist, linguist, family man, humble, adventurous, courageous, ballet-lover, intellectual, Counterfeit Stones fan, Old Edwardian, fundraiser, philanthropist, witty, untidy, chaotic, perceptive, liberal, leader of men, visionary, friend.

KDP



I attended KES from 1969 to 1976 and John Claughton was my Head of House in a then highly successful Jeune. Back then John was someone of considerable academic and physical stature. Whilst his intellectual pre-eminence has never been in doubt, when we met again in 2007 I found (as have generations of Removes and above) that he was a good deal shorter than me.

However, by a quirk of space-time worthy of Dr Who, John has always been a leader to look up to whatever one's height. No doubt informed in part by his being a KES 'Old Boy', he has a profound understanding of what the School is about and how, during his tenure, it needed to evolve to maintain its status as a beacon of learning and social advancement for Birmingham and the Midlands.

Early in his leadership John identified the need for the governance structure of the Foundation to be revised to better serve KES and KEHS and I was delighted to be asked, and to accept, a role on the Independent Schools Governing Body (ISGB). With feedback from some of my contemporaries (who, like me, had had rather mixed earlier experiences of re-engaging with KES), John soon identified the need to transform alumni relations. And, as is the case at many schools, the first challenge was to find the majority of them for whom there were no contact details.

Somewhat to the surprise of ISGB, John and I were successful in advancing the argument that Assisted Places funding (so essential to the School's continued efforts to attract the brightest and the best irrespective of parental means) would be better served by the establishment of a standalone Trust. Set up in May 2009, the Trust has now raised over £13m towards capital projects and Assisted Places. Assisted Places have not just provided financial opportunities for bright boys across Birmingham – they have also facilitated stronger

cross-generational links amongst Old Edwardians through mentoring and careers networks which open access to a world beyond KES. The Development Office has played a major role in this effort but John was again the essential catalyst. Without him I know, as a direct contemporary, that Sir Paul Ruddock would not have made such an extraordinarily generous gift towards the Performing Arts Centre.

On the educational front, John was instrumental in recommending a switch from A-levels to IB and, crucially, in ensuring he had the teaching resources in place to make it such a success. His communications with ISGB (and with parents) have always been pearls of wisdom, humanity and humour, invariably sprinkled with the odd learned reference to keep non-classicists on their toes.

In his several third party appraisals as Chief Master, the only criticism ISGB has ever seen levelled at John is that he should try and switch off occasionally and spend more time with his family. In his well-earned retirement John will have the opportunity to do both and I have little doubt that many alumni will join me in thanking him for his transformational time at KES and in wishing him and all the Claughton family every happiness and success in the future.

Stuart Southall (1976)

Tom Hosty Head of English

When you read this, Tom will still be teaching English at KES, as he is doing a part-time maternity cover. However the summer of 2015 saw his official retirement after 34 years on the staff, 28 of them as Head of Department. Two threads stretch unbroken through those years, his teaching and his care for the department.

Generations of boys have striven to produce written work that would meet Tom's exacting standards, and then to decipher his lengthy comment, filled with suggestions for further improvement. In lessons ballads have been sung, sonnets written and the Spelling Game played with fierce competitiveness. His care for the teachers in the English department, fondly referred to as his boys and girls, has been unswerving. Hours of meticulous planning and thought have ensured that everything ran as smoothly as possible, whether it be marking the entrance exam, moderating coursework or training his department to teach the new syllabuses.

But Tom's career at KES has also seen him involved in a very wide range of other projects, so that each generation of Old Boys has its own, quite specific, image of the Doc. Every *Chronicle* between 1999 and 2014 was produced under his guidance. Weekly meetings with the team of boy editors were followed each year by summer holidays of patient proof reading and fact checking to produce a magazine of which the School could be proud.

In the early years he directed plays. *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Gregory's Girl*, *Macbeth* and *The Golden Masque of Agamemnon* involved boys and girls of all ages, and demonstrated Tom's ability to control some of the School's more confident actors while encouraging others to grow into roles which they initially found daunting.

Then came a period in which Tom took on the role of master in charge of debating. Lively meetings of the Junior Debating Society filled the KEHS Lecture Theatre to capacity. His work with the teams preparing for the annual Midlands Schools' Debating Competition saw KES rewarded with the trophy for Best Individual Speaker. The final triumph, in the year that he handed on the torch to Mr Stacey, was a trip to Edinburgh to see KES boys win the Observer Mace.

In 1986, the Chief Master decided that KES needed its own bookshop. This was created in the space to the left of the main entrance, now Mrs Phillips's office and the interview room. Tom thoroughly enjoyed helping to design the fixtures and fittings and then stocking the shop with books chosen to appeal to staff and pupils. Girls and boys were recruited to work behind the counter. The staff soon became a loyal and closely knit team who adopted the brand 'hosty's: the bookshop' (a deliberate lower case 'h' spoofing a Dillons' ad of the time) and began a poster campaign across the two schools. Although the shop did tend to be at its busiest during exams, as pupils rushed in to buy rulers and protractors, it did a steady trade in books for a number of years.



Tom has always had a great knack for encouraging pupils to run things themselves, rather than imposing his own ideas. A great example of this has been Shakespeare Society. Whenever a group of Sixth Formers expressed interest in this, Tom was ready with his support. If the boys and girls proved to be genuinely committed great things could ensue. Tom was always there, skilfully cutting the chosen play to an appropriate length, providing a bridging summary if needed and reading minor roles in a range of voices.

Tom's scholarship and wide-ranging knowledge of literature have been at the heart of his teaching throughout the last 34 years. Many boys, and their parents, have commented on just how much he seems to know, so that a lesson can range freely across genres and periods, showing pupils unexpected connections and echoes from text to text. This made him ideally suited to be Head of English when KES made the move from A-levels to IB. This change had profound implications for the department. Every boy in the School would now study English for seven years. New staff were needed as the department doubled in size. The A-level syllabus involved a limited range of texts. For IB the choice was effectively infinite, and had to include writing from more than one area of the world.

As the planning began in 2009, Tom read and read: revisiting texts from his Cambridge days, finding ways to accommodate old favourites within the new structure, encouraging the department to take full advantage of the chance to teach personal enthusiasms, whether they be Turkish poetry, Greek tragedy or modern European novels. For many people such a major change, at the end of a long career, would have seemed daunting. For Tom, it simply revitalised his commitment to English at KES. His meticulous planning has been rewarded. Not just by examination results, but by the satisfaction of seeing so many boys who would not have chosen English for A-level now given the chance to enjoy literature at this level.

At the end of the summer term, Old Boys were asked to contribute memories of Tom. Over and over again his past pupils spoke about how he made books come alive, how they were helped to express themselves more clearly and to think critically, and about the mutual respect between the Doc and his classes. Tom has served KES faithfully and we wish him a relaxing and happy retirement.

Michael Johnson

Director of Hockey

How to say goodbye to a friend and colleague? I turned to Google. If you search for Michael Johnson you come up with the terms: 'steely perfectionist' and 'world superstar'. However, on closer inspection, you realise that you are reading about the international 200m and 400m American athlete of the late 1990s.

Yet, 'our' Michael DOES have his own Wikipedia site and more: there is some pretty impressive stuff on it. Senior England hockey debut at 18-years-old; 168 international caps; England captain and double Olympian (in 2000 and 2004). This is a man who is used to success and big things.

He certainly brought that with him to Hockey at KES. And with the considerable backing of the School, plenty has evolved: three Senior School teams have become six; there are school teams in the Rems and Shells; the occasional age group winning the county championships has been replaced by KES sides now expecting to make the regional finals every year. Every year individual boys gain national honours and the U16s have made the National Finals for three out of the last four years – and came second last year.

But, that is just the start of it. The School turned to IB and Michael was appointed Head of CAS: unknown territory that he

made a terrific success of, once again. He founded the incredibly popular and oversubscribed Friday afternoon option raising extraordinary quantities of money for Birmingham Children's Hospital in extraordinary ways. He also began academic Sports Science at Standard Level with tremendous results.

He really is a bit of a superman who sets high standards for himself and takes others with him. If you ask the boys about Michael they tell you he is a real life hero. Four people are being appointed to cover Michael's professional roles and it will be a considerable achievement if all four combined can go anywhere near just matching the incredible successes that he has had at KES.

But, there will be one hole left that I am not sure can be filled. Michael has that rare commodity that being in his company makes people happier. It has been a real privilege to have had his friendship.

LMR

“He really is a bit of a superman who sets high standards for himself and takes others with him.”



Beccy Leaver

Mathematics

A degree and a Masters in Civil Engineering led to three years on a building site where Beccy became accustomed to bossing, giving instructions and being obeyed – a job which satisfied her love of control. When someone tried to adapt her role by placing her in an office, a career change was needed.

With the question of what to do next and the offer of a PhD, Beccy went back to the University of Birmingham to return to her studies. It didn't take her long to realise that she was getting more satisfaction from the thing she was doing to finance her course than she was from the actual course itself and this led to an epiphany: teaching. So Beccy switched a PhD in Birmingham for a PGCE at Loughborough and then set out into the world – landing at Wolverhampton Girls' High School where she taught English and maths for three years.

In 1999, Roger Dancey and George Andronov interviewed Miss Leaver for a maths post at KES and she joined the school she's been at ever since. This was back in the days when new members of staff could be press-ganged and, at interview, Beccy was committed to running Junior Debating and being involved in the CCF. Debating stuck for five years and she professes to have had a most rewarding time that included memorable trips with Mr Stacey all around the country.

However, it is through the CCF that she has made one of her biggest contributions to the School. A shake up in personnel and roles within the contingent led to Beccy leading the Naval Section, which at that point comprised of only eight boys parading each week, and coincided with Rev Raynor taking over as Contingent Commander. Beccy was given licence to be creative and come up with a programme that would draw boys back to the Royal Navy Section and this she did in spades. Whilst building on the programme of expeditions already in place and taking boys to HMS Bristol once a year, Beccy introduced adventurous activity weekends starting by taking the section to the Army base at Capel Curig where cadets could go climbing, kayaking and mountain biking. Further centres added coasteering, sailing, kayaking, surfing and Airsofting to the activities.

Outside of the regular, scheduled Expeditions Weekends, Beccy opened up opportunities for the Navy cadets to go on flying days, attend powerboating courses and learn scuba diving. She then spent hours navigating the labyrinthine MOD administrative processes to allow our boys to access camps and courses in school holidays to further enhance their skills and broaden their range of activities and experiences.

In order for cadets to be able to participate in an activity, there needs to be a KES member of staff accompanying them, taking part, and leading activities; Beccy herself needed to train and gain qualifications in a range of new skills if the boys were going to get to



have a go. Beccy, never one to do things by half, has gained qualifications in the following areas: Range Officer, Kayak Coach, Scuba Diving (open water/advanced diver/rescue diver), Day Skipper and Powerboat Level 3.

She is also a fully qualified lifeguard and, whilst this area of interest started through her involvement with the CCF, she now assists in the delivery of the RLSS qualification to Senior boys. Beccy does not give up her time purely in the pursuit of certificates or furthering her own learning – she gives of herself to ensure that the boys she is responsible for get the best and safest possible experience when she is in charge.

In 2011, Beccy was asked to become Head of Fifths and has undoubtedly done a fantastic job of looking after the boys who are most in need and most vulnerable during those important GCSE years. She was an outstanding choice: not only did she guide them through problems, exams and adolescent angst but she is still in touch with many of them today – years after they left.

Beccy moves to RGS Worcester and we have lost a colleague and friend: Worcester's gain is most definitely a loss that staff, boys and the School will feel for a long time. Beccy cares about people: it matters to her that everyone gets a fair chance and she has a soft spot for the quirky, different and difficult amongst us. Thank you Beccy – King Edward's will miss you.

CAPJ

Simon Lerwill

Development Director

In January 2009, a youthful-looking Simon Lerwill – so youthful-looking that he spent his early years being mistaken at Old Edwardian events for the Head of School – came across the pelican crossing from his previous employer, the University of Birmingham Development Office, to become the first ever Development Director of King Edward’s School. In December 2015, he went back across the same pelican crossing to become the Development Director of the University of Birmingham, still looking remarkably youthful. So, in his end was his beginning – or vice versa.

So, what did Simon do in those seven short years? Well, the numbers are both simple and extraordinary. He invented, designed, launched and steered the AP100 Campaign which raised £10m for Assisted Places, the most successful campaign ever run by an independent day school. 1,600 people supported the Campaign. The seven telephone campaigns, run by 59 boys and recent Old Edwardians, raised £1.4m and, in the last campaign there was an unprecedented giving rate of over 70%. Over 30 alumni have sponsored or are sponsoring individual boys through the School. A few, a precious few, have contributed over £1m.

That campaign, which reached its home port in June 2016, a year early, has doubled the number of Assisted Places that the School can offer. So, by September 2017 there will be 100 boys in the School funded by this campaign. All of us, the boys and the grown-ups, know how this has enriched and enlivened the School day by day and has restored the School to its purpose of being open to all bright kids – and to being the best boys’ school north of Oxford.

However, not even that is it. During his time, the Andrew Brode Wing was funded through the generosity of the eponymous alumnus, transforming the lives of linguists, scientists and the Upper School, and in 2015, Stuart Southall, another alumnus, made possible the completion of the Stuart Southall Pavilion and the best hockey facilities of any school. So, if you want a figure, Simon and his team raised £13m for the School in his time. As I have said many a time, it would have taken the School a century to raise those funds through its profit and loss account.

And not even that is it. Simon did much more that energised the life of the School and the alumni, not least by bringing the School and the alumni back together. The Tolkien Lectures, the New Street Remembered and First World War exhibitions, the David Bowie exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the concerts in the Ruddock Hall, the dinners in Big School and the Dining Hall, the reception in the Houses of Parliament, the deeply moving School Song film for the AP100 Campaign, the revamped *Gazette*, *Donor Report*, *Gazette Online* and website, my family outing to see Lee Child and the Metropolitan in New York were all created in Simon’s time, often by Simon’s imagination, always by his guidance. And then there were the invisible things: the setting up of The King Edward’s School



Birmingham Trust, the committees and the meetings. And, in the end, Simon got so good that he became the Development Director of KEHS, too.

If that is what Simon did, then how did he do it? As far as I can see, he did it by getting everything right. Development Directors haven’t existed for very long but we now know that it’s a hard job that requires a remarkable range of skills. It requires the technical expertise to run a telephone campaign, build a database, identify donors, handle the complex technicalities of giving and tax and Gift Aid. It requires the ability to construct a Development team and form relationships with everyone inside a school: boys, teachers, governors, Bursar, Foundation, alumni, archivist, admissions and Outreach. Simon could do all of that with everyone in the gentlest and easiest way and he would be the first to acknowledge his debt to his exceptional team, Sue, Daniel, Danielle and Gary, and those with whom he worked, in particular Alison Wheatley. It requires the capacity to build a clear strategy and purpose, imagination and creativity, the ability to learn from others and then ensure that the minute particulars are sorted. It requires the capacity to direct and control an impatient Head and, in the end, to ask for substantial sums of money. Above all, it requires the capacity to win the trust, the respect, even the friendship of those who are going to contribute to the School. Perhaps that was Simon’s greatest gift: it was always a pleasure to deal with him, for everyone from Sir Paul Ruddock, Andrew Brode and John Osborn to a boy manning the phones.

So, in between those two crossings of Edgbaston Park Road, Simon did things that were unthinkable a decade ago. Cameron may have no legacy. Even Obama may have no legacy, but Simon does, a legacy as great as any left by anyone in the last century. That’s what I think, anyway.

JAC

“It would be fair to say that in an illustrious list of former Heads of Chemistry, Jenny takes her rightful place as one of the best – that is what Mr Symonds says, and he should know.”

Jenny Parkinson-Mills

Head of Chemistry

Jenny arrived at KES in September 2007 as a fresh-faced NQT from Oakham School. She was full of enthusiasm for teaching and school sport and made her mark in the first year by being appointed as the new Head of Department despite, in her own words, “giving the worst interview of my life!”

During her time here Jenny has given her full effort and attention to the extra-curricular life of the boys and her talents as a hockey coach and strict umpire have been much appreciated by staff and boys alike. She was an invaluable and enthusiastic coach of Shell hockey for many years and relished hockey practices with 80 boys when not many other staff would, and coached the U14s whilst managing to continue her own top flight hockey career for Sutton Coldfield. She has also thrown herself, with typical JXP enthusiasm, into CCF, KES Leadership, ski trips, Shell Camps, senior games, athletics and being a fearsomely optimistic Levett House tutor.

Jenny was an outstanding Head of Department; she was always the first to school and almost always the last to leave. The dedication to her teaching, running of the department, and as Head of Science has always been nothing short of her very best. She led by example, set high expectations, and her support of those around her was unfailing. Through times of change Jenny worked tirelessly to oversee the smooth transition to IB and the subsequent syllabus rewrite, the magnificent upgrade of the chemistry laboratories and the revolving door of chemistry department staff over the years. Indeed, such was her commitment to the cause that the department has flourished during her time in charge; there are more opportunities for boys to experience extra-curricular chemistry than ever before with probably hundreds of boys in Jenny’s time attending lectures, competitions, Olympiads, Oxbridge lessons and LSIYF. For boys who are keen on chemistry, there has been no shortage of ways for them to expand their education. Her chemistry knowledge is vast and deep and the boys at KES have benefited



immeasurably from it. It would be fair to say that in an illustrious list of former Heads of Chemistry, Jenny takes her rightful place as one of the best – that is what Mr Symonds says, and he should know.

Without doubt, Jenny’s greatest achievement in this school has been her rapport with not only the boys she teaches, but with any boy that comes into contact with her. For months she has patiently explained mole calculations and bonding for the umpteenth time to Fifths on Fridays before school and her determination that the chemistry department offer a full revision schedule for the IB, as well as scheduled help sessions, has meant that our results in all external exams are something for us to be proud of. I know nothing makes her prouder than knowing our boys leave KES with a good chemistry education that will help them to fulfil their ambitions. She has managed to foster, warm, trusting and positive relationships with some of the unlikeliest of characters, and this is something that boys treasure and hold in the highest regard. Indeed, Jenny is held in the highest of regard by anyone who has had the good fortune to work with her or be taught by her and I know just how sorry we all are to see her go.

Jenny leaves to take up the position of Deputy Head and Director of Educational Innovation at King’s High School, Warwick and whilst we aren’t 100% sure what this job will entail, we do know that her passion, drive, professionalism and dedication to the cause will undoubtedly make her as invaluable to their school community as she has been to ours.

Jenny and her wife Sarah are expecting their first child in December and we wish her well in her new job and good luck with parenthood. King Edward’s School will miss her.

DEM

Sue Thorpe

Head of Learning Support

A decade ago, it wasn't immediately obvious that a school like King Edward's needed a Learning Support Department, but in 2006 we were actually already very advanced in that regard through the character, expertise and family connections of its founder, Mrs Liz Dancey, the wife of the Chief Master. Liz outlasted her husband by a term and Sue Thorpe was her successor. Sue brought with her connections of her own, in that the new Chief Master had taught her son and daughter at Solihull School, but she brought much, much more than that.

Sue had rich and diverse experience of the issues of Special Educational needs through her work with external agencies but she also understood the particular context of schools like King Edward's. On the one hand, she was an expert in the world of educational psychology, the testing and diagnosis of children for learning difficulties, the requirements of examining boards for extra times and, on the other, she knew that lots of different boys had many different needs in terms of organisation and revision and study skills. So, Sue refined the testing of boys on entry, was indispensable when pupils had major needs and difficulties, was a constant source of guidance for individual teachers and Heads of Year and, day by day, created an environment and a space where boys, lots of boys, could find support and encouragement.

The scale of Sue's achievement, the growth of her empire, can best be measured by the spaces which Learning Support now occupies. Once upon a time Sue, and her helpers, dwelt in crowded conditions in the Maurice Porter Room. Now, there is the wonder that is the Study Centre, once the Upper School Common Room.

“Sue has worked tirelessly to help all boys within the School, combining years of expertise with bucket loads of common sense and a wicked sense of humour.”



There dwell in harmony – most of the time – Learning Support, Mentoring, and the Year Heads, and this is, above all, a place where boys feel that they can come to work and find help. Whereas once Learning Support might have been seen as a department that looked after a small number of boys, now the Study Centre is home to hundreds.

Sue has worked tirelessly to help all boys within the School, combining years of expertise with bucket loads of common sense and a wicked sense of humour; it has been a winning combination and we will always be grateful for all she has done.

JAC and CMLD

“Chris is one of the most talented classroom and workshop practitioners that I have ever had the privilege to work with.”



Chris William Walker

Design and technology

The name Christopher William Walker has a certain ring to it and rolls off the tongue, a little like the great engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Mentioning these two in the same sentence is quite appropriate as Chris does share Brunel's connection to engineering, railways and, in particular, steam locomotives. Trainspotter, Chris is not, accomplished and skilled model engineer he definitely is and if you have ever had the privilege to see some of Chris's work you would soon realise how lucky the boys have been to have such a knowledgeable teacher, craftsman and mentor to help guide them through their design and technology project work.

Chris started teaching in 1970 as a metalwork teacher at Darlaston Grammar School. Chris had plans to travel but his university course tutor had already arranged for him to attend the interview, and as the only candidate to put his feet up on the table and tell a joke or two, Chris was the right man for the job. He taught at Darlaston for four years before eventually spreading his wings and travelling the world, visiting many countries likely to be on the Foreign Office's list of no-go areas these days. Chris could write a book on the adventures he had: negotiating his way through the bandit lands of Afghanistan in a Land Rover through to witnessing brawls in Bangkok bars.

In 1975, Chris joined Smethwick Hall Boys' School as Head of Metalwork and Head of the Fourth Year. He remained in Smethwick alongside a fresh faced Colin Howard (i/c Woodwork and Head of the Fifth Year) until 1998 when he took the opportunity to take early retirement. Colin, now Head of Design and Technology at KES, knew Chris was too great a talent to let go and seized the opportunity to draft in the expertise of his former colleague. As a pioneering teacher of Control Technology, Chris helped further develop the department alongside Colin, John Lloyd and technician, Ron Gardiner.

My first knowledge of Chris came in 2001, before my time at KES but, coincidentally, as the new Head of Design and Technology at his former school, Holly Lodge High School. Chris was clearly a well-respected past colleague and I would often hear stories of his mystical 'hypnotic' control over groups of challenging pupils. The legend that was Chris Walker became a much loved and valued member of my own department when I joined KES in 2003. The department became affectionately labelled 'The Smethwick Mafia' by the then Chief Master, Roger Dancey. I soon realised that the stories I had heard at Holly Lodge were true and that I was in the company of one of the most talented classroom and workshop practitioners that I have ever had the privilege to work with. His classroom management skills, subject knowledge and ability to develop a positive rapport with all the boys that he has taught has made my life as HoD a much easier ride. Often arriving at 6.30am, Chris has never been under prepared for the day ahead. Nicknamed by former colleagues as 'System' because of his ordered and organised approach, Chris's teaching days would always run like a well-oiled steam locomotive.

Chris has often reminded me (perhaps too often) that his best Head of Department was his first, a chap called Bob Kimber at Darlaston Grammar. In Chris's own words: "Bob taught me everything I know." I am not offended by that fact but feel lucky to have worked with and learnt a great deal from the knowledge and experience Chris has shared with me and the department during his time here. We will all miss Chris's humour, kindness, and calm and considered approach and thank him for his commitment and hard work as a teacher, colleague and friend.

PAB



And a huge farewell
to the Class of 2016

We wish you every success in the future.



2

School
news



Awards ‘hat-trick’ for KES

KES won three prestigious national awards in the autumn term of 2015: ‘The Sunday Times International Baccalaureate School of the Year’, ‘TES Best Independent-Maintained School Collaboration’, and John Cloughton was named ‘Best Head of Public School’ by *Tatler* magazine.

The first award came in September at the Tatler Schools Awards 2016 with the Chief Master, being crowned the ‘Best Head of Public School’ ahead of competition from Heads of Cheltenham Ladies’ College, Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh, St Edward’s, Oxford and St Swithun’s School in Winchester.

On Sunday 22 November *The Sunday Times* announced the winners for its coveted School of the Year awards, which saw KES receive its second award as ‘The Sunday Times International Baccalaureate School of the Year’. The School took the top spot in the IB category for its outstanding performance in the IB Diploma in 2015, which placed KES 26th overall in *The Sunday Times* league table of independent schools. In fact, KES finished first out of any school offering 100% IB to its sixth form.

The third award to make the ‘hat-trick’ was the ‘Best Independent-Maintained School Collaboration’ awarded to the School at the 2015 TES Independent School Awards on Friday 27 November. The TES award was in recognition of the School’s extensive Outreach programme, which engages with over 11,000 primary school children and 450 teachers from 200 schools within the local community each year. The judging panel for the TES Independent School Awards said that KES had made: “an ongoing and sustainable commitment to supporting other schools.”

John Cloughton said: “It is a proud moment for the School that we should win three national awards in the same term. The TES award is due reward for the most extensive Outreach programme run by any independent school in this country. That programme is fundamental to the purpose of the School to be visible and open to all bright boys, whatever their background. In the course of the year, hundreds of boys and over 50 teachers are involved and its remarkable growth and success comes from the energy and ambition of Tom Arbuthnott, our Director of Outreach.

“The Sunday Times award celebrates our biggest educational step in abandoning A-levels and choosing a post-16 curriculum that is a true education. As for ‘Head of the Year’, I told the *Tatler* that what mattered wasn’t the Head, but the school. This is a truly remarkable place and it’s the boys that make it that way.”

These awards top off what has been an outstanding year academically for KES.

Addendum: In November 2016, John Cloughton was awarded the ‘TES Lifetime Achievement Award’ for the long-lasting impact he has made on both King Edward’s School and education in the region. Many congratulations to John on this well-deserved award.

Exhibition commemorates the Battle of the Somme

The second phase of the ‘King Edward’s School and the Great War’ exhibition officially opened on Wednesday, 4 May 2016, to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The School’s Tolkien Lecture took place on the same evening with a talk on the Battle given by Sir Hew Strachan, the world’s most eminent historian of the First World War. This was preceded by the first showing of a film, produced by two Old Edwardians, on the life and letters of Robert Quilter Gilson, who died on the first day of the Battle. Robert Quilter Gilson was the son of the Headmaster, Robert Cary Gilson, and the closest friend of JRR Tolkien, who also fought in the war.

Over 1,400 former pupils of King Edward’s School served in the First World War and 245 lost their lives, 52 of which during the Somme campaign of 1916. The new exhibition in the School’s memorial chapel explores the Somme campaign in greater detail and tells the individual stories of former pupils who fought and died in the campaign. Visitors are also able to browse through biographies for each of the 245 pupils who died in the First World War, and whose names are listed on bronze memorial plaques within the chapel, via a virtual roll of honour.



£10m campaign for Assisted Places is completed

In one of the most successful fundraising campaigns ever run by an independent day school, King Edward’s School achieved its goal of raising £10m for Assisted Places.

The Assisted Places 100 (AP100) Campaign has raised over £10m in the last six years and will fund 100 Assisted Places in the School, doubling the number of Assisted Places available and making King Edward’s one of the most accessible independent schools in the country.

The AP100 Campaign has depended almost entirely on the giving of alumni. Over 1,500 donors have given and the two most recent telephone campaigns have achieved over 70% giving rates, a record for independent schools in this country. In addition, over 30 alumni are funding individual boys through the School or endowing a place in perpetuity and there have also been two donors who have given over £1m each.

The School celebrated the completion of the AP100 Campaign with a special event on Saturday 11 June hosted by Jim Grant, better known as bestselling author Lee Child, who attended King Edward’s from 1965 to 1973.

News in brief

The £2.5m Southall Pavilion and astro hockey pitch was officially opened.



Nick Wyatt, Josh Kimblin, Edwin Bahrami Balani, Phil Holt, Alex Pett and Ashwyn Aulak won the Lord Mayor's Annual Sixth Form Mega-Quiz, returning the title to KES.



13 boys, parents and teachers cycled from KES to Hampton Court Palace, London, raising over £1,600 for Breast Cancer Now in memory of former physics teacher, Dr Lindsay MacDonald.



The U16 hockey team gained the runners-up spot in the England Hockey National Finals.



Rayan Kamal, Raunak Jain, Arun Ramanathan and Rohit Kale won the Biology Big Quiz 2016.



Gabriel Wong, Daniel Yue, Raunak Jain and Rayan Kamal were runners-up in the WMCTC Chemistry Quiz.



Two teachers from BD Somani International School in Mumbai spent two weeks at KES exploring the differences and similarities between the cultures and philosophies of the two schools.



3

Performing arts

Wuthering Heights

Turning Emily Bronte's classic love story into a Senior Production was never going to be easy. Countless stage, film and television adaptations have tried and largely failed to produce a truly entertaining, but genuinely truthful representation of the sprawling, complicated narrative. And to start rehearsals without even a script? Madness, surely?

But hey, we like a challenge!

Creating *Wuthering Heights* was unquestionably the most complicated, difficult, ambitious and exhausting project I've taken on – but was also ultimately one of the most rewarding. Miss Proops (Director of Drama at KEHS) and I have previously devised productions with the Juniors, but this was our first foray into such work – where the company 'makes up' the performance in the rehearsal room – with Seniors. But we're excited by the work of professional companies like Kneehigh and Frantic Assembly, and wanted to experience that way of working with non-drama pupils (devising is part of the syllabus for both GCSE and IB studies).

We try to give as many pupils as we can a chance to participate in drama; we try to avoid always casting the same faces. Many a GCSE Drama student has been surprised that 'their' place in a company has been taken by someone who's never stepped on a stage before, but we try to give new people a chance. With *Wuthering Heights* that caused us some problems! The nature of devising is that rehearsals are about trying things out, playing with ideas, doing odd and silly things and seeing if they work – small wonder that much of our cast spent much of their time in rehearsals with a 'you want me to do WHAT?' look on their face...



Perhaps small wonder too that even four days before the first performance we still didn't really know if it was going to work or come crashing down around our ears!

But it did work. A fantastic cast and terrific company realised that it could come together, that it did make sense, that there was a really good reason for everything that we'd asked of them. The result really was something pretty special.

At the heart of the story is Heathcliff; malevolent, brooding, vicious and cruel – but one of literature's most loved characters. Could 'tinge of the redhead' Charlie Coombes Roberts step into the shoes of this notoriously dark-skinned and dark-haired anti-hero? He could and he did – Charlie's performance was startling both in its maturity and its intensity and was one of the most impressive student performances I've ever seen.

But there was sterling work everywhere on stage. Hashim Quraishi was a terrifically sneering Hindley; Harry Anfilogoff an excruciatingly pathetic Linton; Caleb Turner a dashing and charming Hareton. Kaler Wong, no stranger to the KES stage, came of age with a charming Edgar Linton, horribly confused at the world into which he'd stumbled.

But as ever, the attention to named roles belies the extraordinary input of other members of the company. Jimi Okunribido, Zain Rishi, Seamus Dunleavy and Omar Haroun all worked fantastically in rehearsals and performance – their creative energy and input was invaluable! Abhi Jain, James Bell, and Tarush Gupta all lent their extraordinary musical talent and helped Mr Dutch to interpret our musical requests (which tended to be of the "I think we need about 24 seconds of an old English folk tune which modulates into a minor key and is played on the fire-tongs and cheese grater, could you make that happen please?" variety...)

But to name names – and there were many others – is to ignore the reality of creating a devised production. Everyone's input was extraordinary; everyone's input was important; everyone's input contributed not just to the performance (that's true of any and every show) – but to the *creation* of the performance, and that is both rare and special.

We didn't, quite, always manage to pull off exactly what we were trying to achieve – but what we were trying to achieve was so ambitious, so complicated and so difficult that the 95% of it that was successful was enough to make it probably the most extraordinary show I've had the privilege to help create. My thanks to my fellow directors Mr Dutch and Miss Proops (whose beautiful set there is no space to do justice to, but which can be seen in these photos), but most of all to the cast and company who are just as responsible for what we created together

MJB





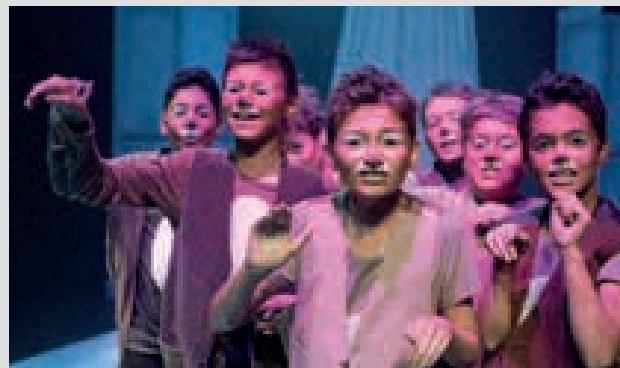
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Junior Production for 2015 was a production of CS Lewis's classic children's fantasy story.

The Drama Studio was transformed into a chilly country house during the First World War. As Peter and Edmund, Ben Maguire and Dylan Poole, are evacuated with their sisters to the house of Tom Allen's marvellously scatty Professor. One step through an enchanted wardrobe and the four children are transported to Narnia – a magical land where it is always winter, but never Christmas.

Lucy met the charming faun Mr Tumnus, wittily played by Yuvraj Jhanjee with sparkling enthusiasm, before narrowly escaping the clutches of the vicious wolves (a terrifying Emil Ali, Charles Andronov, Arnav Kulkarni and Khalid El-Lahawi). As the armies of good and evil gather for a thrilling final battle before the stone table, the children must learn a bravery beyond their years.

Mrs Higgins's first Junior Production was a triumph of speedy story telling. With the biggest cast ever to appear in the Drama Studio and a complex and moving narrative to move along, it could very easily have become both long and overblown. However, the result was a fantastically entertaining version of



the much-loved story in which the young cast acted with total commitment and determination from the start.

Particular praise goes to Emil Ali as Aslan and Joe Roberts as Mr Beaver – virtually unrecognisable under Stage Crew's brilliant make-up jobs! But there was not a weak link on the stage – a definite promise of continued success for KES Drama!

MJB



Drama Clubs

Those who never pass by the Drama Studio of a lunchtime may well have been unaware of the seething creativity that goes on there – not anymore!

Every year group, across the two schools, has a drama club which meets week in and week out to explore acting, play games, learn new skills and have some fun. For 2015-16 we decided that each drama club would generate a proper, staged, performance that the students could invite their parents and friends to. Mrs Higgins had a tough task but she, and the students, rose to it admirably!

To start with the oldest students: Senior Dramatic Society (Fifths, Divs, Sixths) presented a version of Euripides' ancient tragedy *Medea*, partly as a drama department 'thank you and farewell' to John Claughton. Immy Brown rose brilliantly to the challenge of the scorned mother who wreaks a terrible revenge upon her family. The Fourths and Upper Middles performed in *The Last Resort* – a hilarious and moving look at the British Seaside Resort. Gabriel Bruce and Sam Jackson shone as contrasting middle class fathers.

The boys of the Removes executed some very impressive rapping as the rats of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* – given a dark twist in a new unnerving version. Finally, the Shells devised their own work based around stories and vignettes from the First World War, which wove stories of Old Edwardians into well-known poems and extracts.

Congratulations and thanks to all of the boys, and girls, involved – how lucky we are to have such talent to enjoy!

MJB

Lunchtime recitals



For many pupils and staff alike, the monthly lunchtime recitals are a real musical gem. It provides a platform for accomplished musicians from both schools (alone or in ensemble) to perform for the enjoyment of other pupils as well as the general public. The 2015-2016 series was eagerly anticipated, and certainly worth waiting for.

Over 40 pupils performed in nine recitals, stunning audiences with fast and spirited pieces such as de Falla's *Danse Espagnole*, played by Daniel Yue, and Kroll's *Banjo and Fiddle*, but also creating memorable silences such as those in Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, featuring Nathan Appanna, Jeremy Ho, Philip Edwards, Gabriel Wong, David Millross and Junias Wong, and Ravel's *Jeux d'eau*, performed by Jeremy Ho. However, not all pieces were rooted in the classical genre. More contemporary pieces such as Morley's *Rêverie*, and jazz pieces by composers Davis and Gross, performed by Matt Madden, made for a pleasant surprise – when one goes to a lunchtime recital, there is always something new to hear and someone new to see.

Another distinct feature of this year's series was the impressive variety of instruments and ensembles on display. There was a strong string presence, with violinists, such as Jedidiah Cheung, violists and cellists, represented by Conrad Yap and Eugene Toso, performing alone as well as in string and piano quartets. A host of pianists, such as Aloysius Lip and Abhinav Jain, put the Steinway

to good use, with the youngest performer being only 13. The wind and brass sections gained increasing representation with solo pieces on flute, saxophone, trombone (Nathan Cornish and Richard Chapman), bass trombone (Thomas Iszatt), and trumpet (Alexander Pett), as well as group appearances of bassoon, clarinet (Peter Murphy), and French horn. One of the most interesting ensembles of the year was the wind quintet, playing Berio's *Opus Number Zoo*, in which the performers chanted, spoke and stood between their passages of music. That particular recital also included a chamber orchestra, one of the largest to play in a lunchtime recital in the Ruddock. Last but not least, voice was also a notable part of this year's series, marking an increasing interest and accomplishment in singing.

The lunchtime recital is a very prestigious performance, and acts as a flagship event to showcase the very best KES can offer. Not only is the experience genuinely rewarding for the listeners and the performers, but each new recital further enriches the musical diversity and inspires younger students to achieve distinction. Every year brings new styles and performances to the Ruddock, and it is clear that this long tradition of music-making is continuing to grow and expand. With many talented young performers coming into the limelight, there is earnest expectation that they will not only equal the excellence that the upper years have left as a legacy, but continue to push the boundaries of young musicianship.

Gabriel Wong



House Drama

2015-16 saw the introduction of a Junior House Drama Competition, enabling the Upper Middles and Fourths to compete for the Wilson Trophy – donated by the Wilson family in memory of Sam Wilson's incredible contribution to drama at KES over the years.

Houses have either to contribute a monologue or a duologue and Shakespeare was much represented in this year's competition. Shiv Bharakhada was an impressive Macbeth, Oliver Kletz a charming Sebastian and Josh Peat a terrifically agonised Hamlet. The laurels went, however, to Sam Jackson of Prince Lee who gave a beautiful performance as Raleigh in Sherriff's First World War drama *Journey's End*.

The Minor Competition – now in its second year – was also hotly fought over. Several Houses illustrated the difficulties with duologues – if only half the team knows the words then the performance is not going to go well! Particularly notable here were Hamza Khan as a woeful Big Bad Wolf and Gillis Robbie taking on Doctor Who. The prize here, however, was shared by Joe Roberts, showing terrific skills in an extract from *Jump For Your Life* by Ken Whitmore for Prince Lee, and Matty Ibrahim and Ibrahim Din for interesting Yorkshire accents for Evans.

House Drama is a terrific addition to the School's drama calendar – and many, many congratulations to all who took part!

MJB

Pascall on Brahms



Tolkien Lecture: Alfred Brendel

On Tuesday, 22 September 2015, the Ruddock Hall was packed with an excited audience of parents, teachers, and pupils eager to listen to the fifth Tolkien Lecture, given by the distinguished pianist Alfred Brendel.

Alfred Brendel, a retired concert pianist, enjoyed an illustrious career of 60 years in the arts, playing alongside many world famous orchestras and competing in many music festivals around the globe. A highly influential figure in music, Brendel established Liszt's music as being intrinsic to the pianist's repertoire and was the first person to record the entirety of Beethoven's piano pieces. Away from the keyboard, he is an eloquent literary figure; publishing many essays, poems and books. During his lecture, he spoke specifically on his book, *A Pianist's A-Z*.

His fascinating talk encapsulated the life and art of the performer, using quirky and exuberant anecdotes to engage and excite the audience, and took us on a journey through the alphabet where each letter represented a different aspect of Brendel's life. Musicians and non-musicians alike benefited from his talk and, amidst the rollicking laughter and the beautiful piece excerpts, Brendel impressed everyone with his experiences as a pianist.

On leaving the Hall, there was a sense of satisfaction and privilege of having heard such a prominent figure speak to us. With the musical tradition flourishing at our school, is it too much to hope that another speaker of such calibre may grace our halls again?

Gabriel Wong

On a typically cold and windy February evening, a figure emerged from the backstage area of the Ruddock Hall. This was Professor Robert Pascall, the man who dedicated much of his life to the study of all things Brahms. He may have been unfamiliar to some in the audience, which consisted mainly of members of the Symphony Orchestra, but Dr Leigh knew him well as Professor Pascall oversaw his PhD.

What followed was a presentation on the piece that Symphony Orchestra was playing at the time: Brahms's *Fourth Symphony*, guiding the audience members through the 'doubts, decisions and documents' that Brahms went through while composing and editing his symphony. Letters from Brahms to his friends and publisher were among the items shown to demonstrate how indecisive Brahms was about even publishing the Symphony without removing entire movements.

This man was exceptionally well qualified to do the job, since he has been the editor for many Brahms editions, and was also the editor for the actual edition of the Symphony we were using. We were extremely fortunate to have been let in to the secrets of the music by such a man, since this was his last public event in a career spanning 48 years. I think it is safe to say that everyone went home in awe of Professor Pascall's ability to pick out the most surprising stories, and the way Brahms put in so many small details that few would ever notice.

Philip Edwards



Choral and Orchestral Concerts

As the harmonic tragedy played out in the final movement of Brahms's final symphony, there was a definite sense of fatal inevitability in the air. The ending of Brahms's *Fourth Symphony* was certainly at variance with the tranquil yet optimistic ending of the first item in the concerts: the joyous *Better is Peace* by Karl Jenkins. The two concerts were a testament to the sheer talent at the two schools, with the numerous solos throughout never failing to astound.

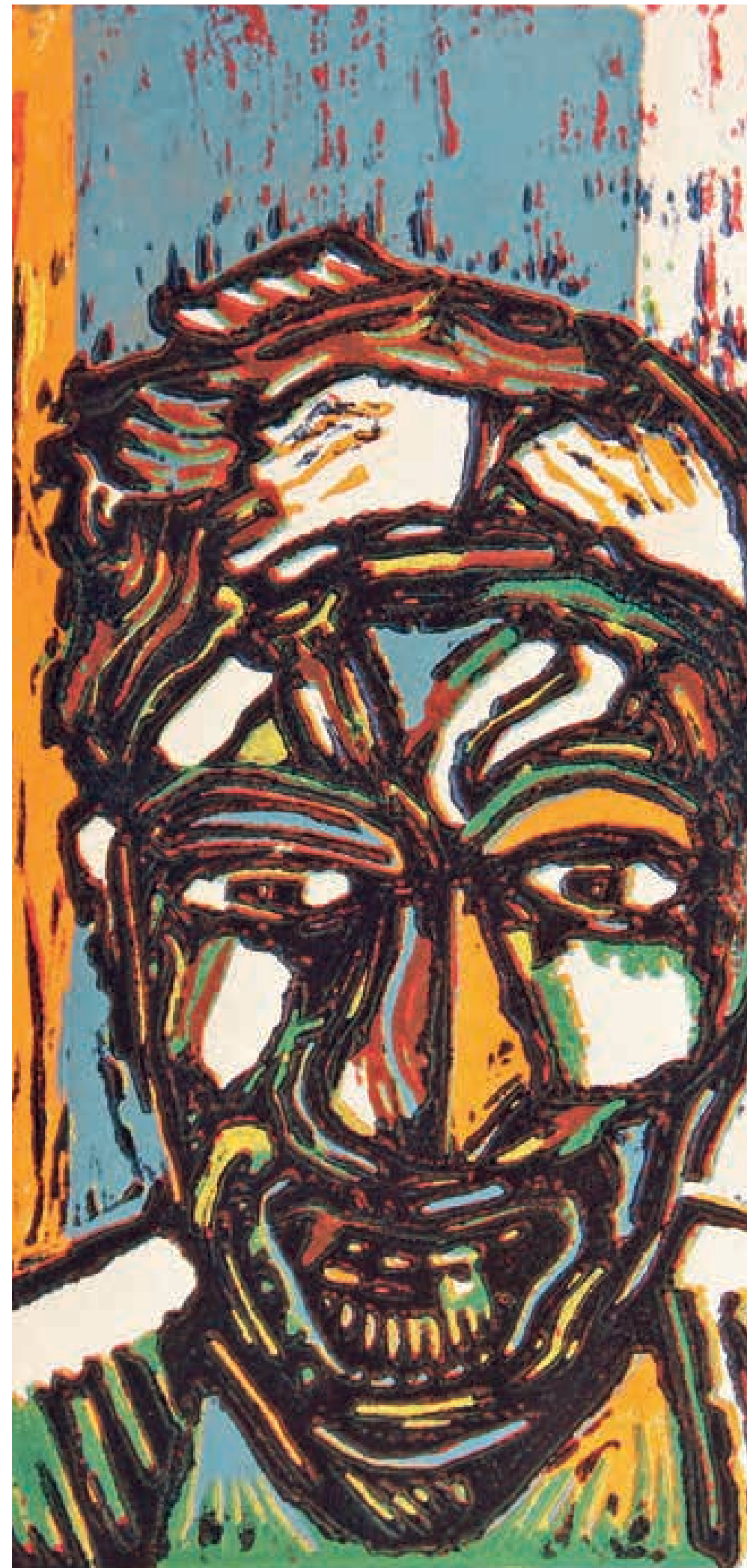
Choral Society started the two concerts off with Jenkins's *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. The work was originally dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo crisis but we dedicated it to the Old Edwardians who fought in the First World War. Courtesy of Mr Fern, the poignancy of the choir singing was concentrated by projections around the PAC of those who fought and died in the Great War. While all of the work was truly memorable three especially emotive moments stood out. The first was in the seventh movement: *Charge!* The choir, after four beats of the drum, began to yell and wail with a terrible despair. Each cry was individual and contributed to this wall of death in sound. After a pause for reflection, Jenkins's take on the Last Post (played with excellent sobriety by Michael Heneghan) served to hammer home the true horror of war. Four movements later in *Now the Guns Have Stopped*, Zoe Newman did a fantastic job portraying grief with amazing control: perhaps one of the most despairing and saddening moments of the work. The ending of the final movement served to tie everything up. An ushered "Amen" left an almost lingering atmosphere of optimism in the PAC; perhaps even making the bleakness of the War a story to be left in the past. The message was one of hope, and, as such, truly powerful.

Symphony Orchestra played Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Composed of 24 movements, the Rhapsody was truly a showstopper; the mood darting from playful to ominous, from unadulterated passion to cheeky. Adelaide Yue's playing of the piece, the final movement of which made even Rachmaninov nervous, was absolutely flawless. It served as yet another amazing showcase of the wonders of the people in KES; a night to remember.

Symphony Orchestra then treated the audience to Brahms's *Symphony No. 4 in E minor*. This rendition of Brahms's final symphony took the audience on a journey of emotion. Unlike the *Rhapsody* however, the piece was stormy and emotionally rife. Written when Brahms's solid conservative values fought with his love of Clara Schumann (wife, then widow of Robert Schumann) the passion and power of this piece was fantastically put across by what must've been an exhausted Symphony Orchestra. Being the first symphony to end in a minor key, the taste of tragedy was almost tangible in the air as the final chords were struck and the storm thundered to a close.

The two concerts were, even by KES/KEHS standards, truly special. A big debt of thanks is owed to all the staff who made it happen, as well as the performers. All must've worked their socks off (and perhaps their shoes too) to successfully pull off such an emotional rollercoaster of a night.

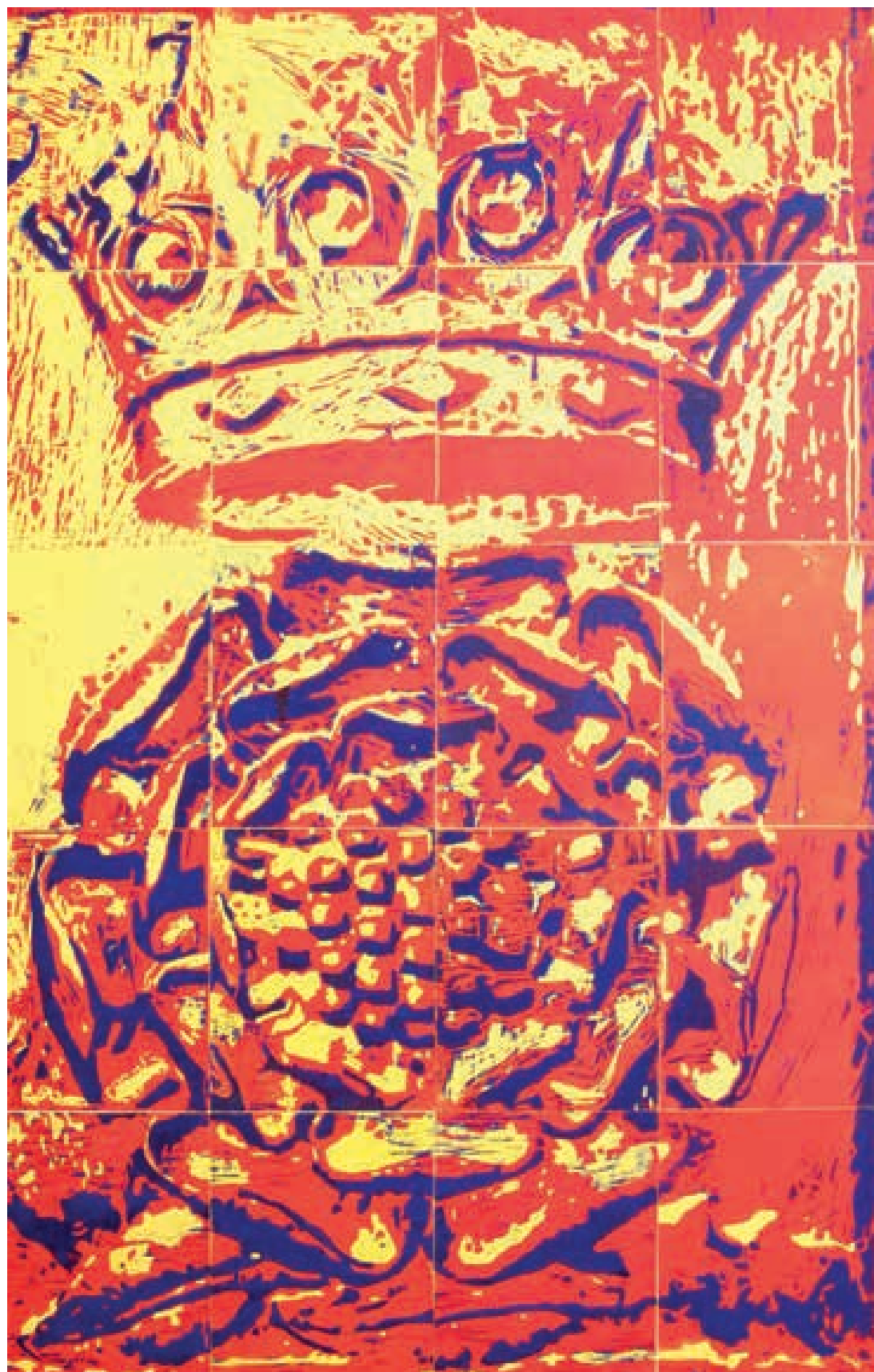
Arun Ramanathan



4

Art gallery

◀ **Ejaz Khan** Lino print (Removes)



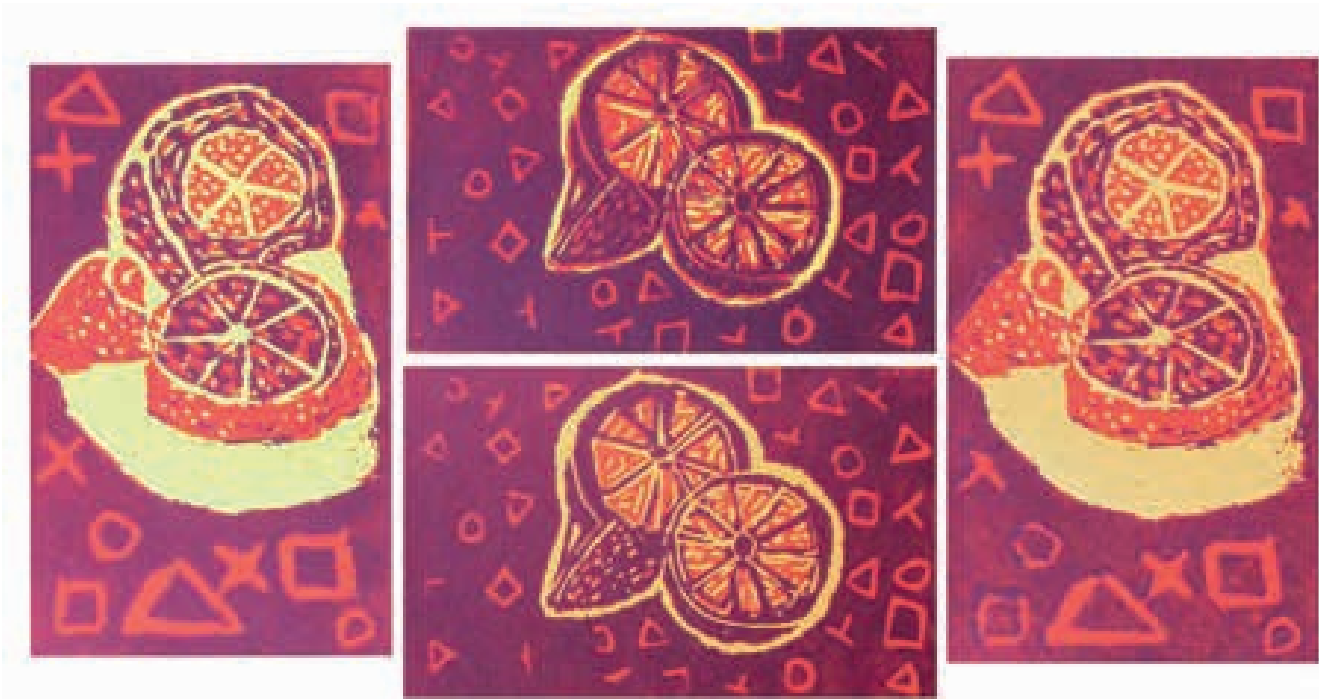
▲ **Shell group project** *The Crowned Tudor Rose* Lino print



▲ **Shell group project** *The Crowned Portcullis* Lino print



◀ Clockwise from top left: **Zachary Lazarus-Hide**, **Stuart Cave**, **Oliver Tinley**, **Jacob Hiles** Still life painting



▲ **Lucas Bennett** (left and right), **Gus Latcham** (middle) Lino print



▲ From left to right: **Yunus Uddin**, **Dev Gandhewar**, **Varun Gupta** Ceramics



▲ Top: *Muwahhid Khan*. Bottom: *Samuel Chan* Lino print



▲ Clockwise from top: *Uthman Abu El Foul*, *Ben Maguire*, *Saif Mukadam* Lino print



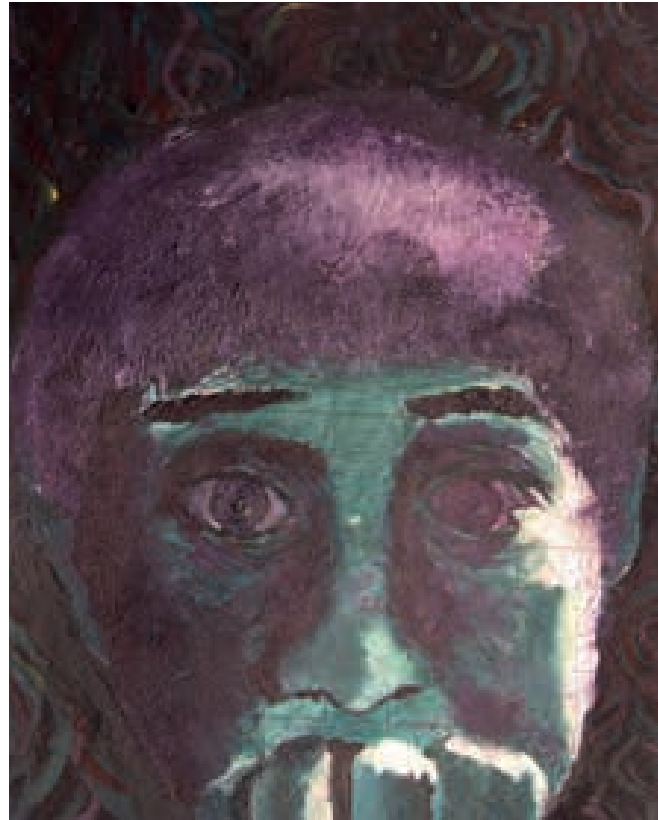
▲ From left to right: *Akash Thumbe, Rohit Ramachandran, Luqman Uddin* Ceramics



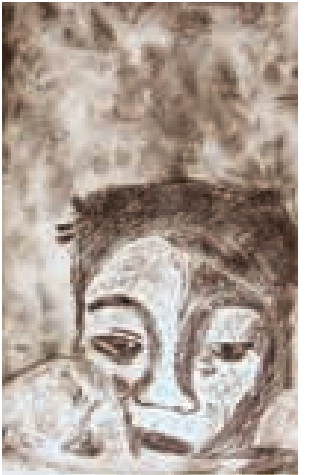
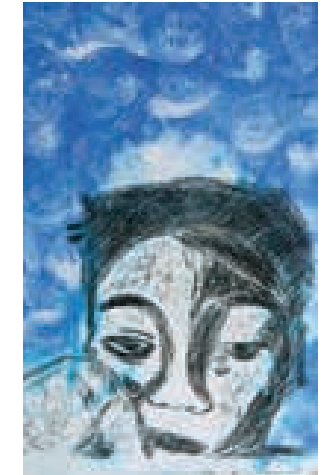
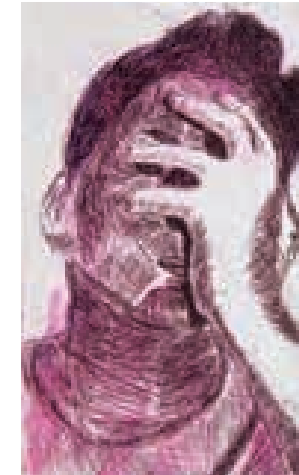
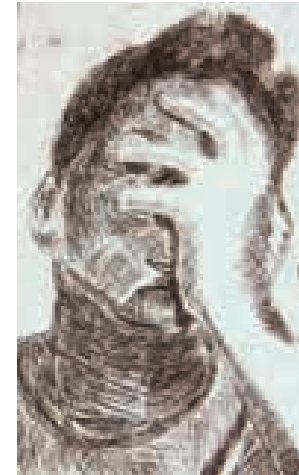
▲ Clockwise from left: *Kieran Joshi, Michael Fan, Saif Mukadam* Ceramics



▲ Top: *Omar Hijazi*. Bottom: *Jimmy Yuan* Painting surrealist composition



▲ Clockwise from top left: **Enoch Cheung**, **Adam Varachia**, **George Zhang**, **Reece Velangi** Acrylic painting



▲ Left: **Sumeth Sellahewa**. Right: **Cyrus Dhariwal** Intaglio print



▲ Left: **Daniel Li**. Right: **Tapan Hebballi** Acrylic painting



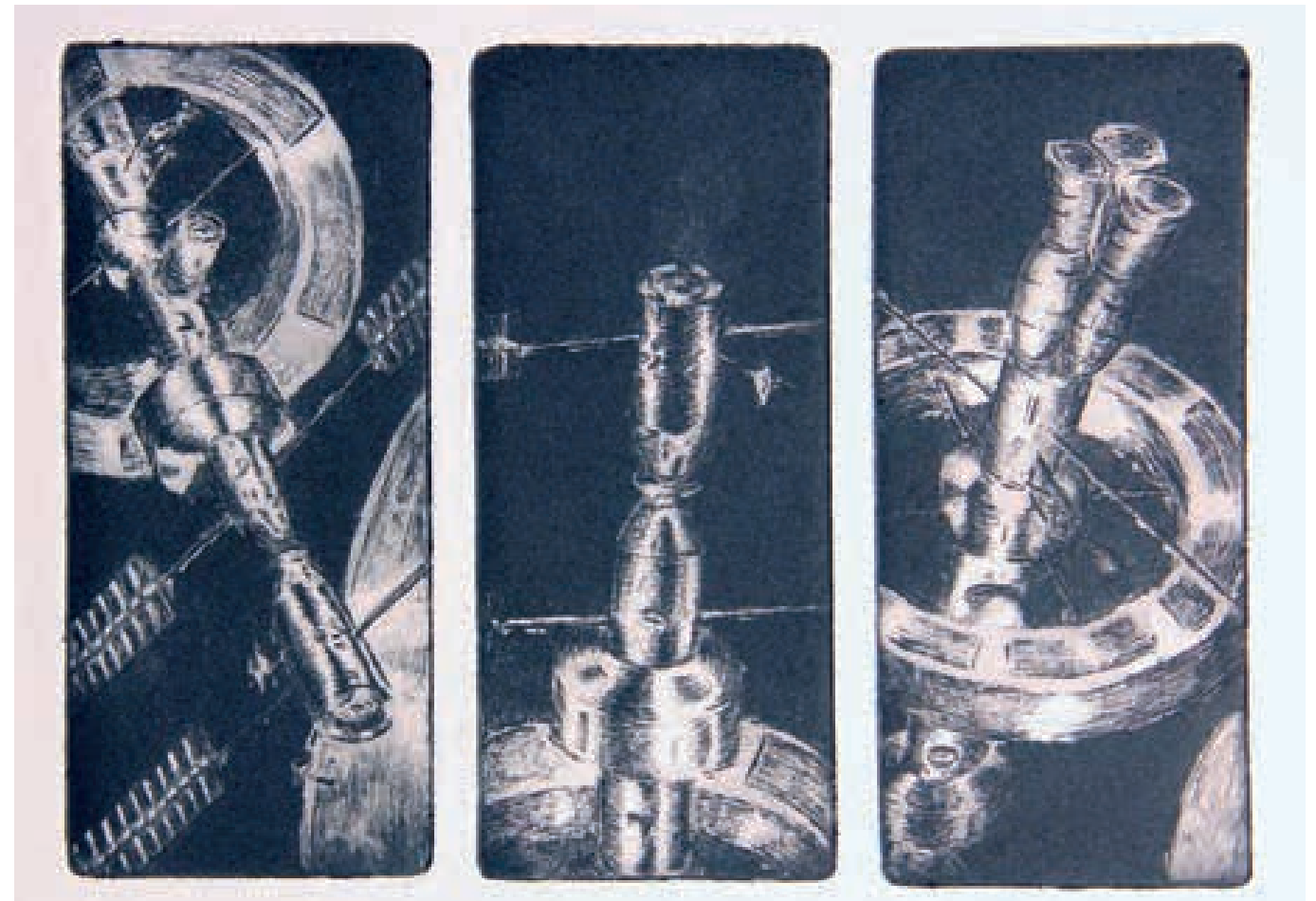
▲ Clockwise from top left: *Enoch Cheung, Aroun Kalyana, Gar Psi Ho, Tom Shingleton* Ceramics



▲ *George Laight* Mixed media



▲ Clockwise from top: **Hashim Quraishi**, **Alex Jackowski**, **Ellis Owen** Mixed media



▲ Top: **Jack Barron**. Bottom: **Shonak Joshi** Intaglio print



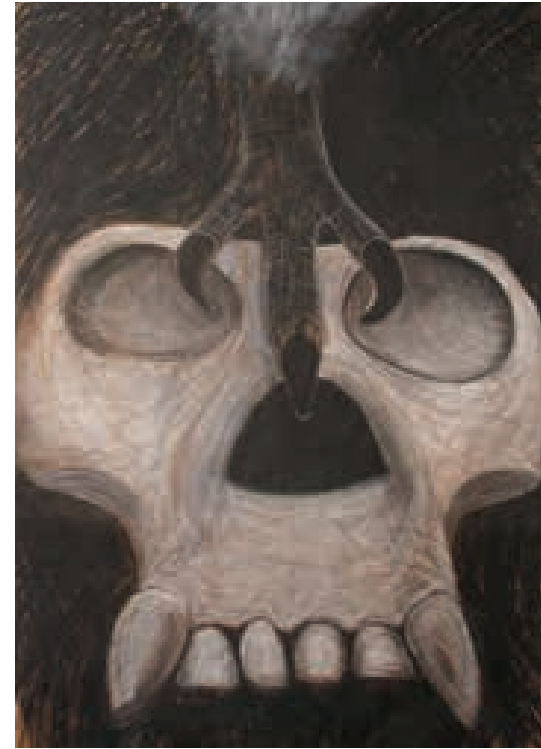
▲ Top: **Keshav Singh**. Bottom: **Alex Stedman** Mixed media



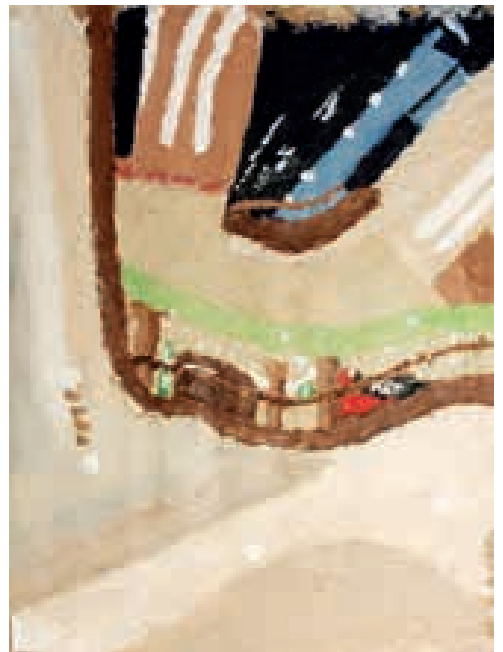
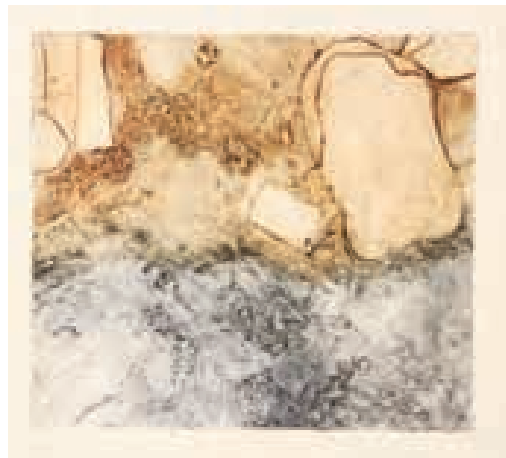
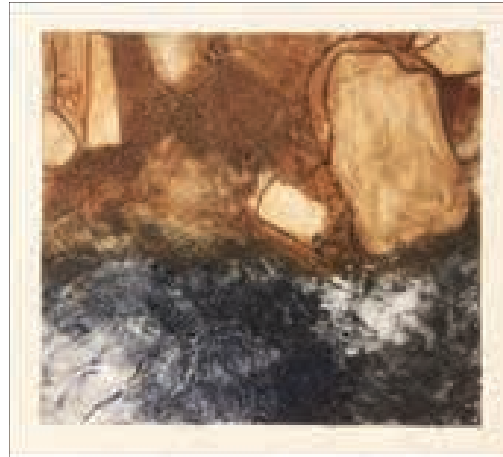
▲ Clockwise from top: **Hayaan Choudhury**, **Taidgh Grant Harris**, **Felix Kai** Ceramics



▲ **Adam Syed** Intaglio print



▲ **Nicholas Spencer** Clockwise from top: Chalk and graphite drawings, plaster cast sculpture, chalk drawings



▲ **Paddy Keane** Clockwise from top: *Rubble* Intaglio print series, *Bullring, Birmingham* Acrylic painting, *Swimming pool study* Lino reduction print series



5

Trips



CERN

When we first discovered that we had been accepted onto the annual trip to CERN run by the University of Liverpool, a range of emotions struck us.

We were happy, excited and astounded that we had the opportunity to visit one of, if not the, most impressive feats of engineering in the pursuit of science in human history. Yet we were also nervous for a number of reasons, not least of which because we simply did not know what to expect. What would the five-day trip entail? Would we be out of our depth? Would we be surrounded by crazily clever physicists who would look down on us when we struggled with basic Feynman diagrams?

At CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers explore and discover the fundamental structure of the universe. The process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the laws of nature, the workings of the world and the very origins of the universe.

Akash Doshi, Lokesh Jain, Toby Jowitt, Navjoth Singh and Gabriel Yoong (together with Mohona Datta from KEHS) were accompanied by none other than Dr Kulkarni, with Mr Tuohey driving the minibus to and from Gatwick Airport on departure and arrival.

Morning broke early for us on the Monday, and in the check-in lounge at Gatwick Airport we met our fellow pupils who were accompanying us on the trip, mainly from schools in London like Dulwich College and JAGS. Little did we know that by the end of the week we would have made friends to last a lifetime.

The atmosphere at CERN was contrary to our expectations. We certainly didn't expect to see such a relaxed attitude of the physicists there nor did we expect them to be so approachable. Geneva itself was very prim and didn't suffer any of the transport woes our dear Aston Expressway often causes. As we freely walked across the border into France to visit the Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb), the scale of the international collaboration really hit us and we found ourselves quite awed at the establishment that we were strolling through.

Throughout the week we were given lectures on discoveries at the very forefront of science. It was educational and exciting to be able to learn about the most current and up-to-date theories from the people who are investigating them every day; the atmosphere of intellect and investigation at CERN was amazing. Whether it was in a formal lecture, doing presentations on our own projects or simply sitting and eating in the cafeteria, we were constantly surrounded by world-leading scientists, whose depth of knowledge was truly astounding.

We'd like to express our gratitude to Dr Kulkarni, for supervising us on this trip, and Mr Tuohey for giving us the amazing opportunity. This educational trip felt more like a holiday: that's what happens when you love what you study! It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There was not a night without laughter or a day without challenge and it was genuinely an experience that none of us will forget.

Gabriel Yoong, Navjoth Singh and the rest of the CERN boys

Mallorca exchange



It can come as a shock to learn that there are schools where the pupils work harder than those at KES.

At one in particular, on the island of Mallorca, the senior pupils prepare for both the IB and the Spanish *Bachillerato* at the same time. An IB school since 2011, the Son Pacs Institute in Palma shares our vision of creating 'a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect'. That's what school exchanges are about; not just a chance to practise hard-won language skills but an opportunity to live and breathe a different culture for a few days and perhaps to start to understand it from the inside. When your hosts are as warm as ours at Son Pacs, there is also the sense of being welcomed into a family.

So it was that a group of Divisions and their teachers touched down in Palma on 20 March 2016 at the start of a week rich in discovery, hospitality and linguistic challenge. Lessons had been carefully crafted for our many levels of proficiency in Spanish. We studied history, poetry and philosophy and learned how to make 'pa amb oli'. We toured the highlights of the capital on foot; were welcomed into the house of the poet Robert Graves by his son and composed Spanish verse at the great man's tomb in Deia churchyard; explored, with our exchange partners, picturesque Valldemossa, where a midday piano recital in the Carthusian monastery reminded us that Chopin had once lived here. The sun shone, we ate well. There were beaches and forests and mountains, spectacular Holy Week processions, and many opportunities to discover that, after all

that study, we really could speak Spanish well enough to negotiate daily life and to relax with friends.

More than just the icing on the cake of the IB Spanish course, a trip like this sows the seeds of confidence, creates opportunities and hints at possibilities. If you get the chance to go, take it!

DJA





Nick Holliday Award

Apply for the Nick Holliday Award! Thanks to the generosity of Dr and Mrs Holliday we were able to undertake the trip of our lifetimes and we urge you to do the same.

Alongside a lucky Camp Hill alumnus, Giles Moss, we began our travels in Rio de Janeiro in early April. Three months later we were finishing 10,000 miles (225 hours on a coach) north in Cartagena, Colombia.

Between these two places we saw wonders of the world, met numerous fellow travellers, as well as some of the kindest native people you could wish to find, and took part in some unforgettable activities.

We were fortunate enough to see the centre of the world, the Amazon rainforest, Machu Picchu and the Salar de Uyuni. However, away from the big name attractions of the continent, we had some of our most enjoyable moments off the beaten track. Hiking in the Andes, learning to surf in North Peru and helping out in disaster relief in Ecuador are some examples.

Without the Travel Scholarship, we would not have been able to visit this magnificently diverse continent and experience such unforgettable moments.

If you're contemplating a gap year, we urge you to apply for this scholarship so you are able to have an equally memorable time. If you want any advice, feel free to message either one of us.

We are so grateful to the Hollidays, and hope our adventure was carried out in the spirit of their son (a former KES teacher), in whose memory the award is given.

Angus Crombie and Harry Wain



Nick Holliday Award

My time in Romania was a mixed experience of missing home and apparently creating an enormous difference with what we would normally consider to be so little.

I lived with a couple who run a church in a room that is probably only 8m by 12m but in which 40 people would come to worship, and up to 75 children would attend every Sunday. The room was so packed, but it was fantastic!

In a country where the government gives little to organisations and families alike, the work I was supporting was vital to keep people healthy and even alive. Most of the work involved giving out beds, furniture and clothes to the poorest: Roma (Gypsies), orphans and the homeless, but also schools and hospitals. This was almost entirely from the generosity of a lady in Denmark.

There was also time to see the beauty of Romania as a country. We spent quite a lot of time in central Romania, visiting the mountains and forests of Transylvania (including the castle thought to have inspired the story of Dracula). We also visited the eastern part of the country, specifically Galați, which shares a border with Moldova and Ukraine and is very beautiful on the banks of the Danube estuary. It was incredible to think that a country so poor could house such beauty.

At Christmas, with the help of the Romanian team and money from fundraisers in the UK, we were able to give Christmas presents to 550 people and orphans, many of whom would not have received anything otherwise. It was so humbling to see what a huge difference we could make, considering we only had £450 to spend in total.

The experience was truly humbling and an amazing way to spend part of my gap year; if there's ever a worthwhile volunteering opportunity, I'd definitely recommend taking part!

Harry Jennings



Parents' Association Travel Scholarship

We were incredibly excited to receive the prestigious Parents' Association Travel Scholarship, allowing us to put our mad travel plans into action.

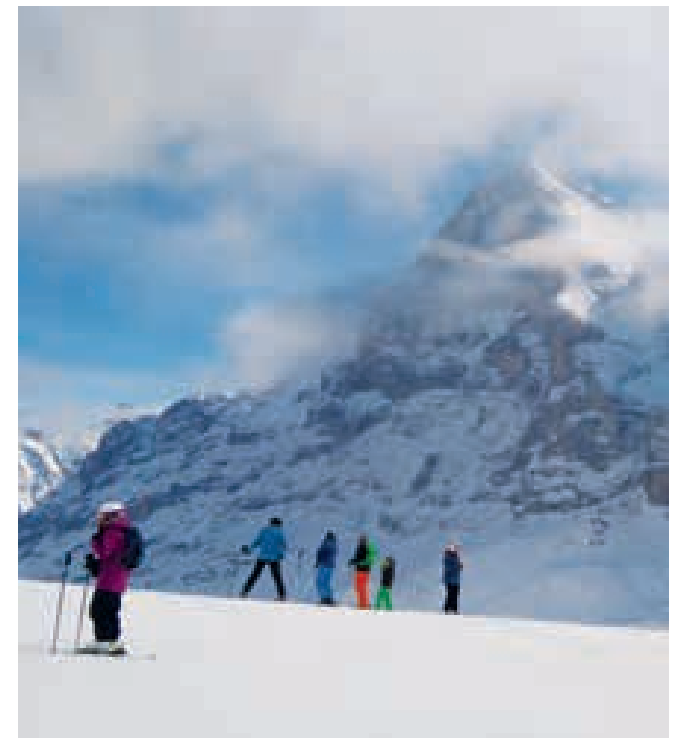
Our goal was to pick an affordable European destination which could provide us with a good network of high altitude hiking trails. This led us to the tiny state of Andorra, a small country jammed between France and Spain in the midst of the Pyrenean mountain range. The route we selected was an eight-day round-route along the border of Andorra, called the GRP, covering a distance of 120km across a difference in altitude of about 1,600m.

After three trains, a coach and all-in-all a very exhausting journey, we finally arrived at the hotel close to the start of the trail. On the following day we were woken by a torrential downpour, instantly putting us into a state of misery. We cheated at the first opportunity by catching a taxi to the start of the route, skipping a lengthy ascent on tarmac roads. The driver, suspecting us of smuggling tobacco into France, dropped us off in the pouring rain. Unhappy about having to test our waterproof gear so early on the trip, we commenced the long, hard trek.

After the first night in the mountains, we were woken by cattle for the first of many times; a gigantic herd of sheep ringing their bells at 7am sharp. This meeting was pretty low on the 'unpleasant animal encounters' ranking, later surpassed by numerous aggressive cows and bulls. Sadly, we did not exchange phone numbers with a rare Pyrenean brown bear but other fauna included incredibly trusting marmots, chamois and various birds of prey. Thankfully, unlike the cows of Andorra, its people were incredibly kind-hearted, hospitable and patient on every occasion.

Throughout the trip we were spoilt by the immense natural beauty of Andorra in the form of spectacular sunsets and sunrises, reflective mountain lakes, endless, mountainous skylines and a breathtakingly clear and stunning view of the Milky Way and the night sky. One of our personal highlights was quite literally the high-point of the trip. Early on day three we ascended up the Pic de Pessons (2,864m) in morning temperatures crisper than the wet washing dangling from our rucksacks, which froze solid on the way up. At the top, we were rewarded by a jaw-dropping, endless mountain vista of both France and Spain, kissed by the morning sun.

Skiing in Switzerland



We had skied for two days in fairly overcast conditions, with mist and flurries of snow making the conditions quite challenging, but then, on day three, our chairlift popped unexpectedly out of the clouds into the gorgeous February sunshine.

The view was spectacular. As we skied off the lift and halted by the edge of the piste, we gazed across the valley at the notorious, and awesome, north face of the Eiger. The stern wall of rock and ice, the scene of many legendary mountaineering epics, stared back at us impassively. For the first time, we could see the impressive mountains of the Bernese Oberland that circle the Swiss resorts of Grindelwald and Wengen.

The ski group enjoyed six excellent days of skiing in and around these pretty villages and made great progress under the instruction of our guides. The advanced group roamed far and wide and many of the beginners were confidently skiing red, and the occasional black, runs by the end of the week.

We stayed in a lovely lakeside hotel on the outskirts of Interlaken and, on most evenings, headed off into town for some entertainment. There was a bowling night, a visit to the swimming baths and a memorable meal in a pizza restaurant run by a mullet-haired body builder with a personality as large as his biceps. By the end of the night, everyone was standing on their chairs, clapping and singing along with the music. It was a great night out and a fantastic week in the Swiss mountains.

IJC



Almost all nights were spent in near-identical mountain refuges stocked with metal bunk beds, first aid equipment, firewood and occasionally non-perishable foodstuffs. Some shelters were smaller than others but thankfully there was always enough space. We slept alone a few times but mostly we had highly varied but always friendly night-time company: we shared the huts with an incredibly kind Argentine father and his kids, two British hikers on a 50-day trek willing to share their wine, and young locals with a dog suffering with flatulence, amongst others.

Our diet was not hugely varied, consisting mostly of pasta with pesto, instant soup and instant porridge. We lacked not only variety but also quantity, and without a conveniently located petrol station (with an even more convenient public toilet) on day four, we probably would not be here today. This malnutrition was partly the reason why a distinctly average sandwich tasted like the best sandwich in the world, but perhaps the Andorrans just know how to make a good sandwich.

After eight days of tough hiking we finally completed the route; the relief and pride were some of the best feelings we have ever felt! All-in-all, it was an incredibly rewarding and worthwhile experience but on many occasions it was also very challenging, often more so mentally than physically. We are both certain it was the company of each other which kept both of us fit and sane, although not always far from insanity!

We would like to extend our immense gratitude to the Parents' Association, without whom this experience of a lifetime would never have been possible.

Samuel Rot and Conor Parkes

Madagascar

60 million years ago, on the shores of a tropical island, an extraordinary story began. The waves brought ashore an odd band of survivors, a few ancient creatures that had accidentally been swept across hundreds of miles of ocean from a distant land. They found themselves in a place unlike any other. Totally cut off from the rest of the world, these castaways made the island their own, gradually evolving into a collection of wildlife that's strange, rare and utterly unique. So rare that more than 80% of the species are found nowhere else on Earth. That island is Madagascar.

This summer, 11 Divisions and five Fifths, accompanied by Mr Porter and Mr Corns, travelled to this extraordinary country for three weeks. After days and nights of travelling by plane, coach and on foot, we arrived at the Operation Wallacea camp at Matsedroy. We spent a week working with Operation Wallacea at both the Matsedroy Satellite Camp and the Mariarano Base Camp. With scientists and locals, we explored and surveyed this little section of Madagascar from the break of dawn to the middle of the night seeing a diverse range of endemic reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects. We also visited a primary school where some children sang the Madagascar national anthem and we replied with the first verse of the School Song before challenging them to a game of football.

There is a variety of different ecoregions across Madagascar and under the guidance of tour-leader Desi and coach-driver Roger, from Ecotours, we had the opportunity to travel around Madagascar and gain a glimpse into these different worlds. We left the deciduous forests at Mariarano and Matsedroy and headed to Ankarafantsika National Park where we took a boat trip and saw the majestic Madagascan Fish Eagle. We then travelled to the humid forest of Andasibe-Mantadia National Park where we tracked down the famous Indri Lemurs and heard their bizarre song. The next stop was the rainforest at Ranomafana National Park, where we found a sleeping Satanic Leaf-Tailed Gecko. The team voted this as their favourite animal.

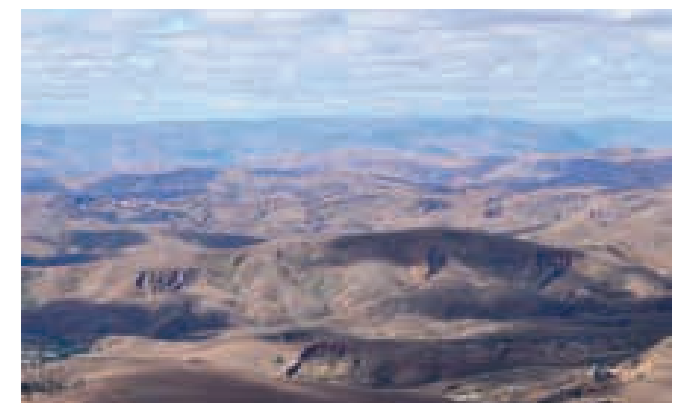
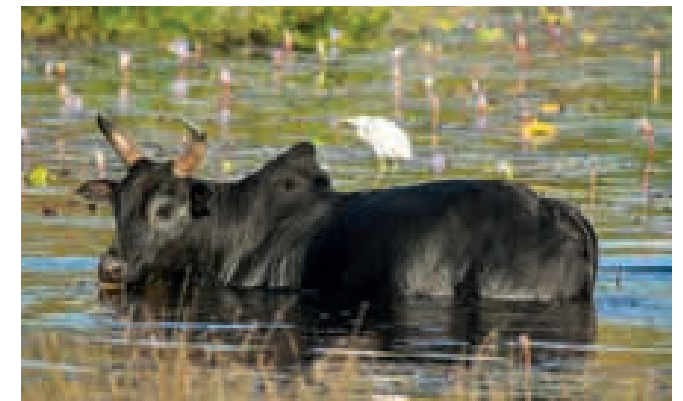
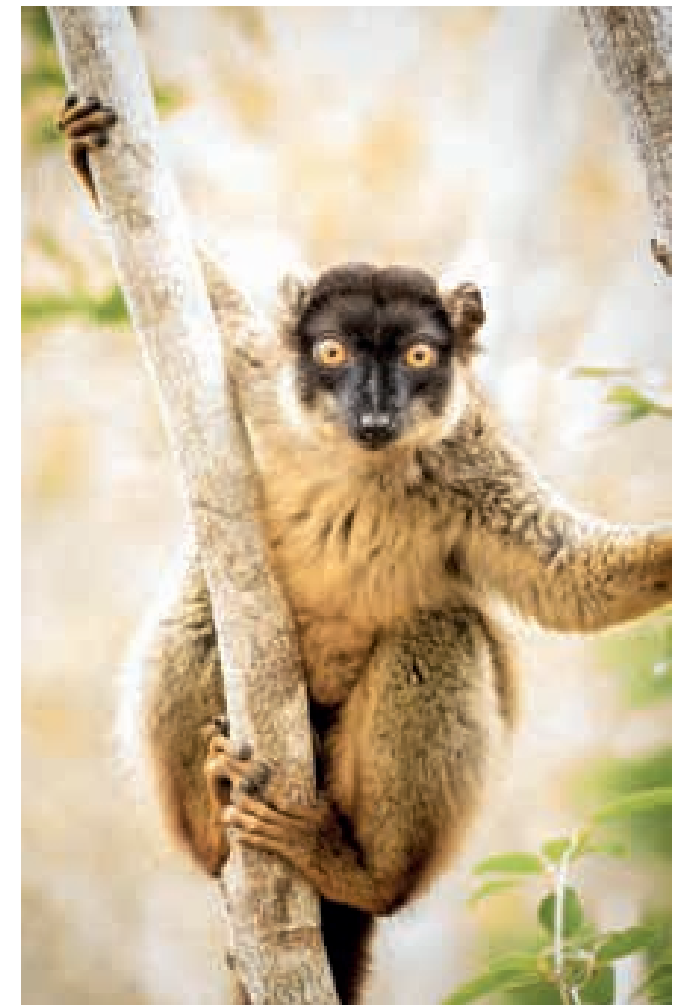
As we travelled between such beautiful places, we saw the vast extent of land that has been, and continues to be, deforested. This heightened our appreciation for Madagascar's rich forests and biodiversity.

We arrived at our next camp, Anja Community Reserve, which was surrounded by Ring-tailed Lemurs. By day, we looked in wonder at the large granite rock formations,

woodland and lake, all surrounded by paddy fields; by night, we stared with awe at planets and the shining Milky Way. A spectacular backdrop for our expedition's final stop.

We would like to thank Operation Wallacea, Ecotours, the scientists, the guides, Desi, Roger, the zebu, the locals – especially the children that ran over miles of paddy fields towards us screaming “salama” (‘hello’ in Malagasy) – and in particular Mr Porter and Mr Corns. What an adventure!

Richard Chapman, Oliver Stevenson and Oliver Morgan





Living History in Denmark

In August, the Living History Group travelled to Denmark to live for two weeks in the 15th century.

Five boys, along with Old Edwardians, staff and pupils from KEHS, went to the Middelaldercentret to experience life in a medieval village. The boys helped around the centre, doing activities such as manning the full-size trebuchet located on-site and launching a fireball on the final evening of their stay. They also helped to run the daily tournament, preparing the knights, horses and field for the disciplines, as well as firing cannons, baking bread and finger weaving. The boys also enjoyed learning from the experts who worked at the centre and speaking with the blacksmiths, ropemakers, carpenters and dyers. The centre staff and volunteers ranged from Danes and Germans, to Italians and Belgians, but all were endlessly amusing and interesting characters.

The time spent outside the centre was also enjoyable, with many trips to the local supermarket Fotex and the beautiful surroundings of the Danish countryside. The boys also went to Copenhagen for a daytrip, exploring the city by canal boat and visiting the Danish National Museum as well as the alternative society of Christiania.

Overall, everyone had a fantastic time and were saddened to find that this would be the final visit. They would like to thank Mr Davies and Miss Asher for ensuring the trip was a success.

Joseph Tedd



L'échange avec Grasse



Le soleil, la culture française et les familles accueillantes expliquent la popularité de ce séjour annuel à Grasse. Cette année, sans doute, nous avons passé une semaine fantastique qui nous a donné l'opportunité d'apprendre plus sur la région des Alpes Maritimes. C'était une super expérience pour améliorer notre français mais, pour moi, l'aspect le plus important était de se forger des amitiés et des contacts qui resteront toujours avec nous.

À l'aéroport de Nice, nos correspondants nous ont reçus les bras ouverts et ils avaient déjà organisé une variété d'activités divertissantes. Pendant notre visite, nous avons visité la petite ville aux rues sinueuses et tranquilles et sommes allés à la parfumerie Fragonard puisque Grasse est bien connue comme la capitale de l'industrie du parfum. À part ça, nous avons fait

des activités diverses telles que le paint-ball à la française et autres sports, avons visité Cannes, Nice et appris les différences entre les systèmes éducatifs français et anglais. Pour moi, ce qui était le meilleur, c'était la cuisine de la mère de ma corres... merci, Muriel!

Je voudrais remercier Madame Esnault pour avoir organisé un séjour inoubliable. Les étudiants ont aussi apprécié l'hospitalité du lycée Fénelon, des correspondants et de leurs gentilles familles. Finalement, je crois qu'il est important de noter que, malgré le référendum, le lycée et ses étudiants peuvent continuer à maintenir leurs relations fortes avec leurs partenaires européens.

Harry Wilson



Wales Cycle Tour

The 2016 Wales Cycle Tour started with 24 of us meeting at Barnt Green station early in the morning ready for what was to be a very difficult, but very enjoyable, five days.

The first day saw us tackle a 75-mile route (into a head wind) from Barnt Green to Abergavenny. Our first stop was at Upton-upon-Severn where we enjoyed the first, but by no means the last, piece of cake of the tour. Although we were told it wasn't going to be a very hilly day, as soon as the Welsh border approached, the roads became somewhat more challenging: a steep two-mile hill at the end of the ride reminded us of what was to come. After an enjoyable dinner we had the opportunity to watch the Euro Final, much to our delight.

For the second day, we undertook a 68-mile route with 1,500m of climbing which started with a great view of the Llanthony Priory and then a long grind up Gospel Pass, a seriously difficult hill but, we were to discover, nowhere near the hardest on tour. At the top we were greeted with a spectacular view and a very rewarding but tricky descent to the Wye – the first cake stop of the day. We then followed the Wye to Builth Wells (lunch) before some short, sharp hills tested our digestive systems. At 50 miles there was an optional 18-mile loop which a few hardier souls tackled. It started with a difficult four-mile hill (Penrhiw-Wen) but from there, especially on a beautiful day, the views were some of the best I've ever seen, including two jaw-dropping dams (which supply Birmingham's water) and some winding descents. An absolutely superb dinner at the excellent Elan Valley Hotel (the tempura prawns were magnificent) ended a great day.

Day three was tougher still with 1,750m of climbing taking us from Elan Valley to either Dolgellau or Barmouth. We started up with a steady climb through the forest and arrived at Llanidloes for our lunch stop. Then we had a tough climb

(another head wind) over 500m to Dylife which was one of the highest points on the route. From there we had a thrilling eight-mile descent down towards Machynlleth. The next hill we had to tackle – through the old slate mine at Aberllefenni – was certainly the hardest hill I've ever done and many others would agree: congratulations to all on tour who cycled up it. Another rewarding descent saw us down to the end of the route near Dolgellau. Most stayed in the old railway station at the George III Hotel in Penmaenpool but nine of us had an extra seven-mile route (the Mawddach Trail) which took us to Barmouth.

Day four was the hardest day which saw us cycle 70 miles with 2,300m of climbing. After coming out of Dolgellau, we cycled through the mountain bike paradise of Coed-y-Brenin into the mountains of Snowdonia, a seriously tough climb. In these 20 miles were some of the most magnificent views as we climbed from sea level to over 500m. After a six-mile descent to Llanuwchllyn and a great lunch including homemade flapjacks from Mrs Phillips, we tackled another seven-mile hill (the highest road in Wales) with great views at the top. We then hurtled down to Lake Vyrnwy and ate cake at the café before taking on more hills and enjoying another brilliant dinner in The Dragon Hotel in Montgomery.

The final day was another long 75-mile day, but with a mere 1,300m of climbing, before finishing back at Barnt Green. Tired legs from almost everyone on tour made the views hard to enjoy and we arrived home at 5pm shattered but satisfied.

A brilliant cycle tour, with lots of great laughs and views (and weather). Thanks to Mr Phillips who made it all happen.

Samay Patel



6

Outreach



Astronomy Workshop

Every Friday afternoon this year, Alex Pett, Teerath Khaira, Akash Kumar and I travelled to a different local primary school to carry out an Astronomy Workshop as part of the Outreach programme.

We had all been lucky enough to do GCSE Astronomy, inspiring us to try and provide some tangible benefit to the community by helping others discover the wonder of the world and universe which we often take for granted.

In preparing the workshop, finding the balance between our desire to convey as much information as possible within the time limitations of each afternoon, as well as having to speak in a language and depth appropriate to our audience of Year 5 and 6 pupils, was challenging. Fortunately, with the help of Mr Arbuthnott and Dr Miles, we designed four activities on a variety of different topics, ranging from the nature of stars to how humans might survive in space, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. We finished each session with a quiz to provide as valuable and memorable an experience as possible.

We were delighted with the enthusiasm – and, at times, extraordinarily impressive general knowledge – displayed by the pupils who came from a variety of different backgrounds and parts of the city. We covered schools from Solihull to Sutton Coldfield, and never did we receive a hostile reception to material that was quite advanced and dense for a Friday afternoon. I was delighted to be making a difference to pupils who enjoyed the activities we created, and we are confident that the skills we have gained from having to communicate information in a simple and effective manner, in presenting new ideas, and advocating views of the world and how to appreciate it, will prepare us well for the future.

Ashwyn Aulak

Author visit: Andy Briggs

On Thursday, 1 October 2015, as part of the Outreach programme, author Andy Briggs came to KES to present a jungle-themed extravaganza.

Over 230 Year 5 and 6 pupils from 11 primary schools across Birmingham descended on the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre to listen to Andy's talk. Andy showed that writing is more than simply publishing books by explaining how everything on TV, in films, music and even computer games all rely on authors too. He talked about his life and his journey to becoming a writer, and also divulged some secrets about life in Hollywood! After giving a truly inspirational talk concerning his newest books, which feature the classic character Tarzan, his interactive 'jungle survival' quiz at the end resulted in a very rowdy but enthusiastic audience.

It was a brilliant event and left everyone enthused to read and write more.

KAFB



Chess competitions

This year, the Outreach team organised two chess competitions for primary schoolchildren, with more than 80 pupils taking part in each event from a variety of schools situated in and around the Birmingham area.

Over the course of six rounds, the competitors played each other in short five-minute games, gradually gaining points whilst being paired with people of similar skill to encourage competitive gameplay.

Under the leadership of Dr Rackham and with a group of Divisions and Sixths in support, we managed to produce an enjoyable afternoon for all of the participants whilst (hopefully) encouraging their passion for one of the most prestigious games in the world.

Our school has produced many great chess players over the years, the most notable of which is Tony Miles, the first British Grandmaster. We hope that we have inspired some of these pupils to continue playing chess and that we may even see some of them in our own school chess teams in years to come.

Toby Jowitt

Senior Swing Band Tour

On Wednesday, 23 March 2016, the Senior Swing Band (SSB) went on another tour of primary schools.

At nine in the morning we departed in two minibuses with the whole swing band crew: Mr Jarvis, our conductor, together with an Outreach team consisting of Mr Arbuthnott, Mrs Davies and Lokesh Jain. There were guest appearances (both of whom were past SSB members) from Simon Kent, who filled in for Mr Howard – the life and soul of the band – on the bass trombone and Matt Clegg for technical logistics. We were also extremely lucky to have two fabulous singers from KEHS who had both sung with Swing Band before: Leenah Abuegasim and Zoe Newman.

This year we went to four different primary schools, all no more than a 15-minute banter-filled minibus drive from each other: Moseley Church of England, Billesley, Clifton and Wheelers Lane. We played classics such as the theme song from *Mission Impossible* and Amy Winehouse's *Valerie*, which was brilliantly sung by Leenah. However, we were also taken out of our comfort zone, playing pieces we didn't know so well, such as *A Few Good Men*.

Things were all running smoothly until we got to our final school, Wheelers Lane; as we were setting up for our last performance of the day, we realised we had left our music at the penultimate school! So, while Mr Arbuthnott drove back to Clifton, we had an improvisation session, which was as equally fun and successful. Outstanding solos and performances, not only in the improvisation but throughout the whole day, included Matt Madden, Altay Gardiner, Raghav Aggarwal, Nathan Cornish, Alex Pett, Dev Soni and Will Evans.

This was another fantastic year for the Senior Swing Band. We are extremely lucky to have Mr Jarvis as our conductor and a fantastic Outreach programme built into the School, giving us yet more excellent opportunities to play our music.

Josh Ray



Borchers Shield

This year's Borchers Shield maths competition was the biggest yet as we welcomed almost 600 local pupils from Year 4 and Year 6, 170 more than last year.

The aim of the competition is to win the Borchers Shield, which is named after Richard Borchers, an Old Edwardian who won the Fields Medal in 1998 for his work on infinite-dimensional algebras. There are 16 heats, which take place in Big School on Friday afternoons, with each heat consisting of two rounds of maths. The first round is a crossnumber (quite literally a crossword but with numbers!) inspired by those produced by UKMT for their own maths competitions. The second round is a maths relay, a fusion of sports and maths where teams of four are split before racing against the clock to complete as many questions as possible.

The winners of each heat, along with the best runners-up, are invited to their respective year group grand final where they battle to win the Borchers Shield. Those in this year's Year 4 grand final were lucky enough to receive a talk from the author of *Murderous Maths*, Kjartan Poskitt, who also presented the winning team with their prize.

The ability of the Sixth Formers involved (Vidy Reddy, Toby Jowitt, Bill Xuan, Bill Wang and myself) to work effectively and cohesively, together with the hard work of Dr Rackham and the excellent organisation of Mrs Davies, allowed us to welcome so many schools to participate in afternoons full of maths and fun. Our aim has been to inspire these budding mathematicians, some of whom will join us in September, and we look forward to inspiring many more in the years to come.

Rohan Mehta

ISC Uniting Communities Conference



On Saturday, 7 November 2015 the Independent Schools Council's Community Partnership Schools Conference on Uniting Communities came to KES. Hundreds of pupils and teachers from across the country flocked to the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre to exchange notes and ideas about what their schools were doing to help community life. For our own school, this involved evaluating programmes such as Outreach and our work with Birmingham Children's Hospital.

We also had a special role to play: hosting the student meet during the conference. Teachers from different schools often come together to give presentations and debate issues, but students rarely get involved. As a result, the fact that KES was in a position to host such a unique event was a huge honour.

And of course, what was a student meet without student presenters?

Aiming to emulate Ant and Dec, but fearing failure in the form of the Chuckle Brothers, we – under the coaching of Neil Jones, organiser of the event – had the task of filling in the gaps between each student presentation. These talks ranged from fighting for gender equality and teaching children how to swim, to our very own maths competition and debating workshop.

All-in-all, we didn't really know what to expect on the day, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Not only was it a chance to learn how others better life in their respective communities, but the event was also immensely inspirational due to the sheer volume of outreach programmes, just like our own, across the UK.

Usman Raja and Lokesh Jain

The making of Romany Wood

Romany Wood was Dr Leigh's big project for this year and it was ambitious to say the least. His aim: get as many primary schoolchildren as possible to sing with the Symphony Orchestra in none other than Symphony Hall.

This initiative was designed to give children and parents an experience of both classical music, which can so often seem inaccessible, and the magnificent facilities, such as Symphony Hall, which can be found within Birmingham. Performing in Symphony Hall is something many would dream of and to be given this opportunity at such a young age has hopefully inspired some of the pupils to pursue music.

It was a year-long project, allied with Concert Party (a Friday afternoon activity) aiming to spread music to the wider community, yet *Romany Wood* was distinctly different: this was the chance to get practically involved. Firstly, through practising at school, then with other primary schoolchildren at KES and then finally with the Orchestra in Symphony Hall.

It was late in the academic year, with the main event being held on Friday 24 June, and usually motivation in the orchestra after (or even during) exam season is limited. However, there was an excitement to bring this obscure love story to life, founded on the desire to inspire the children who were singing to take up more music as we understand the enrichment it can bring to life. It was also an experience for the parents, to see their children performing in a world-class venue, accompanied by a symphony orchestra.

It was a day to be proud of, but also a day to showcase what is possible with practice. Our aim was to make a difference in children's lives and I think we succeeded in that.

David Millross



Romany Wood

On Friday, 24 June 2016 a massive force of young people presented a heart-warming rendition of *Romany Wood*, together with some Shostakovich, in Symphony Hall. The audience clearly enjoyed it, and the parents of almost 600 schoolchildren who took part must have felt particularly proud.

The aforementioned force comprised the School's Symphony Orchestra, together with KEHS's Chamber Choir, and pupils from the following primary schools: Alston Primary School, Bournville Junior School, Brownmead Primary Academy, Gossey Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Hallfield School, Hallmoor School, Hillstone Primary School, Jervoise School, Lea Forest Primary Academy, Maney Hill Primary School, The Oval School, Stanville Primary School, West House School and Woodcock Hill Primary School.

Even before the figurative curtains opened, all the performers involved had spent many hours over many weeks preparing for this concert, surely something new for many. When we finally met at Symphony Hall for our first rehearsal together, it felt surreal to be among around 700 performers on an enormous stage.

The Shostakovich that started off the concert was his *Festive Overture op. 96*. This short, sweet piece broke the ice between the listeners and the young children of the choirs concerned, reassuring those who were perhaps nervous about their first real concert.

It was originally also intended to start a concert that marked the anniversary of the Russian October Revolution, and was prepared in a very short space of time, just like our rendition of it!

Romany Wood is a libretto by David Carr set to music by David Gaukroger, and tells the fairy-tale story of a town called Romany Wood and its inhabitants, which are all various small animals. We learn of Trollon, a wood mouse who wants to marry Esmeralda, and the various stages of their meeting and eventual marriage. In this case, it was narrated by the Chief Master, Mr Cloughton.

This whole event must have been something completely alien to many of those in the different choirs taking part, but hopefully an evening to cherish, and perhaps even an experience that leads to some children taking music up to a greater degree.

I should, finally, express my thanks to the support of The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham, without whose assistance this concert could not have come about, and also the mastery of Dr Leigh, Mr Arbuthnott, Sue Davies and Charlie Reilly for coordinating no fewer than 14 different primary schools! The proceeds of the ticket sales, which totalled a considerable sum, were donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Philip Edwards



Sport Outreach

Sport Outreach at KES is getting bigger and better: since launching the scheme in 2014 we have hosted over 40 schools and more than 1,100 primary schoolchildren.

Our main aim is for pupils to experience first-hand our first-class facilities, such as the Southall Pavilion and hockey pitches, the Eastern Road athletics track and our fantastic swimming pool. Many primary schools do not have space to do sport on site, so we offer them the freedom to run around in the expert hands of Head Coach, Nathan Round, with his team from KES and KEHS, and above all to have lots (and lots) of fun.

Devising schemes of work to fit in with the curriculum and regularly giving out certificates to show what the children have achieved allows both teachers and pupils to see a progression in each sport. We offer a Multisport Morning which includes hockey, rugby and netball in the winter and rounders, cricket and athletics in the summer, or whatever the individual school wishes to work on at the time.

There is also the opportunity for schools to host their own swimming lessons and galas at KES as well as whole school sports days, for which they can invite children, parents and teachers to enjoy our facilities and share the fun. It has been lovely watching families come with their picnic rugs and chairs to see their little ones running around the track or trying the long jump for the first time! Last year, one school held a full-blown opening ceremony to their Olympic-themed sports day, which was so enjoyable to see.

The KES Outreach team are proud to provide memorable and invaluable experiences for children across the city by offering new opportunities and sharing our magnificent surroundings. We are hoping to expand what we offer in the future, as we very much appreciate how intrinsic physical activity is to a child's well-being. We might just inspire our guests to seek out a future in sport by introducing them to the different activities, or at very least teach something about the importance of keeping moving!

SPD and NWR



Debating Workshop

It was no surprise that the Friday afternoon Debating Workshop, led by the renowned 'Debating Squad', was renewed for another academic year in what would soon become an experience filled with unprecedented enthusiasm and intellectual stimulation.

Primed with two fresh recruits offering a novel and enlightening perspective, the Squad (comprising newcomers Greg Leckey and Nathan Appanna together with veterans Usman Raja and Lokesh Jain) travelled in their mighty Falcon taxi to a variety of local primary schools in and around Birmingham.

The format for the afternoon remained the same every week: we would begin with several separate activities, each led by a different member of the KES team. These included 'rebuttal tennis', which gave the children practice in challenging others' points of view, and 'facts and figures', designed to encourage students to back up their arguments with factual evidence. Following on from these warm-up sessions was always the 'big debate' in which each child delivered a speech they had prepared with some help from a Squad member. This debate allowed the children to test and refine the skills which they had acquired over the course of the afternoon.

By challenging bright pupils, our aim was to raise their aspirations for secondary school education and beyond (including enticing them with some propaganda in the form of KES bookmarks) whilst also seeking to provide them with some of the confidence and skills they may require in the future. The year's work has been very fruitful, and although the current Squad may be destined to dissolution at the end of the year, who knows what next year's successors may achieve...

Nathan Appanna



7

Leadership

Leadership overview



The year of 2015-16 saw the largest number of participants in the Middle School years for some time.

A full complement of 30 Fourths embarked upon a varied and fun-packed year of challenges, games and exercises in September under the supervision of Harjeavon Toor and his teaching team (Nathan Pitan, Nilesh Ray and Sid Sawlani). The boys were soon making movies, promoting bands and designing new sports to name but just a few of the afternoon activities. The 'themes' came thick and fast, from *Dragons' Den* to *Star Wars* and the Olympics! It is fair to say that one does not know quite what is coming next as they enter Geography Room B at 1.50pm. The Fourths responded magnificently and threw themselves into everything wholeheartedly, with Hasan Rahman and Prithvi Singh showing consistent potential and ultimately being rewarded with trophies at the end of the year.



The Fifths gained a number of imports from other activities and they embarked on the first ever transition course, which aimed to give them the necessary skills to take over and run the option in the Divisions. The teaching team of Barney Hobbs, Gugs Vecchio, Oli Beardmore, Dan Vincent and Conrad Yap had the Herculean task of creating afternoon activities and then giving the necessary instruction to the Fifths that would really give them the skills required – all within two terms! They did a terrific job and showed, through their different personalities, that there are many different ways to achieve the goal. Oli Beardmore and Gugs brought 'laid-back' cajoling to aid Dan's thorough preparation and Barney's force of personality.

Nathan White led his team of Sixth Formers to present an action-packed programme on the UMs' rota to hopefully result in a good number of recruits for 2016-17. The boys were, one minute, pulling themselves along on skateboards with ropes, the next, charging around South Field on the obligatory 'capture the flag' contest (KES Leadership boys would surely become national champions if there were a competition!), and then designing and building different prototype inventions for the future.

As if the normal year was not busy enough, the whole option came together to host the EDGE Festival at the end of March. Nathan Pitan did an extraordinary job in coordinating this extravaganza on South Field and in the sports hall. In all, there were 250 participants from four junior schools and the majority of KES's Shells. All the boys taking the Leadership option ran a variety of games and stalls and showed their creativity and leadership skills in staging the event. Once again, 'Max the Magician' captivated the audience and rounded off events fittingly.

Barney Hobbs deserves special mention for running the whole option throughout the year. It is an immense challenge in the light of how busy a Sixth Form pupil actually is during his final year at KES. He kept his teaching team together and showed personality and character in all the many challenges that Leadership throws up. He leaves the option in good shape and 2016-17 looks optimistic with the numbers involved.

LMR

Fifths Leadership



The Fifths enjoyed completing a variety of activities during the two terms of Leadership last year, while, at the same time, learning how to plan their own afternoons and understand the effort that goes into preparing them.

The highlight of the year was the residential weekend where the group, split into two, participated in team-building exercises and various challenging, interactive problem-solving activities. During the year, we began to take more responsibilities into our own hands and started to organise afternoons for one another. However, we still had many opportunities to experience taking part in activities, which helped us to realise and understand what makes a good afternoon.

Leadership during the Fifths gave us the right tools to run sessions for other year groups and was altogether a satisfying and rewarding process.

Ashwin Kalyana

Fourths Leadership

I originally chose Leadership to improve my confidence and speaking skills; however, it offered much more than that. Even as a naturally quiet person, it wasn't difficult for me to get involved in the varied challenging activities set by both teachers and Sixth Formers every week, and it made Fridays just that bit better.

Highlights from the year included Mr Pavey strutting his stuff on the catwalk, paintballing for the first time at Delta Force with the sharpshooting Dr Fennel and Mr Pavey, and even having a fully-fledged *Star Wars* battle on the Mini Astro! The Sixth Formers were more friends than teachers; Haj and the lads did a fantastic job of entertaining a class full of 15-year-olds while still teaching us the valuable life skills that Leadership is based upon.

After an amazing introductory year to Leadership, I am really excited for what lies ahead.

Rashid Amin



8

CCF



Contingent Commander's overview

Wow! Looking back on this year, it's been full of activity, as usual, and full of changes – rather more than usual!

As ever, we have spent our Friday afternoons doing a wide range of activities: syllabus and leadership training, weapons and shooting. We have been sailing and kayaking on Edgbaston Reservoir, climbing at a nearby climbing wall, and orienteering at various local sites. Further afield, the Royal Naval Section has been down to Portsmouth to stay aboard HMS Bristol and navigate across the Solent, while the Army Section spent a hard-core military training weekend at Swynnerton Training Camp.

Adventurous Training weekends have taken the Army to Capel Curig to walk, climb, cycle and abseil, while the Navy visited Plas Menai and got on (and in) the water in a remarkable variety of wind-blown and paddle-driven craft. In the summer, the highlight for the Army was Summer Camp at Wathgill, while Navy boys attended courses including safety boat coxswain, canoeing and band camp, and the scuba divers went off to the north-east of the UK to dive with seals in cold water, and to the island of Gozo to dive with pretty coloured fish in warm water.

In addition to that core package, there have been two significant new developments. First off, there is our new Partnership. At the request of Navy HQ we have formed a link with the Royal Navy

cadets at Selly Oak Trust School. For administrative and logistical purposes, they are now a part of our Contingent – which means, among other things, that we now have female cadets, the first in 110 years!

It has been a joy to get to know a bunch of cadets from a very different educational background, and to share some of our activities with each other. Selly Oak has hosted some of our cadets on a flying day at RAF Shawbury, while we have been able to host their cadets for training in our swimming pool, weapon training and range shooting. They lifted the whole atmosphere of our Annual Inspection with their marching and cheerful participation – and helped us get a very good report from our Reviewing Officer, Colonel RL Maybery, Deputy Commander of 11 Signal and West Midlands Brigade.



Army Expeditions Weekend

The best parts about the Army section are by far the Expeditions Weekends and Summer Camp. The military-style weekend can be hard and will leave you with a few bruises. However, most people who finish the Weekend are glad they completed it.

The Expedition starts with an activity such as navigating to the campsite or a lesson on section attacks. It is at this point where the average cadet is thinking, "Why did I agree to come on this trip?" as the activity is usually pretty mundane.

Upon arrival at the campsite, cadets are given time to cook dinner and put up bashas. A basha is a tarp-like sheet, which is attached to nearby trees with strings and then pegged to the ground to provide a shelter from rain and wind. Lucky cadets will have two bashas in their pair so one is used as a ground sheet. By this time, cadets are usually regretting their decision to come on the trip as they pray it doesn't rain overnight and that the ground they chose is actually as flat as it looked.

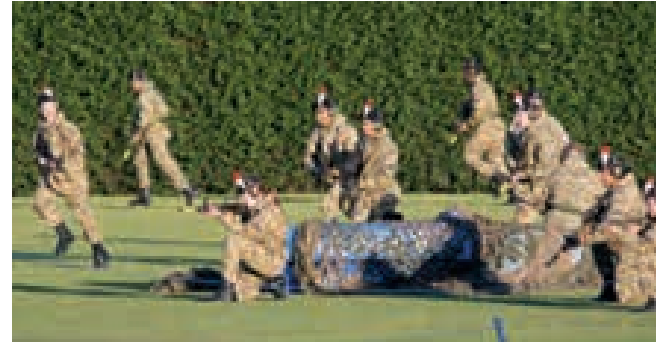
After dinner, the night exercise begins, which involves running around in a field in the pitch black. It's usually cold, and often involves navigation in the dark, all while the mysterious enemy is lurking in the bushes waiting to ambush and take the tape on your arm. The role of the enemy isn't as interesting as it sounds as, more often than not, it involves residing in a bush and getting cold while waiting for people to pass by.

The next morning, a hot breakfast is the most desirable thing. However, in reality it's a cereal bar. For older cadets, the day starts off with blank firing exercises and visiting the DCCT range which simulates a real range – without firing live rounds – through the use of lasers. Younger cadets will get lessons on bushcraft and weapons handling. The afternoon consists of visiting the live firing range, which leaves cadets smiling, and some time on the assault course.

The night exercise of the second day is led by NCOs with staff in the background making sure things happen safely. Upon return from the exercise, cadets go to bed straight after handing their weapons back in to ensure they get enough sleep and are ready to wake up at dawn.

After they wake up, cadets are thinking "I'm cold. I'm hungry. I hope this dawn raid is good". Ammunition is loaded, rifles are issued and cadets set out for the raid. Upon arrival at the enemy location they come under fire, and the cadets use section attack techniques to overcome the enemy. After the raid, cadets realise how much they've enjoyed themselves. However, this is before they realise they have to clean their weapons.

Mustafa Lone



Another very pleasing development is the approaching rebirth of the RAF Section. English teacher and ex-cadet James Butler has stepped up and volunteered to lead, and the first dozen or so cadets start in September. The plan is to build the Section gradually until it is roughly equivalent to the other two, and to maintain a strong aviation focus. I am delighted that, once again, we can offer a cadet experience to the air-minded boys among us. In which connection, I am very pleased to report that ex-KES RAF cadet Rob Wigley has just passed out from Royal Navy officer training at Dartmouth and is now to move on to his pilot training.

And of course there are always staff changes! A warm welcome to Mr Butler and Mr Sutherland who will be working with the RAF Section, and to Miss Morris who will join the Navy Section. And finally, for me, the change with the greatest impact: Miss Leaver took the decision to move on to pastures new. Among her many high-quality contributions to KES life was her strong and unwavering commitment to the CCF, running the Royal Navy Section for a decade or so, and continuing to serve as Second in Command, putting at our disposal her experience, expertise, creativity, problem-solving skills, and unflagging capacity for hard work. She was a vital and valued part of the team; we miss her, and wish her well. My thanks to her, and to all my colleagues, without whom none of this stuff would happen.

DHR



KES Hotshots

The School's rifle team, accompanied by Captain Storey and Second Lieutenant Chamberlain, took part in the CCF Staffordshire and West Midlands Brigade Skill at Arms shooting competition.

Awaiting the minibus' arrival, it came to our realisation that we were a man down – without a team of eight we would be disqualified. Thankfully, Ollie Ray was on standby and met us at the range no later than our own arrival at Kingsbury rifle range.

The prospects were not looking to be in our favour and, as if agreeing, the clouds were grey and threatening to pour down. This, together with the fact that five out of the eight KES army cadets had never previously shot the L98 A2 rifle, meant that we started on the back foot. However, the usual Edwardian attitude prevailed; we soldiered on and gave the first competition our best shot (pun intended).

After completing the first round (shooting from between 100m and 300m) we were elated to find out that we had won! Morale was high and the best four shots (Isaac Elliot, Ollie Ray, Timothy Jones and me) progressed to the 'falling plates knock out competition' from 200 metres. Realising our potential, we cleared out all of our plates with relative ease and passed through to the next round. However, this time, we only managed to shoot seven out of eight plates whilst the opposition shot all eight.

Disappointed, we were then informed that we had a second chance, and that if we won we could lift the trophy for best overall CCF team: we dispatched all eight in swift time to secure our win. Collectively, we won two trophies and two plates, as well as a medal each, and I was fortunate to receive the medal for best individual shot. Just as we collected our trophies the heavens finally opened but they could not rain on our parade. We all performed very well and deserve the name of Hotshots!

I would like to thank Captain Storey and Second Lieutenant Chamberlain for giving up their day to allow us to compete.

Shiv Bharakhada

Diving in the Farne Islands



Just a few days before the eagerly anticipated trip to Gozo, a group of CCF scuba divers travelled to the Scottish border for two days of diving off the coast of the Farne Islands.

We had been offered the opportunity to dive off Darkstar – a boat, owned by Dan Dixon's dad Mark, which has been adapted to be a diving boat with its own specialised diver's lift. This provided an effective 'home on the water' for us during the day's diving, and as there were only seven of us in total, there was plenty of space to catch a bit of rest between dives.

Each day, we carried out two dives in different locations, which allowed us to see a wide variety of wildlife. The first dives passed without much incident, apart from a close encounter with a particularly large jellyfish as we were ascending and Rev Raynor's discovery of numerous stray golf balls while we were on the wreck site of the SS President, which were from the golf course on the cliff above us. However, the most enjoyable part of the weekend was still to come.

On our final dive we travelled to a central area of the Farne Islands, in order to see if we could strike some luck and get the opportunity to dive with seals. Things looked promising, as we were able to see numerous seal families on the rocks by the shore. Despite this, once we descended, it seemed like we were going to miss out – there was no sign of movement around us whatsoever. Then, all of a sudden, large shapes began to appear and soon we were surrounded by an entire family of seals. This took many of us by surprise – it is not until you are fully side by side or face-to-face with a seal that you realise just how large they actually are! Yet, this materialised into the best dive I've ever done – seals swimming around us, nibbling our fins, taking interest in our underwater cameras, and so on, before disappearing back into the gloom. This was an unforgettable experience.

Many thanks have to be given to Mark and Steve, who transported us to the various dive sites and looked after us over the course of the weekend. Whether it be helping us put on all of our heavy diving gear, or providing plenty of hot food and drink throughout, they made our lives a lot easier. Indeed, due to the trip's success there are already plans in place for it to run again next year! However, huge thanks must also be given to Rev Raynor for organizing it in the first place, and the commitment he gives to running numerous KES diving trips each year.

Rob Bonehill



Gozo

The CCF Scuba Diving Programme begins with try-dives in KES swimming pool in the autumn term, and proceeds with Open Water certification courses in the spring and summer terms, however, the undoubted highlight is the annual trip to Gozo.

In July, 12 cadets and four teachers went for a week of diving and island life. Having already been to Gozo in 2014, I knew it was a trip that was going to be thoroughly enjoyable. Nine of the cadets were on a course to qualify as Advanced Open Water Divers, enabling them to dive to 30m; the rest of us were aiming to extend our experience of diving and dive planning – not to mention extending our experience of eating and chilling out in Marsalforn. The course involved dives of various kinds including a boat dive, underwater navigation, buoyancy workshop, a deep dive and a wreck dive.

The advantage of Gozo – even though many people have never heard of it – is it's a small enough island that any dive site is within a 30-minute drive of the apartments, which is really beneficial on a day where there may be bad weather conditions on one side of the island with perfect conditions on the other. We took advantage of this, diving at Xwejini Bay (North), Hondoq (East), Xatt L-Ahmar (South, with wrecks), and the Inland Sea (West, with tunnel) over the week – and even visited the P31 Patrol Boat wreck off the neighbouring island of Comino. We finished with a very enjoyable day doing the tourist stuff, visiting the medieval citadel of the capital, Victoria (known locally as Rabat), and even enjoying McFtira – the McDonald's version of the Maltese delicacy Ftira.

A special thank you must go to all of the teachers because without them none of it would have happened, Cdr Raynor – for his planning even if he was unable to attend – Lt Wareing, Lt Follows, Pete Wheller and especially Lt Cdr Leaver who stepped in at the last minute to run the trip in Rev's absence. Also, Rob would like to thank Pete for saving his expensive GoPro from plummeting to the bottom of the Mediterranean. It was a very enjoyable week and I am able to look past the 4.30am meet at the airport on the way out!

Matthew Smith

Addendum: I would like to echo Matthew and add my thanks to the staff who took over the trip while I was flat on my back in hospital: Miss Leaver who stepped up to run the whole thing at 12 hours' notice, ably supported by Mrs Wareing and Doc Follows, who all had to cope with more than they expected to be doing – including driving the dreaded Maruti jeeps on Gozo roads. My sincere thanks to all of them and I am looking forward to actually attending the trip next year!

DHR

Navy on the water



Friday afternoons for the Royal Naval Section are not just spent in school. As well as the core syllabus of learning leadership skills and the Navy CCF syllabus, the Navy Section spends many autumn and summer Friday afternoons at Edgbaston Reservoir in order to learn basic sailing and kayaking skills. This generally occurs once every two weeks and provides great experiences through a variety of weather conditions.

During the Fourths, we learnt various skills related to kayaking including procedures after capsizing, abruptly slowing the kayak down and how to maximise the efficiency of strokes through the water, as well as touring the many delights of the reservoir. During our sailing sessions we had many fun and worthwhile experiences because of the unpredictable nature of the wind, ensuring that reservoir sessions always remained enjoyable – it's always good watching your friends capsize and get wet.

Special thanks to Ms While who has been driving us to the reservoir this year, we really appreciate her giving up her Friday afternoons to enable us to do this.

Nikhil Mediratta

Royal Navy Expeditions Weekends



The Royal Naval section of the CCF has two Expedition Weekends, the idea of which is to be as active as possible ignoring how much sleep you get. This comes as a shock to a group of teenagers.

For our first Expeditions Weekend in September, we went to Plas Menai, an outdoor activity centre, where we did a wide range of activities. During our first evening, every cadet did some rope course activities, such as, rock climbing and Leap of Faith. The next day, we all enjoyed a full day of water sports on the Menai Strait: sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, Canadian canoeing, and giant stand up paddle boarding, which was particularly entertaining as it often involved pushing the person standing next to you in the water! Finally, in the evening we all enjoyed some free time watching the Rugby World Cup or playing table tennis.

Our second Expeditions Weekend saw us travel to HMS Bristol in Portsmouth, a Type 82 destroyer used in the Falklands War which is now used as a training ship. It showed us the demands on a real Royal Navy cadet, such as marching to breakfast and finding your way through the narrow and complex corridors of HMS Bristol.

On our first evening, the whole CCF engaged in a football tournament organised by the Sixth Form. On the Saturday, everyone in the Fifths and above went to an Airsoft (BB rifles) location to enjoy a full day's worth of shooting courses: target practice, capturing and holding territory. There was much enthusiasm shown by all cadets and I think all would agree on the amount of fun they had. The Fourths also had a thrilling Saturday where they powerboated off to the Isle of Wight. I heard that ice cream and fish and chips were just a few of the perks the Isle of Wight had to offer! For the final evening, the Sixth Form organised a quiz for every year to participate in, the highlight of which was Dan Dixon and Jibran Raja singing *Sorry* by Justin Bieber. The weekend was rounded off by a visit to submarine HMS Alliance and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum on the Sunday morning.

Two action-packed weekends, full of excitement, that left us just enough time to return back to Birmingham and recover from all the lost sleep. Huge thanks to Lt Wareing, Lt Cdr Leaver, Cdr Raynor and Sub Lt Johnson without whom the weekends would not have been possible and certainly nowhere near as entertaining.

Neelesh Prasad

Lower School kayaking

Kayaking has never previously been an aspect of KES which is widely known or heard about, commonly occupied by those who catch a glimpse of it through the windows of the swimming pool on Thursday lunchtimes, or briefly hear about it in CCF on Friday afternoons and fancy giving it a go. However, this year everything changed.

After the success of our trip to the Alps in July 2015, we arrived back in September ready to start anew. Two men down and having lost the legendary Mr Irvine, some rebuilding was in store. We decided for the first time to let those in the Lower School have the opportunity to try an activity which is normally reserved just for those in the CCF. It came as a great shock when we realised that well over half the Shell year wanted to do it, and even now, almost a year afterwards, I'm still being asked when places will become available!

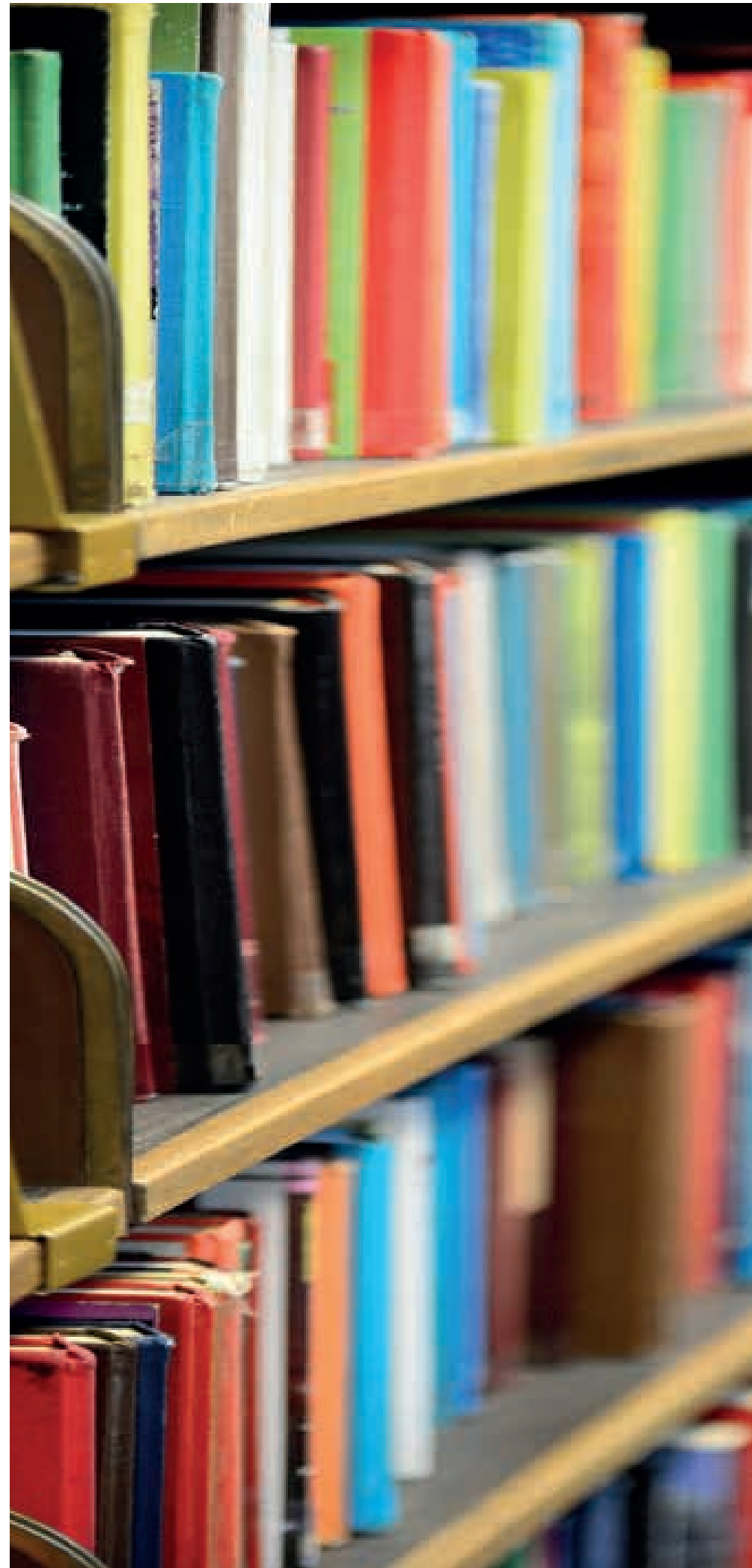
As well as basic paddling skills, a major advantage of being in the pool is that it is easier to teach underwater skills, such as rescue and capsize drills. However, there was one technique which the Shells were continually asking us to teach them – Eskimo rolling, which is when you use your paddle to flip the kayak back upright having previously capsized. With numerous attempts, a lot of practice, and the help of a long session for an Open Evening, we were able to get the vast majority of them rolling to some degree by the end of the year, which brings us closer to being able to do river trips in larger rapids.

However, the best part about kayaking is paddling in white water, which provides an exhilarating challenge. We got the opportunity to give the Shells their first experience of paddling down a river towards the end of the year, when we went to Ironbridge for the day to paddle down some of the smaller rapids of the River Severn in two-man Canadian canoes. Apart from Kartik Sareen and Dan Painter paddling into a tree and almost capsizing, this was thoroughly enjoyable. Furthermore, the vast majority of them also got the opportunity to paddle solo in larger rapids during the Ardèche trip over the summer, which has enabled them to transfer the skills learnt in the pool to a constantly changing environment.

A huge thanks must be given to the boys whose commitment and enthusiasm for kayaking over the past year has enabled us to make KES Kayaking what it is today – Sam, Oli, Ben, Dan, Bhavesh and the three Wills. We now have a competent group of paddlers to whom we can pass the leadership of the kayaking club over the next few years.

A special thanks also needs to be given to Rev Raynor, Miss Leaver and Mrs Wareing for lifeguarding the Tuesday sessions for us, as well as Hayley Bettinson and Mr Johnson for letting us run extra sessions for the School's Open Days. However, none of what we have been able to do this year would have been possible without the work of Captain Storey.

Rob Bonehill, Peter Raven, Mustafa Lone and Kartik Sareen



9

Words

The Middle East

There is a man named The Middle East
With bloodshot eyes,
War scars, and a child who cries.
His skin fries.
His head swarming with lice,
The scene is not nice.

War bursts on.
The sound of bullets and screaming echoes in the streets;
More and more elite fleets,
No one eats.
One thing warms the civilians’ hearts: hope.
Without that, how could anyone cope?
Slowly onwards, will society lope?

While you sit peacefully in your home,
Another stitch is badly sewn,
Another man is beaten to bone;
While you’re playing on your phone,
Another knife is thrown,
Another person forcefully takes the throne;
While you’re taking a trip to Cologne,
Another soldier dies in the war zone,
Another war drone is flown.

Without this poem would you have known?

Farooq Abdullah

Loss

Together we stood;
Shoulder to shoulder we fought,
Through those grey and soulless days.

Together we watched the sun rise;
United we saw the shells fall,
Through those grey and soulless days.

He was my rock;
I was his crutch,
Through those grey and soulless days.

The rifle cracked;
The soldier fell,
On that grey and soulless day.

My heart is empty,
My spirit drained
On these grey and soulless days.

William Bedson

The Approaching Stallion

Drifting along a deserted bay,
A lonely white horse fringes the waves.
With his rhythmic song and sparkling spray,
He arcs his back for gold sand he craves.
Pounding the cliffs and burying rock,
Funnelling salt down his foaming throat,
His merciless fangs greedily lock,
Cleverly cloaked by his silver coat.

Churning the beach into frothing sand,
The soaring stallion strokes the stones.
He extends his tongue, his head, his hands,
Tastes sweet dry grains then shatters his bones.

A long journey’s end through days and night,
The deflated stallion surrenders his fight.

George Forshaw

Don’t You Sea?

If man should chance to dive beneath the waves
To voyage deep within the seven seas,
A scene of marvels would come within his gaze:
The shoals of fish like swirling swarms of bees,
A reef, enchanting palace of the gods,
While glistening fish with spectral whirling fins
Watch dolphins swimming round in joyous pods
Through coral streets, the rows of algae inns.
Imagine such a land devoid of life,
Without a reef or shining fish in sight,
Since dropping waste into the sea is rife,
Pollution reigns and none can face its might.
It falls to us to bear the weight of time,
Arrest this change, stand firm and draw the line!

Nathan Cornish

'If man should
chance to dive
beneath the
waves'

Laptop Dreaming

Click went the power off button
And off went the amazing laptop mind.

Leaping to and fro!
Story to story
Even though, we know
Laptops can’t dream.

The many work emails sent by the father,
The shiny new cell phone googled by mother,
The slow, staccato typing of the younger,
The designer clothes searched by the teenager.

Leaping to and fro,
Memory to memory,
Even though, we know
Laptops don’t dream.

What’s going to happen tomorrow?
Will annoying spam mail be sent?
Will free games be played?
Will amazing poems be written on Word?
Who knows?
Wait... Here it goes!

Click went the power on button,
And... nothing happened ‘cos the battery was dead.

Daniel Gronow

'Will amazing
poems be written
on Word?'

Terza Rima

In Florence a man named Dante was born;
Dante Alighieri was his full name
And he wrote poetry that was out of the norm.

His Divine Comedy gained him a lot of fame;
It was all about heaven, purgatory, and hell.
Divina Commedia is the original Italian, but is the same.

In fact, it was so good even now people fall under its spell
And in the West many great poets read it gladly,
To help their poetry excel.

But he died in September 1321, sadly.

Arnav Tyagi

Men’s 100m Final

On your marks...
Set...
BANG!

Bolt gets out pretty well,
So does Rodgers,
Gatlin got out a little bit better though,
And Bolt and Gatlin are right together here.

It’s Gatlin at the moment,
But here comes Usain Bolt,
And Bolt gets it!
Or does he,
He has!

Usain Bolt!
It’s very, very tight,
But I think,
He’s done it!

He’s saved his title,
He’s saved his reputation,
He may have even saved his sport;
Usain Bolt 3x World Champion!

Dante Green

The Turquoise Agbada

“The jollof rice is ready!” said a thick southern Nigerian voice from the kitchen.

“Okay,” Ayo shouted back, “let me just finish setting up the tables.” As Ayo began to prepare the hall for the coming wedding reception, the scents of African dishes and spices filled the air, scurrying up his nostrils, causing his mouth to water slightly.

He began to unfold the legs of the glossed wooden tables and stood them upright by the right wall to lay out the chafing dishes. After setting up four tables, he removed the deep turquoise agbada he was wearing as the hall had become rather hot. As he folded the agbada, he noticed a perfectly circular wet patch on it. Curious as to what it was, he looked up. And there it was: a hole, in the roof. The wedding was for Chief Gbenga’s daughter. The Chief was a well-respected and wealthy man, so Ayo, knowing what the Chief had done to the gateman when he slept on the job, certainly did not want the same for himself.

“Egba mi ooooh!” he cried out in despair. He couldn’t fathom the depth of the Chief’s rage, should he see it.

It was currently the wet season in Nigeria and the evening began to fall through the irregular hole in the ceiling. As it fell, the rain first caught on the splintered wood that poked through the layers of the ceiling, and then crawled to the tip and dropped onto the blood carpet.

Ayo dashed like a gazelle from a lion, or in his case, the thought of the Chief’s fury, into the maintenance closet. He found an old, now rusted ladder that had just been abandoned. He leaned it against the wall, chipping off the white paint where the ladder made contact with the wall, and stepped onto the first rung. The ladder made an unsettling creak as he climbed it. He could feel the ladder trembling under his weight, but he continued to ascend.

The ladder quivered relentlessly, unsure of whether it wanted to let Ayo fall. The screw on the left side of the ladder jiggled about, laughing at Ayo, knowing what it could do to him. He reached the top of the ladder, which, he was certain, wanted to kill him. Glancing at his folded turquoise agbada, he sorrowfully said goodbye to it, and not wanting to look, he used the expensive piece of clothing to stuff the hole. He could hear the splintered wood catching on the material, like walking past a piece of chipped wooden furniture. He was tormented at the loss of such a thing.

As he pushed in the last of the agbada, he felt the ladder shake, as if there was tectonic movement below the soles of his feet. He knew he was going to fall.

The demon ladder fell to the floor, landing on the side Ayo was standing, but he had already jumped down a split second before the ladder tried to kill him.

“Jesu Kristi ni Olorun!” he exclaimed, relieved, yet still shaken, by what could have been.

Mofiyinfoluwa Fatosin

GLOSSARY

Agbada: A large overgarment that covers the whole body worn by men in Nigeria, especially in Yoruba speaking areas.

“Egba mi ooooh!”: Yoruba for “help me” or “oh no!”

“Jesu Kristi ni Olorun”: Yoruba for “Jesus Christ (is Lord!)”. It is a religious exclamation of thanks.

Jollof rice: A popular, traditional African dish, particular to West Africa.

‘The demon ladder
fell to the floor’



10

Societies

Agora

This year in Agora we have been treated to a number of intellectually stimulating talks from pupils and guest speakers on topics as varied as Feminist Theology and *Doctor Who*.

The year started with a talk from myself on 'Game of Thrones and Philosophy'. This shameless attempt to engage in popular culture was both a rewarding experience for myself and somewhat interesting to those who attended. The talks in the autumn term only continued to increase in quality, with talks on 'The Openness of God' (Matt Jolley) and 'Feminist Theology' (Dr Nicola Slee) being particular highlights, whilst Dr Marius Felderhof's talk on 'Failure' was hugely interesting and led to a discussion on a subject with which some of us are a little too familiar.

Other talks this year have dealt with topics including 'Buddhism', 'Medical Consent' and 'The White-washing of Education and History'. Nathaniel Coleman's talk was particularly hard-hitting, showing the culpability of all those who accept the discriminatory systems that have been put in place. A talk by two teachers from BD Somani International School in Mumbai on 'Education in India' was also moving and was rather inspiring in helping those in the room to recognise the importance of education for all.

It has been a great year for Agora in terms of the quality and variety of talks we have had and I hope this will continue, as it is a terrific platform for developing the intellectual curiosity of KES boys.

Nathan White

Christian Union

The fellowship of the KES/KEHS Christian Union has been growing throughout this year as we gather together every Wednesday lunchtime.

Using the Bible for inspiration, we debate various philosophical and theological topics and issues, and the pragmatic implications of our ideas. We have had outside speakers from Gloddaeth Holidays (or Glod, for short), who have challenged us to think about what we would write if we had to write a synopsis of our faith in a tweet, and how earthly prizes compare to the Kingdom of Heaven. We have had discussions on trust, suffering, partying and drinking alcohol, following Jesus, Christian music, forgiveness, the Ancient Greek of John 3:16, Elisha and the bears, Old Testament laws, God's promises, evangelism and giving to the poor.

This year saw the arrival of Mr Butler to KES and he has already been very supportive. We are also very grateful to Tom Iszatt and Nathan Pitan who have led and encouraged the group this year. As well as provoking thought, Christian Union is an opportunity to be renewed and refreshed in faith within the busyness of the week, and we look forward to building friendships and growing in faith next year.

Richard Chapman

Bookworms



As the year draws to a close, we look back on another exciting year of fiction-reading by KES Bookworms. Around 30 boys from across Shells, Rems, UMs and Fourths took part, choosing the books themselves, and sharing their thoughts and opinions about their reading over cake and drinks.

This year we have enjoyed the likes of *The Dogs* by Allan Stratton, *Humans* by Matt Haig, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams and *Casino Royale* by Ian Fleming.

Most excitingly, this year the Shell and Rem Bookworms had the chance to take part in the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2016. This required the boys to read all six of the shortlisted books and then vote for their favourite. The voting had to be taken extremely seriously as this award is given based purely on pupil votes. Our votes were combined with the results from many other schools participating. On 14 March the Bookworms went on tour as we headed to the award ceremony at Bridge House Theatre in Warwick, where we had the pleasure of hearing all six of the authors speaking inspirationally about their books and lives as authors. The KES vote winner was for *Close to the Wind* by Jon Walter, but it was Sarah Crossan's *Apple and Rain* that came out on top, and she inspired us all with her passion for poetry.

Thanks must go to Lee Child, whose donation to the library funds the books and the cakes for participating boys, and also to Fiona Atay for running the club for older boys. We all look forward to next year's Bookworms choosing some great books to take us on even more literary adventures!

KAFB



Debating: ICYD Finals Day

In February 2016, three pairs of Fourth Form debaters headed to Oxford to try their luck in the International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD). Despite being new to debating, having only begun in September, we were determined to give it all we had against stiff opposition.

The competition was tough, with our three motions being 'This House Would (THW) Ban Meat', 'THW Introduce Proportional Representation' and 'THW Introduce Setting in All Schools'. Each motion was debated between four teams (two proposing and two opposing the motion), and out of a total of 52 teams, KES came an impressive 9th, 15th and 25th with the top team of Rushikesh Dasoondi and John Kite managing to qualify for the final, where new challenges would be faced.

So in April, we returned to the Oxford Union for the ICYD Finals Day, along with 80 other schools from all over the world. After a tense wait, the first motion of 'THW Give Celebrities Harsher Sentences than the General Public' was announced. After 15 minutes of prep time, we arrived at our room and commenced

the debate, coming out of it with an impressive first place! This position meant that we were now seeded with a much tougher group, all of whom were from schools abroad. The next motion was 'This House Believes That (THBT) The State Should Fund All Political Parties' and despite arguing hard, a mixture of a tricky position and an excellent opposition meant we ended up with a disappointing fourth. We continued into battle with the third motion of 'THW Ban Religious Affiliation in Schools', whilst the final motion of 'THW Assassinate All Dictators' provided another tough challenge at the end of an exhausting but rewarding day. We amassed a combined total of 602 speaker points, behind by 39 points to the eventual winners of the competition, UTS, from Toronto.

It was a great experience and it gave us a lot of learning points to take away. As we are now running Junior Debating Society, we hope to pass on our knowledge and prepare the next generation for victory!

John Kite and Rushikesh Dasoondi

Junior Debating Society

Debating has never been the most mainstream of extra-curricular pursuits. What could possibly coax a group of Middle Schoolers to stay inside on a Wednesday afternoon when outside the shining sun promises 50-minute football matches and tag rugby?

The answer seems to be the changes we've put in place this year at Junior Debating Society (JDS) – our efforts have rejuvenated the Society by our commitment to mass advertising campaigns, our promise of weekly all-inclusive debates on a range of motions, both exciting and topical, the launch of our new website for easy access to upcoming events, and the invention of four new games designed to encourage even the shyest of Shells to get on their feet and speak in front of a packed room.

Our fan favourites, 'Just a Minute' and 'Proposition Opposition', have gained notoriety throughout the School. Throughout the year, it was our pleasure to see Shells and Rems flocking into the humble Wednesday lunchtime classroom. Overall, we increased our attendance from the tragic six-a-week of last year to an average of 40. With our new status as one of the most populated societies in the School, debating has become far more widespread than we could have imagined.

However, with more demand, our dedication to providing high-quality training for all of our club members grew ever more onerous. As a debating society, we aim to tutor the invaluable skills of public speaking, critical thinking and confidence in communication. We are not professional, nor are we full-time, yet we are preparing to compete against those from the likes of Eton and Dulwich. But from our struggle this year, our hard work has paid off.

We launched three teams into the International Competition of Youth Debaters at the Oxford Union, including Richard Cooper-Smith, Lewis Lockwood, Neelesh Prasad and Opeoluwa Odubiyi. John Kite and Rushikesh Dasoondi also qualified to the next round with an exceptional score.

In the ESU Public Speaking Competition, Aloysius Lip took Best Speaker, Raheem Humphreys took Best Questioner and the team of Rushikesh Dasoondi, Ben Cudworth and Aloysius Lip progressed to the next round, where this time Rushikesh took Best Questioner.

This year, JDS has shown off incredibly high standards from all our speakers and is something for our school to be proud of. As the leadership of the Society is passed on, we can only hope that the enthusiasm and popular support for JDS continues in the years to come. Certainly, the complexity of the arguments thrown back and forth, the laughs from the Points of Information and the passion delivered in every speech has made the School a livelier place.

Aloysius Lip



History Society

The History Society is a secretive and semi-mythical organisation with its meetings bearing similarities with the Northern Lights: rare spectacles, infrequently displayed, but memorable when they appear.

The year opened with a series of talks focusing on warfare. Precisely two people came to my talk on 'Limiting factors in warfare' and only five turned up to watch a longsword demonstration. However, Rory Kenney-Herbert hauled in half of KEHS's Upper Sixth for his talk about tanks at the Battle of Amiens. One wondered whether they were really interested in the tanks...

Mr Mason reassessed the importance of Magna Carta in British legal history and Ed Cooke reassessed the relative importance of various factors in the process of Spanish reunification. These talks all provoked lively debate, finishing with Will Mills' poignant story of Marie Curie and the Polish Uprising.

The rest of the calendar was filled with three talks from eminent historians. Firstly, Peter Frankopan spoke about his book *The Silk Roads*, proposing a controversial thesis that the West will soon be superseded by Eastern powers. Next came Professor Sir Hew Strachan, to speak about the Somme to a full audience. Lastly, Brian Cummings addressed a small (but incredibly fortunate) group on humanist literature.

Thanks must go to Mr Golightly, both for his contributions and efforts in organisation. Although predicting the future is a dangerous game for historians, there is good reason to hope that the History Society won't become a historical relic itself.

Josh Kimblin

Senior Debating Society

This year was the first in which I had the pleasure of spending almost every Monday night in the company of fellow debaters and, of course, Mr Stacey. I had finally achieved my childhood dream and become part of the Senior School Debating Team.

The year started well – we all soon got to grips with the fact that this would be more than a loose commitment, and that every Monday evening we could expect to be spending more than a couple of hours refining our debating skills. We also recognised, sooner rather than later, that if Mr Stacey said we would finish by 5pm, 6.30pm was when we would see the light of day again.

As for my fellow debaters, there were a good eight or nine 'regulars', predominantly Divisions but also a Sixth and a couple of Fifths, who turned up weekly to debate. We tackled topical motions such as 'the conflict in Syria' and 'the right to bear arms', with only 15 minutes' worth of preparation in which to develop coherent arguments and persuasive speeches.

Although this in itself was much fun, our attention was fully focused on the various debating competitions scattered throughout the year, with our main target being to perform well in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition.

This event consisted only of two rounds, with the final being held all day in Oxford; the first round was at Mander Portman Woodward on Monday 8 February and KES entered three teams of two. Having managed to get two teams through to the Oxford final last year, expectations were high.

We debated twice throughout the evening, against local schools, on topics relating to greater gender equality on televised sports and the legalisation of vigilantism. Despite some initial difficulty distinguishing the KES (us) from all the other King Edward's schools scattered in and around Birmingham, all in all the event ran quite smoothly. Unfortunately, for all six of us (Greg Leckey, Ashwyn Aulak, Toby Jowitt, Aloysius Lip, Alex Pett and me) it was not to be – none of the three teams were to make it through to the Grand Final in Oxford.

So the big event of the year was a minor catastrophe: we may not have progressed in the competition, but we have certainly developed as effective orators and hope is high for greater success next year!

Lokesh Jain



Living History Group

This year, we have represented medieval merchants companies at Tretower Court and Castle (twice), Avoncroft Museum, Chepstow Castle and Tatton Medieval Fayre. We have presented 'Agincourt' displays at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. We have besieged castles at Carlisle, Barnard, Dover and Lincoln.

What is striking about these places is not only that they remain standing (the Group owns three cannon and a two-tonne trebuchet but has yet to destroy anything noteworthy), but also their geographical distance from each other. We now have a monopoly on trebuchet transport on the M6. No wonder Mr Davies, when asked what he wished to take next, replied "a rest".

Not content with besieging the castles of the 'scept'r'd isle' this year, we've also put on a medieval feast for nearly 100 people, built a new arm for the trebuchet, and have been commissioned to create enough square metres of painted cloths to pale a Renaissance fresco painter. Clearly, Mr Davies defines 'retirement' differently to most people.

In order to conquer castles as distant as Carlisle and Dover, the Daviesmarcht requires more than just oiled wheels. It requires organisation and commitment which would make even a German industrialist swoon. Mr Davies ensures that every bow string is waxed and every piece of armour is polished. Most of all, he ensures that we all get to and from places, mostly in one piece. He deserves our profound thanks. Long may he prosper.

Josh Kimblin

Model United Nations



This year we have attended four conferences sending between 30 and 40 boys to each one. The first conference of the year was held at Cheadle Hulme School across two days. Our most notable successes were Israel's Highly Commended Delegation award and Nick Wyatt achieving Best Delegate.

November saw us travel to Malvern St James School, which was hosting an MUN conference for the first time. Despite being a rather small-scale conference, this did not stop our boys from achieving MUN success with me achieving Highly Commended Delegate, Shantanu Kundu achieving Best Young Delegate and the Iran Delegation achieving Commended Delegation. Our success was repeated at a conference held at Manchester High School for Girls in January, which we attended alongside girls from KEHS.

Our greatest achievement was definitely at our final conference held at Withington Girls' School. As well as sending off four delegations, I was fortunate to be chosen to be a Chair at the conference. It is reassuring to know that we have some talented young delegates amongst us, such as Eduardo Sanchez who won a Highly Commended Award. But as well as this, our US Delegation triumphed, achieving our school's first ever Outstanding Delegation award along with receiving a fancy trophy to mark the achievement.

A big thank you to Mr Arbuthnott, who is leaving us. He has had a massive impact on MUN at KES and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours!

Josh Sagoo

Senior Schools' Challenge

In the Regional Competition, our first team lost narrowly to the team from KE Camp Hill Boys' School, the score being neck-and-neck until the very last minute.

Our first team was composed of Nick Wyatt (c), Jules Desai, Gabriel Bruce and Aroun Kalyana, and they can, in some measure, be consoled by the fact that they lost so closely to a team that went on to appear in the National Final.

TFC

Geography Society

In recent years, Geography Society has been one of the School's most successful societies, bringing discussions on a wide range of diverse and current topics. What has made 'Geog Soc' so popular is its accessibility, thanks to the subject's vast scope, meaning discussions can be applied to all areas of academic study.

Under the leadership of Ethan Dockery, last year Geography Society grew, helped by the development of the famous 'Geog Soc Quiz' throughout the year, which allowed the Lower School in particular to engage more with the Society.

A wide range of talks were presented on Monday lunchtimes, bringing current affairs to the forefront and allowing a balanced geographical perspective to be presented to those interested. This included talks on subjects such as 'The geographies of cocaine trafficking in South America'.

This year we hope to continue the success and momentum generated by last year's brilliant talks and presentations, whilst also allowing Geography Society to become increasingly accessible to the whole school.

Oliver Morgan



Junior Schools' Challenge

In 2016, Rems George Roberts and Tom Allen (c), and Shells Ben Wharton and Nahom Lemma took on the mantle of being this year's Junior Schools' Challenge team, under the experienced guidance of Miss Bubb.

Joined by the KES B team of Rishit Harsh (c), Anish Kalyana, Rohan Tandon and Akash Dubb, we played the first round of this prestigious national quizzing tournament on home turf facing King Edward's Five Ways, King Edward's Camp Hill and KEHS along with Beaudesert School from Gloucestershire.

The B team was unfortunately knocked out in the second stage by a narrow points margin, after Rishit infamously blurted out that the author of *Animal Farm* was not George Orwell but George Osborne! However, the A team rose to the 'challenge' to reach the final where they defeated the KEHS team, strongly encouraged by the ever enthusiastic Mr Cloughton.

Later, we played King's High School for Girls, Warwick and won comfortably. Due to this success we came to the hurdle at which last year's team had fallen: the Inter-Regional Round. We knew that

victory here would lead to the National Finals which KES had not participated in for three years.

The opposition was Nottingham High School who managed to secure a 100-point lead in the first 10 minutes. However, through frantic buzzing, we managed to overtake to lead by an impressive 200 points. Surely, victory was just a few minutes away? But alas, we lost our advantage in a matter of questions due to a few unfortunate moments, such as forgetting what Baa Baa Black Sheep sold and accidentally leaning on a buzzer at a critical time. Within the last 60 seconds, Nottingham secured a 10-point lead, which sadly we were unable to overcome before the klaxon sounded.

Will the next generation of Lower School boys have the extra edge to make it to the famous Finals? We will wait and see, but for the Rems it is on to Senior Challenge and more exciting lunchtimes spent quizzing.

Tom Allen and CRB



Team Maths Challenges

It was always going to be a tough call for our Senior boys to follow last year's achievement (Regional and National winners, with a perfect score in the National Finals), but we at least had two of those team members still in fighting-fit shape, Jeremy Ho and Vidy Reddy, now in the Sixths.

This year they were joined by Daniel Yue and Dougie Dolleymore, both in the Fifths. So, in November, off the boys went to Camp Hill, where they had to compete against many of our local KE rivals. Unfortunately, we did get one answer wrong this year (the answer to the sum $78-12 = \dots$ being hastily written down as 60, apparently), but still ran away with first place.

So off we went to London in February for the National Finals, where we (once again) ran up a perfect score (all questions correctly answered, and all 'speed' bonuses earned), which meant that KES was the National winner for a second year in succession – though again, jointly with two other schools.

Our Junior team, Mark Li and Daniel Li of the UMs along with Devan Patel and Kishan Sharma of the Rems, performed excellently in their version of the TMC but were narrowly beaten into second place in the Junior Regionals competition in Wolverhampton in March. Frustratingly, and annoyingly, despite their score being one of the best in the country (across all the regional rounds), they were not asked to attend the National Finals.

Overall, then, it was another fantastic year for our teams of boys, and hearty congratulations to all those who took part in practices, including the reserves that helped prepare the team members by fighting them for their places on the team.

TFC



11

Houses



Cary Gilson

Position: 1st House points: 548.5

Since joining the School in 2010, my experience with Cary Gilson in the Cock House table has been somewhat monotonous; second place in the first year, first place every year since. However, as this year has shown, it takes effort, dedication and participation to maintain this consistency of results.

One could argue that the wolf climbing the hill is hungrier than the wolf already at the top of it; in Cary Gilson's case however, it is clear that nobody wants to taste defeat for the first time. The relentless dedication of each and every member of the House, from Shell to Upper Sixth, demonstrates how we, as a unit, pulled back against the odds to, yet again, claim the Cock House trophy.

Every year as a member of Cary Gilson, we have been warned after each victory that the following year would not be so simple. It is easy to notice the stars at the top of the School that every House loses year after year. However, Gilson did not let any of these losses affect our drive.

Starting the year with a very mixed bag across all year groups, we established superiority in certain events such as Senior Squash. This, however, was not without some drawbacks such as a significant decline in results in events including Senior Table Tennis, Badminton, and Hockey. Despite these setbacks, the House was able to maintain respectable results for the most part across all areas, until it came to the event that plays in Gilson's favour: Swimming Standards. The House's sheer dedication as a whole resulted in a pretty spectacular turnout across all age groups, and our results showed it, coming out in first place overall, despite not having many star swimmers.



Throughout the year, numerous House events outside the sporting arena went in Cary Gilson's favour. A successful year on the musical front, with Shivang Shastri coming in at third place in House Music with one of the most unique performances the School has ever seen, and our close, but nonetheless conclusive, victory in House Shout. With similarly strong performances in Drama and Chess, it is evident that this House breeds boys with a wide range of skills. But, yet again, consistent results in all areas allowed us to pull away with Standards, and our combination of standout competitors in the Upper School such as Mason Gain, Oli Brown, Josh Kimblin and Charlie Roberts, combined with the effort of each and every Shell who'd never set foot on an athletics track before, resulted in us coming out in first place again.

And so, for a record-equalling fifth year running, Cary Gilson came out victorious. Perhaps not with the ease or the panache of previous years where we have won by record-breaking amounts, but the lack of room in our trophy cabinet says more than I could ever hope to in this report.

I look forward to captaining the House, alongside Charlie Roberts, hopefully to greater things. We are not used to losing, and we don't intend to start any time soon!

Aaron Jackson



Evans

Position: 4th House points: 503

Before the start of the year, I was chatting to Mr Johnson about previous Evans' Sixths: Dillon, Turner, Dockery, Mills and Iszatt to name a few. He then commented "You have got some real characters there". Boys with personality thrive within the House system because of their ability to enthuse and motivate others. 2015-16 was destined never to be a boring campaign and it was doubly exciting for me with my son starting in the Shells.

The first term was slightly disappointing, which was better than normal. Highlights included Minor House Drama in which Matty Ibrahim and Ibrahim Din secured joint first place. In Senior Hockey our team, captained by Kundan Uppal, consisted of the fine defensive abilities of Yusuf Khan-Cheema and Lochan Sidhu; the dynamic duo Gus Iloff and Cameron Shaylor in midfield; and the most lethal attacking pair since the year 2000, hockey prodigy Ellis Owen and goal machine Will Mills. With no goalkeeper, enter Chris Dillon, the hero of the hour and Evans legend. After some fine performances second place was secured. This put us in seventh position at Christmas.

For some reason the Christmas break traditionally reinvigorates the green army and suddenly, an abundance of fine performances dragged us into contention. The Shells, led by Jerry Ren, won Table Tennis whilst the Removes and UMs both came second. Cross Country was a real success with the Shells (with Oliver Tinley in second) and UMs coming in first place, the Removes and Seniors also coming in second (with Rory Elliott in second place and Gus Iloff winning the individual race position). Music is a traditional strength and Bryan Chang can be proud of second place in the Classical Section. Finally, a magnificent effort in House Shout also resulted in second place. We had climbed to third.

In the summer term, we struggled in Athletics apart from a promising Shell performance in which Dan Hindle won the 100m, 200m and 400m races. The Fourths and UMs both won Swimming, which was a fine effort, and whilst Alex Hindle was the stand-out performer, there were many other sizeable contributions. Tennis went very well with Finn Azaz and Ed James winning Fourths' Tennis, and the Seniors and the UMs both achieving second position. In Cricket, the Seniors achieved an unexpected second position led by Hamza Ajaib, and the Shells won their competition with the most notable contribution being the batting of Kaushik Sankar.

At our final House meeting of the year, it was announced that we had achieved a creditable fourth position in the Cock House.

SJT



Gifford

Position: 7th House points: 416

Gifford's purple army is in a bad state. Despite the leadership of Arjun and Ed we finished in our lowest position since before the millennium.

Previous Gifford entries in *Chronicle* are filled with similar stories of the year, starting off well with wins in Chess and high finishes in Debating, Challenge and Maths. However, as in previous years, Athletics and Swimming Standards proved to be our 'Red Wedding'. There is no intention to regain our winning ways by scaring Shells or Rems into taking part in House activities with the sole aim of winning, partly because the problem is not with the Minors or Juniors, but the Seniors.

However, this is not an excuse. If you remove last year's winners from the table, we still came second last in what was a doomed campaign once the Christmas results had been read out. As a House, we have to aim for Gifford to be restored to the greatness that we now only hear about in stories from Mr Balkham by consistently achieving results representative of the different talents within it.

Gifford used to win the Cock House at least once every three years. Yet, here we are... We are at a stage where no pupil member of Gifford, bar two, knows what it is like to win the Cock House.

As we go into the 2016-17 campaign, there is a sense of desire from the older years who do not wish to waste any more time and a feeling of tempered hope from those in the younger years. We have a four-man strong leadership team that has the potential to sustain and replicate Gifford's flashes in events other than House Shout, Water Polo and Chess. Whatever the results are, we want the people in Gifford to be able to look at the other members and say that my contribution to the House would be able to withstand the scrutiny coming from Nigel Farage and Bob Geldof atop a flotilla of boats.

Nirad Abrol





Heath

Position: 8th House points: 379.5

Looking back on the Heath conquest of 2015-2016 is a dismaying process for us. Indeed, this is the case most years, and a quick flick through previous *Chronicle* entries will tell you all you need to know about how things work around here: ‘Do badly and blame it on someone else.’

Of course, this is not to say we did not have our good moments; at times we put in a proper shift, triumphing in Water Polo across all age groups with Herbie Harris and Omar Hijazi leading from the front, and our successes in Badminton show that there is talent in this House. House Hockey was led by famous Heath stalwarts Alex Cheswick and Lucas McCollum to finish fourth and in Minor and Senior Swimming we came in the top three. However, other top half finishes were few and far between.

Nevertheless, as I sit here, thinking of another way of saying ‘we’ve come eighth *again*’ is it not time to accept that our ‘grind for the glory’ needs a little fine-tuning? Indeed, Herbie

and Josh as House Captains have inspired a new sense of hope amongst the members of Heath, while the tactical masterminds of Mr Fair and Mr Browning are waiting to implement a new ‘marginal gains’ system to revolutionise our approach to House events. Along with a set of Shells who all really like cricket, it seems to be a sign of better things to come. There are talented boys in the House but everyone must look to contribute to its success.

Good luck for this year, and thank you to everyone for the last. From here the only way for Heath is up!

Miles McCollum



Jeune

Position: 6th House points: 446

Jeune House. Southampton FC. Sale Sharks. Dallas Mavericks. Only three of these teams are famous worldwide, the fourth plying their trade in the depths of Southampton, yet all shared the same fate over the 2015-16 year: finishing in sixth place.

Unfortunately for our Red House, finishing in such a position in the Cock House does not share the same glamour that our cousins in other fields have received; rather we are left with very mixed emotions and a pat on the back from Mr James.

In true Jeune fashion, we started the year with grit and determination. Nick Wyatt led the Challenge team to first place, while Junior Drama and Chess proved fruitful too; however, the Ruby Red of Jeune truly came into their own in Rugby, dominating the sport and winning comfortably in the Shells, Removes and Upper Middles and therefore winning House Rugby overall. So much early promise; so predictable what was to come. Poor attendance in Swimming Standards significantly weakened our standing, as has been the trend in recent years, meaning a fifth place finish was all that was attainable in the first term.

The spring term was very much a song of the same tune. Strong showings from our hockey teams in the Lower and Middle School brought hope, as did the notable exploits of Tom Schofield and Nasser Khattak in the Indoor Competitions, but the Cock House gods did not look favourably upon us for long, with Jeune falling behind in other competitions such as the triple-weighted House Shout. A seventh place finish left many without surprise.

A renewed spirit of optimism and courage filled the House in the summer term. Strong showings in Swimming and Water Polo, as well as the remarkable talent of the Upper Middles in Athletics, closed the gap on those Houses above us. Our spirits were further lifted with Minor, Junior and Senior Cricket teams finishing third, second and first respectively, but despite these successes, we had left ourselves too much of a task and were only able to climb one place to sixth, two places higher than the previous year.

While we may not have won the Cock House, the spirit and desire shown by the soldiers of Jeune in attempting to force their way to the top was truly inspiring. This is best encapsulated by the Lambert Cup holder, Jamie Gatcha, who valiantly wrestled with illness in his sickbed in order to ensure his captain’s report, from Shell Chess, arrived on time. The House was also led brilliantly by the Sixths despite the pressures of the IB. Owen Davies, Nick Wyatt and Tom Garfield saw their efforts rewarded with the precious Legend Tie as too did Beccy Leaver, a Jeune tutor for 17 years, who will be sorely missed in terms to come.

I’m sure, with the new found drive of the Ruby Army, we are destined for great success in the next year. Watch this space.

Usman Raja



Levett

Position: 2nd House points: 513

We all knew we had done well the moment we stepped into the MPL on the last day of term. From the glint in Mr Roll’s eye to the poorly contained excitement of captain Patrick Edwards, we knew, damn we all hoped, that we would come out near the top. When the final results were read out tensions were soaring, until our place was revealed. Second. Second!! SECOND!!!

Most of the present Senior boys remember the curse of Levett, languishing for many years in seventh and eighth place. Oh, how we have risen. Slowly but steadily we have been rising through the ranks of the Cock House. We are the dark knight of the competition, revealing ourselves at the top, at last.

It has been a sad but momentous year; with long-serving House Master Mr Mason retiring from the School. Pupils are the people who build and create the success, with all contributing a little bit. However, it is important to remember, that it is the tutors and Mr Roll who form the foundations from which we are able to reach greatness. Without their contribution and nagging to do Standards the House would be nothing, and they bring a warming jolly atmosphere to Levett and make it what it is. For that, we as a House are forever grateful.

What’s in store for the future I hear you ask? Well, we might have done well but in the end, our goal has not yet been accomplished: to topple Cary Gilson from first place and take pole position for ourselves. This will be tough, there is no denying it. But as Levett has shown over the last few years, we have spirit and when we want to, we can outdo even our own expectations.

We are Levett. We are many and we are out to win.

Joe Tedd





Prince Lee

Position: 3rd House points: 507.5

It was a solid year for Prince Lee with a third place finish in the Cock House.

The autumn term brought a first in Senior House Debating with a strong performance from Greg Leckey. There was a similarly impressive showing from Simran Dhanda and Kush Sinha in Badminton who secured a well-earned second place. Hanzalah Yaqub and Lokesh Jain also brought home a good third place in the House Challenge, ending the winter term on a high for Prince Lee.

The spring term brought the Cross Country competitions along with Minor and Junior House Hockey. Although it was a slightly disappointing term for Prince Lee there was a standout performance from the Shells in Cross Country who secured an overall victory.

The summer term brought an admirable turnout for Minor House Basketball and a successful Fourths House Athletics with a win in the high jump along with strong first place finishes in the field events in Senior House Athletics. The Seniors also surpassed expectations in Cricket with a third place finish.

Relaxed and friendly leadership from Pratinav Sinha helped Prince Lee through the year and resulted in a deserved top half finish as he welcomed the House with a smile every Tuesday morning.

Inspiration also came from Mr Porter’s pieces of sound advice such as to “always run in a straight line”. Looking forward to next year, Prince Lee will be looking to challenge for the top spot in the Cock House; a place where we should be.

Alex Gissen



Vardy

Position: 5th House points: 501.5

The Vardy Army kicked off the start of the autumn term with an assembly of momentous motivational proportions, conducted by the charismatic duo of Cameron McPheely and Siddharth Singh. They enthused the House with a tear in their eyes, promising that this could be the first year in living memory that Vardy would come out top in the Cock House, and those of us in blue sincerely believed that this would be the one year we would do it.

The start of the term did much to encourage those hopes. There were top three finishes in House Challenge, Debating, and the almighty effort to turn out those capable of not drowning brought Vardy a proud second place finish in Swimming Standards. Those powerful performances left us half a point off that almost attainable first place in the Cock House. Was it to be Vardy’s year?

An anecdote from House Cross Country answers that well. Our last runner was raring to make the most of our current third place in the runnings. Despite lacking any grip on his shoes or cross country experience, he was determined to pull his weight for the House. He charged at the first hill and, slipping back down countless times, charged again. Sadly, it was the wrong hill, and not part of the course. But the effort was there.

Similar valiant performances were made throughout Vardy’s year. Oliver Beardmore brought his talents on the guitar to the House Shout performance of *Chelsea Dagger*, and gained us a respectable fifth against tough competition.

The year was ended under the captaincy of Hugh Parker and Alex Pett, who followed on from their admirable predecessors in getting a full turn out to the summer Athletics Standards, and achieving an almighty second place! Just as with Cross Country, we showed that, despite lacking the greatest sporting stars, we are a House willing to put the effort in where it is needed.

To recognise those who had motivated the blue and black to put that effort down, official Vardy Legends were made of Cameron McPheely, Devak Mehta, Oliver Beardmore, Siddharth Singh, Guy Marston, and Suhayl Fazal. With the inimitable enthusiasm of Mr Barratt behind them, they made an impression that future generations of Vardy housemates will follow with pride.

Alex Pett



12

Sport

Hockey

2015-16 season

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Points difference	Win Ratio
1 st XI	17	13	1	3	57	22	35	76.50%
2 nd XI	17	13	2	2	56	26	30	76.50%
3 rd XI	15	11	0	4	75	16	59	73.30%
4 th XI	9	6	2	1	42	8	34	66.67%
5 th XI	4	2	1	1	11	2	9	50.00%
6 th XI	4	3	0	1	10	6	4	75.00%
U16A	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	100.00%
U16B	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	100.00%
U15A	13	9	1	3	49	17	32	69.20%
U15B	9	7	1	1	31	7	24	77.90%
U14A	17	8	2	7	51	22	29	47.06%
U14B	15	7	5	3	31	20	11	46.60%
U13A	17	9	1	7	45	26	19	53.00%
U13B	9	5	1	3	18	17	1	56.00%
U12A	6	1	0	5	12	40	-28	16.67%
U12B	4	1	0	3	9	16	-7	25.00%
Totals	159	98	17	44	505	247	258	63.09%

Team achievements

1st XI
Warwickshire League Champions

3rd XI
Warwickshire League Runners-up

U16
County Champions
Midland Zone Winners
Midland Regional Finals: Runners-up
National Finals: Runners-up

U14
Warwickshire League Runners-up
Midland Zone

U13
Warwickshire League Runners-up

Individual achievements

Finlay Geelan: National Age Group Academy
Saihej Mangat: High Performance Training Centre
Ellis Owen: National Age Group Academy

Full Colours awarded to:
Angus Bradley, Alex Cheswick, Finlay Geelan, Tarush Gupta, Jonathan Leong, Rory Kenney-Herbert, Devak Mehta, Siddharth Singh, Pratinav Sinha

Half Colours awarded to:
Yusuf Khan-Cheema, Lucas McCollum, Sidhant Sawlani, Kundan Uppal

Junior Full Colours awarded to:
Louseged Belayhun, Oliver Hudson, Tom Kenchington, Paramvir Khera, Arnav Kulkarni, Jake Litchfield, Shyun Patel, Suyash Poshakwale, Kamen Sandhu, Burhaan Siddiqi, Eashan Soma, Haris Sohail, Rohan Thawait

Junior Half Colours awarded to:
George Forshaw, Dylan Poole

1st XI

The KES 1st XI enjoyed a largely successful year winning 13 out of 17 matches. The season culminated in the team retaining the Warwickshire Schools Hockey League title and just missing out on a place in the quarter-finals of the National Boys' U18 cup.

The season started well with comprehensive victories over Princethorpe and Warwick in the pre-season Buttle Tournament. 'Super sub' Siddharth Singh's goal against Princethorpe was a particular highlight, volleying the ball in from close range.

The promising start to the season was followed up by excellent performances against Oakham and Bromsgrove; both were dispatched 4-2, with goals coming from Alex Cheswick and Tarush Gupta. Unfortunately, our season began to slowly unravel at this point. Key players were lost to 'injuries'. These factors led to us losing in the local derby to Solihull and drawing with Loughborough Grammar.

A hero was needed to save our season. There was talk of a striker who had been scoring two goals a game in the 2nd team being promoted to the 1st XI. Mr Johnson thought his goal-scoring ability would lighten the load on the frail forward line of Devak Mehta and Fin Geelan. Charlie Roberts was called up. He was immediately thrown into the action and, despite missing an open goal, he scored a wonder goal on his debut in an 8-0 demolition of Denstone College. Coincidentally, Angus Bradley also returned. Victories followed against Trent College and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield with the mighty Devak Mehta getting on the score sheet, despite admitting he "panicked" whenever he got close to the goal.

Solihull were the next opponents in the Boys' U18 cup. Playing on a pitch that resembled a beach more so than a hockey pitch meant it would be a tough ask. However, we were confident we could get a victory on enemy soil. Unfortunately, the opposition thought it was a rugby match: Ellis Owen was rugby tackled to the ground whilst dribbling and Reuben Elphinston was tripped whilst shooting. We lost 3-2.

The season began slowly to wind down with victories over Uppingham and Lawrence Sheriff: Tanay Kulkarni finally breaking his duck and finishing after a run in which he impersonated a giraffe running in slow motion.

Special thanks to our captain, Rory Kenny-Herbert, who was immense throughout the season. Thanks also to Mr Fair who provided valuable tactics at half-time. Finally, the biggest vote of thanks is reserved for Michael Johnson, who sadly left KES to become Director of Sport at Epsom College. He almost single-handedly transformed KES from a school which competed with mixed success in Warwickshire, into a National-title-contending juggernaut in seven years. He will be sorely missed but we wish him well at Epsom.

Finlay Geelan



1st XI results

Opponent	Result	Type of game
Princethorpe College	Won: 3-1	Pre-season
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	Won: 2-1	Friendly
Warwick School	Won: 4-0	Warwickshire League
Oakham School	Won: 4-2	Friendly
Bromsgrove School	Won: 4-2	Warwickshire League
Solihull School	Lost: 2-3	Warwickshire League
Loughborough Grammar School	Drawn: 2-2	Warwickshire League
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS), Wakefield	Won: 2-1	Friendly
Trent College	Won: 3-2	Friendly
Bablake School	Won: 4-0	Warwickshire League
The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School	Won: 8-1	Friendly
Adams' Grammar School	Lost: 0-1	Friendly
Solihull School	Lost: 2-3	National Cup: Round 2
Uppingham School	Won: 3-0	Friendly
Lawrence Sheriff School	Won: 7-1	Friendly
Bloxham School	Won: 3-1	Friendly
Princethorpe College	Won: 4-1	Warwickshire League

3rd XI

The 3rd XI generally had a successful year under the innovative and unorthodox leadership of Tinners. An impressive final record of 11 wins from a possible 15 encapsulated what was a positive season.

Two opening defeats prompted Tinners to gamble on some untested 4th teamers to kick-start the season, endangering his golden reputation in the process. The risk paid off with new striker Will Mills scoring 10 goals in three matches, including six goals in a 13-1 win against rivals Solihull. The team was fortunate to have the committed and solid Hari Chauhan in goal, ably supported by the athletic Sarban and Ashish at centre half. Anwar and Whelan were reliable in both attack and defence, often doing unselfish work for others.

The midfield comprised of the goal-scoring and energetic Gus Liff, in tandem with skilful Rishi Gandhewar in his renowned centre defence midfield (CDM) position. Captain Dev Soni was an industrious and encouraging presence on the left. Fringe player Alex Woolley showed his assisting ability when selected. The rapid Luke DeWaal was a valuable player who impressed despite his youthful age, as did the enigmatic James Draper. Vignesh proved to be a worthy recruit who aided the team’s progression. Self-appointed vice-captain, Daya Mandla provided a steady flow of goals, many of which were due to his raw speed despite his lumbering physique.

The team is in an ideal position to flourish next season in the capable hands of SJT who has made this season both enjoyable and rewarding.

Dev Soni and Will Mills



U16A XI

Throughout the season, the U16 hockey team took part in a series of tournaments that culminated in us playing at the National Finals where we came second: the best performance by any KES team ever.

The route to the Finals began with the County Championships at Rugby School. Having won all our group games, we progressed to the semi-final which we narrowly won 1-0, before winning the final on flicks against Warwick. In the following zonal round, we won three games out of three to progress to the Regional Finals.

After losing our first game to Repton, we grabbed a late draw against Beauchamp College, our progression to the semi-finals then confirmed by beating Denstone College in our final group game. In the semi-final, we came up against Uppingham who we went on to beat 2-1, guaranteeing a spot in the National Finals. Yet we still had the final to go, a rematch against Repton, which we lost 2-0.

The Nationals saw the 18 of us, plus Mr Johnson and Mr Fair, head down to Stratford where we would be playing at the Olympic Park. Our first game was against Thirsk School which we won comprehensively, 3-0. Later the same day we played Marlborough, a game which we won 2-1 with goals from Tanay Kulkarni and Ellis Owen. We actually lost our third game 3-1, but a late goal from Reuben Elphinstone meant we topped the group by the narrowest of margins.

The National Final saw us play our old enemy Repton and once again it proved one step too far, suffering a 3-0 loss. Nevertheless, the whole journey was an amazing experience which will never be forgotten.

Vishal Aurora



U15A XI

After a very successful season in 2015, which included beating Repton and losing on penalty flicks in the semi-final of the Midlands tournament, our aim was to improve further as a team and to build on last year.

Highlights this season included a dominant 7-1 victory over Solihull and an away win against Warwick. Our top scorers were Declan Bradley and Rory Portman, who both put in great performances throughout the year. Despite important players going to Australia for cricket, the team managed to put in good performances and get respectable results. There were also many players involved in the U16 National Finals squad which achieved second in the country.

Overall, it was a very successful season and we look to continue to improve as a squad and achieve similar things to the most recent U16 team.

Saihej Mangat

U14A XI

The highlight of the season, undoubtedly, was our victory against Solihull on penalty flicks, in the County Championship semi-final. We drew 0-0 at the final whistle, missing many opportunities throughout the game. Despite this, we still managed to rally together and beat them 3-0 on flicks, with Eashan Soma stepping up and saving all three of Solihull’s efforts.

Unfortunately, we were not able to continue our success through to the next round of the competition being drawn against Trent and Oakham. We played Trent first, and again missed some big chances early on. This time, we were unfortunately made to pay, and were beaten quite comfortably by Trent. By the time we came to our second match, we knew we had to win or we were out. Despite an energetic start, Oakham were too good for us and knocked us out of the tournament.

Our biggest win of the season came against Lawrence Sheriff where we won 10-0. We also managed to win another two games by seven or more goals. Overall, we had a mixed season, playing 22 matches, winning 10, losing nine and drawing three.

We improved noticeably this season, with a special mention to Suyash Poshakwale and Arnav Kulkarni who contributed hugely to our goal tally. Our progression this year would not have been possible without the coaching from Mr Roll and Mr Johnson, to whom we are very grateful.

Jake Litchfield

Rugby

2015-16 season

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Points difference	Win Ratio
1 st XV	20	8	1	11	254	545	-291	40.00%
2 nd XV	15	4	0	11	198	460	-262	26.70%
3 rd XV	10	1	1	8	132	250	-118	10.00%
U17A	1	0	0	1	3	27	-24	0.00%
U16A	12	8	0	4	394	168	226	66.70%
U16B	3	2	0	1	83	64	19	66.70%
U15A	21	11	0	10	479	595	-116	52.40%
U15B	14	9	2	3	412	252	160	64.30%
U15D	1	1	0	0	50	0	50	100.00%
U14A	17	11	0	6	446	243	203	64.70%
U14B	16	7	0	9	352	385	-33	43.80%
U14C	2	0	0	2	17	106	-89	0.00%
U14D	1	1	0	0	50	0	50	100.00%
U13A	18	7	1	10	523	420	103	38.90%
U13B	17	7	0	10	247	314	-67	41.20%
U13C	10	4	1	5	188	322	-134	40.00%
U12A	15	2	1	12	195	640	-445	13.30%
U12B	15	3	5	7	241	440	-199	20.00%
U12C	12	7	0	5	370	265	105	58.30%
U12D	6	4	1	1	195	55	140	66.70%
Totals:	226	97	13	116	4,829	5,551	-722	42.90%

Team achievements

- U16A XV**
North Midlands Cup semi-finalists
- U16 VII**
Adams’ Grammar School semi-finalists
- U14 VII**
Solihull School semi-finalists
Bromsgrove School Sevens Competition Plate winners
- U13 VII**
Bromsgrove School semi-finalists

Individual honours

- Aadil Ali: Worcester Warriors DPP
- Emil Ali: Worcester Warriors DPP
- Alex Bartley: Worcester Warriors Junior Academy
- Tom Corbett: Worcester Warriors DPP
- Joshua Dowdeswell: Warwickshire U17 Development Squad

KES Rugby Awards 2015-16

1st XV Player of the Season
Guy Marston

2nd XV Player of the Season
Simran Dhanda

3rd XV Player of the Season
Barney Hobbs

Clubman of the Year
Ethan Dockery

Full Colours awarded to:
Oliver Brown, Christopher Dillon (re-awarded), Ethan Dockery, Patrick Edwards, Mason Gain, Ben Lumley (re-awarded), Guy Marston, Cameron McPheely, Jacob Rees (re-awarded), Sam Shah, George Turner

Half Colours awarded to:
Sunny Chatha, Owen Davies, Kieret Dhaliwal, Ethan Dockery, Joshua Dowdeswell, Alex Gissen, Will Handy, Joe Hanley, Shel Jang, Nasser Khattak, Patrick Maughan, Hugh Parker, Vimal Rathod, Ollie Reeve, Leon Taki-Officer, Joe Tedd, George Turner

Players Ties awarded to:
Oliver Brown, Christopher Dillon, Mason Gain, Ben Lumley, Guy Marston, Jacob Rees

Junior Full Colours awarded to:
Aadil Ali, Emil Ali, Charles Andronov, James Draper, Andrew Fergusson, Oscar Henrick, Gar Psi Ho, Theo Mostert, Jack Noble, Eshaan Rai, Raj Sandhu, Tom Schofield

Junior Half Colours awarded to:
Emil Bedford, Tom Corbett, Charles Wyatt, David Zhao

1st XV

The 1st XV were ably led by Oliver Brown throughout the season and he was among six ever-present Sixths in the side.

Despite retaining a very tough fixture list, the team performed very well making the fifth round of the NatWest National Schools Cup and Vase before losing to Abingdon and maintaining just under a 50% win ratio overall.

In the end, a lack of strength in depth cost the 1st XV victories in some very close fought matches, but wins over King Edward’s Camp Hill, Bablake, Old Swinford, Princethorpe and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre among others showed that there was real class in the side.

Despite losing Alex Bartley to Solihull and Sam Bowles to Bishop Vesey’s, the Seniors have, at the time of writing, made a solid start to the 2016-17 season and will look to continue to build on the foundations created in a rewarding 2015-16 season.

GPB



2nd XV

For the 2nd XV, 2015-16 was certainly a season of contrasts and, despite some difficult times, it was still an enjoyable and eventful season for the players.

The start of the season was difficult and while the 2^{nds} tried their best, there were a series of defeats to some well-drilled sides such as Bloxham and Nottingham. However, a 41-24 win over Lawrence Sheriff and then close-shave victories against Old Swinford and Adams’ Grammar were well-deserved, before a valiant performance in the narrow loss to Bromsgrove.

The matches in the spring term brought more success and a particular highlight was the second game against Stratford. A victory against Bablake in waterlogged conditions, again showed resolve and, despite losing to Aston in our last match, we could all safely say that we did our best.

Vice-captain Ollie Reeve and Henry Horton were vital in organising the backs, while the running lines of Simran Dhanda and the pace of wingers Aaron Bahia and Ash Dasari were instrumental. In the forwards, Si-Woo Kim’s agility proved useful for forward carries and 2nd XV veterans Vimal Rathod and Khrishan Kumar contributed to good performances when scrummaging.

However, if the whole team had not progressed as a unit both on and off the pitch then the successes of the season would have been marginal and I would like to thank everyone who played for the 2nd XV for contributing to the 2015-16 season. I’d also like to thank Mr Pavey and all of the coaching staff for their time and effort, as without their commitment to KES Rugby, none of this would have been possible.

Ethan Dockery



U16A XV

The U16A XV were rewarded for the hard work they had put into training by an excellent set of playing statistics at the end of the 2015-16 rugby season. The figures go some way towards showing the success on the pitch but in no way tell the whole story of the development that the players went through both as individuals and as a team.

A further indicator of performance is the number of squad members who received call-ups from the 1st and 2nd XV's throughout the season and the subsequent 'negotiations' I had with Mr Browning to retain players each week. The joint top try scorers for the team were Alex Bartley and Jack Thompson (16) with a further nine players also crossing the line: Rhys Davies completed 27 successful conversions.

Along the way, there were a couple of high-scoring victories against KE Stratford and Bromsgrove School though the two away wins at Bloxham and Nottingham were particularly deserved and hard fought.

In the North Midlands Cup, we travelled to Church Stretton in the first round and eased to a comfortable 48-5 win that gave us the opportunity to host Old Swinford Hospital in the quarter-finals. After a slow start, the team got into their stride and took the game away from OSH, eventually winning 35-15 and headed to the semi-final. Monmouth School were easily the best team we played this season and, despite a gutsy performance, Monmouth went on to win 29-10.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with the squad this year and look forward to taking the great proportion of players on tour to India and Sri Lanka next summer.

CAPJ

U14A XV

After a hugely improved season in the Removes, Mr Weaver's U14A XV were looking forward to a successful season.

The first match of the season, against RGS Worcester, was a typically close game which was unfortunately lost 17-22. The surprise of the match was the strong performance from James Draper, promoted from the B team and a regular for the rest of the season. We soon enjoyed a five-match winning streak, only halted by our match against Nottingham, which was narrowly lost by a penalty in the final play of the game.

After two more wins came the Greater Birmingham tournament, where we found ourselves in the toughest group, losing to both Fairfax and Bishop Vesey's by one try in two hard-fought games. We ended up in the fifth and sixth play-offs, beating Camp Hill comfortably. It was, nevertheless, a very disappointing tournament for us.

The two main highlights of our season came with our defeats of Bromsgrove 43-0 and Warwick 27-5, ending our season with a 65% win record. Throughout the season, Jack Noble, Theo Mostert, Tom Corbett and Aadil and Emil Ali were all key performers. The top try scorer of the season was Theo Mostert.

Later in the season, we began to play rugby sevens. Our first tournament in Solihull, resulted in us coming third in our group, beating Bromsgrove 32-14 and Old Swinford Hospital 65-0, before making the semi-final. In the Bromsgrove Rugby Sevens Competition, we made several comprehensive wins and won the Plate final, 40-5 against Five Ways.

Aadil Ali



U13A XV

Our first two matches of the season were tough, with two fairly severe losses against RGS Worcester and KE Stratford however, those losses were followed by success.

The next six matches were either comfortably won or narrowly lost; these losses came from Nottingham (22-20) and Solihull (19-14). The matches were tightly fought and came down to the last few minutes. Success came mainly at the end of the season due to some expert coaching on physicality and line speed. Winning our last three games, we brought our total win rate up to eight wins and seven losses overall.

Michael Okonkwo was deservedly awarded the Player of the Season with his 23 tries; Jamie Rachman was given second Player of the Season for his brilliant kicking ratio, and Alex Sokolov was given third for his aggression and mauling. Will Barron was awarded Most Improved Player.

In the sevens season, we finished a respectable joint third at Bromsgrove only being knocked out by eventual winners, Bromsgrove themselves. The team's true colours were shown and there were some beautiful plays, especially in the backs. In Solihull, we came third out of five. This put us into the bowl where we would play two teams from Kenilworth, whose twins dominated us, and a Welsh school, and it was that match which was the best of the day. Finally, there was Rosslyn Park; we came up against some very tough teams and came third out of four.

I would like to thank Mr James for his coaching throughout the season.

Will Barron



U12A XV

When the season began, around half the U12As were new to Rugby. We were an inexperienced team who had just met each other and never played together. Everyone however, from the start, showed determination, ambition, talent and enthusiasm.

We trained hard from the off and, whilst we were initially slow to bear fruit, as the season progressed we began to hold our own and match results began to get closer. For example, when playing Old Swinford Hospital the gap narrowed from three tries to four. Old Swinford initially got the upper hand through a couple of tries but eventually the team fought back, helped particularly by strong performances from Hamza Waheed, Harry Cooke and Aron Singh. Several subsequent matches were closely fought, the fact not always reflected in the end result.

In the final months, we gained confidence and experience as a team following positive wins against Bablake and King Edward's Aston, and our draw against the formidable Five Ways.

The season ended extremely well when we made the quarter-final of the cup division in the Bishop Vesey's Sevens Tournament.

It was an honour to captain the U12As last season and I am hugely optimistic about the forthcoming season, which we will begin as an increasingly experienced, skilled and coherent team. The team would like to thank Mr Barratt and Mr Browning for their patient coaching.

William Bedson

Cricket

2016 season

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Abandoned	Cancelled
1 st XI	14	8	6	0	0	2	4
2 nd XI	7	4	2	0	1	0	6
U15A	9	6	3	0	0	3	5
U15B	5	4	1	0	0	2	4
U14A	12	8	4	0	0	1	4
U14B	8	8	0	0	0	1	4
U13A	7	3	4	0	0	1	3
U13B	4	0	4	0	0	1	2
U12A	9	7	2	0	0	0	4
U12B	6	4	2	0	0	1	3
U12C	3	2	1	0	0	1	1
Totals:	84	54	29	0	1	13	40

Team honours

U15A XI: Joint winners of Magdalen College Independent Schools T20 Competition

U14B XI: Warwickshire Cup Winners

U12A XI: Warwickshire Cup Runners-up

Individual honours

Full Colours awarded to:
Hamza Ajaib, Rishi Gandhewar (re-awarded),
Karan Gangurde, Tarush Gupta, Josh Ray, Sidhant Sawlani, Vignesh Sriram

Half Colours awarded to:
Sarban Hoonjan, Adam Hussain, Tanay Kulkarni, Saroop Nandra

Junior Colours awarded to:
Aadil Ali, Emil Ali, Andrew Fergusson, Gordon Gittins, Oscar Henrick, Arnav Kulkarni, Yash Machani, Suyash Poshakwale, Raj Sandhu, Varun Sinha, Haris Sohail

Representative honours

U17
Adam Hussain: Worcestershire A
Tanay Kulkarni: Worcestershire A

U15
Jake Johnstone: Worcestershire A
Sam Johnstone: Worcestershire A
Suyash Poshakwale: Warwickshire B

U14
Aadil Ali: Warwickshire A
Arnav Kulkarni: Worcestershire A
Yash Machani: Warwickshire A
Raj Sandhu: Worcestershire A
Varun Sinha: Warwickshire A
Haris Sohail: Worcestershire B

U13
Milan Dogra: Warwickshire B
Pranav Gajula: Warwickshire B
Fadhil Mir: Warwickshire B
Vinesh Patel: Warwickshire A

U12
Vaibhav Chaganti: Birmingham
Dev Ghandewar: Warwickshire B
Aman Hussain: Warwickshire B
Vidhan Iyer: Warwickshire A

1st XI season overview

Date	First innings	Second innings	Result
20 April	KES 67ao	v Bromsgrove 68-2	Lost
23 April	KES 92ao J Ray 50	v RGS Worcs 94-3	Lost
27 April	KES 135-5 T Gupta 37	v Bablake 104ao	Won
30 April	KES 117-5 A Hussain 44	v Solihull 120-1	Lost
4 May	OSH 89-9 O Lyttle 4-22	v KES 90-2 U Saeed 35*	Won
7 May	Wolverhampton GS 135-ao Vg Sriram 3-15	v KES 137-1 T Kulkarni 47*	Won
14 May	King's Worcester 114ao H Ajaib 3-26	v KES 115-6 S Mangat 45	Won
21 May	Denstone 124-5	v KES 127-7	Won
11 June	KES 164ao T Kulkarni 41	v Trent 165-3	Lost
22 June	Bishop Vesey's 113ao K Gangurde 3-19	v KES 114-3 T Gupta 40*	Won
23 June	KES 138-5 T Gupta 45*	v Old Edwardians CC 109-7 S Sawlani 4-17	Won
25 June	Loughborough GS 45-2	v KES	Abandoned
27 June	Scotch College 193-9 R Gandhewar 4-15	v KES 173-8 H Ajaib 69	Lost
28 June	MCC 159-3 dec	v KES 50-0	Abandoned
2 July	OEA 183-8	v KES 186-2 J Ray 73	Won

3 July KES 198ao
A Hussain 75 v St Peter's 199-7
S Sawlani 3-46 Lost

Batting

	Innings	Not out	Runs	Highest score	Average
T Gupta	12	6	352	46	58.6
JS Ray	14	1	317	73	24.4
A Hussain	12	0	290	75	24.2
H Ajaib	13	4	223	69	24.7
T Kulkarni	8	2	142	47*	23.6
S Mangat	9	1	135	45	16.8
S Nandra	7	2	56	17*	11.2

Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Vg Sriram	83.3	5	313	15	20.9
S Sawlani	56.2	3	259	13	19.9
RR Gandhewar*	58.5	2	261	13	20.1
KS Gangurde	59.2	2	277	12	23.1
H Ajaib	64.3	7	280	9	31.1
W Lovell	40	11	103	7	14.7
T Kulkarni	53	10	179	6	29.8

Player of the Season: T Gupta





1st XI

This season had highs and lows, and was particularly tough to begin with.

The first fixture at Bromsgrove in mid-April was closely followed by the arrival of RGS Worcester to Eastern Road: two difficult games and two harsh defeats. But we definitely showed signs of potential. It took a lot of passion, pride and commitment to come out and bowl and field like we did and I knew that things could soon turn around.

Seven wins from the next nine matches, no matter how scrappily we got there, was a fantastic achievement. We finished with a close match against Scotch College and what I’m claiming as a Duckworth-Lewis win against the MCC. Individual highlights included a 50 from Josh Ray against RGS Worcester, 69 from Hamza Ajaib against Scotch College, as well as some good scores by Tarush Gupta, Adam Hussain, Tanay Kulkarni and Saihej Mangat, and figures of 4-17 from Sid Sawlani against Old Ed’s CC, with good spells from Karan Gangurde, Vignesh Sriram and Tanay Kulkarni. My personal highlight was certainly the morning of the Scotch College match. Being able to play alongside ten of your friends is such a privilege and it has been great to get to know my team.

Adam Hussain: an integral part of the team, who contributed in numerous ways. You really want to win, and your desire and passion on the pitch is extremely refreshing.

Joshisuriya: at the start of the season, when everyone was struggling, you were one of the few people who looked up for it, shown by your early 50. You became a dynamic fielder and helped me when I needed second opinions on decisions.

Tarush Gupta: you were so reliable to play with, without risks, and yet easily scored a run a ball. You have also taken some outrageous catches.

Hamza Ajaib: you are so talented and have such potential; you can become a really excellent player.

Tanay Kulkarni: it quickly became obvious that you’re a talented and hard-working player with the bat and the ball.

Saihej Manjat: you are a reliable character and someone who can be depended upon to work hard.

Saroop Nandra: I’ve never seen someone pester me after every over to “put me where they aren’t going to hit it.” But you’ve become a fine batsmen and I couldn’t imagine you not being in the team.

Vignesh Sriram: you became a very fine bowler and also put in good performances with the bat and in the field. However, asking me to pretend to be vegetarian was an odd moment!

Karan Gangurde: I think the best way to describe you is ‘unique’, from your own unique batting style of ‘got to give yourself one’, to your characteristic fielding technique, you are quite the individual.

Sid Sawlani: no matter what the circumstances, you’re always smiling and happy. This year your bowling has hit good form; I’ve never met someone with a better knack of picking up wickets, especially from horrendous deliveries.

But of course, none of these fantastic moments would have happened without all the help and support we have had throughout the season, and on behalf of the team I would like to say a few thank yous...

To Mr Round – you had some huge boots to fill with Dave leaving last year, but I think you’ve done an incredible job.

To Mr Roll – I do not know how you manage to put up with us; from people emailing about falling down the stairs to arranging parties on the same day as matches, I know this year has not been the easiest.

This year has been a great experience and one I have enjoyed very much. Finally, a big thank you to my team for making my reign as captain, well, I wouldn’t say easy...more interesting. It was a pleasure.

Rishi Gandhewar

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a very successful and entertaining season this year, only losing two of our games.

We started the season facing Bromsgrove and having been 20-3 in the fifth over, we recovered well to earn a total of 127 off 20 overs thanks to the strong hitting of Mason Gain (68). This ended up being 15 runs too short as, although we fielded well, Bromsgrove managed to chase down our target, winning by three wickets.

Another defeat then followed to a strong RGS Worcester side but, from here on in, we remained unbeaten for the remainder of the season, beating teams such as Bablake and Old Swinford. We then played Solihull, where we ended up as comfortable winners due to a match-winning innings of 80 runs by Samraaj Hullait. Our final game saw us go up against Loughborough Grammar School. It was a highly competitive encounter and we needed two runs to win off the final ball. Unfortunately, we could only manage one, resulting in a tie to end our season.

Throughout the season our bowlers, led by the pace of Felix Abbot-Black and the spin of Vishal Sriram, helped to restrict the opposition’s score, making it easier for our strong batting line-up to chase down. We must thank Mr Johnson and Mr Phillips for the time spent coaching and running the 2nd XI this year; our success would not have been achieved without them.

Dougie Dolleymore

U15A XI

The U15As enjoyed our most successful year to date, with the highlight of it becoming joint winners of the Magdalen College Oxford Cricket Festival. During that tournament, we played out of our skin and achieved a place in the final against a hard group which included the hosts.

In the final, Tom Buchanan (Australian exchange) picked up a hat-trick to remove three of Malvern College’s top order batsmen. With Will Lovell bowling a maiden in a ten over game, in the final we restricted Malvern to only 73 runs. We were only to be denied a chance at victory by the weather as rain came down hard, making the pitch unplayable. And so we had to share the title, despite our batsmen being confident of a win!

The team came together over the season with good victories against RGS Worcester and Solihull which eventually led us to a great end to the tournament and ultimately, a very successful season.

Dan Dixon

U14A XI

Following the success of the previous two years there were great expectations for the team this season. However, added to this was the difficulty of losing two batsmen, who were sent to play for the U15A team.

We kicked the season off brilliantly, managing to easily win four matches with exceptional play by Yash Machani: obtaining seven wickets against Wolverhampton Grammar School being a highlight. Unfortunately, the following matches were challenging for the team as we faced King’s Worcester and Bromsgrove. Although the team put in a great effort, we were beaten in both matches.

After winning a County Cup match against Bishop Vesey’s, with a strong batting performance from Emil Ali achieving 82 runs, we entered the Solihull Sixes tournament, sadly being knocked out in the semi-finals by King’s Worcester.

We finished the season against Loughborough Grammar School, where we put up a convincing score of 205 for three. An excellent performance by Varun Sinha, who scored an amazing 98 not out, was supported by Emil Ali and Raj Sandhu who were both just short of their half centuries. We ended on a strong and convincing win leaving the team content, but still hoping to do better next year.

Aadil Ali



U14B XI

We began the season with a superb win against RGS Worcester, setting an expectation for the rest of the season.

Our first cup match ended in a definitive victory against Finham Park School. When the semi-final came, rain began to pour down, hindering our game, so the finalist was to be decided by an indoor game. Broadway Academy set the bar high gaining a total of around 120 runs in 20 overs. We had a very shaky start, losing two quick wickets but then a match-deciding innings from Theo Mostert took us over the line. The team was ecstatic; we were in the final!

The final came and KES were to take on Priory School's A team. Winning the toss, we decided to bat first. A great captain's innings of 63 runs from Kamen Sandhu put KES in the driving seat as the team achieved 140-4. A good start from Priory made us slightly nervous but we got back into the game and won the final! Throughout the season, every player performed to a great standard and played with great team spirit enabling us to win the Earnest Troop County Trophy.

Junaid Hussain

U12A XI

As it was our first year of cricket at KES, the team was striving to succeed and we were confident we had a good season on its way.

We began well with a comfortable win over RGS Worcester courtesy of Aman Hussain's 44. This was followed up by a difficult match against Solihull. However, thanks to a 33 from Aarye Goyal and brilliant bowling from Vaibhav Chiganti, we won the match with a run to spare.

We maintained our 100% win streak despite a close encounter against King's. A fruitful Gandhewar-Iyer partnership took us across the finish line, where I ended on 51.

After a few cancellations, our next match was a routine win against Arden Grange in the County Cup so we faced Washwood Heath in the next round. Aman Hussain batted terrifically, scoring 52, but an all-round great performance from the team took us through to the semi-final against Warwick and into the County Cup Final.

We finally faced Solihull in the Cup Final. We batted first losing a few early wickets, much to our annoyance, however a 58 from Vidhan Iyer put us in a better position. A crucial maiden over from Vaibhav Chiganti required Solihull to score eight from the last over. Unfortunately, they beat us with two balls to spare, handing us the silver medals.

Thank you to Mr Browning, Mr Round and Mr Roll for all their help during the year and for helping us to achieve such a fantastic record.

Dev Gandhewar



Photo courtesy of Adrian Sherratt.

Athletics

Unfortunately, rain meant that two of the six meets scheduled were cancelled. However, we managed to win three of the four we competed in.

In the first competition (against Uppingham and Oakham), we won by a very narrow margin. Even though only three of our team managed to secure first place in their events, namely Ollie Hudson, JP Stolberg and Jeevan Dardi, we were strong across all the events and managed to get the win.

We unfortunately lost the second competition against Nottingham High School, but many of our team gave strong performances, including Tom Corbett in the javelin, James Howard in the high jump, JP in the triple jump and hurdles, and Ollie Hudson in the 800m.

In the next meet, against Loughborough College, we won yet again. The following boys gained first position: Tom Schofield in the 200m, Tom Corbett in the 400m and discus, Ollie Hudson in the 800m, JP in the 1,500m and hurdles, and James Howard in long jump. There was also a convincing victory from the relay team.

In our final match against Shrewsbury, we destroyed the opposition in most events, including: first position for JP in hurdles and the triple jump, Tom Schofield winning both sprinting events (with a first position in both the 100m and 200m with Gar Psi Ho coming second in the 200m), Tom Corbett winning all three of his events that day (400m, discus and javelin), James winning both the long jump and high jump, and the relay team, consisting of James Howard, Tom Corbett, Gar Psi Ho and Tom Schofield, coming first in the 4x100m relay.

Special congratulations to Louis Bowker for coming up from the Removes to run in the 1,500m. Thank you to everyone else who competed; valiant efforts all round.

John Philip Stolberg and Tom Schofield



Badminton

The Junior badminton team at KES is very promising. This year, boys from Shells, Rems, and UMs competed in the Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships and finished second in the County Round. In addition, the boys in Fourths and Fifths were even more successful, coming second in the West Midlands regional stage.

With the results attained this year, we look forward to next season and the promising future of badminton at KES. We are excited to see players improve and challenge themselves to increase their performance in upcoming years.

We'd like to thank Mr Johnson and our coach Mr Eddy for the support and encouragement throughout the year.

Joshlee Bong



Cross country

The act of running around a muddy field on an often miserable day is not one that most KES boys enjoy. However, for some (possibly quite odd!) boys it is a welcome challenge, a chance to keep fit and escape from the stresses that being a member of the Senior School can bring. These boys form the KES cross country team.

On most weeks there is the chance for some healthy competition, both between each other and other schools. The home team always have the advantage however, as they actually know where they are going! Our training runs are more about getting out into the fresh air, and enjoying the local area. Often we run along the canals and dismantled railways of Birmingham; however we do occasionally go out further to places such as the Client Hills.

The 2015-16 season resulted in a surprising triumph, with the A team finishing second only to Warwick School in the Greater Birmingham Schools' Cross Country League. For this, we can thank the efforts of Joshua Kimblin, who was consistently the

top runner in the team and one of the strongest runners in the League. He was followed closely by Roodi Gent and Richard Franklin of the Divisions. However, congratulations must also go to another of our top runners, Will Dolding, who only joined the team in late 2015 and found himself almost immediately near the top of the leader board.

This was not our only success, as the B team were just one short of a medal position in fourth despite a slow start to the season. Of particular note was our fastest and quietest Fifth, Jared Tang, who put in a strong and consistent effort over the two terms.

Many thanks to Mr Witcombe, Mr Storey and the occasional Dr Bridges for encouraging and looking after us, and to all members past and present for their efforts over the years. I wish the current team all the best for the 2016-17 season!

George Sadler

Golf

We set off for Wales, via Church Stretton, hoping for good weather and good golf but unfortunately only the latter came true.

Our first course was Church Stretton, which was a quirky challenge as it was set in a large valley and thus with plenty of opportunities to lose a ball (or balls in the case of the majority). The back nine was somewhat easier and everyone had some good holes to ensure that the match was level after the first 18.

Early on Saturday morning we took on Aberystwyth, which was a course more like what we were used to and this was reflected by more pars and scoring opportunities, but again the scores were level. In the afternoon, we faced the brute that was the windy, lengthy and wet Borth links course, which was an extreme challenge and even led the normally consistent Mr Barratt to spray two balls consecutively onto Borth Beach and for Devak Mehta to nearly halve his supply of ridiculous, signed, purple golf balls. After a lengthy wait in a nearby curry house, we watched some football on the back of Wales' win over Northern Ireland.

Early on Sunday morning we set off for Aberdovey, which was, to my mind, the best course we played, with every shot a challenge in itself and the greens as true as you could hope for. The rain after 12 holes did dampen the mood slightly but we all enjoyed the variety of holes, in particular Mr Pavay, who somewhat fortuitously chipped in for a birdie from a seemingly impossible lie.

All-in-all, although we lost the match due to Alex Cheswick dovetailing perfectly with Mr Barratt at Borth, it was a fantastic experience to play such great courses in such good company and it is a trip I will remember for some time. Thanks to D6, Alex Cheswick and Sam Shah for making it so enjoyable and amusing, and to Mr Barratt and Mr Pavay for organising such a great trip. If you are playing golf in Wales and see a purple ball with the initials DM, you know where it came from...

William Mills

Senior tennis

This has been a successful year for the School's Senior tennis team.

In the autumn term, the U15 IV reached the national quarter-finals and were very unfortunate to lose on a championship tie-break to Repton School having drawn 3-3.

In the summer term, we lost several fixtures due to inclement weather conditions but when we were able to get our strongest players out we achieved some excellent 1st team results. This was demonstrated by a 6-3 win against Bromsgrove and a 6.5-3.5 defeat of Nottingham.

Particularly impressive were Ying Hou, Guy Marston, Fin Geelan, Rohan Thawait, Michael Ollerenshaw and Cameron Shaylor. Nathan Appanna and Kaler Wong both forced their way into the 1st team and played very well. The 2nd team have performed impressively showing a good depth of talent.

SJT

Junior tennis

The summer term is a mixture of friendly fixtures and Aegon School's League fixtures. The U15 and U14 matches were highly successful with our only defeat coming against Warwick in the U14A fixture. The U13 team won all of its league matches and also won against Nottingham.

At U15 level, Rohan Thawait was superb and was ably backed up by Jamie Draper, Tom Mathers, Ben Coeulle, George Forshaw, Rohit Mehta, Toby Wallis, James Marris and Miles Shelley amongst others. Rohan came fourth and Jamie 12th in the Magdalen College U15 Tennis Festival.

In the U13 team, Elliot Clarkson was the stand-out player but was ably backed up by Ahmed Sherif, Ben O'Hara, Harry Mellor and James Pentland.

The Simon Booth Cup was won by Rohan Thawait who beat Fin Geelan in the final: the first time it has been won by an Upper Middle.

SJT

Squash

Squash is becoming an increasingly popular sport at KES with growing demand for Squash Club.

The National Schools Competition is the main event in the squash calendar, played in the first two terms of school. Unfortunately, we faced tough competition and were drawn against Wycliffe and Kenilworth, two colleges specialising in squash. This left a large mountain to climb for the 1st team of Sam Shah, Charlie Roberts, Angus Bradley, Alex Cheswick and Oscar Jobes. Although all good players who battled hard, we could not match our counterparts and lost to both schools.

Tewkesbury School was our next destination. Charlie Roberts won one of two matches along with Angus Bradley: epic matches both ending 3-2. Unfortunately, our other matches were lost despite being very close. The U15 team had slightly more success in the competition; beating Cheltenham, but again were knocked out by the 'unbeatable' Wycliffe College.

Later in the season, wins were recorded by both the U19 and U15 teams in friendlies against Bromsgrove, both ending 5-0 with good effort from both teams.

Thanks must be given to every player who gave up their time to play these matches and to Mr Johnson for driving us to fixtures up and down the country. As enthusiasm for squash continues to grow, I hope the teams in the next few years will continue to compete in the national competition and build on the foundations formed in the last few years.

Angus Bradley

Volleyball

Volleyball has progressed massively: from lunchtimes with only me and our coach Niko to us now having a full six-man team and competing in tournaments.

This year, the U17 team competed in one tournament, finishing an impressive third – an exceptional result since I was unable to attend. This left new players such as Gabriel Yoong, Matthew Smith, Nirad Abrol and Leon Taki-Officer, who have now progressed to the extent that they have been invited to play for the University of Birmingham's 2nd team next year. There were also key contributions from Saneth Sellaheewa and Umar Malik who are new to the game. The U13s exceeded us, winning the tournament overall with key contributions from: Ryan Sabzevari, Albert Ashley, Rohit Ramachandran, Amaan Lambert and Oliver Stone, who are showing great skill and potential.

Lunchtime sessions have allowed for players such as Hanzalah Yaqub, Josh Ray, Usman Raja, Haine Hock and Motheo Pono to develop further. I have even been lucky enough to be selected to play for the West Midlands at this year's inter-regional championship.

We have more matches coming up next year and it is exciting where KES volleyball is heading. We are always open to new players who want to learn the game and just have fun. I would finally like to congratulate all the boys once again on a great year.

Akash Thota



Water polo: ESSA Finals Bolton

King Edward's School U18 water polo team arrived in good time for a hard day's competition at the Jason Kenny leisure centre in Bolton on 5 March 2016, accompanied by coaches Hayley Bettinson and Phil Powell.

The draw dictated that we would play our first match against Trinity School, Croydon. At half-time, thanks to a strong start, KES held a 2-1 lead due to two beautiful finishes from Isaac Hinchliffe. From the first whistle of the second half, team morale was higher than many King Edward's players had experienced before. With solid defence, superb goalkeeping from Gus Ilif, and a sneaky goal towards the end of play, the match finished at KES 3, Trinity 1: a convincing victory over competitive opposition.

Our following match, versus Alleyn's School, began as if KES were still thinking upon their previous victory – the scoreline showed Alleyn's to be up 2-1 at half-time. However, after some remarkable displays of talent and chemistry from the youngest players in the team (George Davies and Felix Abbot-Black), KES had edged in front with a 4-3 lead and a minute remaining. Then, in the blink of an eye, team captain Matt Madden somehow managed to pick up a red card as well as a match ban, enabling Alleyn's to equalise. KES just about held their own amongst the confusion that followed the unexpected exclusion and the game ended with a tied 4-4 scoreline.

The final match in the group stages ended in a draw between Trinity and Alleyn's meaning that KES entered the play-offs first in their group, due to play Haberdashers' Aske's School. Despite the

absence of their captain who was only permitted to watch from the viewing gallery, each of the 12 KES players who travelled to Bolton put in an admirable performance. Unfortunately, almost every attempt at goal found the woodwork, rather than the net, resulting in KES losing their first match of the day.

However, King Edward's were far from demoralised. The team were to play Alleyn's once more in a fight for bronze, and were determined to leave Bolton and finish their coaches' careers on a high. With the return of the captain, KES entirely controlled the game throughout. The team persevered though some scrappy play and Isaac Allen flicked in KES's final goal which won the School third place, and allowed the team to leave in good spirit, proud of their achievement and motivated for next year.

A special thanks goes to all those who travelled up to Bolton in order to support the team, including, of course, Mr Claughton, who yet again turned up for the team.

Finally, huge thanks from all the KES water polo community to coaches Phil Powell and Hayley Bettinson, whose continuous dedication, encouragement and good-hearted natures have produced arguably the most successful sports club in the School. At the end of this academic year, the School said goodbye to these two brilliant and inspiring coaches. Our team and school owe them big time – they have bettered so many Edwardians' school careers. Thank you, Phil and Hayley!

Matt Madden



Water polo memories

“Will’s ball! Will’s ball!” is the call that cries out. He rises out of the water, the ball is passed to hand, and he scores top corner. This is one of the many familiar calls from amongst the players in the pool that have stuck in my head over the years. It is one of the most exciting games you can watch, especially when played in an all deep pool, and you can only try and imagine what goes on under the water!

When I started at KES I came from a swimming background; although you were part of a team there was only ever one of you in the water at any given time. In water polo, you are part of a team of 13 players, of which seven are in the water at any one time, and, unless you are the goalie or an exceptional player, you get to swap in and out during the game. Everyone works together and you get to have a breather occasionally.

Introducing water polo to all year groups was one of my first objectives, and it was not a hard task. From the moment boys stepped into the pool on an Open Morning or evening tour, they were excited by the sounds and actions of the boys in the pool demonstrating the sport. New Shells happily give it a try in the first week and never look back, often going on to playing out of school as well as at local clubs.

One of my favourite times of year is the annual House Water Polo Competition. Each House puts together a team from

a selection of boys, some of whom may never have played before and some may not be particularly strong swimmers, but they all just love throwing a ball about in the water and having fun.

One of the highlights of the 2012 English Schools’ Finals in Walsall was meeting Prince William, who played water polo himself at St Andrew’s. He visited for the morning, meeting and talking to many boys from all of the schools that attended, and then came poolside to drop the ball into the water at the start of our first game. Unfortunately, he did not stay to watch the KES U18 team win gold that year.

KES have had huge successes over the years as the foyer of the swimming pool bears witness with lots of trophies and photographs. It will no doubt have plenty more with the commitment of future boys. I hope to return to watch some of those matches and enjoy the excitement of the game, and to support the boys, as water polo is very much in my blood along with years of chlorine from swimming.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the Old Edwardian water polo boys who return each year to play a match against the current U18 team. It’s always tremendous fun to catch up on their news and stories, and great to see the game is still part of so many Old Eds’ lives.

Hayley Bettinson





KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA

Tel: 0121 472 1672 Email: office@kes.org.uk

 @KESBham  /KESBham

www.kes.org.uk