

CHRONICLE 2011

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF
KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

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CHRONICLE 2011

Editors

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	Staff Editor	Tom Hosty
	Art Editor	Bradley Spencer

The photographs in the magazine come from a variety of sources, but a wholly disproportionate number were taken by Chris Boardman, to whom, as usual, very many thanks.

A person wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt is holding a large, dark megaphone. The person's hands are visible, gripping the handle of the megaphone. The background is a solid, dark blue color. The word "HELLOS" is written in white, uppercase letters across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the megaphone and the person's hands.

HELLOS

TOM ARBUTHNOTT ENGLISH

Chronicle: Could you tell us a bit about your life before KES?

Mr Arbuthnott: I took a fairly long and winding route to teaching. I'm one of Blair's generation and got tremendously over excited when New Labour came to power: I was studying for a Masters in European Studies at Cambridge, but what I really wanted to do was go into politics and change the world. After my Masters I went to work in the European Parliament and eventually became second-in-command of a Blairite think-tank looking at foreign policy, which was really fun: I got to write articles, organise events, speak on platforms and give evidence to the House of Commons. I appeared on *Newsnight* and did all kinds of things that would have turned the head of any 25-year-old. By 27 it seemed to me that I could either do something completely new or go into current affairs or politics full time; working in Brussels you really get to see what a dirty game politics is, so I decided that I wanted to be a teacher. I was very lucky: I got onto a really interesting programme which gave me lots of leadership training in return for agreeing to work for five years in challenging schools. I worked in three schools: one in Guildford, one in North Solihull and one the other side of the Hagley Road. This was good experience. I found that I liked the IB, and was IB Co-ordinator at my previous school: KES gave me the opportunity to stay with it.

What inspired you to teach English?

I actually qualified as a History teacher, which is bizarre given that my first degree was in Italian and German Literature at Oxford, after which I went into European Studies and thought I wanted to be a Politics teacher. But the main need at the school I was at was for English teachers. There were 47 different nationalities, many of whom had English as their 2nd or 3rd language, and

so the English Department was where the greatest need was. You couldn't teach History if the students couldn't speak English. So I was teaching English before I came to KES. I feel lucky that coming here has given me the chance to get my teeth into some really good books. It is exciting, because I hadn't really taught Literature before to bright students with a good grasp of English. It has been nice, especially in IB sets, to be able to apply my university grounding in literature, and to teach some of the texts I loved to a new generation.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I have two children under the age of 4 so I don't have much free time! Occasionally I'll play a game of golf, but arguing about the children's care arrangements is my most frequent pastime!

What would you consider your biggest achievement to date?

I would say that spending almost three years in a really, really tough school, the ninth poorest in the country, and making a big success of teaching there, helping create a sixth form and running the IB and doing the other things I did there, were probably my biggest achievements.

Favourite book and why?

The best book I've read recently was *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami. The best book I've read in the last 5 years would be Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. I do think he's a truly great writer; every book of his has been consistently interesting and I was sad he didn't get the Nobel Prize this year. It's one of the books I'm doing with my Fourth Year: some loved it and others hated it, but none were indifferent towards it. At the end of the day Literature should be creating reactions.

If you weren't a teacher what would you have liked to be?

I wouldn't be anything other than a teacher. I've played with all sorts of other careers during my 20's. I played with being a politician, a journalist and a media journalist, but in the end you realise if you're sitting in an office surrounded by fax machines and email, it doesn't matter what you're trying to do, whether it's trying to change the world from a socialist perspective or selling sandwiches to City Traders: you're still sitting behind a desk and it's quite dry. Teaching is the most exhausting job you can do, but you're in personal and emotional contact with individuals on a day to day basis and I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing.

FAVOURITES

Film: *Casablanca*

TV Show: *The Wire*

Food/drink: Lamb chops, ideally charred, with a Greek salad.

Music: Bob Dylan, Shostakovich, Gershwin



MARTIN BARRATT

HISTORY

Chronicle: Tell us a little about what you did before you came to KES?

Mr Barratt: I went to Cardiff University, where I did a degree in Ancient and Medieval History and then a Masters in Celtic History, which I very much enjoyed. While there I worked in a few different jobs: I worked in the university itself, in a gym, and I built bikes at Toys R Us, so I had quite a varied experience. After I had returned to Birmingham and decided that I would quite like to get into teaching, I started off at Hodge Hill School, teaching History, social skills and anger management to boys who were on the verge of getting kicked out: this was fulfilling and useful experience for me as a teacher. Later, at Castle Vale School I was working with boys who had special educational needs, helping them with PE and in the gym. So I had a very diverse experience before I came to KES. Finally, last year, I trained at King Edward's Camp Hill to become a teacher.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

I think that anyone who has completed the Graduate Teacher Programme would say that it is something to be proud of, especially when you get accepted into a school like Camp Hill within the King Edward's Consortium. The programme was hard work, with late nights and little, if any, break in between. I was very proud to pass that and start here at KES.

How do you spend your time out of work?

I enjoy relaxing, reading and going to the cinema, especially with family and friends. I also enjoy going to the gym and exercising. In addition, I like fine cuisine and beverages: as a result of that, I try to work out everyday.

What initially attracted you to teaching History at KES?

I went to school at King Edward's Five Ways so I wanted to teach in a similar sort of environment, such as KES or one of the grammar schools. This is a special place to teach, especially for a subject like History, because the pupils have a thirst for knowledge and want to learn.

What are your first impressions of the School?

Initially I was very impressed with how, generally, the boys were welcoming and respectful towards me as a teacher. The staff have also been most accommodating, and helpful to someone coming in who has just finished his training. There is a friendly atmosphere at KES but, at the same time, a very purposeful one.



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Finally, where do you see yourself in 10 years?

That's a very difficult question! Hopefully I will still enjoy teaching and find it challenging in the future. Yet the good thing about this school is that whatever direction I do decide to take in the future, I know I will be given the support to do that.

FAVOURITES

Sport: Rugby or Golf.

Music: I listen to a variety of music, from Rock to even Rap these days, but I do have a soft spot for a bit of Bon Jovi or Snow Patrol, especially when I am working out or getting work done.

Television: I am very much into American dramas and series such as *Nip & Tuck*, *Sons of Anarchy* and *ER*.

Film: The *Star Wars* Films

Book: *Powder Wars* is the autobiography of a gangster in Liverpool in the seventies, around the time my dad was growing up there: it was interesting to read about the areas my dad grew up in.

Food: Pizza. No contest.

HELEN FERGUSON BIOLOGY

Chronicle: Can you tell us about your life before coming to KES?

Ms Ferguson: My first job after University was with Earthwatch, an environmental charity. I then did an MSc and became a qualified hydrogeologist. I specialised in contaminated land: screening for contaminants and then finding ways of remediating the land. Immediately before KES, I was teaching at Ninestiles School in Hall Green.

What about Biology in particular interested you?

I love to understand how everything works; I think that the variety of life on earth is so incredible and interesting that I don't understand how anyone could not like Biology!

What inspired you to go into teaching? What else, if anything, would you most like to do in your working life?

I have always liked working with children and young adults, and realised I was greatly missing this aspect in my previous job. I have a passion for learning and hope to instil that enthusiasm in my students. There is so much of the world which is undiscovered: I would like to inspire the younger generation to try to explore the unknown. I am sure that there are a number of students at KES who will be inspirational in the future.

What has been the most challenging situation you have faced in your teaching career?

In my previous school a number of the students had very difficult behavioural issues, normally stemming from family problems. The main challenge was to calm them down and provide work which would maintain their focus.

What have you thought of KES so far? If you could make any improvements what would they be?

KES is an amazing school: the students are lovely (not all, but most!), the teachers have been very welcoming and the school excels in sport as well as academic work. In terms of improvements, I am sure all the teachers would agree that a pay rise would always be an improvement!

Where do you see yourself in a decade's time?

I will continue to work in education, maybe as a Head of Year or Head of Department.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am very social and like to keep busy seeing friends and family in Birmingham and around the country. I like to give back to the community, so I do voluntary work during the holidays with associations such as the Karis Neighbourhood Scheme (in Ladywood), and a little further afield with Emmaus in France (a homeless charity). I have also volunteered in animal sanctuaries in Thailand and Bolivia. I am very active: I take part in triathlons and I'm captain of the Harborne Ladies 5s hockey team.

FAVOURITES

Book: I don't really read that much but I like books that make me laugh, such as Russell Brand's *My Booky Wook*.

Film: *Jeux d'enfants*. A French film which is funny, touching and a little bit twisted.

TV series: *Scrubs*, *Misfits*

Sport: Gymnastics, Hockey, Triathlons

Food: Fish and Chips (only from Scarborough!)

Music: The latest album I bought was by Eliza Doolittle (bought after seeing her live at the Secret Garden Party Festival)

COLIN IRVINE ECONOMICS

Chronicle: Could you tell us a little about your life prior to KES?

Mr Irvine: I'm a Dubliner, born and bred: I did my schooling there, and studied at Trinity College and University College, Dublin. My big passion in my twenties was white water kayaking, and I spent a lot of time on expeditions overseas. I tried my hand at documentary film making (a fantastic experience but an economic failure), then worked for the Irish Canoe Union, delivering coach education. I trained as a teacher at St Andrew's College in Dublin and taught Economics for three years at Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh. Now I'm here!

What was it that inspired you to teach? If you weren't teaching, which profession do you see yourself in?

To start with, I really enjoy learning; for me it's a natural progression to want to help others learn. I started teaching kayaking and sailing aged 18, and really enjoyed the feeling of achievement when students reach their goals. Schools are a more satisfying place to work than sports centres because you teach more complex subjects over a longer period. If I weren't teaching, I'd probably work in some form of training in the corporate world, the civil service or the military.

What was it that attracted you to Economics?

Economics is a great subject. If you want to understand the world we live in, then you just can't ignore the fundamental economic processes that determine how resources are allocated and decisions are made. However, I'm a big fan of breadth in the curriculum (in Ireland we did 7 or 8 subjects at school) and a big believer in the IB.

How do you like to spend time outside the classroom?

Outdoors. My main sports used to be kayaking and hockey but I'm taking a bit of a break from both of them to focus on triathlon (swim-bike-run) races. On the less serious side, I like getting out for a spin on my mountain bike or hiking in the hills. I occasionally play terrible golf, and if it's hot and dry you can't beat a game of tennis!

Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?

Travelling has always been very important to me, so I would hope to still be exploring new places. I would like to gain some international perspective on my profession, so maybe I'll be teaching Economics under a palm tree somewhere! Leading an Economics department is an obvious next step, but I don't think these things should be rushed. I think the first priority in any job is to focus on the quality of your work. I also don't think you should plan your life out too much, because unexpected doors will open along the way. The harder you work, the more doors open up!

FAVOURITES

Film: *Intermission* – pure Dublin humour!

TV show: I don't really watch TV. Does Channel 4 News count? Okay, I admit a bit of X-Factor as my guilty pleasure.

Food/drink: Fillet steak (medium rare), pepper sauce, roast potatoes, pint of Guinness – heaven.

Music: *I've a Horse Outside* by The Rubber Bandits

Book: *The Zanzibar Chest* by Aidan Hartley – a haunting account of life as an African correspondent.

Economist: Hernando de Soto – a compassionate capitalist!





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LINDSAY MCDONALD

PHYSICS

Chronicle: What originally got you interested in physics?

Dr McDonald: I came from an engineering background, so I was always interested to see how things worked. Physics gives you the tools to figure out how things happen. The more I have learnt, the more it has fascinated me and the more I have realised how little I know.

Could you tell us a little about what you worked on before coming to KES?

For a few years after I did my degree I worked in industry, for companies like IBM and AP Lockheed, who made small components for the automotive industry. After that I did a PhD on Mechanical Clearance of Landmines, and then spent a year working as a chef on a yacht in the Caribbean before becoming a teacher. I started teaching at Highgate School, then went on to Eton College for six years.

What are your first impressions of KES?

I really like being in a day school and being able to escape at the end of the day. I also love the Common Room and working with great people. Oh yes - the boys are nice, too!

And what would you say is your favourite part of Physics?

Definitely resonance- the way things can vibrate with really large amplitudes under certain conditions. I've always thought it really fascinating the way that happened.

What, in your opinion, is the most exciting bit of research of the last ten years?

All the stuff going on at CERN in Geneva, which really is groundbreaking research. I would like to see if the Higgs Boson is discovered in the next few years. It would prove the existence of the Higgs Field and explain the difference between light and matter.

What do you like to do outside your job?

Spending time with my family; walking the dog; horse riding and swimming. But realistically most of my time is spent looking after my two small boys, who are convinced that I only go to work so that they can have more Power Rangers!

FAVOURITES

Particle: The "Charm" quark
Space Agency: NASA

GEMMA POWELL

ENGLISH

Chronicle: Could you tell us a little bit about your life up to date?

Ms Powell: I am originally from Cornwall and, like any child from a small place, I was desperate to escape to somewhere large and exciting: so I went to Queen Mary College, University of London to study Drama and English. Getting there was a real eye opener for me. I was suddenly exposed to completely new streams of literatures, which is where my passion for writing springs from; I was like a kid in a sweet shop, completely spoilt for choice! After university I decided that teaching was the right path so, after completing my PGCE in English and Drama, I taught in a girls' grammar school in Buckinghamshire. After spending two years in an obedient and calm atmosphere, I felt the need to develop my classroom management skills. So I moved to Great Barr Comprehensive in North Birmingham. Two years later opportunity called, and I returned to London to complete a Masters in Caribbean Literature. Following this, I applied to do a PhD on Caribbean Poetics: my thesis, although still incomplete, is not abandoned. And so, after teaching at Solihull School, I arrived at KES.

What have been your impressions of KES so far?

So far, I have loved my time at KES. In particular, I have been pleasantly surprised by how many boys, particularly in the younger years, are such avid readers. They frequently run up to me in the corridor to tell me about their latest book, which is part of the reason why I have set up the 'Book Worms' club. The school environment is lovely, and all the staff and pupils are so relaxed, supportive and committed. I really feel that I have settled in well.

How did your avid interest in drama arise?

Even as a child I was heavily involved in children's theatre groups, and I also studied Drama as a GCSE subject. In the Drama parts of my degree course, I learnt a lot about the more technical aspects of production and direction. This is why I love teaching in a school like KES, since you have the opportunity of taking part in so much extracurricular drama.

Who is your favourite economist, and why?

As a 'bookworm' myself, I have a real passion for reading; in particular Toni Morrison and Kamau Braithwaite. Gothic literature also interests me, though I have never been big on the Nineteenth Century classics, with all their weighty tones! Outside of my literary world, I am somewhat of an exercise fanatic: I love to do aerobics and swimming in particular. I love anything outward bound, in particularly anything to do with water. Socialising as well is at the top of the list.

However, currently, I am living in somewhat of a DIY hell, so that has taken over much of my time!

FAVOURITES

Book: *Cereus Blooms at Night*, by Shani Mootoo

Film: tricky one, but it has to be *Grease* (which is slightly embarrassing!).

TV programme: a good sitcom! Ridiculous and escapist programmes like *Hustle*, or *The Simpsons*! I also love *Gavin and Stacey* – really well written material.

Food: my Auntie Val's Cornish Pasties, and only Ben and Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Ice-cream (there is no substitute!).

Sports: given my appalling hand-eye coordination and loathing for being shouted at, I am not really a team sportsman. So I tend to go for individual sports, like running or aerobics, where I am the only person to yell at myself!

Music: I enjoy listening to Motown. Being a child of the 80s I love a bit of rubbish pop and as a student of the 90s I think you can't beat a bit of Indie.

Travel: I haven't even begun to scratch the surface of where I would like to go yet! My most memorable trips have been to America, Argentina, Mexico and Norway. In the future, I would love to explore Africa.



CHRIS STEARN GEOGRAPHY

Chronicle: What were your first impressions of KES?

Mr Stearn: The boys (and staff) are extremely pleasant and welcoming. The boys are obviously very academic but are nevertheless well rounded and everyone seems to have a second string to his bow.

Can you tell us a little bit about your life before you came to KES?

As a sixth former I attended Bedford School, having moved from a local comprehensive. This was quite a big move as the focus of the school was very different. Perhaps this provides me with a good overview of both ends of the educational spectrum, having experienced both myself. After A-Levels I took a gap year, playing cricket in Australia. I read Geography at Worcester College, Oxford, which was in fact my first experience of KES, since many of my peers were KES boys. I rejected the pull of the City and studied for a Masters in Polar Studies at Cambridge University for a year (perhaps a bold step for an Oxford University sportsman!).

I applied for a teaching training course but was offered an opportunity, with my undergraduate tutor back at Oxford, to study for a DPhil, which included fieldwork in the Namib Desert for a month and on the Antarctic Peninsula for a summer season. Both of these were truly awe-inspiring experiences; the sand seas of Namibia, the ice cliffs of Adelaide Island, the myriad of wildlife only normally seen in captivity. Unfortunately I could not complete this phase of study as finances became tight, so I took an opportunity to return to Bedford School as a geography teacher, where I remained for 4 years until moving to KES.

What were your reasons for wanting to be a teacher?

I felt that teaching would be an extremely rewarding profession. I like working with people and I think that there is nothing better than helping students and seeing them develop. It is a nice feeling when lads that I lived in a boarding house with at Bedford catch up with me on Facebook and tell me how they are doing. It is nice to know that they appreciate what you have done.

Being a geography teacher, do you have any favourite landscapes?

I have been to Antarctica, which is truly stunning; there has been very little tourism there and the act of living, even if it is on a ship, close to the Antarctic Peninsula for 3 months in a small community is brilliant. I've done some wonderful things there as well, such as climbing ice crevasses and learning to snowboard in some of my 'down' time. The Namib Desert, again, was strange in some ways: it was far more solitary and empty than Antarctica. Some of the desert landscapes there are



extraordinary. But one of my favourite places of all is the Oxford University Parks, which people don't expect to match up to the Namib Desert and Antarctica. However, having played Oxford University Cricket there, including the Varsity match against Cambridge, that is quite a special place for me. There aren't many grounds more beautiful, and it's a place full of history, with many famous names on the team boards; my name is now there, alongside the likes of Imran Khan, MJK Smith and our very own Chief Master!

What are your interests outside school?

I love sport and have played a lot of cricket in the past. Having just moved into the area, I am playing for Leamington Cricket Club. I also played hockey and football at university, but will happily watch anything competitive on TV. Much of my spare time is now taken up renovating the thatched cottage in which I live.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

At some point in the future I see myself as a Head of Department somewhere in a good independent school, and perhaps even beyond. However, these things change as life develops. Career decisions also have to fit with family requirements.

FAVOURITES

Book: *Lord of the Rings*

Film: *Zulu, Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, Gladiator*

Place: Oxford University Parks.

Food/Drink: A bottle of port, good cheese, homemade wine

Sport: Cricket, Hockey

Geographical Subject: Extreme Arid Environments. Rock weathering

JAMIE TAYLOR

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Chronicle: What led you to coming and working at KES?

Mr Taylor: I left university a couple of years ago and I saw a position had opened up here. I spoke to Mr Johnson, who I'd known before because he'd taught me in my later years in school. I ended up coming along to what I thought would only be a year here before moving on to something else. I fell in love with the school, fell in love with everything about it; so when, at the end of the year, the Chief Master offered me the opportunity to stay on and become a fulltime PE teacher, I bit his hand off. I have a degree in History from Birmingham, and you might think that studying History and then transferring over to PE is a bit strange; but my first love has always been sport. I still love History, though: watch this space for what happens next year with that.

Do you get the chance to play much sport yourself?

As part of my terms for getting the job last year, I had to relinquish playing for a team on a Saturday so now I'm at KES every Saturday. Over the last few years I've played for a number of different rugby teams. I spent a season at Moseley, and then spent two years at Nuneaton, who were a national league side. I played both hooker and prop.

Do you think the KES 1st XV has a good chance this season?

I think they've always got a good chance. Any 1st team has always got a good chance; but the success of a season very often depends on the amount of effort and dedication that the boys are willing to put in. We'll see over the coming weeks and months whether that will come to fruition. The tour will be a major advantage for them.

What do you think of the school as a whole, and of Birmingham?

I love this school. I never considered that I would be a teacher: I never thought I would fit the profession. But this school has really opened my eyes to what a wonderful profession it is and I love coming to work in the morning. I don't think I could imagine myself doing another job now. And Birmingham? Having lived here for the majority of my life I can't say it's particularly exciting, but it's my home.

Everyone's been getting very excited about your military experience. Could you tell Chronicle a bit more about that?

When I left school my first thought was that I wanted to join the Army. I gained an Army scholarship at university but then, gradually, as I went through university, rugby got in the way and reduced the amount of time I could put into the officer training. As a result I dropped out and lost the scholarship.

FAVOURITES

Sport: Rugby

TV Programme: *The West Wing*, *The Sopranos*

Book: I thought long and hard about this but I think Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*.

Music artist: Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones

Rugby Team: Northampton



JESSICA TSIOPANI

CHEMISTRY

Chronicle: Tell us a bit about yourself and your life before KES.

Dr Tsiopani: I was born and bred in Bristol and spent my academic years at Bristol University, studying Chemistry before undertaking a PhD in Physical Chemistry studying diesel additives. I thoroughly enjoyed the research part and the opportunities to travelling to different countries for conferences. I have worked in a boarding school, teaching Reception and infant girls, but that was pretty hardcore and left my head spinning! More recently, before coming to KES, I worked in Bahrain for 2 years in an international school. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there: it was my first taste of full-time teaching. The days started early but we were finished by 2.30pm, so I was free to lounge by the pool whilst marking and planning lessons! I came back to the UK for two reasons: firstly, to get away from Bahrain's extremes of wealth and poverty and its bland geography, and, secondly, to follow my heart.

Did you always want to become a teacher or was it something that came about as a eureka moment?

Since I was young I have always wanted to be a teacher or a mother: I seem to have that nurturing characteristic in me. I remember setting my brother and sister maths and science work in the holidays, marking and grading it! Sad I know, but even at an early age I enjoyed it. Maybe it's the power?

What made you choose KES? Was it the hardworking, conscientious pupils?

I had only heard good things about KES. In Bahrain I only had the internet as my guide but, funnily enough, a fellow teacher out there has a nephew in the school so I could get the nitty gritty from her! I came back to the UK during a Christmas break for my first sight of the school and to meet the Chief and my Head of Department. Snow was falling and I have to admit the grounds and the whole experience reminded me of

Hogwarts! The best aspect of the school is the diversity of cultures here, which attracted me since I was teaching at an international school, and the richness of the education. I want to be teaching well-rounded individuals, not academic robots.

A lot of people, when they think of Chemistry, think of explosions and loud bangs: do you have a favourite chemical reaction? If so, why do you like it?

Unfortunately, as my students will tell you, I don't like loud bangs or explosions, so my favourite reaction would not involve any of those! Tricky question... probably my most memorable one would be the Alkali metals and water experiment, or flame tests: I was terrified demonstrating these to a class the first time round, but they get the best reaction. I also enjoyed the "burning money" demo I did at the Open Day: the uncertainty of not knowing whether I would destroy a prospective student's parent's money was a bit of a buzz!

How do you spend your time out of school?

I enjoy running and working out at the gym as it gives me a time when I can free my mind and not think about all the stresses of life, such as what I need to plan, mark and write for my next lessons. I also love cooking and could happily while away a few good hours wandering about the supermarkets thinking about what I can throw together to create a gourmet extravaganza! After two years in the Middle East, I enjoy travelling in Britain and appreciating what beautiful countryside we have within close proximity. I enjoy music, and have been thoroughly impressed with the quality of singers and musicians in KES.

Finally, what are the origins of your surname?

Tsiopani (no, I am not related to John Tsopanis) is Greek Cypriot in origin: it means shepherd.

FAVOURITES

Book: *Shantaram* by G. D. Roberts as it reminds me of my trip to India. Also, *His Bright Light* by D. Steele, about her son's losing struggle with bipolar disorder.
Film: *The Goonies* was my favourite childhood film; *Music and Lyrics* is my girly film and *The Shawshank Redemption* is outstanding.

TV series: I like cooking programmes, such as *Saturday Kitchen Live* and *Come Dine with Me*, and wildlife documentaries.

Sport: I enjoy running and playing badminton; but I love watching football, tennis and snooker.

Food: Lots of fruit and vegetables. I love cooking authentic Chinese food.

Music: Al Green; The XX; Seth Lakeman; Vampire Weekend; Take That. I enjoy Alternative/Indie or folk singers; the best gig I have been to was probably Damien Rice (although Tom Jones and Rod Stewart are close runners up and Take That at the O2 arena were amazing!)





TOM WAREING CLASSICS

Chronicle: Can you tell us about your life before coming to KES?

Mr Wareing: I grew up in North Yorkshire before going off to university in Oxford for four years. I went on to a PGCE at King's College London, involving spells of teaching practice at schools in Kent and Essex, before coming to KES.

What about Classics in particular interested you?

I think it's amazing that people wrote things two thousand years ago which are still worth reading today. Latin and Greek literature gives us an insight into the way people thought about themselves and the world they lived in, which was in many ways very different to ours. Surprisingly though, they were, in many respects, remarkably similar to us. I also have a perverse love for reciting verb endings.

Many would argue that there is no point in studying a 'dead language': why do you think Classics is an important and worthwhile subject to study today?

"There's no such thing as dead languages. Only dormant minds," to quote Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

What inspired you to go into teaching, and what else, if anything, would you most like to do in your working life?

I find Classics fascinating and hope to help others to do the same. I'd quite like to be an astronaut, but I'm afraid it's an impossible dream.

What has been the most challenging situation you have faced in your teaching career?

Getting out of bed in the morning in the last week of the Christmas term.

What have you thought of KES so far?

KES is a great place to be. The staff are friendly, the boys are bright and everyone has a sense of humour.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I can amuse myself for hours with a guitar or a synthesizer. I follow football (the red team from Merseyside) religiously, and I'm also getting into cycling.

FAVOURITES

Book: *The Aeneid* professionally, but personally *Decline and Fall* by Evelyn Waugh

Film: *Withnail and I*

TV series: *Spaced*

Sport: Football

Food: I'll try anything twice- as long as it isn't bacon

Music: *The Quantic Soul Orchestra*

GOODBYES

ROB SYMONDS CHEMISTRY

Rob Symonds is a representative of that generation of King Edward's schoolmasters who replaced the "geriatrics" in the early 70s and worked under six Chief Masters, serving several life sentences first at the blackboard, then at the whiteboard and finally at the interactive whiteboard. During his 38 years at King Edward's, Rob was an exceptional member of the (Science) Common Room: he achieved a lot with a totally unassuming manner. Generations of Old Edwardians have thanked him, and will thank him in the future, for his patience and understanding in helping them to attain excellent examination grades.

After obtaining a degree in Chemistry at Nottingham University, Rob did a PGCE course before applying for a permanent teaching post. He was not put off by his job interviews at King Edward's, which comprised a half hour monologue from the Chief Master, Ronald Lunt, followed by what he claims to be the most excruciating 30 minutes he has ever experienced; an interview by the Heads of Science and Chemistry. Rob thought that they were engaged in some experiment, since they said almost nothing and asked very few questions. Fortunately Rob filled in the periods of silence and did not reveal any devastating personality flaws (although this probably would not have mattered); he was offered a position as Assistant Master of Chemistry.

Joining a relatively old Common Room Rob had ample opportunity to invigorate the teaching within the Chemistry department. Unfortunately not everything went to plan. An example of this is Rob's early demonstration of the preparation of chlorine to an Upper Middle form. The apparatus was set out on the front bench – no fume cupboard, no safety screen and

no safety spectacles in those days– with the Upper Middles gathered round expectantly; Rob poured the concentrated hydrochloric acid onto the potassium permanganate crystals. No gas was produced. More acid was added, to no result. A few seconds later there was an explosion, which left no apparatus visible on the bench and 25 Upper Middles sitting motionless in a state of complete shock. No boy was injured, as everything had shot upwards and landed behind them. By mistake the technicians had put out concentrated sulphuric acid and Rob had not read the label. Perhaps because of this experience, Rob was actively involved in the formation and subsequent running of the school's Safety Committee.

His lessons were rarely this dangerous, and he has always had the ability to communicate in a lively, informed and yet very straight-forward manner at a level appropriate to the boys concerned. Many of the practicals performed by boys in the Chemistry department are based on worksheets produced by Rob, so he leaves a lasting legacy for future generations of Edwardians. In those days the worksheets were produced on a Banda spirit duplicator and Rob is proud that, soon after he started at King Edward's, he was made Head of Banda (possibly as a result of his outstanding job interview with the Head of Science). This was one of the most powerful positions within the school, as he was the only person who could issue the supplies necessary to run the machine. However, his taste of power was short lived, owing to the advent of the computer and the photocopier.

But the computer allowed Rob to further advance his, and the Department's and the school's, teaching. He first wrote programmes (some for the French department) and then worksheets, developed data-logging experiments and latterly white-board applications to enhance teaching. He was also one of the pioneers who helped other schools to start using computers.

In early days Rob helped with the School Scouts and for many years he was in charge of the minibuses, a position he took because he hoped he would thus regain the supremacy he had had when in charge of the Banda. This was not to be, although he was instrumental in landing a member of the Common Room, who had been driving the minibus, in court, when the driver misjudged the vehicle's width while driving down a narrow street and took the wing mirrors off an entire row of parked cars. It goes without saying that the fact that the minibuses were always available and in good working order was in no small part due to the time that Rob spent making sure they were taxed, insured, MOTed, fuelled and clean. He has often acted as the driver for school trips when transport is required to airports, Land's End and John O'Groats.

As time passed Rob became part of the school and helped maintain its traditions of weirdism and tolerance: driving an Austin Seven into the school



building and subsequently driving it from John O'Groats to Land's End for the Cot Fund"; allowing a group of Divisions to travel to as many London Underground stations as possible in four hours without supervision and before the advent of the mobile telephone; being physically assaulted by at least two teachers and then forgiving them; using the F-word to a Chief Master after he had taken Rob's piece of cake during Break; and, on that Chief Master's last day in office, graciously receiving a gift of cake from him.

For over 20 years Rob has helped with the Personal Service Group (PSG) first as a driver, then as the organiser and latterly as the co-ordinator of the Chandos project. Many generations of boys have benefitted from looking after old ladies, teaching in primary school and teaching science to primary school children. Many boys have continued such charitable work after leaving school, and many Medics are grateful to Rob for giving them the opportunity to tick the necessary boxes on their UCAS forms.

He was offered promotion outside King Edward's but decided that what he enjoyed most was teaching in the classroom and being part of a very strong team – the Chemistry Department. When younger, inexperienced Heads of Chemistry arrived, he guided them through their first few years: indeed, one of them was given an ultimatum by Rob: "If you are not up to scratch as Head of Department at the end of your first year I am leaving". His guidance during that year was such that the Head of Department cut the mustard and he stayed.

But for all the vast amount of time and effort which Rob spent outside the classroom, he will be principally remembered for what he did inside the Elementary Chemistry Laboratory (ECL). Here he had his form periods, where he discussed everything and anything with the members of his forms and House Tutor groups. He got to know his pupils extremely well and thus was able to stretch them so that they never under-achieved. He quickly won their respect, and there was many a time when, after a letter from a parent which asked for Rob to be the son's Chemistry teacher, a reply from the school had to be drafted explaining that because of the relatively small size of the ECL the number of boys in his classes had to be limited.

Rob leaves a Chemistry Department which is much stronger academically than when he entered it and that in no small part is due to his work. But Rob is not leaving the campus: rather he is crossing the great divide (The Drive) to teach Chemistry at KEHS – for another 38 years?



PAT FORD DINING HALL

It is with great sorrow that we have to record the death, during 2011, of Pat Ford, who has been for many of us the heart and soul of the Dining Hall for years. The three phrases that I would use to describe her would probably be the same as those chosen by many other people who knew her: loving, generous and the mother of the Dining Hall. Every boy who stepped into the Dining Hall, whether it was for breakfast or for lunch, would be greeted with the loveliest of smiles. I believe that Pat's philosophy of life was to give a smile to everyone and to bring out the best in all. Simply knowing her made you a better person and I feel extremely privileged to have done so. Members of the school, past and present, are often reminded of Pat whenever they walk into the Dining Hall. I think it's safe to say that it will remain hers for a long time.

Ed Ratcliff

GLYNIS COOK

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

When I told Henry Coverdale that Glynis was going to have to retire because of her bad back, his reaction was one of disappointment because, as he said, "she keeps me sane"! I ignored the implication that I drive him mad, and reflected on this observation. Glynis has indeed been an island of sanity and calm when all has not necessarily been calm around her. She has been an excellent colleague: prepared to contribute ideas and resources, and to ensure that she understood exactly what was required for her students to achieve success.

We started teaching Business Studies A level in 1992; Glynis arrived one year later as a specialist. She has a degree in Business Studies, and worked for a marketing company for several years before starting a family and working part-time as a teacher. Much of the success which boys have achieved in Business Studies over the past 17 years is due to her hard work. She prepares lessons carefully, making use of a great deal of up-to-date material which she gets from scouring newspapers and their on-line archives, and marks work conscientiously with helpful comments about how the student can improve. In addition, Glynis has been prepared to spend time with individuals to help them with their understanding. The boys taking Business Studies have not always been the hardest working young men in King Edward's, but she has persevered with them all. In addition, she has taught Economics with the same dedication and success.

It is not easy to bring together all of the knowledge and understanding of business needed to answer questions about business strategy: it requires a lot of understanding of business and a certain degree of maturity. However, it is this part of the A-level course which Glynis has worked on for several years and it is to her credit that so many have achieved success in this part of the exam.

For several years, Glynis helped to run the "Challenge of Management" conference until a previous Head of Careers decided that it was not a suitable event. I am pleased to see that it has been successfully revived in recent years. More recently, Glynis has run the Young Enterprise option on Friday afternoons. This is not an easy undertaking: the help received from the Young Enterprise organisation has not been all that it should be, and not all advisers from local companies have been conscientious. However, Glynis persevered and has ensured that many boys have had the chance to run their own company, and there have been several successful products, including Teacher Top Trumps, Kesopoly, engraved whisky glasses and various football competitions. There has also been success in local Young Enterprise competitions. Several companies have been profitable and made contributions to Cot Fund.

In an academic school like King Edward's, business does not always get the recognition which it deserves. Business Studies (now Business and Management in the IB Diploma) is the academic study of business. It does not train boys to run a business but it develops a range of skills which can be useful whatever career is followed. After all, most boys will work in a business, broadly defined, after they leave school; hospitals, law firms, universities and schools are businesses as much as Tesco, Cadbury and the banks. Glynis has always stood up for the subject and for the right of boys to study the subject both at school and university.

We will miss Glynis both as a teacher and a colleague. We wish her well in retirement as she battles the pain in her back, and we trust that her medical advisers will help her to manage it successfully.

TM

Editor's Note: the above article on Mrs Cook was intended to appear in last year's Chronicle, but was accidentally omitted. We apologise to Mrs Cook and Mr Mason for this oversight.

HOSANNA STOKES

ENGLISH

Hosanna's has been an unexpectedly brief career at King Edward's, but one characterised by rapid progress: she first came to the school as a GTP trainee in September 2007, and leaves in July of 2011 as the Head of Vardy House and an experienced and well-loved Form Tutor in the Middle School.

She has involved herself in the school in many ways, not least her choreography for Hairspray and her leading of a Friday afternoon "street dance" activity for Upper Middles a while back. But her highest profile has been achieved as the imperatrix of Vardy, a House already dizzied by successive changes at the top even before her brief reign. Clearly, she will be remembered affectionately: Vardy rose from a moribund sixth place in the Cock House competition to second place during her first year at the helm. How was it done? By sheer enthusiasm, so far as I can ascertain: she got the younger members of the House excited and jingoistic ("galvanised" according to recent Vardy historian Henry Tonks), whipping them into a fervour of banner-making and participation, and communicating that House success can come out of the simple number of boys involved, even if individual contributions are not always outstanding. It is, she managed to convince the masses, taking part at all that matters. Despite the initial scepticism of seen-it-all-before Seniors, she

turned a sort of cheerful burlesque of old-fashioned competitiveness into the real thing.

A focus on engaging with and encouraging the individual boy is probably at the heart of her success as Form Tutor, as well. She is embarrassed to confess that she has "loved" being a Form Tutor, and that is no idle hyperbole. Her Fourth (and later Fifth) formers came to understand that she was genuinely interested in their welfare and their progress, that she enjoyed getting to know them, and that the chivvying and encouragement and serious talks were not going to stop once she ran out of patience. Because she didn't. This same warmth and patience have been much in evidence during her last Half Term, which she has largely spent in one-to-one tutorials with lads who are finding the English going difficult for one or another reason.

She has been a successful English teacher; a little shy and self-effacing at first, she has gained in confidence and presence as she has taken on the task of leading Senior boys to Jane Austen. Her scholarship, meticulous planning and attention to detail have been great strengths, and she has always been generous with her time and help to boys who needed it: there can be few members of the Common Room who can match the dedication of her turning up on GCSE results day to see her form, despite being already six days overdue with her son, Alexander.

It is hard to separate Hosanna's virtues as a teacher from her deeply held Christian faith, which underpins her sense of teaching as a vocation and not just a job. Her earliest innovation here was the foundation of a Bible Study group, initially for Sixth Formers but later for younger boys as well, which has run alongside the Christian Union. In the beginning this group was co-led with Jessica Putt; after Jessica's departure Hosanna carried on alone, with some help and support from Charlie Butler, a recent OE whose path had brought him back to the school for a while. Now her path leads her away from KES, for the present at least, as she devotes herself to motherhood. But she takes with her a lot of our affection and many thanks for what she has done here.

TFPH





LESLEY HORTON CHIEF MASTER'S SECRETARY

As all readers of the *Chronicle* are bound to know, the word "secretary" is derived from a Latin word to do with secrets, and Lesley could certainly do secrets. For 19 years, Lesley Horton served three, very different, Chief Masters and one thing that we all knew was that Lesley could be trusted with the most sensitive of facts and the darkest of our concerns. Lesley has seen Chief Masters in a state, in a panic, in a quandary, in the wrong, but it was inconceivable that the dreadful truth would ever get out through her. However, it wasn't just Chief Masters who benefitted from Lesley's discretion and loyalty. All other members of staff knew that their secrets were safe with her – or at least would find their way to the right ears in the right way – and that meant that Lesley became the rock on which trust was built throughout the school.

However, Lesley didn't just do secrets. She did wondrous efficiency and accuracy and calm. The very fact that, for many years, she was responsible for Admissions as well as for the Chief Master, a ridiculously Herculean combination, is a testimony to that. We all knew that Lesley would not get things wrong, from the labyrinthine complexity of Speech Day to the minutiae of A Level re-marks. But she worried endlessly about the slightest error: perhaps that's why she never made any.

Lesley also did sensitivity. Through a remarkable combination of intelligence, intuition and gentleness, Lesley could always feel the right way to deal with a problem or a parent or a member of staff, all of which were never less than urgent. In her years, Lesley will have had to make and receive more difficult calls than anyone, and yet we all knew that Lesley would get it right. And it was Lesley's sensibility that made her the key figure in the appointment of members of staff: no one had a chance if Lesley didn't take to them; we could have saved a lot of interviewing hours – and train fares – just by asking Lesley whom she liked.

Lesley also did adaptability. In 19 years, not only did Chief Masters change, but the nature of communication changed, from a world of dictated letters and organised phone calls to a land of emails and chaotically constructed electronic diaries. And yet you would never have guessed that her world had changed, so serenely did she adapt to the quirks of her charges.

Lesley also did pride: not pride in herself, but pride in doing a good job; pride in the school, a sense that this was a great school and that she had to do her best to ensure that this is what people felt about the place. And she was right to take seriously what she did, because for all of those years she was, time and again, the face and the voice of this school.

However, in the end, Lesley did humanity. She is a very private person, deeply but quietly attached to her family and to her work with Childline, but, in that quiet way of hers, she cared deeply for the whole community of the school. That was obvious from her very moving, if reluctant, words on her final day. Everyone in the school community cared as much about her as she did about them and I know that there are three Chief Masters who could not have coped without her.

CM

DR MICHAEL DANIEL
HEAD OF PHYSICS

Michael arrived at KES in 1997 with a CV which reads like a roll call of centres of academic excellence: after a childhood in Cyprus he went to UCL, then on to Oxford, Hamburg, Paris, CERN, Southampton and finally the Appleton Laboratories. At this point he chose to become a teacher, holding appointments at King's School Canterbury and St Paul's Girls' School in London before reaching KES via another period in a university, this time Cambridge. Many years later, I learned that, at his interview for the job here, those interviewing him stopped taking notes half way through: it was clear he was the person that they wanted.

Michael is a quiet, patient and modest man - we have been very lucky to have him leading the Department, as Physics teachers are a disparate group and his tactful approach quickly earned the Department's respect. It quickly became clear that here was a man who would always be able to answer those very tricky questions that we are asked by pupils, particularly if said question involved particle physics or cosmology, areas in which we were sometimes at a loss for a plausible answer. To respect for the breadth of his learning and the depth of his knowledge was soon added a genuine affection; it was evident that the Senior boys whom Michael taught also had a great fondness for him.

Michael was, however, much more than a Physics teacher. Probably many boys first came across him through his thoughtful assemblies or his challenging talks examining subjects such as the links between science and religion, presentations in which he displayed his deep Christian faith. It was always a treat to have the chance to talk to Michael about current affairs, particularly financial matters: having grown up in Cyprus in the early 1960's, he knew what it was like to live in a country in which the troops of a foreign power are stationed, giving him an insight into aspects of modern conflicts in places like Afghanistan. There is also a lighter side to Michael, as he has a lovely sense of humour; he greatly appreciated the self-deprecating wit of his adopted country.

It is not only at KES that he is held in high regard. A few years ago the eminent physicist Dr Michio Kaku was due to give one talk in Birmingham as part of a brief tour of the UK, but a call to his personal secretary from Michael resulted in Dr Kaku finding the time to visit KES and delivering one of the most electrifying talks many of us have ever attended. Even after Michael had announced his retirement, he was approached by Harrow School and asked to lead the Physics Department at a school they are setting up in Hong Kong, where one of Michael's sons lives. Hence we wish Michael and Maria an enjoyable interlude of retirement in Cyprus before he moves out East.

DCD



An abstract, intricate drawing in a vibrant blue color on a dark, textured background. The drawing consists of numerous overlapping, swirling, and intersecting lines that form a complex, organic shape, resembling a stylized flower or a dense, tangled web. The lines vary in thickness and density, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is centered, with the word 'FEATURES' overlaid in the middle.

FEATURES

A REACTION TO HAMLET, II.2

I wait behind the curtain
No light behind me, it add to the mood
My own small halfway house –
Wooden flooring topped with cardboard boxes
A place of judgement, thus of freedom
Audience can't see me, left in suspense,
Ready to take themselves out of this world
And into mine, wherever that may be.

I haven't seen the director for a while now.
Maybe he's forgotten me but he has the duty
Of telling me who to be – now that
I recall it, where has he gone to?
Stereotypes – the action man, the damsel,
The wise old man, the happy ending –
They draw him in, they are easy to follow
Not me though, and ten seconds before the show,
I am lost for a place to sleep.

I like to think I'm versatile, I can
Be the father, the son, the lover,
The friend, the artist, the victim –
The inspiration and the inspired.
As a group, a mix-up, I'm not a hero,
Even when I must smile and pretend.

The curtain, the morning front door
Will open, and later, later,
When I walk out of this place,
Maybe I'll see your eyes
Whoever you may be and I'll act
The part you expect, the expected part
And it makes me sad that neither of us
Will ever remove this man from the act.

Adam D'Aubney

HAMLET.

Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* takes up the story of Agamemnon, King of Argos, as he returns home after the fall of Troy. His wife has planned revenge on him because he sacrificed their daughter to earn the favour of the gods for his war aims, and the play details the events leading up to the death of the king.

Seeing this play performed in Cambridge in the original Greek was an experience quite different to other theatre trips. The entire Greek set (of 4, comprising 30% of those in the world doing IB Greek) jumped at the chance to see one of the plays that we are studying actually dramatized.

Although difficult to follow in places, the production was true to the Greek style, including a mildly scary Chorus and masked actors. A few of us were even lucky enough to get a tour of the Cambridge Classics Museum led by the crack team of Messrs Evans, Corns, Worthington and Lambie.

Ben Fernando



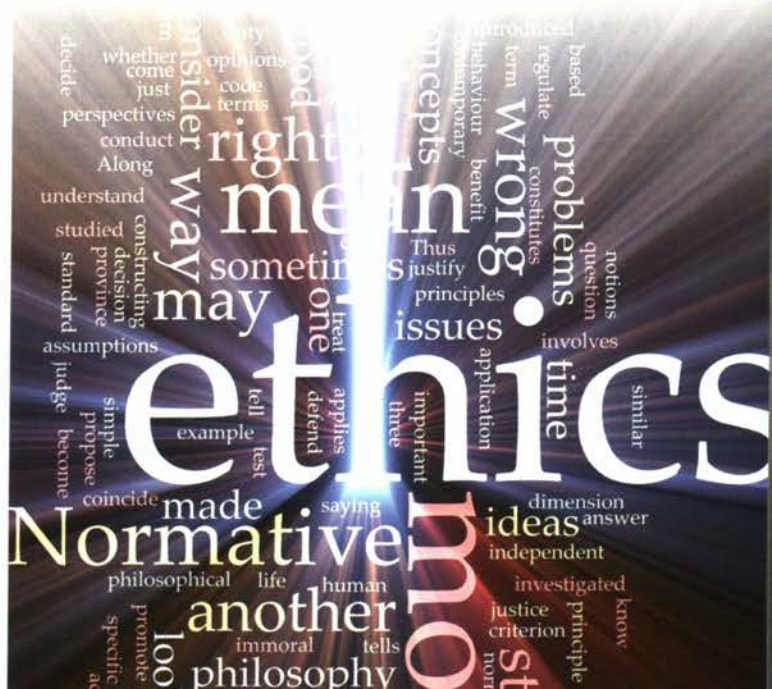
The idea of attending our first philosophy conference was one that many of us relished, even if it was advertised as being for A-level students!

Dr Peter Vardy, renowned philosopher and author, managed to pack several thousand years of philosophy into three hours, and did us the courtesy of providing the lecture notes as well. The group simply sat there, enthralled, listening to a crash course in most of the western world's major philosophers. This was extremely useful for gaining the breadth needed to tackle IB philosophy successfully. After lunch came Dr Bowie, a speaker on medical ethics whom many of the potential medics in the crowd were eager to hear. Unfortunately he was somewhat less enthralling than Dr Vardy, and Rev Raynor took the opportunity to rest his eyes.

The afternoon culminated in an open debate on whether assisted suicide (as opposed to euthanasia) should be allowed. Although many were reluctant to speak in front of a crowd of several hundred, Frank Lawton and George Adams earned rapturous applause from the KES (and KEHS) contingent by dismantling some of the rather strange propositions and arguments that were put forward.

Our heads in the philosophical clouds, we got somewhat lost on the way back to the bus, and the English clouds took the opportunity to rain. Nonetheless, the long walk gave rise to a heated debate on the bus, unsurprisingly chaired by Mr Lawton. This trip may have the distinction of being the only school trip in which the bus journey was as productive as the destination: arguments were flying across the aisle all the way back to school. Rev Raynor took the opportunity to rest his eyes again.

Ben Fernando



MATHS INSPIRATION

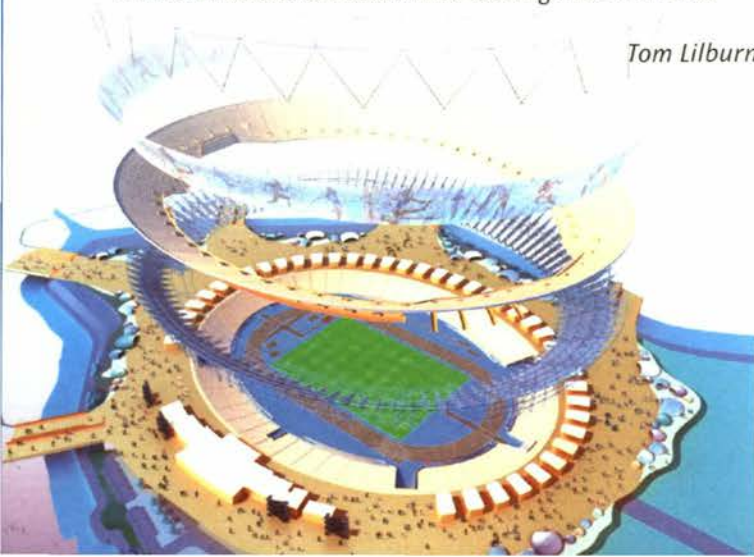
The Maths Inspiration Conference this year consisted of three talks, which were given by people who use mathematics daily in their respective professions.

Paul Shepherd, a Research Fellow in the Architecture and Civil Engineering Department at Bath University, explained 'How Maths Built the Olympic Stadium'. He explained to us the use of mathematics in designing a strong structure, also looking at how vibrations of certain frequencies can affect structures, illustrated with an alarming video of an entire football stand rocking due to fans jumping at a specific frequency.

Richard Lissaman, Deputy Programme Leader of the Further Mathematics Support Programme, gave the second talk. Its title was 'From Google to Gaming,' and discussed the varied uses of mathematics in the computer industry. Firstly he spoke about Google's success being down to its ability to quickly identify the most useful websites, and the system it uses being entirely mathematical, based on simultaneous equations. The second part of the talk looked at the use of mathematics in computer games: thousands of calculations are involved, using triangles and vectors, for every game produced, and it was certainly surprising to learn how much maths goes into a game of COD 5. The most controversial moment of the day was doubtless the conclusion, that the PS3 was a better console than the Xbox 360!

'The Maths of Juggling' was the final talk, given by Dr Colin Wright, graduate of Monash University, Melbourne, who in addition to his juggling skills boasts the ability to breath fire and perform on a unicycle. Mr Wright's amusing, heavily self-deprecating talk looked at mathematical patterns in certain juggling routines he performs, whilst explaining how his examination of these patterns led to him discovering a routine entirely new to the juggling world. He also introduced to us the concept of an 'anti-ball', whatever that may be, and continued along this tangent (no pun intended). None of us was quite sure how jokingly the digressions onto Mr Wright's social life were meant to be taken, but everyone seemed to enjoy and learn from the talk, though it did nothing to alleviate the impression that mathematicians are somewhat lacking in social lives.

Tom Lilburn



DEBATING

Most *Chronicle* articles ought to be prefixed with an admission that, in the search for an inspired opening sentence or two, the reporter has turned to previous editions of this very publication. In my moment of need I could not find that trusty reference; thankfully, a successful season makes writing the report considerably easier.

The greatest success to be reported is the performance of Frank Lawton and Henry Tonks in the ESU's Schools Mace. Supported by Andrew Macarthur in the first round of this competition, the pair progressed through various regional rounds, and while other teams were pushed out, Frank and Henry's highly effective style and incisive argumentation were rewarded with a place in the Mayfair Final. Rivals old and new gathered and King Edward's came within a split judging decision of being crowned champions in this competition for the first time since 1999. At the prestigious event, both debaters gave speeches of the highest order (opposing the motion "This house believes that Europe must now abandon nuclear power in favour of renewable energy") and were exceedingly unlucky to have missed out on overall victory.

Frank Lawton and Andrew Macarthur also qualified for and competed in the Finals Day of the Oxford Union (British Parliamentary) competition, finishing 44th overall out of some 700 entering teams. This pairing had already won the competition held by the University of Birmingham in a convincing manner, defeating another KES pair (Shankho Chaudhuri and Mundeve Wouhra) in the final. Strength throughout our four teams was demonstrated when all finished in the top 8; the success of Charlie Wall and Patrick Wernham (the youngest

team in the competition, who amazed all with their precociously high standard) is particularly noteworthy.

Another highlight of the year was a return to Durham, where we had hoped to build on success in the novice final last year. Though results did not turn out as planned, the weekend was nonetheless a hugely enjoyable one and Mr Stacey must but be thanked for his efforts here and throughout the entire season.

Turning finally to a newer item on the circuit, Ashkaan Golestani and Alan Li made good headway in the early stages of the ESU's Public Speaking Competition, winning the Birmingham Cup and picking up individual awards on the way. Great thanks for this success to Mrs Atay, our new Junior Debating coach who has done so much for junior speakers this year, with help in this tournament also from Mr Fern.

Looking forward, we must hope that this season marks a turning point in the recent history of KES debating, with more success to come – Frank and Henry have certainly shown the way.

Andrew McArthur

ESU: SCHOOLS' MACE NATIONAL FINAL

Senior Debating pair Henry Tonks and Frank Lawton gave a sophisticated and commanding performance at the final of the Schools' Mace competition on the auspicious date of April 1st just before the Easter break. The competition was held at Dartmouth House, Mayfair, London - home to the English Speaking Union. The prestigious address, with its impressive building, certainly added to the sense of occasion and the anticipation felt by both KES senior debaters and their supporting staff and pupils.

Frank and Henry had battled their way through to this National Final to become one of just six pairs left from over six hundred schools' entries. They squared off against Jo Frost and Oscar Gibbon from King Edward VI Church of England Voluntary Controlled Upper School who were proposing *This House believes that*



Europe must now abandon nuclear power in favour of renewable energy. Henry and Frank did a magnificent job in convincingly opposing a motion that might have seemed unopposable, given that Japan had just suffered from catastrophic nuclear plant failure. Not so! They spoke with skilled rhetoric, exquisite tactics and good humour, all underpinned by rock solid statistics and an unflagging knowledge base. There was little doubt they had won their debate; but had they won the evening?

Waiting for the judges' decision was nerve wracking; a split decision threatened to extend the evening considerably as the judges argued it out amongst themselves. Ultimately it seems that April fools won out, and the title was awarded to St Paul's School – whose team were as surprised as the rest of the audience and participants! Certainly Henry, Frank and coach Simon Stacey had the satisfaction of knowing that their superb performance is on record on the ESU website for all to see. If you wish to judge for yourselves who should have won the Mace Final go to: <http://www.esu.org/schoolsmace/> and watch all three debates. I rest my case!

FMA





THE EXPEDITION TO CERN

In the last week of August 2011 three intrepid Physicists, Roger Leyser, Tom Hubscher and Umaer Afzal, got the amazing opportunity to spend the week at CERN to experience first hand the work that is being undertaken at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). They were invited to attend a series of Master classes and Workshops by the University of Liverpool's Head of Particle Physics, Prof Themis Bowcock (an Old Edwardian himself). Three students from Dulwich College, and their teacher, joined us.

Themis collected us from Geneva airport at 10 p.m. and took us to our accommodation by way of the only eating establishment open at that time on a Sunday, Dominos Pizza. Well rested, we walked to CERN the next morning ready to start our week long Particle Adventure.

After a cup of coffee, we had a lecture on aspects of the fundamental nature of matter and the research that is being undertaken at CERN. After another cup of coffee, we set out on a tour of the site. We saw the LHCb site, where the Liverpool contingent do most of their work; took a virtual interactive tour of the visitor centre; saw the workings of Atlas; and were given a valuable insight to the IT department of CERN. Housing a piece of scientific equipment 27 km in length, the site involves rather large distances; but luckily Themis had arranged transport for us.

In the afternoon the boys would undertake workshops manipulating various data that had been detected at the LHCb. They gained the skills and knowledge to predict a whole range of different fundamental particles and even wrote their own programmes to narrow down various data sets. There would always be a mid afternoon break, and we soon discovered that most of the valuable work was done over coffee. Discussions about the fundamental nature of matter were commonplace accompaniment to the medicinal cups of coffee needed to prevent those all-important caffeine levels from dropping.

In the evening the group as a whole escaped via the wonderful new tram system into Geneva for food, bowling or site seeing. One of the biggest challenges was to try and find the cheapest evening meal possible. With a Big Mac and fries being £14 we were up against it – but I think we rose to the challenge admirably. On the final day there was a research and presentation exercise about various aspects of CERN. The boys had to create a model to enhance their talks, and not rely on PowerPoint. This created the biggest hurdle but it did permit imagination to run wild and creativity to flow, resulting in some interesting displays!

Overall, the whole trip was one of the best I have ever experienced. We all learnt a considerable amount and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. I, for one, cannot wait to take another group of three lucky boys next year.

LCM



TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP: THE CERN TRIP

After the success of my visit last year to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, I decided to apply for an extended two-week period of work experience with the LHC this year. I hoped to fund this adventure, at least in part, by applying for a Travel Scholarship. Both applications succeeded, so I spent two weeks this summer in Geneva learning more about the operation of the most complicated machine ever built – the 27 kilometre long LHC.

The LHC is the world's largest physics laboratory, using superconducting magnets chilled to 1.2 degrees Kelvin (the lowest temperature anywhere in the universe) to accelerate protons and lead nuclei to 99.999% of the speed of light and then collide them together. The hope is that this research, involving well over 10,000 onsite personnel, will help to answer some of the fundamental questions about the universe, such as how many dimensions there are in total (definitely not three. Possibly four; perhaps more...), why particles have mass, and to what extent nature obeys symmetry.

Needless to say, the grounding of this research is mathematical, so my first week involved some rather tricky mathematics. I was set the task of 'solving the quantum harmonic oscillator', something of which I had never even heard before. After ploughing through pages of strange symbols and odd looking letters I apparently arrived at the answer, though I'm not quite sure how. However, this heavy mathematics was punctuated by pleasant and frequent trips to the restaurant for coffee, on average every two hours.

During the second week I was set the task of looking at how particles known as 'axions' might be detected inside the LHC. These particles are especially important because they can be used to explain something known as CP violation, a phenomenon whereby antimatter and matter behave differently to each other quite unexpectedly. Unfortunately an investigation into these axions revealed that the only way they can be



convinced to interact with normal matter, and thus detected, is with a strong magnetic field. Although the LHC has some of the strongest magnets in the world, the signal from these axions would not be obvious inside the detector.

However, physicists are always looking for ways to detect things that shouldn't really be visible. I read that, by adding a new symmetry (known as supersymmetry, for which I should point out, there is no experimental evidence), it is possible to make these axions detectable inside the LHC. Unfortunately searches of the data for axion signals has yielded nothing.

This year's trip to CERN was perhaps even more interesting than last year's. I have to express my thanks to the Liverpool University Collaboration on LHCb, especially Professor Themis Bowcock, who supervised my placement.

Ben Fernando





REMOVES AT THE LEICESTER SPACE CENTRE

This year, the Physics Department took the whole of the Remove Year to The Leicester Space Centre on 6th July. We travelled to Leicester in three coaches: on arrival, the boys were divided into four groups, each with its own specific programme: the itinerary included viewing all the facilities; a workshop on programming a Mars Rover; making rockets and launching them; and an interactive viewing in the planetarium. One of the great aspects of the Centre is the lift that takes you up alongside two rockets which tower over the restaurant as high as the 5th floor. On each floor there is a history of one stage of the space race, culminating with man on the moon and a prized piece of moon rock.

All had a great day and the boys were a credit to the school. They all learnt a great deal about the exploration of planets and the moon, along with how the developments made to aid space travel have influenced our everyday lives. The staff members also enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year already.

LCM



SENIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE

During the last week of the academic year, whilst everyone else was winding down, I was in Cambridge on the Senior Physics Challenge Residential Summer School – an initiative run by the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge and supported by the Ogden Trust, an organisation set up to maximise the opportunities for young people wishing to study Physics. After an arduous selection process, I arrived in Cambridge on the afternoon of July 3rd with expectations high: the week did not fail to deliver.

There were over sixty students taking part and we were hosted by seven different colleges – I was fortunate enough to be staying in the grandest of them all: Trinity College, whose gardens served as a picturesque backdrop to the daily walk from our accommodation to the Hall for breakfast.



Each day followed a set pattern: after breakfast, we made our way to the Cavendish Laboratory to be lectured on Newtonian mechanics, followed by a short break before making our way back into the lecture theatre for a session on quantum mechanics. During both lectures (each of which lasted just over an hour), we were given complementary problems to work our way through and there were a number of undergraduates and postgraduates milling around the theatre offering advice and solutions to what were some rather arduous problems!

Later on during the week, a couple of postgraduate students were running mock supervision sessions during the lectures, which we were all keen to take advantage of, as it would offer a real insight into undergraduate life at Cambridge – although the going was tough, the rigorous nature of both the lectures and supervisions was certainly an experience.

After a quick bite of lunch in the cafeteria, we were split into three groups and taken into the laboratories



where we attempted (quite successfully, most of the time!) a different practical each afternoon, which allowed us to calculate quantities such as the surface temperature of the sun and the width of a human hair.

Each afternoon offered a different activity, from punting on the River Cam (where nobody fell in, unfortunately!) to an interactive lecture where we analysed some astronomical data to calculate the age of the universe; we got a value of 15 billion years, which was rather good, considering we only had four data points!

Dinner was hosted by a different college each night and various evening activities were held, including a thoroughly enjoyable tour of Queens' College and a more useful Admissions workshop, followed by time dedicated to self-study in our rooms during which we were able to relax before finishing off any questions and digesting the material covered in the morning's lectures.

The week was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and truly did open my eyes to the life of a Physics undergraduate, even if I have committed the ultimate sin and decided to apply to Oxford instead!

Ravin Jain

LONDON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

Spending two weeks at Imperial College, attending the London International Youth Science Forum, was one of the best experiences of my life. Bringing together around 300 students ages 17-21 from over 40 different countries, LIYSF is a fantastic experience that I would recommend to anyone who enjoys meeting new people. What first struck me was how easy it is to get to know people, from New Zealand to Canada: friendships were quickly struck up. What made it so much easier was everyone's grip on the English language!

The theme of the Forum was "the Science of the Seas" but the lectures were not confined to that. Given by some leading scientists in their respective fields, lectures ranged from the Cosmic Firewall and the Origin of Matter to the Properties of Bubbles. The talks were inspiring and engaging, with one talk on Pathology getting members of the audience to don a House-esque cap and offer suggestions for the cause of a subject's death. Not that the lecturers had all the work to do: "Specialist Study Days" consisted of students being required to discuss and present their own solutions to the problems of Rising Sea Levels and High Carbon Emissions. It certainly felt good being able to present to an audience 300 strong!

The learning wasn't confined to the lecture theatre either. There were several day excursions to various scientific establishments – from the National Physics Laboratory, to the Airbus Headquarters in Filton, to Oxford's Begbroke Science Park. These were perhaps the most inspiring elements of the two weeks. Seeing the work of a modern airline company and the cutting edge research we were shown strengthened my determination to study Engineering. It certainly provided a suitable talking point on my personal statement!

However, LIYSF would not have been such an amazing experience if it weren't for what happened after we hung up our thinking caps for the night. From discounted tickets to West End Shows (of which I saw Chicago and Warhorse – both excellent!), to several parties at Imperial's student union club and even international talent shows, it was the entertainment that was provided throughout that truly made it memorable.

And ultimately, it was experiencing the culture of so many different people and gaining a truly international friend base that will keep the experience going for me. The London International Youth Science Forum provided an engaging insight into the future of science, a group of friends and a collection of memories that will last a lifetime, and is something that I will talk about for a long time. I am eternally thankful to Mr Symonds and Dr Daniel for selecting Ben Dawes and me to represent KES at the forum, and I daresay that Ben Dawes would agree wholeheartedly.

Shankho Chaudhuri



LEADERSHIP OPTION: FOURTHS

Having been to Leadership afternoons in the Upper Middles and enjoyed them immensely, we did not believe they would manage to put on afternoons of the same standard week in, week out. So when we first walked into Geography Room B on that first Friday afternoon of this year, we had no idea what weird and wonderful activities we would be getting up to. From Paintballing at Delta Force to a pilgrimage to Tesco stores around Birmingham, Leadership offers a wide range of activities. The highlight, however, has to be the EDGE festival, organised by the sixth form but run by all of the 140 strong KES Leadership group. Stall ideas were delegated by the sixth form, and then expanded on by the people running each stall. Outstanding plaudits go to the people who ran the "Hook a Duck" stall, which raised the most money.

I would recommend KES Leadership to anybody that wants a challenge. Leadership is not an option for idlebodies who are willing to sit back and let others run the show. It is the place for those who are committed, and willing to put the effort in. Leadership is the greatest Friday afternoon option available!

Felix Smith, Dan Clements, Chirag Soni, Amun Shergill

LEADERSHIP OPTION: FIFTHS

The year began like any other; same teachers, same subjects and the same Friday Afternoon option... oh! But priorities for the Fifths had completely changed; it was exam time and the Leadership Option took second place. But not for long!

Early in the year, Mr Roll organised the 'Fifths Activities Weekend'. Expectations were high as we dived straight into the adventure activities; a high-rope course, a navigation challenge, and a refreshing bike ride through the most picturesque parts of Herefordshire. Two days later, after a couple of collisions and some wild night life (i.e. Ms McMillan and Mr Roll playing Pictionary with us), we left in high spirits and rejuvenated. Had it not been for this weekend escape to the countryside with friends, and without revision or anything of the sort, sanity would surely have been lost. I've heard that the best way to release tension and aggravation is to do so productively and this weekend proved exactly that.



However, as the year went on, things became serious—even for Leadership. Simply, The Edge Festival impended. But with a new boost of morale, everyone showed clear enthusiasm and worked extremely efficiently in small groups to make the day a great success. Not only did we want to influence the 'Elite of Leadership', we needed to impress the children of our school and the others. This was the time to promote ourselves as members of Leadership and it was evident through the plethora of innovative stalls produced this year that everyone went the extra mile together.

Some people think Leadership is an option for those unwilling to do anything yet still keen to earn the title of being a 'Leader'. The Fifths Leadership course could not have made more evident that this belief is wrong. Not only did our very capable Sixth formers aid us in any way possible, they also provided us with extremely stimulating and exciting afternoons. Working together with the younger years taps into your communication skills. Amidst the exam pressure of the Fifths, Leadership teaches you to become human again and helps release the frustration built up as weeks go by. The Leadership option I experienced as a Fifth really was memorable, and really did highlight that people who were willing to work in a group and generally try their best would be commended and awarded in the long run.

Salman Razi



LEADERSHIP OPTION: DIVISIONS

After two years of maturing in the Leadership option through the teaching of various sixth form groups, it finally became our time to test ourselves as we made the progression from boys to men, or, in Leadership terms, from a sky blue t-shirt to a navy polo. Undeniably this is the most important year of Leadership, as it where you are prepped for leading the option in the following year. Who better than Ed Siddons and Oli Dixon, possibly the



most abstract duo in the short history of Leadership, to have the unenviable task of converting our unruly mob into a squadron of leaders for the future?

The year got off to a good start, mainly thanks to the charisma and effort of the duo, and some of the videos produced for opening morning in October were of an extremely high standard. This was followed by our first teaching afternoons in November, which were of varying degrees of success: it dawned on us that there was still a long way to go to reach the benchmark required for next year.

More teaching practices followed until eventually the year culminated with the spring residential in the backwaters of Herefordshire. I won't reveal the heavily secret routine that the weekend follows, yet without question it was the hardest challenge that Leadership had ever thrown at us both physically and mentally, with the added pressure that the competition for positions of responsibility had begun.

Many thanks must go to Oli, Ed and Mr Smith who consistently produced worthwhile and enjoyable afternoons every week, even if at times they were produced at the last minute. Ed's acerbic remarks and Oli's witty putdowns and general demeanour made sure that the year was always full of laughs, although in Oli's case most of them were at his own expense. By the time the year came to a close we could rest assured that the option was in safe hands for next year.

LEADERSHIP: THE EDGE FESTIVAL

At the end of March 2011, the second Edge Festival took place at KES. This showpiece event of the option was born in 2010 and proved such a success that a new committee, under the leadership of Hugo Clay, hoped to take the venture to new heights. The extravaganza was to cater for 300 hundred people from inside KES and Chandos School.

Highlights were: a large assortment of inflatables on the south field AstroTurf (including bungee runs, bucking broncos and gladiator joust); a new raving magician; a bigger assault course; and a hot dog stand provided by the Dining Hall, as well as many different and varied stalls for the guests to take part in.

The hard work of all the option paid off with a highly successful afternoon. The 4th and 5th years used their imagination and creativity to make the Sports Hall the heartbeat of the event.

The Edge Festival provides a fantastic opportunity for the Senior boys to tackle a major project and for the whole option to show the school what a great option KES Leadership really is. Plans are already afoot for 2012 and the hope is that the option will merge with the school's outreach department and invite a good number of junior schools from around Edgbaston.

THE LIVING HISTORY GROUP

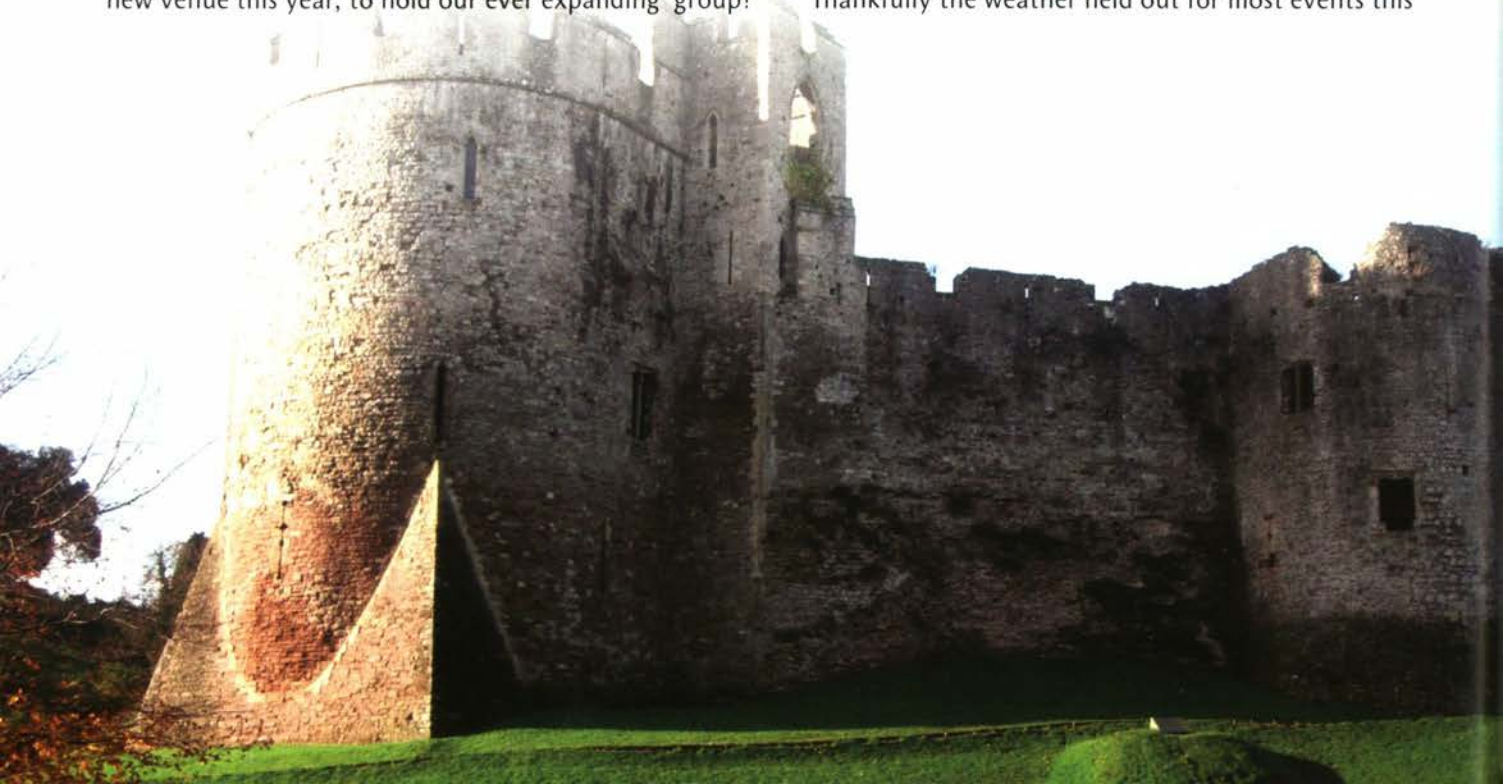
This year has been another highly successful one for the Living History Group, with more members than ever before attending even more events. Highlights of the year have included our second trip to the Tower of London, a visit to Chepstow Castle, participating in The Festival of History at Sheffield and of course, our much anticipated first annual Christmas Feast.

Given our high numbers, training days have been essential, with the group visiting old haunts such as Whittington Castle and Avoncroft Museum. Throughout the year, we've had workshops led by the national experts in their fields, who have guided us through smelly topics such as medieval herbalism and medicines, exciting topics such as warbow archery, and embarrassing topics such as country dancing. The group now practises all three of these 'skills', though some with a little more gusto than others: yes, boys and girls do have to hold hands, and yes, you are allowed to let go of your partner when the music stops! Despite our dancing woes, we hope to display all these skills at events soon. Although we won't be taking our herb garden with us to such events, it is now fully up and running after a long winter of clearing the ground and building and planting the raised beds and wattle fencing.

Open Days for both schools have kept us very busy, and we have even branched out into the world of popular entertainment with the KES Family Fun Day and Mr Milton's birthday party! Our cooking skills were tested to the limit this year, especially with our Christmas Feast. Trying to keep the evening as authentic as possible, we cooked, for around thirty people, dishes ranging from tasty pastry fruit tarts to homemade breads to, of course, the group favourite, pottage. Dancey's Diner was transformed into a medieval banquet hall for the night, though we're searching for a new venue this year, to hold our ever expanding group!



Our event at the Tower of London in May was as enjoyable as in the previous year, though the numbers of visitors had doubled due to its being held on the Royal Wedding weekend; as ever, this was a great opportunity for group bonding, both at work in the Tower and in our accommodation over a slightly confusing homemade version of "Diplomacy", about which there was nothing diplomatic. It is difficult to explain the buzz you gain working in the Tower: you are never a step away from history, so it is the holy grail of re-enactors and we hope to return again soon and visit our many friends amongst the Yeoman Warders! Thankfully the weather held out for most events this



year, apart from a very wet weekend spent at Chepstow Castle in Wales, our first event with Cadw (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage). Despite the fact that it didn't stop raining for more than half an hour, we all had a great time. For many it was their first experience of sleeping in a castle ruin, and for all of us our first time playing rounders in one! The Castle is situated overlooking the River Wye, with some very picturesque views. While the girls spent their time admiring the views, the boys (and some of the girls) spent their time firing cabbages into the river with our trebuchet. When the cabbages ran out, we fired stones! If this didn't amuse everyone, our late night trip to the swimming baths certainly did: the pool attendants didn't know what to do with twenty kids dressed like 1392, all begging for a hot shower and a place to change. It was a good job we were all looking our best, though, as the next day saw some stunt co-ordinators from the TV show Merlin filming potential action scenes for the next series and looking for a few of our members to be extras!

This year, Living History visited two new schools – James Brindley and Hatley Heath. The days were really worthwhile and everyone left feeling very satisfied with a hard day's work. The students of James Brindley sent us some lovely letters and we hope to return again next year.



Meetings were held during the summer holidays this year, for those who just can't stand to stop Living History for two months! We finished making our mini-trebuchets and mini-castle, which proved really popular at the Cannon Hill History Day. Our last big event of the season was at Sheffield at the end of the holiday. Though only a small group of us were able to attend, we, as usual, punched above our weight and height and made many new friends.

Sadly, more of our members have left for university this year, though we are bound to meet again. We look forward to another exciting year ahead, especially our visit to the Middle Ages Centre in Denmark next summer.

Georgia Jones





COT FUND

Another remarkable year for KES Cot Fund kicked off with an urgent collection on behalf of those affected by the floods in Pakistan, which raised £620. November saw pupils and staff "Wear Something Spotty" for Children in Need and raise another £620. The two popular non-uniform days of the term raised £1,600 for the term's charities, St Giles Hospice, Down's Syndrome Education International and Make-a-Wish. Other events were organised by departments and forms, such as the Library Book Fair which raised £150. The climax of the term's events was the Christmas Fair, which raised a record £1,800 in a single Thursday lunchtime! Big School was once again packed with games and stalls: regular stalls such as 'Whack-a-Rem' and 'Treasure Island' made an appearance, as well as original ideas from the Sixth Form such as 'Pin Birmingham on the Map', and the usual assortment of food and drink stalls. The KES Photography Society gave a special touch to 'Santa's Grotto' by providing the opportunity to have professional photographs taken with Santa and his Elves, raising over £100 alone.

The school's enthusiasm continued into a busy Spring term, when our charities were Cure Leukaemia, British Heart Foundation and Africa Educational Trust. In its second year the KES Readathon, organised by Ms Allen, raised over £3000. This eye-opening event saw pupils reading a total of 735 books (over 228,800 pages), with Shell M and Rem L reading the most.

Ben Fernando and Anish Kundu organised the sale of Valentine's Day cards with a variety of pretty pictures taken by Ben and made by volunteer helpers. This, along with an unexpectedly early visit from the Easter Bunny, raised another £600. The highlight of the term was definitely the school's efforts on Red Nose Day. The "gunging" of Mr Dewar, Mr Ostrowicz and Miss McMillan by a few lucky pupils, as well as the senior management team risking their dignity by posing with their red noses for the camera, raised over £650 for Comic Relief. Form activities included a sponsored swim by Shell B, a Chinese New Year celebration by Shell P

and a weekly Cot Fund sweet shop run by a dedicated group of Divisions boys.

The tradition of Sixth Form pupils arriving in fancy dress for their last ever non-uniform day was continued this year when they turned up dressed as Smurfs, raising yet more money. KES Leadership's Edge Festival and House Shout added to the term's total.

The Summer Term is always challenging for Cot Fund as the dawn of examinations and an abbreviated term limits pupil's enthusiasm. However, this year we raised over £5000 during the summer term in aid of the Birmingham Settlement, Barnardo's and Solar Aid. The events that took place included a Jazz Evening (£800) and the Summer Fair (£400) as well as the regular generosity from the weekly form collections.

Last year Cot Fund raised a record £15,000, but we have truly smashed the record by raising an amazing £18,000. Cot Fund has supported over 18 diverse and worthy causes from the Japan Tsunami Appeal to Solar Aid. We have helped change lives not only in our local area, in Birmingham Children's Hospital, but also internationally with several different charities. Extended gratitude and congratulations go to every pupil and member of staff who has helped to change people's lives. Special thanks go to the Cot Fund committee of Mrs Cochrane, Mr Witcombe, Mr Lye and especially to the dedicated Ms Allen, without whom Cot Fund would not be as successful.





There is a bright future ahead for KES Cot Fund with an eager group of Cot Fund form representatives ready to organise events for the forthcoming year. Events are already being planned for 2011/12 with Mr Witcombe organising yet another world record attempt as well as plans for a KES Photo Calendar for 2013.

Having been part of KES Cot fund for many years now I know how much fun we have raising money and helping others. Once again, sincere thanks go to all pupils and staff for another record-breaking year. £18,000 is a figure we should all be proud of! Hopefully next year, we will be able to break the record yet again!

Anish Kundu



Birmingham Children's Hospital

FUND-RAISING FOR BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) is one of the top paediatric hospitals in the country. Every year, 225,000 sick children are treated, many facing extremely difficult situations. BCH, on NHS funding alone, would not be able to service the vast area that it does at present: £3m per year is required in addition to government funding, to create modern and child-friendly environments, purchase state of the art medical equipment and fund research into the prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses.

The Personal Service Group spent eight Friday afternoons at the beginning of the year at the hospital, learning how it works, with a particular focus on how the hospital wishes to move forward and advance its medical care. After visiting the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, PSG decided to support BCH in its ongoing effort to improve the already very high quality service it provides.

Over the course of the following months, a fundraising project was designed and put into practice: a raffle with prizes ranging from a Krafty £5 Cadbury's gift voucher to a meal at the Opus restaurant in Birmingham worth £250. The raffle was wonderfully well-received by pupils and raised £3500 by itself. If we include the money raised by lunch time beverage stalls, non-uniform days and House Shout, a grand total of £5000 proves how good a job KES has done in its fundraising. The Hospital plans to use the money for nurse training programs. I would like to thank all parents, staff members and pupils for contributing to this fantastic cause.

Rijul Bohra



ANTHONY HOROWITZ: ACCESS ALL AREAS

The voice on the phone was tense and urgent: "I've got an assignment for you. Your mission (should you decide to accept it) is to take a group of boys from King Edward's School to London, have lunch with Anthony Horowitz and interview him." I had to locate a top secret address in London and meet Anthony Horowitz, the number one writer for boys in the world. It was a tough job, but someone had to do it.

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An anonymous building in a bustling London side street gave no hint that it was Horowitz HQ. I rang the buzzer and announced our arrival. The security camera scrutinised our faces, and we were allowed to enter. Once inside we were led up several flights of stairs, past framed posters of book covers from the Alex Rider series and others. We were ushered into a large, airy room with a grand piano, intriguing modern art, several fascinating wooden mechanical toys, and a bookcase that turned out to be a door.

On meeting Anthony Horowitz the first words that come to mind are enthusiasm, energy, and passion. He was pleased to meet us, eager to talk about his work, and keen to hear what the boys thought about *Scorpio Rising* and his other books.

Anthony has spent ten years recording the adventures of Alex Rider, the teenage spy who was fourteen when we first met him in *Stormbreaker*. Now just fifteen years old, Alex has grown up during the series of nine books, and has fitted a huge number of adventures into a short space of time. Readers have grown up with Alex, and will be sad at the parting of the ways. But Horowitz always vowed he would end the series when Alex turned fifteen, and he has certainly ended it on a high note. Reading the original draft of the opening paragraph, he talked us through the changes made to increase tension and anticipation. In *Scorpio Rising* Alex faces old enemies in his greatest challenge yet – one which also threatens those near to him. With his classmates in danger and one of his friends in deadly peril, Alex has to act ruthlessly to survive. It is significant that, after the

shocking climax of the book, we never again see things from Alex's point of view, or know what he is thinking. He is a different person, and his actions have changed him forever. He has matured. At the end of the book Alex is heading for a new life in America, and we are quietly hopeful for him. What will the future hold?

Anthony always works on several things at once – books, screenplays, and other projects. He has never suffered from writer's block, as all he has to do is work on a different project. Books he is planning include the final episode in the *Power of Five* series, and one more *Diamond Brothers* adventure. He has also been asked to write the screenplay for the second *Tintin* film (directed by Peter Jackson), and we talked about the difference between writing a book and writing a screenplay – a film is the work of hundreds of people, whereas a book is a collaboration between writer and reader. A good book can make you see it as a film in your head, without millions of pounds being spent on special effects.

After lunch, during which the boys demolished ten large pizzas (plus garlic bread and dough balls), managing all the time to keep up an incessant barrage of questions, Anthony told us about the new *Sherlock Holmes* adventure he has written, *The House of Silk*, published in September 2011. Holmes is arguably the most famous character in fiction, and his fans are waiting eagerly to see if this new adventure evokes the true spirit of Conan Doyle. We were treated to an exclusive excerpt from the book, and we all agreed that Holmes and Horowitz fans alike will not be disappointed. He has faithfully reproduced Conan Doyle's style and added his own seemingly effortless plotting.

After stepping out of the study window to take photographs from the terrace high over London, it was time to leave. Instead of abseiling down the outside of the building, we took the stairs. The boys were laden with t-shirts, books, badges and other loot (including an edible (real) scorpion), but the best thing they had been given was the privilege of spending a very special day with an amazing person.

J/LA



UPPER MIDDLES' WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION, 2011

A new activity on Friday afternoons this year was the first UMs' Wildlife Photography Competition. Each week after the Spring half-term, roughly twelve pupils were invited to take part. After a short introduction to the competition categories, and some classroom tips on taking good photographs, they were taken out past the school Outdoor Centre into the Winterbourne Botanic Garden next door, and on to the Edgbaston Nature Reserve.

The categories required different techniques, and the best entries made excellent use of these. In '*Plant Life*' (by far the most popular category) Alex Williams' creative winning entry managed to avoid being merely a pretty plant picture by making creative use of subject matter and background. Jack Ward's '*Birds*' entry managed to combine several of that category's criteria: not only clear, it captured well the mood and interest of the mallard chicks he had photographed. Matt Elliot, the winner in the '*Landscape*' category, put reflection to very effective use in a carefully considered panorama across a stream, and Patrick Wernham's '*Weird Wildlife*' entry encapsulated the spirit of that category, with a whirling close-up of a plant on the surface of the school pond. But perhaps the most impressive shot of the competition was Nathan Ling's entry in the '*Bug Life*' category: a dragonfly caught on a grass-stem on an overcast afternoon, wings reflecting the light, and framed against the blue tones of the reservoir in the background.

Prizes were awarded to the winners at the end of the year, and their winning photographs are on permanent display in the school library. All entries to the competition can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/keswildlife, which also contains a link to the winners' presentation on the school website. After such a great success the first time around, I look forward eagerly to next year's entries, and to reporting on the 2012 competition in next year's *Chronicle*!

DHC



TARGET 2.0

This year's Target 2.0 Team once again managed to reach the National Final of the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competition, in which teams compete by giving presentations on Monetary Policy and what the Monetary Policy Committee should do. By winning both the Regional and Area Finals, the team of Wrik Ghosh, Aman Kanungo, Gaurav Budhwar and John Tsopanidis were rewarded with a place in the National Final at the Bank of England, and two days in London.

The two days were an enjoyable experience for all involved: a tour of the Bank was provided, and the grandeur and lavishness were certainly impressive. The opportunity to pick up gold bars, and being shown a trolley of cash worth £4 million, were memorable, as was being treated to a West End performance of *We Will Rock You*.

The Final itself was judged by three members of the MPC, along with an editor of *The Times*, and the teams were all of a high standard. The KES team performed very well, both in the presentation and the Q&A, with Aman Kanungo taking charge with his ideas on Ricardian Equivalence. The team can take pride in their great success in coming 4th in a National Competition, in which almost 300 teams entered.

Wrik Ghosh



OLD EDWARDIANS

The Development and Old Edwardians Association (OEA) Office aims to keep old boys of King Edward's in touch with each other and the school, by providing them with a varied and enjoyable programme of activities, events and communications.

During the 2010/11 academic year, the Development Office ran a range of different events for Old Edwardians. In September over 160 Old Edwardians of varying ages attended the school's 39th Biennial Dinner, which was particularly special as it marked the 250th anniversary of the first Old Edwardians dinner. Guests included a group of recent leavers and one of the school's oldest Old Edwardians, Ronald Naylor, who left the school in 1931. The guest speaker was Niels de Vos, Chief Executive of UK Athletics and Executive Board Member of the British Olympic Association, who left King Edward's in 1985. Speeches were also given by the Chief Master, James Martin (former Chairman of the Old Edwardians Association) and James Cull, School Captain.

In December the Development Office organised festive drinks at the German Market in Birmingham for Old Edwardians and members of staff. Over 50 OEs turned up to claim their free glass of gluwein and catch up with old classmates before Christmas.

During the Winter Term over 1000 Old Edwardians, current pupils, former teachers, parents and residents of Birmingham revisited the school to see a special exhibition dedicated to the New Street school. The New Street Remembered Exhibition, which ran from January to March, was constructed in the chapel to commemorate 75 years since King Edward's left the old Sir Charles Barry building. The occasion gave the school a rare opportunity to open up its extensive archive to the public and display a selection of materials from its New Street days, including original architectural drawings by Charles Barry, newspaper articles, school magazines and photos.

The main highlight of the exhibition was a 3D film, featuring recently discovered stereoscopic images of the old building and the memories of four old boys who were taught there in the 1920s and 1930s before it was demolished in 1936. The film was made by two Old Edwardian brothers, Elliot and Zander Weaver, who left the school in 2006 and 2009.

In March the Development Office organised a lecture at Oxford University, which was given by John Hawthorne (1983), Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Merton College. Over 40 Old Edwardians turned up to listen to Professor Hawthorne speak engagingly for half an hour on the subject of religious knowledge. A minibus of current students who are thinking about applying to Oxford also travelled down for the lecture.

Other events during the year included a Graduate Careers Seminar Day, which is designed to provide pupils with information and advice about a wide range of careers they might be interested in. The day consisted of sixteen Old Edwardians, who all work in different sectors of employment, returning to the school to speak to Fifth Formers about their careers and answer questions about their professions.

A special lecture dedicated to J. R. R. Tolkien was also held at the school in July. 2011 marks 100 years since Tolkien left King Edward's. To commemorate the occasion, over 200 Old Edwardians, parents and pupils attended the lecture, which was given by Old Edwardian Tom Shippey (1961), perhaps the world's foremost literary critic of Tolkien's works. The lecture, entitled 'Tolkien: The Books, the Films, the Phenomenon', was followed by a chance for guests to visit a small Tolkien exhibition in the chapel.

The office is also responsible for raising money for the Assisted Places Fund, which aims to ensure that the school remains accessible to all boys of ability, whatever the financial circumstances of their family.



Last year the office raised over £1 million for Assisted Places which funded twelve additional places at King Edward's. As a result, 35 boys started at the school on an Assisted Place at the start of the new 2011/12 academic year, which was a 50% increase on the number available in 2010/11.

Almost one third of the money - over £300,000 - was raised during a telephone campaign conducted in July and August, during which a team of pupils and recent leavers contacted over 1,000 OEs to seek their support and update them on recent school activities. The amount raised was a record figure for a UK school's telephone campaign.

A large proportion of the money has also come from major donors, who are sponsoring boys through the school. There are currently 19 boys being funded through the school by ten individual donors, including Old Edwardians Ian Metcalfe (1976), Managing Partner of Wragge & Co, an international law firm based in Birmingham, and John Osborn (1962), former Chief Executive of Alexon, a clothing company.



The Tolkien Trust made a substantial donation of £250,000 to the Assisted Places Fund. The gift has been endowed and the investment income will be used to support boys on Assisted Places each year in perpetuity. Initially the donation has partly funded three boys who started at the school this September, which is particularly fitting since 2011 marks the centenary of Tolkien leaving King Edward's.

To celebrate the success of the Assisted Places Campaign, a drinks reception was held in May for all donors who supported the scheme last year. The reception took place on the top floor of Symphony Hall in Birmingham before the school's annual Summer Concert.



THE SEA

I
I walked by
clean cut crags of grey blue slate
swept by clipped winds
and the sea's spittle.

Foam lips lapping
against pebble, sand
and shingle,
lovingly grinding time down
with incessant kisses.

II
A gleam of purple and pearl,
unfurling like that ring's seam,
winked at the light and caught
my eye.

Dropping down
I fished it out and held it
in the briny wind and heard
its gentle mimic.

The sound of waves,
locked in a bone shell
and salt memory
seeped into my ear,
pretending like human gods
to be greater than their skin.

Then I dropped it,
like a thief
at the flick of a switch:

Your hand against my shoulder.

'Time to leave' you whispered,
and turning we walked by,
back to the shimmering car
and on to the restaurant,
bristling with hunger and people.

III
Ushered in we sat down
under the gaze of a glassless chandelier:
Shell upon shell linked
by a sliver of thread,
hanging empty and pretty,
a zoo of abandoned homes
above my head,
shining a colourless light
upon my plate of refugees;

Scallops scooped out
of themselves and tossed
with sizzling butter
made for a fine first course.
You smiled.

I got up and made my apologies.

I left,
the voice of a thousand seas
cooing gently from the ceiling,
calling after me
as I drove down the night,
staring down the sea,
as the fading light
stared down me,
the pull of a marriage
to the whispers of the sea, the sea, the sea

Frank Lawton





PERFORMANCE



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The Christmas Concerts are looked forward to by all for the variety and splendour of music-making, and this year did not disappoint. The first of two concerts began with the opening numbers from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, sung by Choral Society accompanied by a small chamber orchestra. It also included KEHS' wonderful soprano soloist, Alice Halstead. The work, with its vibrant trumpet fanfares and sparkling singing, brought the concert into full swing. Junior Swing Band, conducted by Mr Monks, gave a great rendition of *On Green Dolphin Street* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Mr Monks continued at the podium to conduct an exciting performance of Holst's *Second Suite in F* given by the Concert Band.

After the interval, the second half opened with Tchaikovsky's Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*, performed by the Symphony Orchestra with Mr Bridle conducting.

KEHS Junior Choir gave a beautiful performance of *Winter Wonderland*, *Bethlehem* and *White Christmas*, ending on a peaceful note to launch the audience back in to the vibrance of the Waltz from *Eugene Onegin*. The concert finished with the traditional collection of festive items, but, as ever, there was a twist. After Symphony Orchestra had played the ever-popular *Sleigh-Ride* and others, we were treated to Mr Bridle's magic trick, which had the audience in amazement, as he used his wand to make a handkerchief vanish. Finally came *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*, with the entire orchestra wearing a variety of homemade wizard hats. A great end to a great evening.

The second night began with Concert Orchestra playing *White Christmas* and Ballet Music from *Coppelia*. KEHS Chamber Choir calmed the mood with three lovely songs. Then came the vibrant pieces of Wind Band, conducted by the new Director of Music at KEHS, Dr Collisson. Senior Swing Band played three popular classics to end the first half. Symphony Orchestra repeated its repertoire from the first night, but KES Choir took to the stage with three very contrasting Christmas songs. As previously, the festive finale followed. Despite minor glitches with Mr Bridle's magic trick, on his final attempt it worked, and the concert finished with all the choirs and orchestras joining together for another sensational end to a fantastic duo of Christmas Concerts with *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. Thanks go to all who took part, particularly the Music staff for their enthusiasm. Two truly memorable evenings for performers and audience alike.

Adam Phillips





CAROL SERVICE

On Tuesday 14th of December hundreds of parents, staff and friends packed Saint Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham city centre. The time had come again for the annual KES Carol Service, one of the best loved events of the whole school calendar. This year attracted the usual hugely impressive turnout, packing every seat in the cathedral including the balconies. After the choir had assembled in the stalls, the service commenced with *Once in Royal David's City*, the traditional first verse solo sung by a talented treble, Edward Hodge, at the back of the church. As always the congregation were encouraged to participate actively, although you would doubtless have noticed the subtle death stares from the choir members who spotted mum and dad singing far too loudly!

The concert used a small and talented orchestra including current pupils from KES and KEHS and some of the music staff; the inimitable Peter Bridle even graced the stage to add his renowned expertise and experience. Acknowledgment must go to this orchestra, for highlighting the choir's finest moments with sensitive accompaniment.

The choir sang alone for *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, and for Mr Evan's own arrangement of *Silent Night*; they joined the congregation for other favourite carols. The trebles added a shockingly high descant to many of the last verses, leaving most of the basses remembering the days when they could still reach those angelic top A's!

As well as the choral music, some of the older boys, staff, and the Chief Master gave the traditional *Nine Lessons* of biblical readings, which lie at the heart of Christmas. This year's readings were delivered with confidence and conviction, holding everyone's attention. Rev. Raynor led the service beautifully, involving the congregation but with respect to the multi-faith school that KES is today.

As always the congregation came together for mince pies and wine (those that were of age). As ever, this beautiful and heart-warming evening lifted the souls of many during a dark December night. Pleasingly, the congregation included parents of old boys, as well as parents who had no sons in the choir, along with members of the general public - all drawn in by the atmosphere and the heavenly music.

Nick Gateley

JAZZ EVENING

A new event in the KES music calendar this year was an evening concert devoted entirely to jazz. Featuring an extended set from a particularly strong Senior Swing Band as well as some numbers from the Marassa Jazz Quartet, a band comprising KES instrumental teachers Chris Morgan on saxophone and Gary Hill on drums, as well as old Edwardian Freddie Thomas on double bass and hired gun Richard Hughes on piano, the Jazz Evening was as enjoyable to witness as it was full of suave jazz and impressive solos.

For one night only, Big School was transformed into a venue of dimmed-light glamour, complete with 6th form waiters and a bar. Senior Swing Band opened the music with *Put on a Happy Face* before reeling off a list of classics including a delightfully sleazy rendition of Stevie Wonder's *Superstition*, instrumentals such as *Come Fly With Me*, *Yardbird Suite*, and *Strike Up the Band*, and timeless songs *Mack the Knife* (with vocals from Jack Moreton), *Misty* and *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* (vocals from Sarah Watts-Tibbatts). These songs were punctuated with improvised solos courtesy of saxophonists Dan Mort, Mikey East, and Jamie Wheeler and trumpeter Alan Kent. Playing a set of more than ten different numbers to an audience in such a specialized setting, the Jazz Evening truly was a highlight for Senior Swing Band's career.

In the middle of Senior Swing Band's set there was a break, filled by performances from the Marassa Jazz Quartet. Messrs Morgan, Hill, Thomas and Hughes all impressed with solos displaying their musical wizardry, all held together by an extremely tight band performance. They also accompanied a duet between the Swing Band's own saxophonists Mikey East and Jamie Wheeler. At the very end of the night the Marassa Jazz Quartet joined forces with Senior Swing Band for a memorable rendition of the legendary Buddy Rich's *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy* which saw concurrent solos from saxophonist Mikey East and guitarist Oscar Denihan as well as the unusual sight of two drummers – Jack Hobbs and Gary Hill – going head to head to provide a wonderfully intricate dual drumbeat.

A night so thoroughly enjoyed by both spectators and performers alike warrants much praise and thanks to those who made it happen: to Annie Mahtani for organising the event, to the waiters and stewards on the night, and of course, to Mr Phil Evans for his masterful management of the Senior Swing Band. Whether there will be other Jazz Evenings is uncertain. But what is certain is that those who witnessed this one enjoyed a memorable treat.

Oscar Denihan

SUMMER CONCERT, 2011

This year's Summer Concert was the final one for Mr Argust, whose tireless years of hard work will not be forgotten by any of the students whom he taught or conducted in both schools. He has always been a key part of the Music Department and it is with a sad heart we must watch him leave. He opened proceedings by playing the organ in Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad*. Alongside a massed choir of over 200 voices this was an awe inspiring performance and a truly fitting end to Mr Argust's career at KEHS.

Despite following an impressive opener, an unfazed Junior Swing Band took us back to the 1950s with a cool performance of Miles Davis' *All Blues* and the 1960s with The Beatles' *Hey Jude*, both of which showcased the bright jazz talent among the younger pupils, before the Junior Choir arrived on stage to startle the audience with the sweet sound of young voices singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. This was followed by the contrasting *Rhythm of Life* which, combining succinct enunciation and a driving rhythm, wowed the audience.



Next up was Wind Band, conducted by the new Head of Music at KEHS, Dr Collisson. It seemed that this occasion was as exciting for Dr Collisson as it was for some of the youngest pupils in Wind Band, and with good reason: their rendition of Duke Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing* was a crowd pleaser, as was Orpheus *Can't Can Can*, a piece designed to hoodwink the crowd.



Senior Swing Band played *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*, with jaw-dropping solos from Jack Hobbs on drums and Dan Mort on saxophone, followed by Sarah Watts-Tibbatts' spine-tingling solo in *Misty* before the KES Choir sang a medley from the musical *Blood Brothers*. Their set was finished by the beautiful hymn *Steal Away*, no stranger to school concerts but always enthralling.

Just before the break, as the audience began to slump in their seats, they were jolted to attention by the vibrant Concert Band, playing Paul Hart's *Cartoon*, a piece filled with odd sounds and timings, and fabulous solos from Alan and Simon Kent (Trumpet and Trombone), Megan Corless (Clarinet), leading into a sectional "solo" from the Percussion section.

After the break, the Symphony Orchestra performed Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus Overture*. Then the KEHS Chamber Choir took to the stage for their final performance under Mr Argust's baton, a fitting end to his reign as Director of Music as the choir captivated the audience with *And this is my Beloved* and Mr Argust's own arrangement of *Let Him Go*.

To finish the evening, Symphony Orchestra returned to the stage along with Concert Orchestra. After the *Grand March from Aida*, featuring 15 trumpets from all ages of the school, came a showcase for percussionists, the ear-vibrating *Thunder and Lightning Polka* by Johann Strauss II, followed by his *Champagne Polka*. This time those same 15 trumpet players were using bicycle pumps with corks to replicate the sounds of champagne being opened. The piece ended with a dramatic finale and the Music staff onstage being served champagne by the prefects. Finally, to end the concert, came the *Radetsky March* with over 20 snare drum players marching onstage to the rhythm of the leader (Dan Mort). It is safe to say they caused a tremendous noise and a fantastic spectacle. Not enough thanks can be given to Mrs Harniess, Dr Collisson, and Messrs Bridle, Monks, Evans and Argust.

Conor Murray



LUNCHTIME RECITALS

The Lunchtime Recital series forms a key part of the music calendar each year, presenting the musical elite from both KES and KEHS tackling the very best of Classical music. This season was no exception, with eight different instruments and glittering performances from the likes of Adam Phillips, Dan Mort, Kiyam Lin and Steven Yang.

The series was opened with Bach's majestic *Sinfonia from Partita No. 2* from rising star Adelaide Yue, its regal opening chords resonating around Big School, before Stewart Horder and James Kuo took over with performances of Bruch's ravishing *Kol Nidrei* and Sarasate's cheekily virtuosic *Carmen Fantasy*. The next recital featured Alan Kent on the trumpet ditching the stage to play from the balcony in *Prayer of St. Gregory*, Matthew Rayner plucking out a jewel from the dark abyss that is the viola repertoire with Schumann's *Marchenbilder* and Ellie Davidson sticking it to whining rugby players by coming in despite illness and playing nothing less than Bartok's rough and ready *Romanian Folk Dances*.

Hot on the heels of the November recital were Kiyam Lin showcasing his flawless technique on the fiendishly difficult *La Campanella*, top chorister Alice Halstead letting her cello do the singing with Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, and Mikey East replacing his tennis racquet with his clarinet to play Poulenc's *Clarinet Sonata* with the lyrical poise that shot him to victory in the House Music competition. 2011 was opened with stunning performances from younger students, including Steve Yang's fast and furious Chopin *Revolutionary Etude No. 12*, shredding the keyboard with terrifying descending scales that had one of the school's top athletes showing his fingers were as fast as his legs! Cellist Sophie Cheng danced gracefully and effortlessly around Chopin's *Polonaise Brillante* with Dr Collisson bravely confronting the notoriously difficult piano accompaniment, and Roberto Ruisi sent sparks flying with Wieniawski's *Polonaise de Concert*, not batting an eyelid as he scaled higher and higher than most people will ever go on a violin.

For the penultimate concert, new KEHS Music Director Dr Collisson brought a whole new vibe to the 2010-2011 series, introducing a recital dedicated to four brand new chamber music groups. This included a Martinu Flute trio featuring Philly Lip on flute, Adelaide Yue on piano and Sophie Cheng on cello; the legendary *Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B minor* with Dan Mort playing the emotionally charged clarinet part; Mozart's *Oboe Quartet in F major* tackled by Arpan Sharma on violin, Laura Cooper on viola and James Kuo on cello supporting the truly devilish oboe part skilfully played by Adam Phillips; and Mendelssohn's *Octet*, written at the age of 16, featuring Roberto Ruisi, Sarah Watts-Tibbatts, Kiyam Lin, Olivia Kuo, Daniel Pett, David Scott, Ellie Davidson and Sophie Cheng.

To round off an incredible season, an all-star cast stepped up to the plate. Sarah Watts-Tibbatts dazzled with Saint-Saëns's suave and sassy *Havanaise*, Adam Phillips's poetic rendition of Poulenc's *Sonata for Oboe* silenced the hall with sublime breath control, musicality and maturity far beyond his years, and Dan Mort ended his glittering run of recitals at KES with Massager's *Solo de Concours*, completely at ease and confident as he executed every ornamentation and nuance perfectly in a true showman's performance.

As we wave goodbye to the faces we have come to know and love on the stage, new ones emerge in the lower years, watching from the audience and aspiring to be up on the stage themselves. With a new generation of musicians already showing their skills in orchestras and solo ventures, it's safe to say that the King Edward's musical legacy is in very safe hands.

James Kuo

HOUSE SHOUT

Mambo no. 5, *Use Somebody* and *Pass the Dutchie* were amongst some of the numbers showcased in this year's House Shout. All eight Houses put in accomplished performances to make this year's competition one of the closest in recent years: victory was decided by a single point.

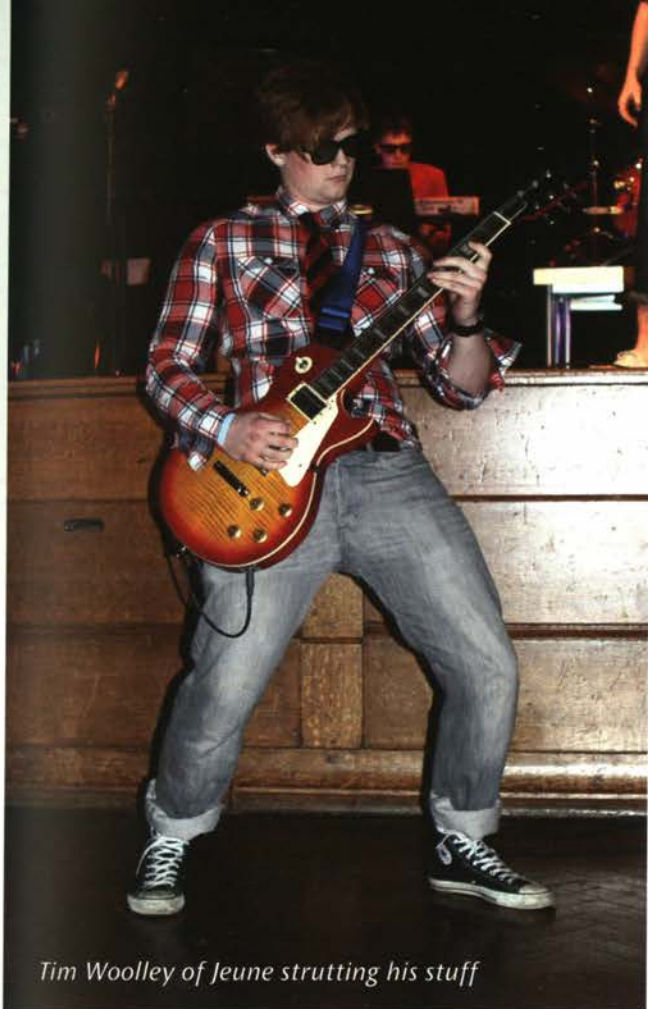
The competition made evident the wide variety of musical talent within the school; the Cary Gilson brass section was slick and stylish, Prince Lee could have been mistaken for the Red Hot Chilli Peppers with frontman Vickram Ravirajan, whilst Heath brought Bhangra to KES for the first time.

Reigning champions Evans transformed Ed Ratcliff and Nick Gateley into The Blues Brothers, and recent winners Gifford took us back to the '50s with a rendition of the Frankie Valli hit *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*. Levett offered some interesting costume design for *Pass the Dutchie*...

In the end, it was a showdown between Jeune and Vardy, performing modern anthems *Use Somebody* and *Mr Brightside* respectively. By the slightest of margins, it was the 'Vardy Army' who were victorious this year, claiming the House Shout trophy for the first time since 2006, and thereby losing their reputation as the nearly men of the competition.

Tom Anderson

47



Tim Woolley of Jeune strutting his stuff



The victorious "Vardy Army"

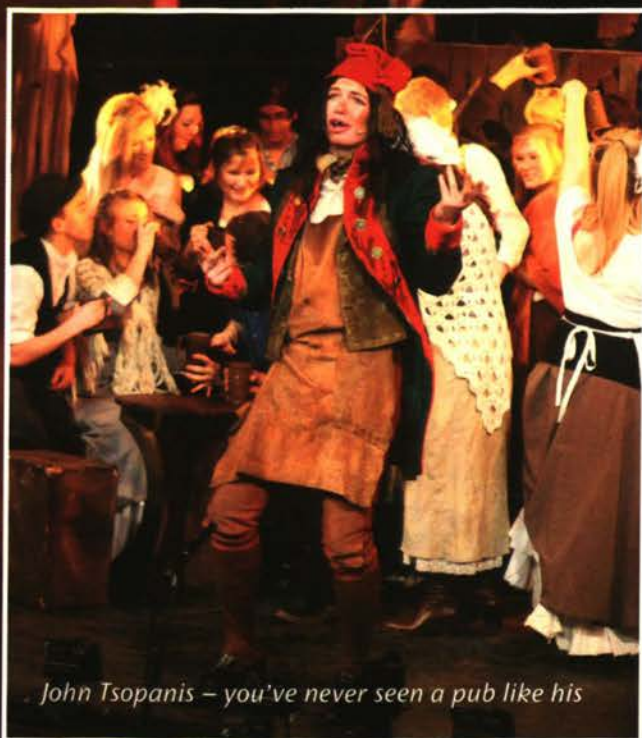
THE SENIOR PRODUCTION: LES MISÉRABLES

In 2010 the Senior Production brought *Hairspray* to the stage of Big School, and the bar was set high. In 2011 Mrs Herbert presented the mammoth undertaking that is *Les Misérables*. With a big story delivered through big songs by an even bigger cast, *Les Mis* would certainly give all those onstage a magnificent opportunity to exercise their vocal chords. Thinking the choice to be too ambitious, some, even the cast themselves at one point, were sceptical. How wrong we all were.

After trials and tribulations and countless rehearsals, the hard work paid off and the resulting production was a lyrical and thespian tour de force. Featuring stunning individual performances from the principals and a rock solid synergy within the company as a whole, all backed by a highly professional orchestra of pupils and teachers, *Les Misérables* left the audience in awe every night.

Seb Ostrowicz and Alice Halstead provided heart-warmingly beautiful performances as lovers Marius and Cosette, whilst John Tsopanis and Charlotte Merriam provided both villainy and moments of comedy genius in the form of M. and Mme Thenardier. Tremendously poignant deliveries graced our ears and eyes with the lives and deaths of Sarah Watts-Tibbatts as desperate mother Fantine and Fallon Routledge-Carson/Jenni Sharp as the lovestruck and rejected Eponine.

Those familiar with previous KE productions would have recognised stalwart Tom Anderson returning to the stage again with another brilliant performance as the dutiful yet troubled Inspector Javert, but *Les Mis* also featured much new, undiscovered dramatic talent. Newcomer Tom Lilburn's role as Enjolras, leader of the students-turned-revolutionaries, filled the audience with inspiration and eventually heart wrenching despair as they all, even veteran Tom Edwards' light-hearted drunkard Grantaire and youngster Sam Wilson's cheeky chappie Gavroche, met their deaths at the hands of the army. However, the musical's main character saw a face previously unknown in the ranks of KES/KEHS drama. Kieran O'Brien's wonderful portrayal of the tormented Jean Valjean brought a tear to the eye of many, through his phenomenal vocals and deeply emotional deliveries.



John Tsopanis – you've never seen a pub like his



However, the principals were not the only stars of the show. With the incredibly complex scenes they enacted and the perfectly tuned vocals they provided, the company not only sold the story, but gave *Les Misérables* a real life of its own. For a couple of hours each day during a short period in February, Big School stage truly was transformed into the streets of early 19th century France. This not only filled onlookers with wonder, but showed the extreme amounts of hard work and focus that was put into the show.

Everyone who took part ought to be proud of being part of the months of preparation which culminated in such a spectacular result, from the actors themselves to the outrageously professional orchestra who provided fantastic musical backing and the impeccably managed stage crew, who choreographed intricate scene changes, costumes and handling of props in order to ensure that all aspects of the show ran perfectly like clockwork.

Thanks and praise come well deserved to Mr Evans as musical director and Mrs Herbert as director, whose combined efforts and generous donations of time transformed *Les Misérables* into one of the finest shows to grace the stage of KES in recent years.

Oscar Denihan

Kieran O'Brien in all his glory

Tom Lilburn leading the revolution in Big School

THE JUNIOR PRODUCTION: SKELLIG

As a contrast to last year's musical comedy 'HONK!', the tone and subject matter of the Junior Production became more serious for *Skellig*, a play adapted from David Almond's book.

Skellig is the moving tale of Michael, a teenage boy, and his parents, who are coping with the potential death of their premature baby daughter. In the meantime Michael befriends Mina, a home-schooled girl, and discovers Skellig, a winged man, in his derelict garage. The relationships between the characters create a mystical story which held three audiences captivated from start to finish.

Although the production was reliant on the company to provide the atmosphere and narration, Edward Cooke and Laura Henderson, although only twelve years old, skilfully complemented each other as Michael and Mina, despite their stark character differences. Adding to the depth of characterisation, Connor Parkes created the grumpy yet compassionate nature of Skellig. Arjun Goswami and KEHS's Olivia Robbins, who played Michael's anxious parents, are also stars in the making.

The Stage Crew outdid themselves in creating an atmospheric set, evoking an abandoned building site, which expanded out of the Drama Studio and into the surrounding corridors, bringing the story alive with it. The lighting and the music, which was specially scored for the play, added to the magic of the production.

Skellig has shown that there is a wealth of talent in the lower years of both schools and special thanks must go to Mr Bartlett and Miss Powell, who devoted their considerable energy and creativity, along with a lot of their time, to allowing this talent to shine.



Joshua Kimblin



CCF

CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S OVERVIEW

As I write this piece in a slight daze after returning from a weekend expedition with the Royal Marines in Cornwall, I find myself reflecting on the fact that today marks my twelfth anniversary as a CCF officer, and close to my tenth anniversary as Contingent Commander. Looking back over a decade, I consider the senior cadets that have come and gone; many have become friends and some have stayed in touch. Yet all have left richer from the experience of the CCF.

Although the personnel have changed, the CCF's highlights have not: the Annual General Inspection; the weekend expeditions to Thetford, Swynnerton, Nesscliffe and HMS Bristol; the sailing and kayaking on the Reservoir; the flying and gliding at Cosford; the weapon training and testing; the .22 range routines; and the summer camps and courses. There have been innovations which have become regular: the RN flying days at Yeovilton; the sea days aboard the tiny HMS Exploit and the huge new HMS Daring; and the kayaking expeditions with Capt Storey and his team. Scuba diving, which began with some modest Open Water courses, has now grown to a machine churning out divers in ever increasing numbers and running two foreign trips a year on which advanced qualifications can be gained.

And there have been memorable occasions: the Centenary Weekend of the CCF, with a reunion dinner where many friendships were renewed and old war stories dusted off and told anew – and perhaps embroidered a little. The Fleet Review for Trafalgar 200; the visit aboard HMS ALBION; and the spectacular arrival of an RAF Chinook on South Field. The years that we won the 143 (WM) Brigade Military Skills, Skill at Arms, and First Aid competitions, and went on to win National First Aid. The Sea King flights for the Navy at RMB Chivenor and the years of RAF victory at regional competitions and high National placing.

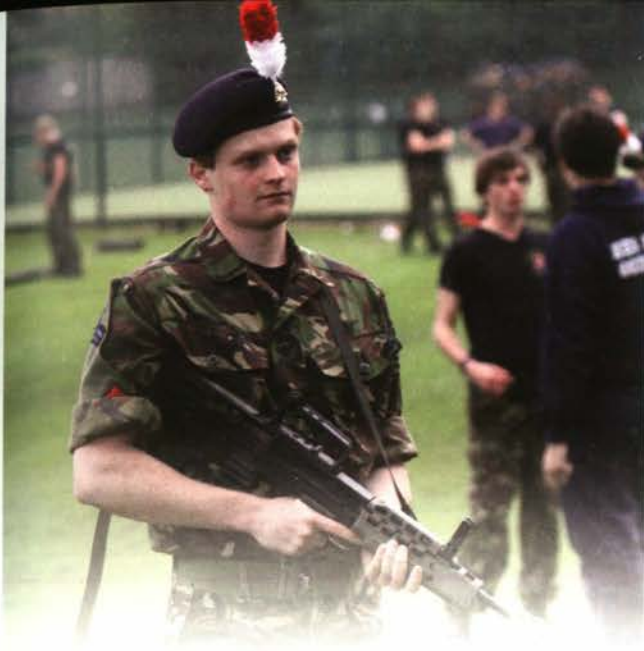
None of this, of course, would have been possible without the enthusiasm of cadets and staff – enthusiasm that has seen the Contingent almost double in size, and has led to a corresponding increase in staff. We welcome Mr Gopal Rao to the Army Section and Pilot Officer David Wong to the RAF this year, in addition to Mr Jamie Taylor, who is approaching his commissioning as 2nd Lt in the Army Section, and Mr

Colin Irvine who heads for the rank of Sub-Lieutenant RNR. Thanks are due to them and to all the staff for keeping the Contingent flourishing. Particular mention is due to Section Commanders Lt Beccy Leaver and Flt Lt Phil Evans, and to Capt Craig Storey, School Staff Instructor, for remaining sane amidst their constant battling with the ever-increasing Service red tape of rules, regulations, forms, and financial constraints.

And last but emphatically not least, the legendary Major Trevor Collins: the man who has been at the heart of the CCF for over two decades; who has trained generations of NCOs in his Cadre course; who has led countless camps, expeditions, and memorable Dartmoor treks; who has told many entertaining stories of his career and especially of the Falklands, but has been characteristically reticent about his own exploits and gallantry awards. Trevor will retire in the coming year. Next year's Chronicle will contain a piece dedicated to him, but I would say to this year's cadets – spend time with him while you can. There won't be another like him.

DHR





THE ANNUAL GENERAL INSPECTION

It was with great trepidation that we waited outside the CCF hut to begin our parade leading up to the inspection. Instead of marching and drilling on the Parade Ground, the building site for the new Performing Arts Centre meant that we were exiled to the hockey pitches, a treacherous plane of sandy Astroturf sure to sully more than a few boots. Yet despite this, the march past and subsequent inspection were rather successful. During the aftermath of the inspection, the Army and Navy Cadre had the good fortune to be involved in a "gun run"; running with a rather large cannon in a race between two teams of mixed Army and Navy cadets. This cannon, which we had lovingly prepared over several weeks before AGI, was towed back and forth between several points, disassembled, reassembled and "fired" by Tim Woolley.

Meanwhile, the Royal Naval Section engaged in activities such as a command task, first aid and kayaking; all of which went well. The kayaking showed the cadets' collective talent on the water, whilst the first aid proved that their skill in this field is unmatched by anyone else in the CCF.



A special mention should perhaps be given to the Royal Air Force and their outstanding display of military drill; they are an incredibly talented group of individuals. Another highlight of the evening was the visit by a large Puma helicopter, also courtesy of the RAF.

The evening was finished by the Section Attack, involving the Army Cadre and the NCOs assaulting a position held by members of Vyse Platoon (5ths), and the awards ceremony.

Charlie Wain



CCF 2011 SUMMER CAMP

Upon our arrival in Warcop, a place where 11 army cadets and a lone naval cadet would spend the next week training, we were greeted by rows upon rows of billets, a home that we would share with several cadets from various other schools. After unpacking, we settled down to sleep, preparing ourselves for the multitude of activities that awaited us.

The morning threw us straight into various activities: an assault course, archery and a paintball close-quarters battle scenario. Teaming up with another school, St Bees, due to inadequate numbers, we had great fun. As the week wore on we were able to utilise de-activated weapons such as MP5s, M16s, even Kalashnikovs and an RPG, in addition to spending time on the DCCT range, earning proficiency badges. Moreover, we were also presented with the opportunity either to rock climb or to kayak; the latter was by far the more popular choice.

The week finished with the strangely named "section sprint", a sort of orienteering combined with various command tasks. Although we didn't win the competition, we did have a lot of fun rigging pulleys, crawling through muddy trenches, and trying to throw a grenade as far as possible, amongst other things. Perhaps the best day was the "Warcop Wanderer" or platoon attack, in which Sgt Woolley played the role of Platoon Commander, and I, the Platoon Sgt. We were in charge of a platoon of mixed St Bees and KES cadets, a challenging yet successful task.

Overall, this summer camp was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and one that I would recommend to any CCF cadet.

Charlie Wain

ARMY EXPEDITIONS WEEKEND:
SEPTEMBER

The first "Expeds" of the year is always hotly anticipated. Its arrival is announced by the hordes of fourth-years inundating the local army surplus stores, and by late-night excursions to the supermarkets to buy as much food as possible. So what is it that we anticipate? Nobody who isn't a member of the Army section can truly understand.

This year saw us return to the Stanford Training Area, near Thetford, where, as young and innocent recruits, we NCOs had been for our very first Expeds. Our 'accommodation' for such weekends always consists of a 'Basha', a tarpaulin poncho strung between two trees, under which we hope to remain dry. In the failing light, we managed to co-ordinate a Patrol Harbour Area and



quickly assembled for the night's activities. Our target was a mobile SCUD missile launcher site, a mission based on SAS patrols in the First Gulf War. Six sections, each led by two NCOs, were to patrol into enemy territory, avoiding 'Al-Cadre' patrols (the enemy are always played by the Cadre year of cadets) in order to disable the mobile launcher. Any failure in navigation would have resulted in our straying onto an active live firing range, so concentration was of the utmost importance, but we all managed to complete our objective and none of us was killed, either by Al-Cadre or by the British Army's ordinance.

The second day of Expeds is always a tough one. This year it was made no less difficult by the introduction of a PFT (the Army's actual Personal Fitness Test) to start the morning, as a means of an introduction to the day's activity. The cadets were all taught essential field craft skills, from patrolling and establishing a Patrol Harbour Area to reaction under enemy fire and, for the senior cadets, co-ordinating sections and platoons. The cadets were also taught weapons handling and the art of camouflage & concealment, as well as completing an arduous assault course.

Saturday night saw the introduction of weapons into the scenario; two small 'recce' patrols were established by Sgt Wain to search the territory for other possible SCUD sites, whilst I was tasked with ambushing an Al-Cadre Patrol suspected to be returning to collect equipment from the SCUD site which had been destroyed the previous night. Avoiding an ambush



set by the Sandhurst officer cadets which would have seen us attacked by automatic gunfire and blinded by parachute flares, we 'dug ourselves in' and waited.

The always anticipated 'dawn raid' kick-started Sunday morning. Having given the NCOs no more than five minutes to plan an attack on a suspected Al-Cadre stronghold, the adult instructors left us to lead around 50 cadets into battle. Despite a lack of prior planning, we had what was essentially a small company at our disposal, and we NCOs installed ourselves in command of the five sections. Amidst low dawn mist and incarnadine skies, we carried out a hugely successful company attack, which, due to a lack of communications and a wide battlefield, proved especially tiring for me.

I, along with the entirety of the Army section, eagerly anticipate next Expeds, and I am sure that we'll see many of the lads who enjoyed this weekend flourishing by the next.

Sgt Woolley



CCF DIVING EXPEDITION TO GOZO

After weeks of diving in the school swimming pool, and with four dives in Dosthill quarry under our belt, a group of CCF boys qualified as PADI Open Water Divers in May 2011. However, the main diving event of the year was yet to come.

Stepping off the plane into Gozo's 38° heat with very little in the way of recent sleep was quite a shock to the system. However, the group felt rejuvenated after a swim in Marsalforn bay and a certain someone's encounter with a Jellyfish. I would like to add at this point that photographing a Jellyfish while it stings you repeatedly will earn you not only good pictures and a little discomfort but also a nomination for the "Darwin Awards" next year. Dinner that evening, and every evening to come, was enjoyed at "Smiley's"; a cafe-restaurant that offered good and honest food.

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The coming days would be full of comic escapades and a number of enjoyable dives: a Naturalist dive at Xatt L'Ahmar, a boat dive at "Croc Rock", navigating the bay of Mgarr-ix-xini, going deep in Ras Al Hobz and admiring the varied and mesmerising wildlife at Hondoq to name but a few. The trip was a fantastic experience and the vast majority of us came home with our Advanced Open Water qualification, which was largely due to the professionalism of Gozo Aqua Sports, but much helped by the enjoyable group dynamic.

In a recently article in Dive magazine, Dr Pamela Connolly describes scuba diving as not only an exhilarating hobby but also part of her *raison d'être*. I share this feeling: although I only began to dive this year, I have become a passionate diver and cannot wait to get back into the water to further my skills and discover the unknown. Dr Connolly also adds that divers possess a "tribal longing" which drives us to come together as like-minded individuals and enjoy this relaxing pastime. Therefore I urge you: Join the Tribe!

Andrew Eckert





Arm in Yeovil for a day's flying in November, but sadly other, rather more pressing, issues saw them being called upon: it served to remind us that there is a 'real life' side to the activities we experience in the cadet force. This was further reinforced by our visit to one of the Fleet's Nuclear Submarines in Plymouth during the weekend expedition in March: they were shipping out on active service the following day, and expected to be in a combat zone for the bulk of their tour.

The rest of that weekend was spent rather more light-heartedly, and I shall treasure the memory of the fourth year cadets trying to keep up with a Marines PT Instructor as he raced them across a field during a 'warm up'! South West Wargames provided us with both excellent field training and a great deal of fun during the weekend; our return to Plymouth for the September Expeditions is testament to our newfound love of, and respect for, all things Airsoft! We also managed

ROYAL NAVY SECTION: OVERVIEW

It seems strange to be writing an overview of the last year, not least because I was out of school for the first half of it! However, under the watchful eyes of Second Lieutenants Johnson and Jordan, the Royal Naval Section has gone from strength to strength.

The year opened with our sailing and kayaking programme for the fourth and fifth years, which is one of the key strengths and pleasures of the Section. Shortly into the Autumn term, Sqn Ldr Raynor organised a fantastic September Expedition to the National Watersports Centre; a new venue for us, but one to which we will certainly return, given how much fun was had! We would have been joining the Fleet Air

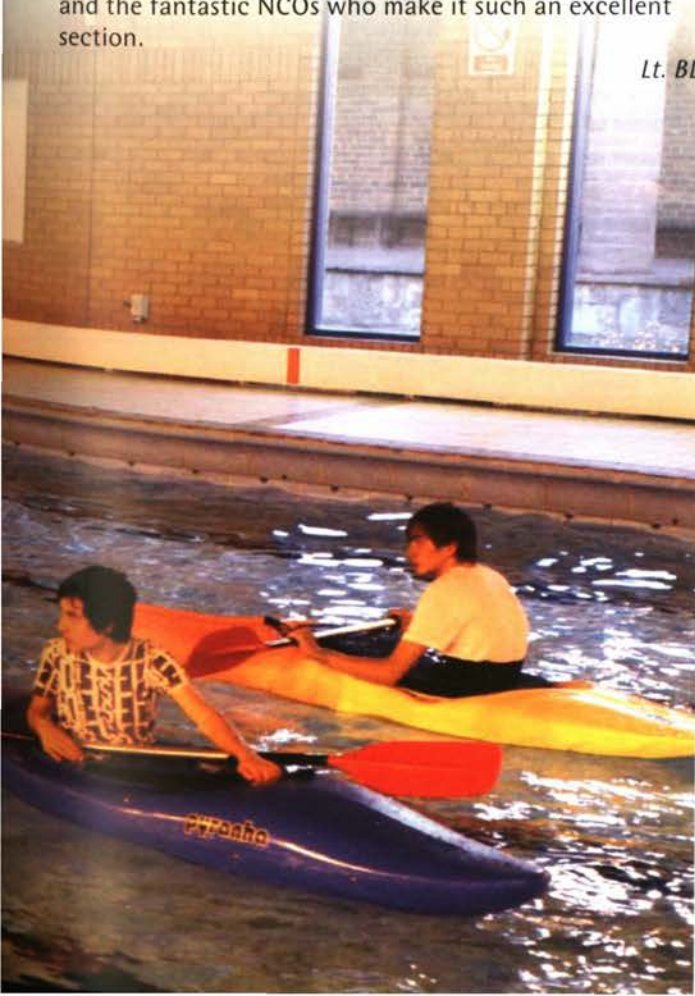




to spend a day aboard HMS EXPLOIT, an Archer Class patrol and training vessel of the Royal Navy, currently operated by Birmingham University's URNU in Cardiff bay. The cadets were given a chance to captain this vessel, a mini-warship in essence, and performed man-overboard drills in the bay.

Friday afternoons continued to show a good range of activities including survival drills, kayaking, navigation, weapons' handling, and leadership tasks, culminating in our preparation for the Annual General Inspection. As ever, I was incredibly proud to watch the Section march past, and really enjoyed the evening displays of activity, which included kayak drills in the pool, field first aid, and the world's first plastic jackstay! It continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to be involved with the RN Section, and I offer my gratitude to my fellow officers and the fantastic NCOs who make it such an excellent section.

Lt. BL



CCF - NAVY

NAVAL SECTION EXPEDITIONS WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 2010

Wow! What a first expedition weekend, packed full of day and night activities. When we arrived at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham, the first thing we had to do was pitch the tents and cook our own meals. After that came a night expedition involving a lot of teamwork based activities, and to finish off the night we had a strategic game which involved capturing as many glow sticks as possible from the opposition.

The next morning we were split into three groups, in order to complete three main activities. Firstly, I was placed in the group that went knee-boarding, which was probably the most exhilarating experience of my life! It was something totally new, something I had never tried before: I found that I was useless at it, but I had lots of fun. Next on the agenda was an assault course. Being with your mates only made the experience more enjoyable. Finally we had white water rafting, which was an excellent way to finish off the day. Thankfully no-one fell out of our boat. I would never have experienced these opportunities if I hadn't joined the Royal Navy Section, and now I am looking forward to what lies ahead!

Michael Durante

MARCH 2011 - HMS RALEIGH

It's a long coach journey to Plymouth, so our first evening was taken up by settling in at HMS Raleigh and playing some energetic games to work off the stiffness of the journey.

Next morning held a long march to breakfast, followed by a visit to a submarine that was about to ship out on active duty: a rare chance to see the Submarine Service in action. They made us all feel really welcome. However, the activity that many of us were eagerly anticipating was scheduled for the afternoon: "Airsoft" involves basic training in military tactics from ex-military trainers, which you then put into practice with a weapon in your hand. It hurts, but is very exciting.

During the second evening, we played football with the acting commander at Raleigh. On Sunday, the trip concluded with the coach journey home to where sleep awaited us.

WP and ED

ON BOARD HMS ALBION WITH 6
ASSAULT SQUADRON ROYAL MARINES

The opportunity to stay for three days on the Royal Navy Flagship HMS Albion was a valuable one, and the course a great success. We had the chance to experience the Royal Marine Commandos working on board the ship, and many other activities off the ship, such as being taught how to assemble a camouflaged garage for a military Land Rover and being driven around in a commando landing craft at high speed. Not only were these activities interesting and at times exciting, but they provided a welcome break from the constant murmur of the ship's engines!

One of my favourite activities was learning about the weapons the Assault Squadron used whilst in Afghanistan. For example, we were shown how to strip the L85A2 (as opposed to the L98A2 Rifle given to Cadets), shown how to load and use a 7.62 mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), and how to use a Browning pistol. This widened our knowledge of the weapons used in current conflicts. Moreover, the commandos in the ship's vehicle bay also taught us how to use hand-to-hand combat in certain situations. Although shown a variety of techniques, from judo-style throws to boxing, my personal favourite was a counter kick!

Christopher Deacon





NAVAL SECTION EXPEDITIONS WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 2011

This year's September expedition was something of a surprise. 43 cadets set off down the M5 - this was all that we knew of our location. After a long coach journey none of us knew where we were, but we had seen signs welcoming us to Cornwall; so at least we knew which county we were in. By the time we left the coach it was pitch black outside. We were introduced to our commander for the weekend and then set off on our walk to our "5-star accommodation"... a group of 8 large tents surrounding a huge tepee. This was definitely different from our regular bunks on board the air-conditioned HMS Bristol! We settled in and headed off to bed preparing ourselves for a fun-filled weekend.

At 0615, we woke to the sound of shots, flash bangs and loud shouting. We were encouraged to go outside in our sportswear, where we began to do various exercises before setting off on a long-mile run. This was quite tiring, especially first thing in the morning, but in the end it was worth the feeling of achievement!

Saturday's events were divided between military and survival training. During the military training we practised road patrols, advancing in hostile territory, covering fire, section and troop attacks, and dealing with prisoners, using 'airsoft' rifles firing BB pellets with a range of 50m. However, the survival training was somewhat calmer: we learnt how to start fires, build shelters, and find and prepare food. Unfortunately, it started to rain just before we started to build our fires; however, S.Lt. Johnson and S.Lt. Jordan showed us, the meaning of dedication and hard work and succeeded in building an impressive campfire for the whole group to enjoy. Whilst the teachers were busy, the others learned how to prepare food in the wild and tasted different edible leaves such as nettle and sorrel. Shelter building brought out the 'child' within us all as we scavenged for suitable sticks and leaves, and took refuge in our creations.

After eating from our ration packs we set off on a night exercise. The brief was simple; two teams were to

advance and escape in the dense darkness in search of information from agents. Stealthy movement required trust: we moved by holding onto each other's shoulders.

After an exhilarating 36 hours the weekend was nearly over. Surprisingly, most of us had enjoyed ourselves and were left wanting more. It had given us a glimpse of what it is like to be out in the field, solely relying on our own resources.

All of the training staff were impressed by the cadets' enthusiasm on a weekend that was not typical of the usual Expedition Weekend activities. Special thanks go to Lt. Leaver for organising the entire weekend, and to the staff who attended: S.Lt. Johnson, S.Lt. Jordan, Sqn Ldr Raynor as well as Messrs Irvine and Fern, who paid us a short visit.

L.S. Anish Kundu

POWER BOATING: JUPITER POINT, HMS RALEIGH

The start of the Easter Holidays found three naval cadets and Sub Lt Jordan on the train down to Plymouth, to the Naval Base HMS Raleigh, for a 5-day Power Boating course that would see us driving many different boats, from the imposing grey warpaint vessels to the speedier and exciting boats aboard which you get soaked from head to foot if you sit in the wrong place. It was a great opportunity to do something that we would never otherwise have had the chance to do; we had the best fun of our lives meeting some great people and getting up close to some gigantic warships.

Not all of it was easy. The weather wasn't always welcoming: on one day, in particular, the wind and rain were so fierce that you could easily crash the boat if you lost concentration. But in the end, we all walked away with shiny new Powerboat licences, and we all felt very pleased with ourselves! We'd like to thank the Naval section for giving us the chance to do this, and also the Royal Navy who generously arrange so many fantastic camps and courses for cadets.

Richard Elliot



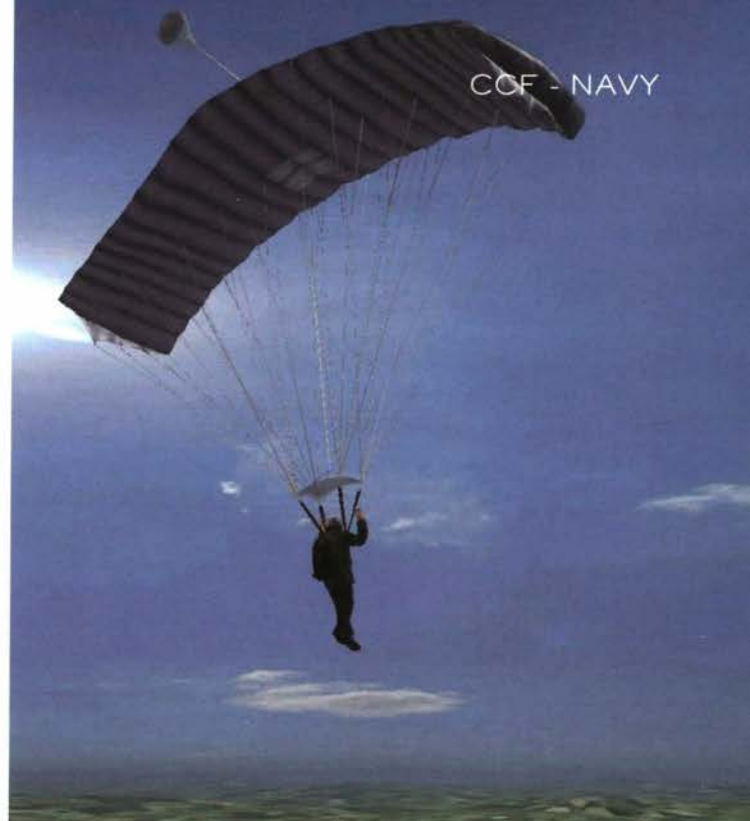
FIRST AID COURSE: HMS BRISTOL

The best thing about being in the CCF Navy section is the sheer number and variety of courses available at virtually no charge. During the summer, I went on a week-long first aid course on board HMS Bristol at Portsmouth. The course, run by Lt Mary Shields, covered the general first aid of the Red Cross qualification together with some specialist extras such as expedition first aid and use of a defibrillator. The best addition was an aspect known as 'casualty simulation', which involved creating a first aid situation using various make-up techniques.

Located in the sea cadet-training centre at HMS Excellent, the course was largely classroom based, but each evening we could break out of the classroom for 'dog watch' activities, where I learnt new games such as benchball and kwik cricket. At the end of the five days of training, there was an assessment session that all of the cadets who took the course passed: in recognition, we were awarded the Red Cross first aid badge, an international symbol which I feel privileged to wear. Overall, I undertook a brilliant course upon HMS Bristol, met a great group of people, and gained another qualification whilst enjoying myself. This was a great opportunity; one of many that we have as KES CCF cadets.

L.S. Anish Kundu





PARACHUTING AT RAF WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

Was it worth spending hours of training and drills for only a few minutes' descent above the picturesque Oxfordshire countryside? Definitely!

Most of the day was spent learning the drills and techniques needed to complete a parachute jump safely. These included learning how to exit the plane, with numerous recitals of "One-thousand, two-thousand, three-thousand, check, canopy", and how to react to all sorts of possible problems and malfunctions. After the training had finished and we had all passed our tests, we had to wait for a nail-biting couple of hours, hoping that the large grey clouds and strong winds would soon pass over the drop zone, allowing us to make the jump that day. Luckily, the weather cleared, and we were soon strapped into a small plane, which took us to an altitude of 3,500 feet. As soon as the door opened, one instructor jumped out of the plane with an impressive backflip, leaving the other instructor to encourage us, one by one, to sit on the edge of the door with our legs dangling out of the plane. As each person jumped, he could be seen, and heard, falling away from the plane, attempting to maintain a somewhat aerodynamic shape until his parachute opened. On the ground, people came down all over the landing zone: there were some spectacular falls as people landed too fast, due to not flaring at the right time.

As with the majority of parachute jumps, everyone made a successful jump, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience; many of us are vowing to return for our second experience!

Christopher Deacon



HISTORY MAKERS: THE RAF NATIONAL COMPETITION TEAM

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This year, RAF Cranwell was the site of something never before seen. For the fifth year in a row the Competition Team, made up of the very best cadets KES RAF section can offer, set their sights on the National Competition. Getting to that level requires dedication, commitment and pure skill in six different areas (military knowledge, physical training, shooting, aircraft recognition, drill, and leadership and first aid), something which we at KES had shown just a few months before when we had sailed past the regional level with a solid first place, even beating our traditional rivals from Monmouth, thanks to the strong leadership of Jacek Stefanowski.

We were confident that our preparation would pay off as we spent the precious last minutes in our luxury accommodation ironing shirts, pressing trousers and polishing shoes. Despite this, the competition was tough. We were the first team to do the drill



competition, setting a high standard for other teams to compete against. Unfortunately, an unlucky injury in the PT set us back somewhat, but this gave Pratteek Bathula the opportunity to show off some of the first aid skills that would get him the individual best first-aider award.

By the time it came to the awards ceremony, we were shattered yet happy with all the hard work that we had put into the competition. The first aid team had managed to battle their way to first place while the shooters had just lost out on first, coming an impressive second place. The all-important drill competition saw us win a third place and the PT results placed us fourth; remarkable, considering one of the runners was injured. Overall we were placed sixth in the country.

A fitting reward for the team came just before the Annual General Inspection, when one of the RAF's own Chinook helicopters landed on the South Field. They weren't just dropping in though. All of us were kitted up with some dashing flight helmets and taken up into the air for a tour of Birmingham unlike any other. The views were amazing and the helicopter's aerobatic abilities were fully demonstrated by the all too eager pilots.



If only they had told us they would be keeping the doors open during the flight, I might have worn a jacket.

The Competition Team did amazingly this year and we hope to get straight back to it with another win in the regional competition next year. Maybe RAF Cranwell will have our gleaming parade shoes step on its hallowed drill square one more time.

Luke Botting



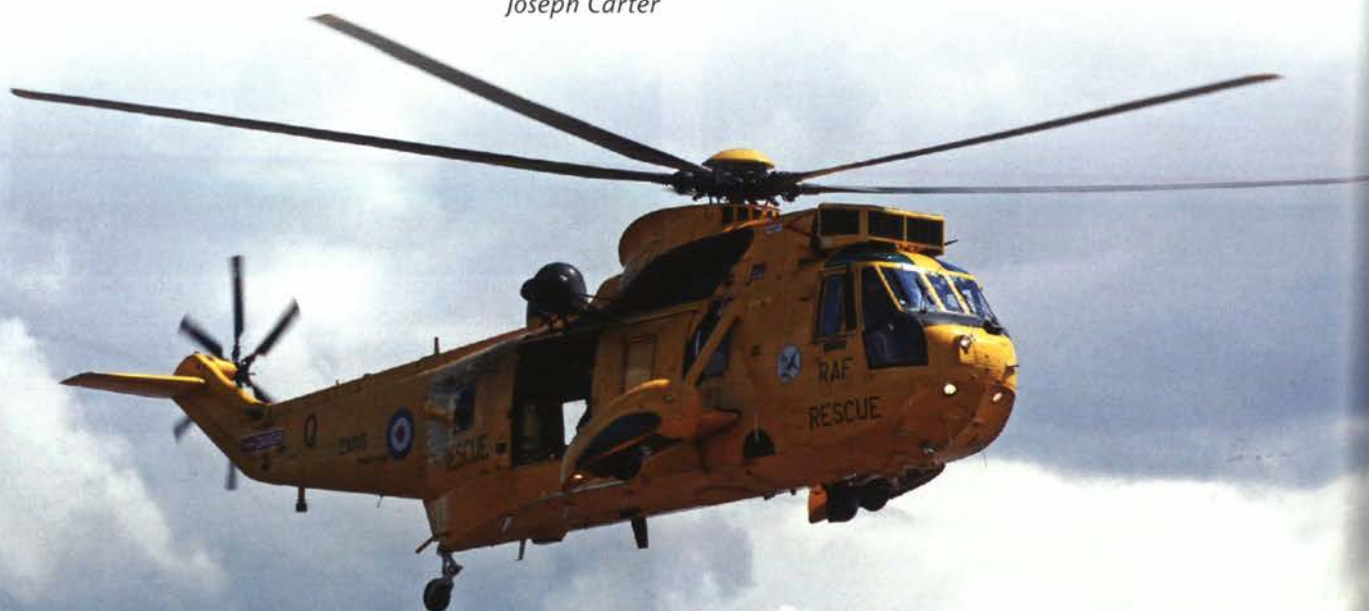
RAF SUMMER CAMP

The RAF summer camp at Boulmer in Northumbria was a fantastic experience. Fg Off Howard and Flt Lt Evans, together with a group of six boys from Monmouth School and two of their Officers, accompanied seventeen boys from KES. Everyone got on really well, and to make the week even more interesting we were split into two flights for an on-going competition. We were assessed on various activities throughout the week and the flight that had performed the best won.

As we were staying on an RAF base our standard of uniform and behaviour had to be of the highest (so, lots of ironing and polishing shoes), but that didn't stop us having a lot of fun. Many activities had been arranged, including firing the L98 A2 rifle on a live firing range, visiting an underground bunker, and learning about RADAR on a site close by. The whole week wasn't just RAF related though: we did other activities such as coasteering, paintballing in heavy rain, and visiting the nearby town of Alnwick. A BBQ on the beach and a dip in the icy waters of the North Sea finished the week off nicely.

However, for me the highlight of the week was during the night expedition at RAF Spadeadam. The training area was littered with missiles, tanks and aircraft, but also with old-fashioned red telephone boxes. It was at the end of this exercise that Fg Off Dunn, from Monmouth, made the announcement over the entire radio system: "Come in, Come in...I have managed to fit seven cadets into a telephone box...Over." I am not sure that it was good military protocol, but it was very funny.

Joseph Carter





RAF GLIDING COURSE

On the 26th of August I escaped to a small RAF base near Nottingham, RAF Syerston. Upon arriving at the headquarters, we found out that the building was leaky and we wouldn't be able to stay there: so we travelled to RAF Cranwell, a much bigger base where we were even given our own rooms for the week.

There should only be one 5 o'clock in a normal day, and that's in the evening! Waking up and seeing 5:45 am on my phone felt very odd, but didn't dampen my spirits, as I would soon be in the skies learning to fly! At 0830 hours we were given a health and safety brief, and told what exercises we should expect on the first day. We got out onto the airfield pretty soon after the brief and were put to work launching the gliders. Soon it was time for my first flight. Sitting in the cockpit, with a parachute strapped to my back, I watched as the launch cable became taut. The only comfort was that there was an instructor in there with me. The sudden acceleration caused a lurch in my stomach and within seconds we were travelling along the ground at 80 mph. The flight was absolutely mind-blowing, although not having an engine was slightly disconcerting. By the end of the first day I was dying for more!

Towards the end of the week we were all beginning to fly the circuit and getting at least 6 launches every day. This meant that we were ready to fly solo. Just the thought of it made my mind numb. It's not everyday that a school student gets to go up in a glider all on his own. It was an absolutely fantastic experience, and

without an instructor watching your every move, it was much more relaxing sailing through the air. However, the most difficult part was the landing: if you didn't get it right, you'd have a very bumpy ride indeed.

643 VGS at Syerston is an amazing squadron with possibly the friendliest instructors I have met. I had not only learnt to fly, but also made new friends and had a great week. I would like to thank Flt Lt Evans for organising my place on this trip, and all of 643 VGS for such a brilliant time, and I would definitely recommend this to anyone in the RAF section.

Aditya Kale





THE AIR CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE

"Drill is a pill, and it must be taken twice daily!" Such was just one of the many memorable phrases of our drill commander at the Air Cadet Leadership Course this summer. Referred to as "Course 91" by the Course Commandant Sqn Ldr Miller, the ACLC was a week-long opportunity, bringing over 40 of the leading ATC and CCF cadets from all over the UK to one of the most prestigious of all RAF courses, at RAF Cranwell.

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From the first day to the last, cadets were pushed to the limits of organisation and activity: reveille at 0530 hrs, drill practice before breakfast and lunch, and lessons and tasks throughout the remainder of the day. The focus of the course is to develop leadership qualities in cadets. Assigned to a flight at the beginning of the week, each cadet leads his flight in three command tasks over three different phases, each successive task increasing in difficulty and time pressure. Supervising each flight were two officers who offered guidance and feedback at the end of each task, highlighting areas for growth. There were lessons in Theory of Leadership, presentations that instructed us in the different styles of leading a group and the manner in which we could relate these skills to managing groups outside of the command tasks, and in the real world.

There was a strong physical aspect to the course, both in the command tasks and in an 0600 run on the first day, an 18km trek through the Lincolnshire countryside and, during phase 3, the most demanding phase of the course, an extensive orienteering course, immediately followed by a gruelling log run. What made phase 3 more difficult was the lack of a (relatively) comfortable mattress at the end of the night. Instead, we enjoyed the "luxury" of sleeping out in bashes and tents. Determination and resilience were key parts to tackling this most challenging part of the course.

Yet for all the trials, the course brought an immense sense of pride, self-confidence, and above all, a greater appreciation for the flight, a group who became incredibly tight knit over the duration of the course. Without a doubt, the banter and the camaraderie that we had as a flight made the entire course exceptionally enjoyable and the sleep deprivation and tired limbs easy to forget! All in all, this was a week that will never be forgotten and a great learning experience, highlighting my own ability and strengthening the perseverance and leadership qualities that will greatly benefit my time as an NCO.

Cpl Shankho Chaudhuri

WATER-SKIING WITH THE RAF

During one of our Friday afternoon activities, Flight Lieutenant Evans took a few of the Fourth form RAF cadets waterskiing. Squeezed into tight wet suits, we set off in the powerboat. Once briefed and taught the basics, two of my peers took the plunge and volunteered for the first try on the supported side bar. However, both spectacularly lost their grip within seconds of starting, and were treading water. After a few attempts, we all mustered some proficiency, so we tried the much harder unsupported long rope that trailed the powerboat. After a shaky start I was water-skiing and soon found myself having fun in the not-so-warm water. We all had a lot of fun, but unfortunately were unable to persuade Flt Lt Evans to have a go. It was a thoroughly exhilarating experience.

Simon Kent

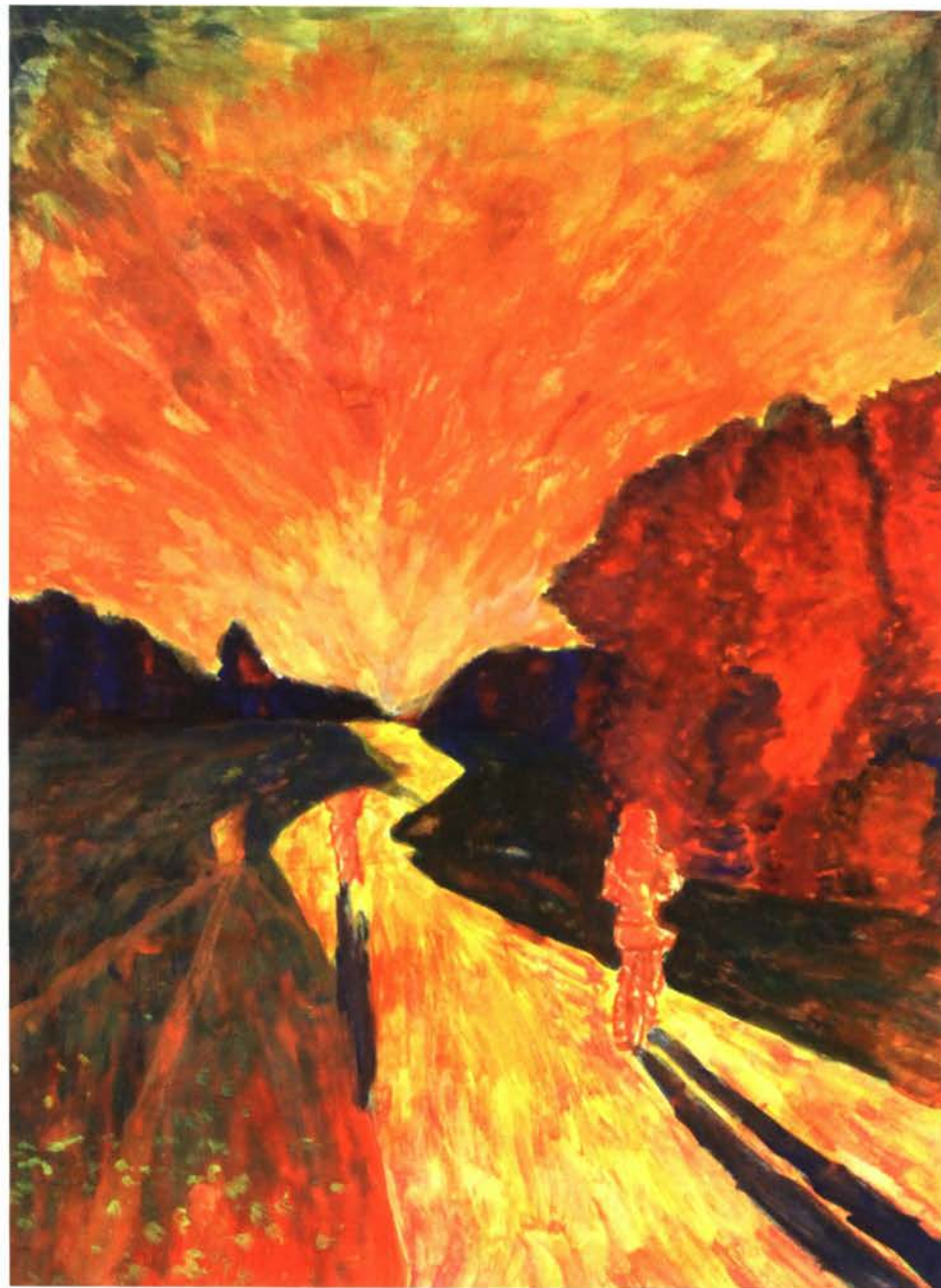




PICTURES



Theo Sharieff-Winston GCSE Exam Engraving 5th Yr



Shel Jang 'Fauve Landscape' Tempra Paint Remove



Oliver Bealby-Wright 'Self Portrait' Lino Print Upper Middle



Elliot Parkes 'Self Portrait' Lino Print Upper Middle



Sol Rosier 'Observation Drawing' Graphite Upper Middle



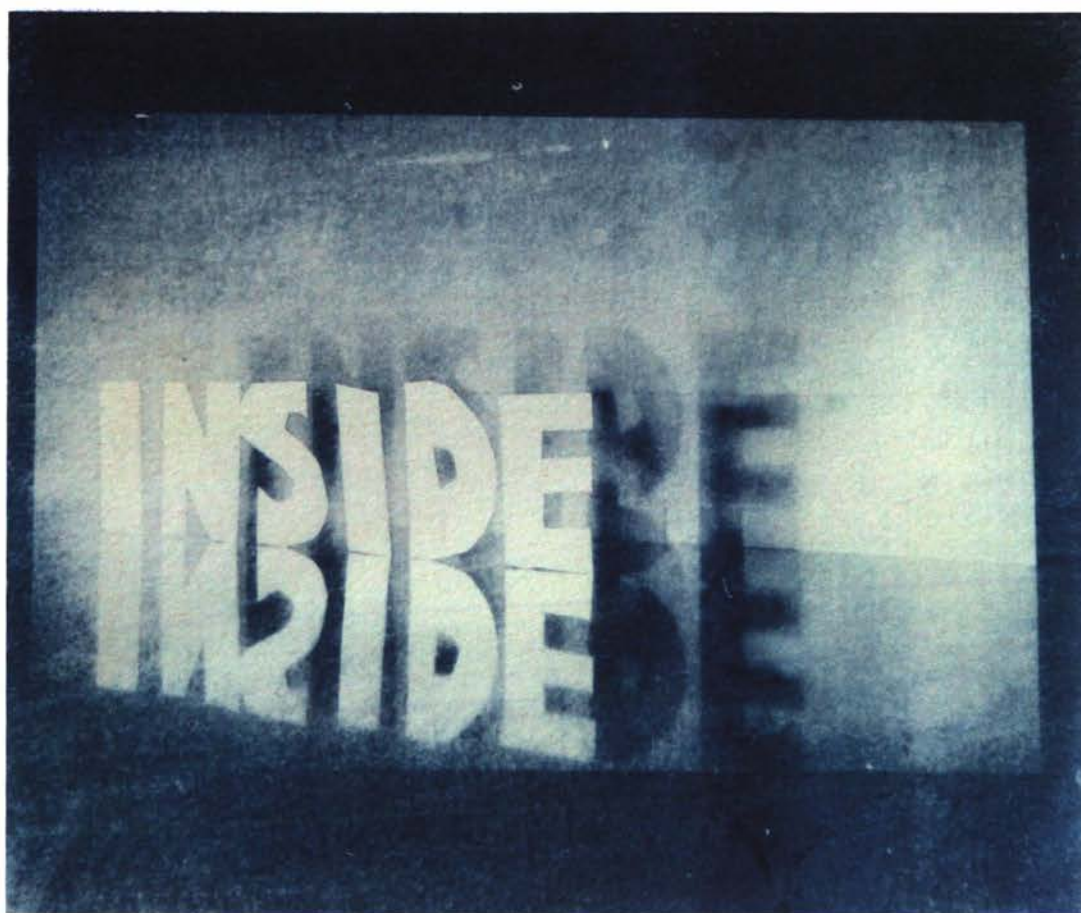
Sol Rosier 'Observation Painting' Tempra Paint Upper Middle



Kush Sinha 'Mythical Beasts' Ceramic Remove



Arjun Goswami 'Mythical Beasts' Ceramic Remove



Lewis Allen IB Diploma Cyanotype Division



Jeremy Ho 'Mythical Beasts' Ceramic Remove



David Kiff A-level Exam Etching 6th Yr



David Kiff A-level Exam Etching 6th Yr



Jack Hobbs A-level Exam Oil Paint 6th Yr



Jack Hobbs A-level Exam Oil Paint 6th Yr

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Jack Cornick A-level Exam Ceramic 6th Yr



Abhinav Jain 'Endangered Animal' Ceramic Shell



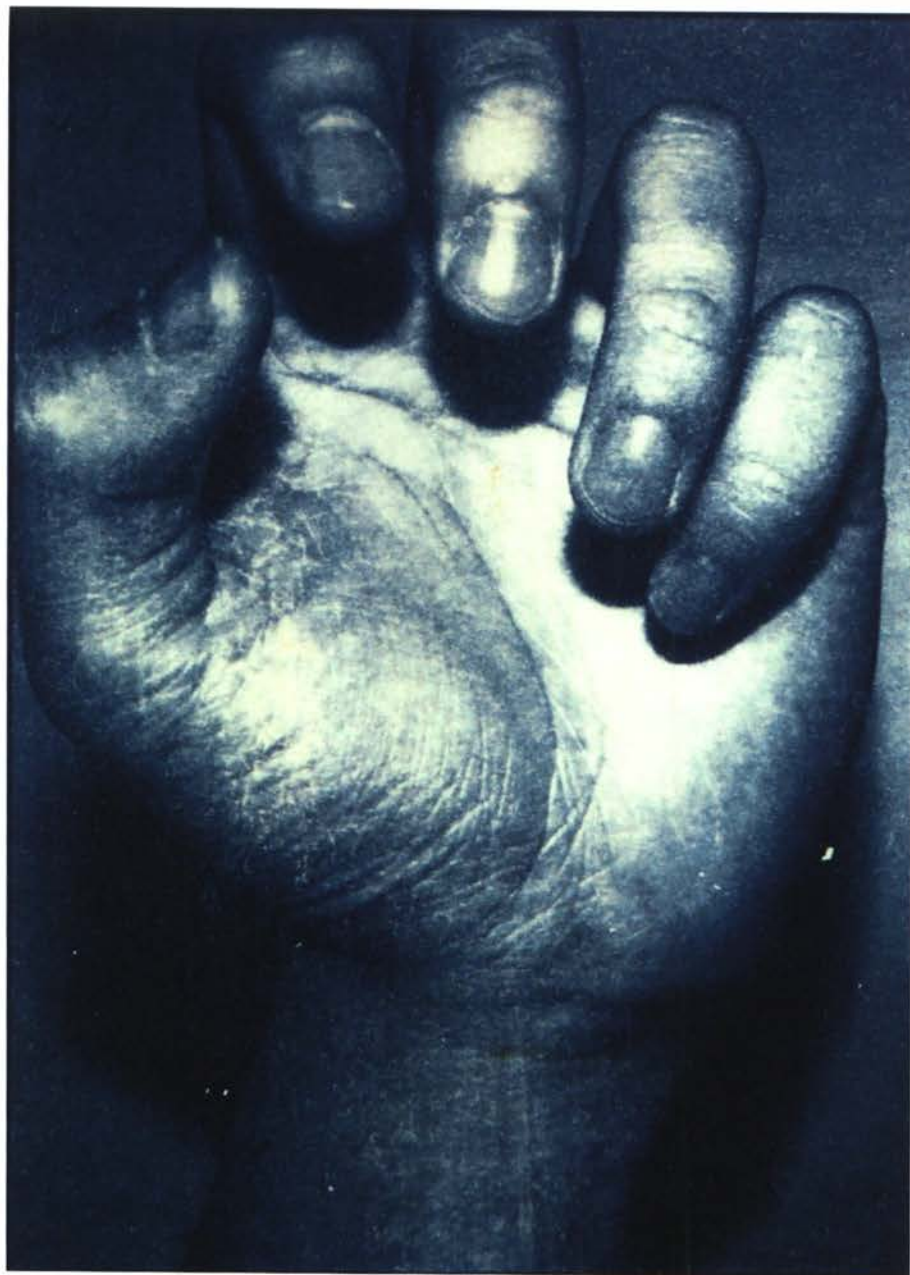
Rowan Mehta 'Monoprint' Lino and monoprint Shell



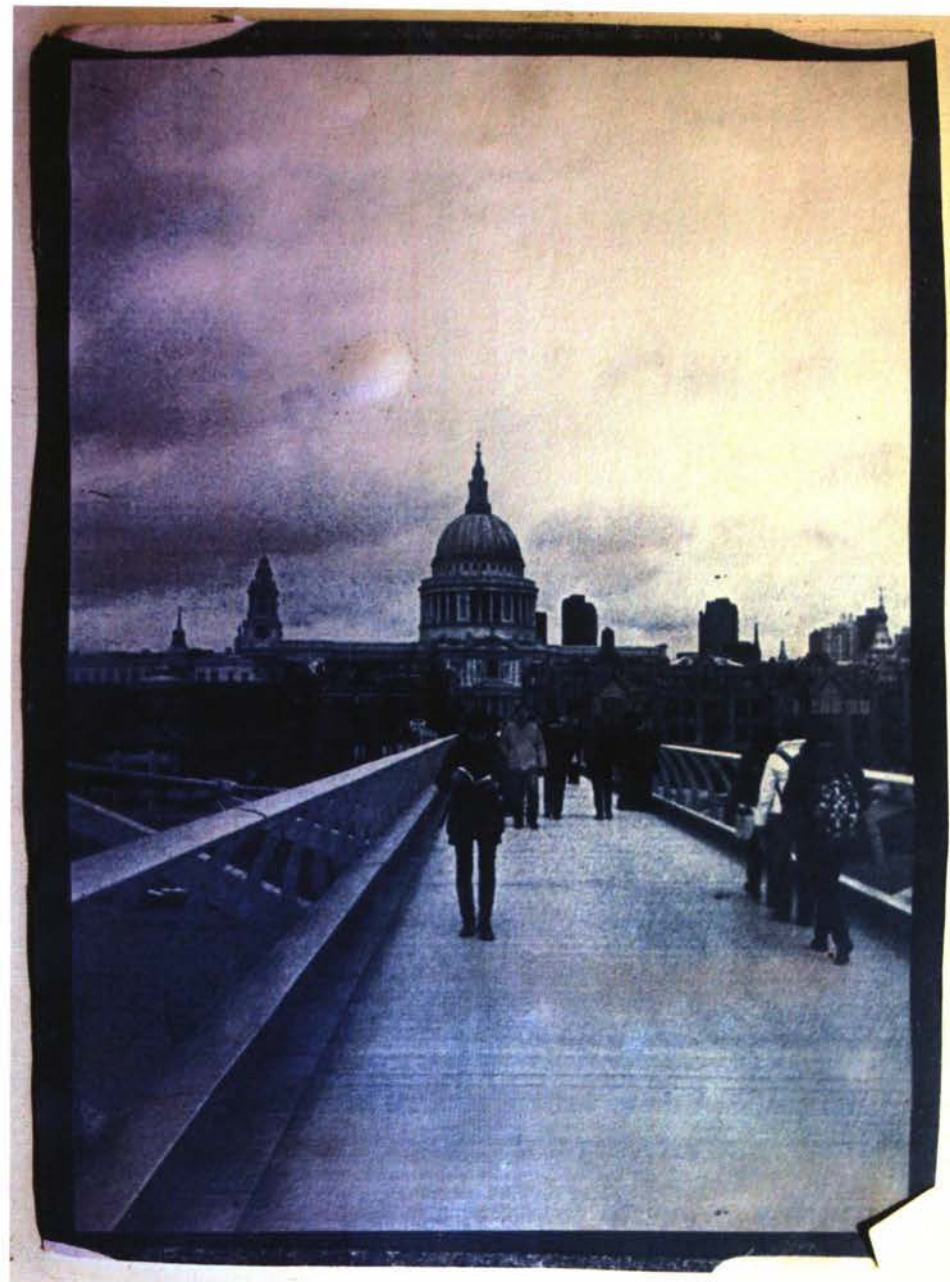
Alex Roberts IB Diploma Etching Division



Olly Ridgley GCSE Etching 4th Yr



Adrian Wong IB Diploma Cyanotype Division



Roland Kaye IB Diploma Cyanotype Division



James Khan 'Mask' Ceramic Upper Middle



Nathen Chung 'Mythical Beasts' Ceramic Remove



Tom Haynes GCSE Etching 4th Yr



Adrian Wong IB Diploma Etching Division



Jack Cornick A-level Exam Lino Print 6th Yr



Connor McGuirk GCSE Ceramic 5th Yr

HOUSES



CARY GILSON

Last year was a good year all round for Cary Gilson House, as we finally realised our potential. Despite finishing 6th the year before, we sailed up the Cock House rankings and finished in a comfortable second place. Long gone are the days of Cary Gilson being the butt of the Cock House jokes: we have matured into a force to be reckoned with.

On the whole, the House performed brilliantly. However, it is only fair to point out some exceptional performances in the Summer Term: we won Sports Day thanks to imperious individual performances from Shivang Shastri, Mason Gain, Paolo Odogwu, Simon



Kent (who broke a school record for Fourths' Discus), Henry Glossop, Dominic Spencer Jolly, Andrew Eckert and Hugh Cullen, who won a whole host of second and third places. Well done to all of those lads!

Our prowess in Athletics has always been strong but has strengthened in recent years, no doubt due to Mr Turner's influence as our House Master: he has helped to transform the House from its previous lows to the recent highs. On behalf of the entire House, I would like to thank him for all of his hard work organising the House, and also extend my gratitude to the other Tutors: it truly would not have been possible without them, and it is no coincidence that an influx of committed staff members into Cary Gilson has seen our success increase dramatically.

Although the previously dusty trophy cabinet is filling up, there is still a Cock House Trophy-shaped hole which needs to be filled and we have every intention of doing so this coming academic year... Prince Lee: make way for Cary Gilson!

George Adams



EVANS

Traditionally, we stumble out of the starting blocks like a recalcitrant tortoise, displaying all the energy of a somnambulant sloth. However, the beginning of our challenge for the Cock House trophy was kick-started by some fantastic performances in the Senior Indoor Competitions. Harry Goldenfeld and Bruno Richards led the Squash team to first place, and Nick Gateley's Fives team came an impressive third. Tom Hubscher, Abhay Raji Soorya, and Kentaro Ueshima all performed valiantly in our triumphant badminton team, and we also came second in Table Tennis with Amar Sodha and Frank Lawton. Solid performances elsewhere resulted in a respectable second place at Christmas.

We approached the Spring term with a degree of confidence: we had, possibly, the best House Rugby team ever assembled. Ryan Millar, Richard Lenton, Ed Matthews, Ed Jackson, Jonathan Duckett, Connor McGuirk, amongst others, were immense and we won the final by fifty points. Hockey was another of our strengths: with Adam Forrest, Tom Hubscher, Bruno Richards, Amar Sodha and Jamie Fennell, all first team hockey players, we hoped for first position. In the end we just missed out, finishing second. Other notable performances included winning Senior Cross-country led by Matthew Eyre and also UM Cross-country with a promising second position achieved by the Shells. Gus Iloff and Richard Newton were both excellent. The UMs were placed second in Badminton and the Fourths in Fives, led by Samuel Bennett. House Music was not without controversy: Roberto Ruisi was placed joint fifth whilst Daniel Turner led the House Shout ensemble with lead singers Nick Gateley and Ed Ratcliff performing the Blues Brothers' classic Everybody Needs Somebody to Love. Many worked hard and sixth position was slightly disappointing. We stayed in second position, only half a point behind Prince Lee... could this be our year? Was the jolly green giant ready to take its rightful position on the top step of the podium?

Our main problem during the Summer term was cricket. We required rain, but there was a drought which extended itself to our success on the cricket field: Hamza Ajaib was our one class performer. In the Senior competition, first seeds Prince Lee only beat eighth-seeded Evans with two balls to go. A reverse of that result would have put the green cat amongst the pink pigeons. The Senior athletes came second. If Ryan Millar had not earned an England Rugby League call-up, surely that would have been first. The Fifts again came first thanks to the McGuirk and Duckett show. Tennis was reasonable, Richard Newton and Cameron Shaylor managing second position for the Minors. Swimming proved to be a conundrum: we were second and third in Water Polo, yet fifth and sixth in swimming sports, apart from the UMs who came a respectable second.

Nick Eccleston and Tom Hubscher won the Evans Junior and Senior Shields, respectively, and Frank Lawton was appointed as House Captain. The House extends its thanks to Adam Forrest for his excellent year's tenure. Overall we came third but it could, and perhaps should, have been better.

SJT

GIFFORD

The final points standings indicate that 2010-11 was not the year for the ultimate purple army – Gifford. Throughout the year there were particular moments that shone, such as our winning the Junior House cricket and Fourths' squash, but success was sporadic and did not come often enough.

The year started well enough, with quite a few top table finishes in Senior hockey and Senior badminton as well as a stunning start for our new recruits in table tennis, with the Shells coming 2nd. We welcomed Ms G Powell as our new Shell tutor and the future looks bright for that year-group.

However, interspersed with these successes were exploits that were not of the standards that we proud Giffordians have set ourselves in recent years. As holders of the House Shout title, we strongly believed that we would retain it with our faithful rendition of a Frankie Vallie classic, but it was not written in the stars and we ended up 4th. To this date, conspiracy theories abound as to how Vardy managed to win, yet we dealt with the blow and moved on, stringing together a series of strong results which included two 1st place finishes, seven 2nd place finishes and three 4th place finishes: an outstanding fight back.

However, for the second year running, our Standards performance was not up to scratch: we finished in a lowly 8th place in athletics and 3rd, 7th and 4th in Senior, Junior and Minor swimming, respectively. So once again our target for the coming year is to improve our performance in Standards, a competition which was our strongest suit in years gone by. In the end, after a long and hard fought battle, we Giffordians came 5th overall.

Nevertheless, I have a firm belief in our house members. Their qualities are unmatched and 2011 will definitely be the year that it rains purple on KES.

Aniket Sonsale

HEATH

The year 2010-2011 got off to a tremendous start for Heath, owing to Mr Smith's rousing speeches. The "Heath House Buzz" rapidly became an integral part of our spirit. We quickly established ourselves as champions in both Senior and Junior Hockey and discovered that our teams in the Removes, UMs and Fourths were nobly proving themselves on the Rugby pitch: each year group was placed second.

The Shells (as usual) bowled us over with their sheer enthusiasm and did not allow the slow start to the Autumn term to dampen their spirits, achieving a magical first place in the Table Tennis competition for their efforts. Similarly, the Fourths stood out yet again, not only for their ability, but also for their determination and extremely positive attitude – they achieved a top three position in seven of their competitions.

House Music, always eagerly anticipated, did not disappoint this year: Kiyam Lin participated in his final Classical round for Heath in an extremely tough competition, whilst Dan Mort, Jo Nazran and Stan Cousins put together an amazing arrangement for House Shout which fused Bollywood with Rock – they did well, but not as well as they deserved.

There were many high points throughout the year and many individuals who deserve recognition, so as ever I start this with an apology for anyone who may have been left out. But here goes: George Cheetham stunned and amazed the PE department by winning the 100m on Sports Day; Alistair Malhotra, Tim Wheeler, Nick Olliff, Andy Wilson, Idrees Mughal and Joshua Brampton made a huge contribution to our Standards totals; Henry Bellshaw once again dragged himself round the Cross-country course. Other highlights included Jo Nazran, Rahul Bagchi and that dancing; Dan Mort and that drumming; Oisin Robinson and his sheer enthusiasm; Adam Wine and his winning of the Heath House Shield; Dev Soni, Conrad Yap and Magnus Yap for their participation in everything; Michael Durante, Jamie Mitchell, Anuj Savani and James Kuo for their utter talent and reliability... the list is endless.



The boys worked extremely hard and I hope that they enjoyed themselves greatly too; they deserved better than their final sixth place. We said farewell to the Sixths, a fine bunch of young men whom I am sure will go on to achieve great things. We sadly said goodbye, and thank you, to Stan Cousins, Dan Mort and Jamie Wheeler, who ran the House with maturity, a great sense of humour and lots of gentle encouragement (for boys and staff alike). We welcomed Henry Bellshaw as the very worthy new House Captain for 2011-12.

Finally, we also must say thank you to our House tutors, Mme Esnault, Mr Golightly, Mr Stearn and Dr McDonald, for their hard work and patience throughout the year.

And on that note, it is time for Mrs Duncombe and Mr Smith to hand Heath over into the very capable hands of Mr Irvine, in the hope that the Buzz will continue for many years to come.

CMLD/Henry Bellshaw

JEUNE:

Last year, I wrote about how Jeune were on the stepping stones to success. With the benefit of hindsight, I can see that this was an over-optimistic assessment. Perhaps you can forgive me for such a positive outlook, since rarely before had the House had such a well-equipped hierarchy with which to take on the challenges of the Cock House. We had Tim Barnes and Thomas Hook to lead us, along with a great and inspirational orator in the form of Oliver Dixon, as well as Keiran O'Brien, whose committed work ethic some have compared closely to that of Park Ji-Sung. One could certainly see a recipe for success.

It started to seem like that after a bright start to the Autumn term. By Christmas, we were in a healthy (and unheard-of) 3rd position, thanks to noteworthy



performances in Chess and Fives. However, the success got to the heads of many of the Jeune faithful and despite our Housemaster's warning us about getting too big for our boots and peaking too soon, we were soon sliding down the table. Looking back, this was mostly due to the prevalence of racquet sports in the Spring term. These were definitely not our strength and in virtually all of them we either finished 7th or 8th. Take note, members of the Red Army, this is something to improve on next year!

By Easter we had sunk to 7th in the standings and the prospects of maintaining even that position looked bleak. However, the Red Army rallied behind Hooky's plea to attend Standards, and despite the shoddy performances of 7th and 8th in House athletics, which suggested we completely lacked any athletic talent, sheer determination and effort won out: we were justly rewarded with 1st position in Athletics Standards: a true testimony to how Jeune embodies the spirit of the House system.



Even though this was the only great achievement of the term, it was enough to keep us off the bottom of the Cock House Table at 7th position. Though this might be deemed a failure for many Houses, the members of Jeune have endured far worse things over the years, and ultimately recognise that a Cock House placing is only a number, which will rise and fall as regularly as the ebbs and flows of the tide, whereas the spirit of the Red Army will live on across the generations, untarnished by disappointment, driving us to soldier on through the troubles and against the odds, and causing us to cry out one more time: "Whose House? JEUNE's House!"

Stewart Horder



LEVETT

Despite the fact that we have not won the Cock House trophy since 2005, but have been the only House ever to plummet from first to last place in a year, we Levettians never lack ambition! Indeed, House Captain Hugo Clay did his best to spur on the boys in the MPL during the last House Meeting of the year and, even though we were 60 points adrift of seventh place in the Cock House, he managed to breathe inspiration into us.

Mr Roll has said: "As a Housemaster, one probably experiences more highs and lows than many other people in a year." However, in his case it seemed to be more lows this year than ever before, as we kept falling and falling throughout the Summer term, owing to our unfortunate last places in both Swimming and Athletics. Our athletic ability proved surprisingly sparse, though special mention should be made of Alex Hardy, Samuel Rot and Harrison Green for their efforts in Standards. Indeed, Standards is the one thing which everyone in Levett House, no matter what his ability, usually participates in: doing well in this event depends on involvement in numbers. Unfortunately, we experienced a bit of a drought this year when it came to Standards cards being handed in – take note, Levettians: we can do better!

Senior House Cricket was a success until we had to lose two of our 1st team cricket players due to poor fixture management; this left the rest of the team rotting away against a very strong Prince Lee leaving us in an unfair 2nd place. Nevertheless, during the heats, the boys



of Levett were able to see one of the best catches in the history of House Cricket made by Vishal Patil, who played well consistently.

We in Levett House cherish the "Spirit of Levett", shown by those members of the House who give that little bit extra: for example the Cup Holder, Angus Bradley, and the term's stars Habib Rahman and Roodi Gent. We ended the Summer term of 2011 with the awarding of the Black and White Token of Success to Alex Hardy and Dhruv Chauhan for their consistent service to the House.

The final meeting of the 2010-11 academic year featured a surprise letter from previous House Captain Andrew Philpott. Andrew, despite being in the USA at the time, still managed to lift the spirits of us Levettians. Let us hope that his words spur us on to to achieve better things in the year(s) ahead!

Ted Smith



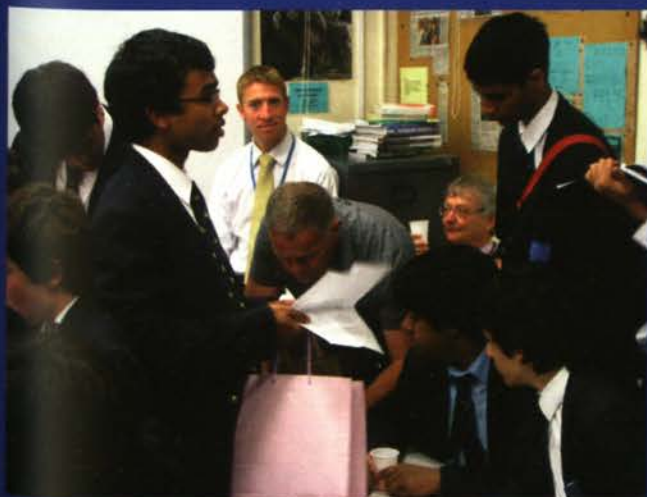
PRINCE LEE

In recent years Prince Lee has shone as the star house of KES: this year everyone was determined to capture the glory of the Cock House title for the third time in four years.

Under the captaincy of Will Chesner and his deputy Wrik Ghosh, the House made its dominating presence known with an exceptional win in House Challenge at the beginning of the year. However, this victory was only a precursor to the skilled performances of the Seniors in indoor competitions, including second places in Fives, Badminton and Squash. The Shells also proved their place in the House with their extraordinary win in Rugby – hopefully a promise of similar things to come in the future.

Indeed, the Shells performed more than admirably in the Spring term, winning the Fives competition before, along with the Removes, winning Mrs Gardiner's inaugural Junior Mathematics Competition under the wing of Ravin Jain. Despite the hard work of Prince Lee's emergent vocal talent, Vickram Ravirajan, we came a disappointing 7th place in House Shout, although Jeremy Ho put in a resounding performance in the individual music competition, notching up an amazing 2nd place. Cross-country was a huge success across all year-groups, with no year ranked below 3rd place; however, a special mention must go to the Fourths, who came first. Our victory in Junior basketball was but another success to add to the ever-growing list.

The commitment of our House members shone through in the summer athletics and swimming Standards. This resulted in wins in the Minor, Junior and Senior swimming Standards, a dominance in the pool which carried over to both the swimming and water polo competitions. The UMs and Fourths were hailed as victors in swimming, whilst the Seniors were placed second in both competitions. This supremacy in the pool, present last year too, was an important step towards our eventual Cock House success; after a positive showing by the Removes and Fourths on the



athletics track, where they were placed second and first respectively, the House were crowned champions for the second year in succession!

This success was due to the boys' hard work and effort, but we must not forget the real juggernauts of the House: the staff and, most importantly, Jon Porter. Colin Irvine – after only a year with us – now moves on to the position of head of Heath House. However, it is to Rob Symonds (1973-2011) that Prince Lee dedicates its victory in the Cock House. He is the true embodiment

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of what the House stands for: he not only stuck with us through the tough times – often few and far between – but also joined hands with the rest of the House in our successes. He now leaves to teach part-time at the girls' school, but his legacy will remain. In his honour, perhaps we will be able to make it three in a row this coming year?

Sahil Deepak and Ravin Jain



VARDY

At the start of the year, what I wanted from the boys was their best in every competition, and commitment and dedication to the House; but, ultimately, I wanted them to enjoy being in Vardy. The House has been so successful because there have been many instances of boys doing more than could be expected. Indeed, it is not possible to mention them all, but their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The Sword of Honour went to Alex Roberts in the Autumn term and Jared Bentsi-Enchill in the Summer Term. The Adrian Lee Memorial Award went to Tom Anderson, who also won the Sword of Honour in the Spring Term.

The Shells were successful in Badminton, Squash and the inaugural Maths Challenge, as well as the Football competition which, sadly, did not count in the Cock House trophy. The Removes continue to dominate their House competitions, winning Rugby and Cross-country as well as finishing second in three other disciplines. The Minor competitions, involving both these years, saw success in Swimming, Cricket and Tennis.

The UMs had a year of mixed fortunes, with disappointments in Swimming and Squash, but victory in Fives and a second place in Tennis. They also did well in Athletics, with several excellent performances: particular mention goes to Will Ritchie-Moulin for his record-setting performance in the High Jump on Sports Day. The Fourths exceeded expectations this year: they finished well above their seeding in Rugby and came second overall in Athletics, many points coming from Ed Moore and Biyaser Abuelgasim. However, the real praise goes to our jobbing sportsmen, who simply gave their all when asked. In the Junior competitions, the UMs and Fourths worked well together, often with a majority of the side being from the younger age group. Shivam Pabari inspired the cricketers to finish third and was also an effective captain in Hockey.

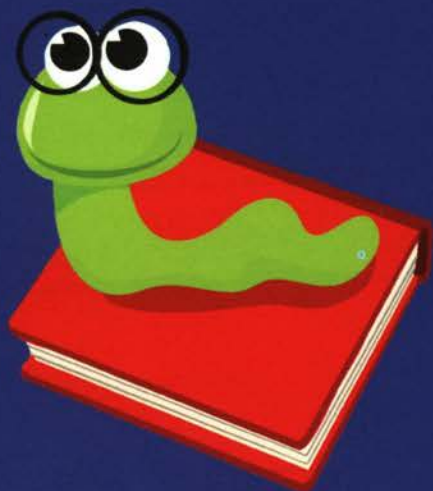
The high spot of the year was a victory in House Shout, with a tremendous performance by Tom Anderson, Jonathan Browning, Oscar Denihan, Peter Hodgkinson, Tom Lilburn, Seb Ostrowicz, Will Ritchie-Moulin and Matt Rodrigo. In the classical music competition Adam Phillips excelled.



The Seniors had a fantastic year, winning Water Polo, Swimming and Athletics. Morgan Hirsch, Tim Griffith, and Jared Bentsi-Enchill won six athletics events between them. In Rugby, the unlikely figure of Alex Wakelam emerged to take out a seasoned player from another house and Kit Fowler suffered injury for the cause. The Sixths have been a tremendous group throughout their time in Vardy: Henry Tonks and Ed Siddons have dominated Challenge and Debating; James Cull has been an outstanding sportsman in all areas; and Morgan Hirsch has been a tremendous House Captain. His speeches to the assembled house could not fail to inspire. Nevertheless, the whole group have contributed so much to Vardy over the years; saying farewell to them at the end of term was a poignant moment. Morgan said he did not want to leave and they should all start again in the Shells... Well, that would give us a tremendous advantage in Shells' Rugby!



SOCIETIES



BOOK WORMS

Launched this year to encourage all things bookish, Book Worms operates in a similar way to an adult reading club, whereby the members choose a book once a half term to read and come together to discuss it (with accompanying cakes, naturally!).

We have had a great year and the group has been terrifically popular – so much so that at one point we had to split the group because the Fiction Library couldn't contain us all. The Worms have made some great book choices and we have read everything from William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* to Ali Sparkes' *Frozen in Time*, with a brief sojourn into the world of flying mechanical dragons courtesy of the ever popular Rick Riordan. We rounded off the year with large quantities of chocolate cake (naturally!) and Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*. The boys enjoyed it and the discussion was really interesting – twelve year old boys talking about their emotions wasn't what I had expected when establishing Book Worms!

Perhaps our most exciting moment this year (apart from consuming vast quantities of cake - naturally - and revelling in our book choices!) was the opportunity for some of the Worms to interview bestselling author Anthony Horowitz. What's more, Mr Horowitz is not the only famous friend of Book Worms. Author and Old Edwardian Lee Child made a generous donation to the club and we use this to subsidise our books.

So, what about the year ahead? Well, we are, once more, expanding (must be all that cake!). The original intention when establishing Book Worms was that it would be just for the Shells and Rems. However, the Rems were so disappointed by the prospect of being 'kicked out' that we have decided to run a new group just for them. As such, Mrs Atay, is coming along to help us. Thus, with the help of Ms Allen, we are now a happy band of three looking forward to welcoming new grubs and welcoming back existing Worms. Here's to another great year's reading - I'll raise a piece of cake to that!

AGORA

Room 181 in the KES Religious Studies corridor may not have quite the same allure as a forum in an ancient Greek city state, yet it would be nice to think that the public speaking, and intellectual debate that occur, have many similarities. We kicked off the year with a talk from the Revd. Gareth Jones who gave an interesting and insightful delivery on the world of inter-faith dialogue. Initially a chaplain at Birmingham University, Gareth now works in Coventry, full-time, in inter-faith work therefore he has a great deal of knowledge and experience surrounding these issues.

Commencing the student talks was Ryan Hughes, managing to attract perhaps one of the biggest audiences AGORA society has ever seen! He did a great job talking about women in priesthood in the Christian tradition. After Ryan several more excellent talks from pupils came thick and fast. Kit Fowler did marvellously well defending pacifism (in a broader Quaker context) issuing from a series of penetrating questions. The passion with which Henry Tonks spoke about conservatism was evident to everyone who attended his talk. Alex Wakelam tackled wealth and morality, providing much stimulating discussion. Callum Robertson's talk on patient-doctor confidentiality was a thoroughly professional and balanced account of the subject. Doctor Daniel's impressive slide presentation addressed Professor Stephen Hawking's latest book in a joint talk with Scientific Society.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the year was having Angie Hobbs, a lecturer in Philosophy at Warwick University, join us to deliver a talk on 'Courage and Heroism'. The final meeting of the year came from Frank Lawton on the philosophy of aesthetics. Frank is one of many Lower Sixth pupils who are passionate about philosophy, religion and ethics, and so the future of AGORA looks very bright indeed!

Tim Barnes



Some of our chaps with Prof. Robin Wilson, who is dressed as Ludolph van Ceulen (c.1600) who first calculated π to 35 decimal places (a monumental achievement of his time). Note how excited James Wang is to meet him!

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

One of the great traditions of the Maths Society is the far-flung locations of the talks we attend. Another is the fact that many of the talks are only attended by a handful of older boys. This year, however, there were several talks of broader appeal and lots more boys across the year-groups got to join in. The year began with a journey to the far-flung location of Birmingham University for the London Mathematical Society's annual "Popular Lecture Series". These managed to live up to their name this year (not always a given!) and involved a discussion of knot theory – which tied up a few loose ends – and a more light-hearted talk on probability and data-mining by the ever-entertaining Matt Parker, an Australian mathematician/comedian whom we'd met on our travels before.

One of the themes of such talks is the possible applications of maths to the real world. For example, knots, as we learnt, despite being an abstract construct, can be used to analyse DNA replication, something far removed from the intangible world of pure mathematics. If maths and biology seem unlikely bedfellows, we were soon treated to a discussion of the influence of maths on computer science in a talk on genetic algorithms. Just as maths can be applied to biology, the ideas of evolution and natural selection can be applied to computer science in order to produce an algorithm that is well suited to its task. Even the afternoon at Aston which we spent π -hunting showed us that the approximations for π developed in the 17th and 18th centuries enabled greater accuracy in measurements of the Earth. A study of π even has philosophical implications for mathematics – that a

number so difficult to fit into our number system should exist at all is strange in itself.

Equally, there are some fields in which it is hard to see how maths couldn't be relevant. We learnt about "The Convoy Movement Problem" of the military, and how the techniques of mathematical optimisation can be used to give you the best chance of avoiding enemy fire. Our annual outing for around 30 boys to the Maths Inspiration Conference at the Adrian Boult Hall was also all about the usefulness of maths. One talk was about how maths provides the big idea behind Google's search engine, and another particularly entertaining talk was delivered on the maths of juggling, coincidentally by another Australian mathematician, Colin Wright.

Maths Society has always been a great opportunity for anyone interested in the mathematical way of thinking to delve a little deeper, and explore the connections to other disciplines. Overall, this was another successful year for MathSoc, and I'm sure we can count on many more in the future.

Vishal Patil (aka "Group Theory Boy")

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Over the past 12 months audience numbers have blossomed, due in no small part to increased integration with the Girls' School, and the quality of the talks given by the almost exclusively student speakers has also flourished under the careful eye and guidance of the head of the society, Richard Berry.

Highlights this year included Berry's saga on the Punic Wars, stretching over several talks including his farewell talk at the very start of the Summer term. This subject has finally been put to bed by the ever enthusiastic, if sometimes megalomaniacal, Yanbo Yin, who summarised the entirety of the Punic Wars in one short and very informative talk given only a week before this report was written. Other talks that he gave during Berry's reign included a summation of the possible theories for the genesis of Indo-European language, a sequel to which was given by Jordan Quinlan during the Spring Term.

In the Summer Term, following his final talk, Richard Berry handed over the reins of the society to a dual leadership of Jordan Quinlan and Angus McDonnell, who have sought to carry on the reinvigoration of the society, and to move away from talks on the Punic wars to a more varied selection of topics for the New Year. This is something that is already being accomplished, as shown by the talk given by the aforementioned Yanbo Yin on 'classical Chinese civilization' and a talk on the links between ancient democracies and our own modern parliamentary democracy by Luke Botting during the Summer term. This followed on from a talk made by Angus McDonnell in the Spring term, examining the links between iron working and ancient democracy. We hope this will be continued with a proposed talk by Jordan Quinlan on the Etruscans.

We hope that we can carry on our diversification of the Classical Society and that we will continue to attract large audiences for Classical Society.

Angus McDonnell

JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

Junior Debating Society moved venue this year to Room 179, and, though nominally under the supervision of Mrs Atay, was run in practice by Fifth Formers Dominic Bealby-Wright and Ashkaan Golestani, ably supported in their endeavours by Mundev Wouhra from the Divisions. The brief was simple: to encourage a greater number of Shells and Rems to take part and have experience of debating. To this end it has been a very successful year. From 'This House would abolish pets' to the more gritty question of how university fees should be funded, the Junior Debating Society ran debates or training sessions from September through to the Easter Term.

During an intense bout of activity Dominic, Ashkaan and Mundev not only organised weekly meetings but also wrangled in UMs to give an impressive demonstration of Mace debating to pupils from Small Heath School as part of their 'gifted and talented' programme. At the same time, Dominic and Ashkaan, together with Alan Li, also teamed up for the Public Speaking Competition, winning the Birmingham Cup and encouraging UMs to take on this challenge in the upcoming year.

The Summer Term's activities lost impetus as the prospect of revision, external examinations and then the multitude of post-examination sporting activities and trips put paid to weekly meetings, but while it would be good to see perhaps one or two debates taking place before the end of the school year it seems reasonable to recognise that this natural 'cycle' in the school calendar is perhaps inevitable. Public Speaking, however, needs another good year to establish itself in the psyche of the younger boys and it is to be hoped that next year's team can build on the experience of its predecessors.

FMA





ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Engineering Society began as a project in conjunction with KEHS to develop the engineering skills of all involved. Our first project was to design a water-propelled rocket, which had to fly as high as possible after being pressurised with a foot pump. This contest was narrowly won by a mixed team whose design achieved a considerable height and successfully parachuted its egg-cargo down to Earth again.

After a brief hiatus, two separate teams were formed, one from each school, who entered the Engineering Education Scheme. The KES team, consisting of Ben Dawes, Jimi Oluwale, Prashant Pandey and Ben Fernando, worked under the supervision of Mr Loveday and a researcher from the European Union 'CLIC' department at Birmingham University. Both teams were assigned the same investigation: looking at whether or not a sensor kit, designed by the InLot company, was suitable for use as a teaching tool in secondary school classrooms.

We conducted a series of experiments that investigated whether or not the data provided by the sensor was in agreement with what visual observation and theory predicted. After spending a long time crunching through the horrendously complicated output from the sensor, we concluded that the sensor was not usable in its current form.

Our results, in the form of a lengthy investigation report, were presented at the 'EES Celebration Day' in May, the conclusion of a six-month project. Opposite ours was the stall from KEHS. We of course think ours was better, though they seemed to disagree. Unfortunately for us, one of the posters indicated that we were the team from 'KEHS for boys'.

In recognition of this work we were awarded the Crest Gold Science award.

Ben Fernando

MENTORING SOCIETY

This year has seen the society grow into a very popular and worthwhile activity for all who attend, whether as helper or as an individual benefiting from the expertise on offer. Operating on Monday, Tuesday and to a lesser extent Wednesday lunchtimes, the society has provided Sixths and Divisions mentors to help boys with their studies. The chemistry between mentor and tutee has to be right for progress to be made and it requires commitment from both parties.

Thankfully this year's willing band of mentors from the Divisions and Sixths, under the leadership of Wrik Ghosh, have made the society a place where real progress can be made in subjects that some find difficult for a variety of reasons. The popularity of the society has been enhanced by the introduction of the International Baccalaureate: along with their three Higher and three Standard level subjects, Senior boys have to show a more practical side to their studies in the CAS part of the course. This abbreviation stands for Creativity, Action, and Service. The role mentors undertake in helping others satisfies the criteria of the Service aspect of this element of the course.

A new venue, namely the Mayer Physics Lab (MPL) has had to be found, since room 72 started bursting at the seams with bodies strewn across the floor and desks. The sight of Will Preece and Matt Rodrigo tutoring whilst kneeling on the floor was a teaching style not favoured by many. There were never any complaints; but a need to get to mentoring on time became a priority in order to at least secure a desk and a seat.

It therefore seems mentoring is meant to be; already requests from next year's Fiftths are coming in thick and fast. With Andrew Eckert as mentoring co-ordinator, woe betide any slackers: his bite is worse than his bark.

RNL

PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

Few societies gather as much attention and cause as many heated debates as the KES-KEHS Philosophy Society. New this year, the society attracts opinionated sixth formers every Wednesday lunchtime: among the more exciting topics covered have been the potential immorality of alcohol drinking and sugar consumption. The arguments at Philosophy Society (PhilSoc, as it is affectionately known) have never lacked in either humour or ingenuity. Conclusions to the discussion are rare things, though when they come they tend to be stunning – no one will ever quite forget Ben Dawes' monster essay on why drinking alcohol is immoral, or Frank Lawton's cutting and witty dismantlings of many a theory.

Only one topic has been dismissed out of hand, interestingly – a discussion on the ethics of abortion. Although this seemed a rather exciting argument to have, it was abandoned as no one would speak in favour of abortion.

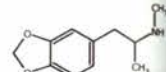
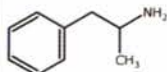
Perhaps the highlight of the philosophy season has been the Ethics conference, reported elsewhere in this Chronicle. On the coach back from this Oxford conference, the largest discussion of all occurred – spanning PhilSoc members along the length of the coach and subjects from politics to maths. We look forward to further PhilSoc!

Ben Fernando

POLITICS SOCIETY

PolSoc, as it's more affectionately known, is another place where opinionated and knowledgeable sixth formers gather to debate the problems facing modern society and what to do about them. Suffice to say that it never fails to provide drama. The first meeting of the year asked 'Is Islamophobia ever justified?', immortalised in the morning notices as 'Is Llama phobia ever justified?'. The rough conclusion to this discussion was 'no', though later debates did not always yield a recognisable conclusion. 'Is multiculturalism good?', 'Should state secrets be withheld from public scrutiny?' and 'Is the electoral system in need of reform?' all drew heated arguments from both sides of the room.

Ben Fernando

The KES Scientific Society
presents:

Legal and Illegal Highs

Emma Cottam & Dr Sally Freeman
School of Pharmacy
The University of Manchester

Thursday 17th February, 12:45
In the MPL



Cakes will
be Provided!



All very welcome!

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

An enquiring mind and a Thursday lunch time are all you need to attend a Scientific Society meeting. Plenty of boys do. This year we have been treated to a rich diversity of talks, including 'Searching for Black Holes' (by Dr Somak Raychaudhury - University of Birmingham Physics department); 'The Rough Guide to Charles Darwin' (by Professor Mark Pallen, Professor of Microbiology at Birmingham University); 'A talk on the use of animals in medical research' (by Dr Kevin Whitehead, Lecturer at University of Birmingham Medical School); and 'Legal and Illegal Highs' (by Emma Cottam & Dr Sally Freeman, School of Pharmacy, Manchester University). Our very own Ben Fernando enlightened us too on his work experience at CERN. You do not need to be a scientist to attend; the talks are aimed at a general audience interested in science. Come and tickle the grey matter during 2011-12: an earnest group of Sixth Formers is already at work organising a wide-ranging group of speakers. Hopefully, Scientific Society will be as successful next year.

DMW

LITERARY SOCIETY

After a hiatus, this year saw a reinvigorated Literary Society enjoy a return to form. Fortnightly meetings on a wide range of literary topics took place in the oak-panelled setting of the Cartland Room, with boys, teachers and outside speakers all contributing papers. We have enjoyed talks on, among other things, *The Waste Land* (Ed Siddons), Love Poetry (Adam D'Aubney), Literature as History (Henry Tonks), *La Chute* by Camus (Frank Lawton) and American Satire (Alex Wakelam). We have also had the pleasure of meeting the Publishing Director of the prize-winning Tindal Street Press, Alan Mahar, who gave a talk on the publishing business and literary fiction to a large audience, followed by a thought-provoking paper by Mr Arbutnott on 'The Future of the Book in the Digital Age'. Overall, I think I am most proud of the fact that all the discussions which have followed our talks have been stimulating and of an extremely high standard. This discussion element of Literary Society was also expanded into 'Bring a Book' meetings, where students and teachers alike brought some of their favourite poetry and prose (and even some of their own work) to read, share and discuss. Our final meeting of the year brought together Agora, Art Society and the KES/KEHS Philosophy Society for a talk on 'The Philosophy of Aesthetics' (Frank Lawton).

It has been an honour to run such a society and thanks must go to Mr Stacey for backing and helping promote the society, and to all those members who gave such varied talks. We wish the best of luck to the many of our members who are leaving for either University or Drama School, and we look forward to welcoming new members in the near future.

Frank Lawton



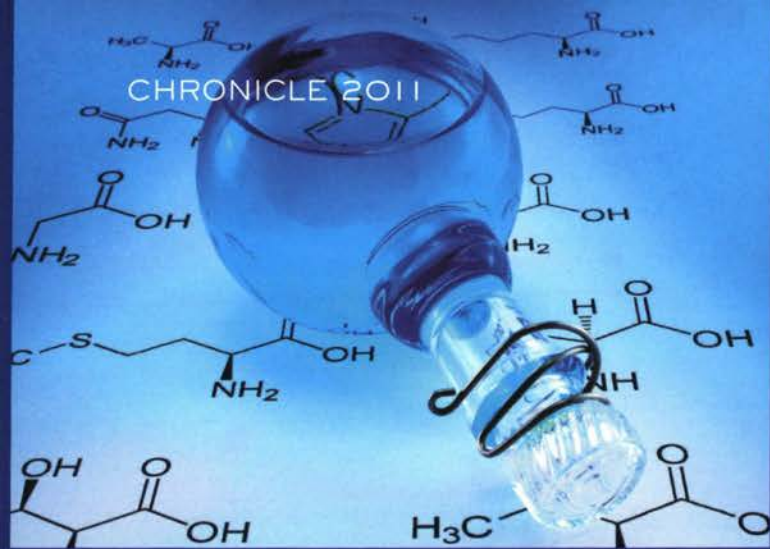
PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

With such a large number of camera-loving people at KES it seemed a shame not to form some sort of society around them. So was born, this year, the KES Photography Society. Boasting around 30 members when going strong, we undertook a few projects, in partnership with Cot Fund, to raise money for our chosen charities.

Our first project involved photographing teachers for the *Chronicle*. After getting started rather late, this mammoth project only finally finished a few weeks before this magazine went to press. Then came Santa and his Elves – a take on the traditional Santa celebrations at the Christmas fair. This raised a reasonable £100, and quickly developed into the Valentine card scheme, which involved taking pretty pictures for Valentine cards. This raised a further £300, and the photography with the rather scary Easter Bunny raised £300 again. The school Calendar is in its first year also – boys of all ages are photographing the school in preparation for a charity calendar.

Other projects undertaken by members include photographing the *Les Misérables* Oskers and the Syndicate Play, as well as travelling around on demand to take the great variety of shots that come with life at KES. There is one key member: Anish Kundu. He has been ubiquitous lately, waltzing around the place conducting a mixture of charitable and photographic work, which has been invaluable to the school. That having been said, we also appreciate the interest of our younger members and the help that Mrs Allen, Mr Johnson and Mr Corns have given us. We look forward to a snappy future!

Ben Fernando



CHEMISTRY SOCIETY

The number of Divisions willing to give up their Tuesday evenings for the sake of scientific progress is really quite astounding. Suffice to say that large numbers of us regularly gather at Birmingham University for all manner of physics and chemistry talks, which never fail to delight.

The lecture season opened with a brilliant demonstration of 'chemical magic'. Some of the featured reactions were actually most bizarre – one, the Briggs-Rauscher mechanism, involved a solution that alternated between deep blue and light pink. Very weird, even to the more chemically minded amongst us. Another exciting talk was by Dr David Evans, on recreating the Big Bang at the LHC. This talk involved demonstrations with liquid nitrogen and superconductors: the former condensing liquid oxygen out of the air, the latter mysteriously floating around of its own accord. The luckiest of us, those who happened to have front row seats, were able to dip our hands into a mixture of liquid nitrogen and soap, something that was actually rather warmer than the expected -176°C .

Other interesting lectures talked about the design of fireworks, the role of chemistry in forensics and the discovery of the structure of the atom. Overall, a thoroughly intellectual experience, well worth the odd Tuesday evening!

Ben Fernando



TRIPS

918A-2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

So, where do you go to enjoy the following: quad-biking, white water rafting, climbing Table Mountain, encountering a herd of elephants, flying over the Okavango Delta, go-karting and gorge swings all in 3 weeks? Answer: Southern Africa. Our journey began in sunny Cape Town. A visit to Cape Point and Melkbosstrand, to view the full splendour of the Table Mountain vista, was capped off by climbing Table Mountain via Platteklip Gorge. Having the top of the mountain virtually to ourselves apart from the rock rabbits, with the full panorama of the city and the Cape Flats below us, was an extraordinary experience.

Our drive north from Cape Town reminded us that it was the African winter; the rain poured down all the way to Namibia, miraculously changing to blue sky as we crossed the Orange River. The grandeur of the Fish River Canyon was followed by the hot springs of Ai Ais and a chance to wash the dust from our bodies. An early start saw us joining the tourist bus fleet to watch the sunrise over the highest static sand dunes in the world at Sesriem, before wandering through the petrified trees of Sossusvlei. Crossing the Tropic of Capricorn, we started to see the wildlife Namibia is world renowned for.

Swakopmund was warm but windy, restricting us to quad biking, as the sand was blowing too hard to sandboard down the dunes. Chasing through the vast open rolling sand at speed is an exhilarating experience. With games equipment and photocopying paper purchased for the primary school, we travelled north along the Skeleton Coast and the Salt Road. Cape Cross is home to one of the world's largest colonies of Cape

Fur Seals: comically lying in piles two to three deep, the thousands upon thousands of seals were a sight to see, as well as a smell to remember. Jackals prowling the beach were a rather menacing sight.

The staff and pupils of Katora Primary School at Spitzkoppe were very grateful for the equipment and supplies we left with them, so much so that they gave us a sporting chance in the football match played in the afternoon on the village pitch. We did score, once, while we had to remove the ball from our own net seven times. Primary school children? I think not. The Namibian national team, perhaps.

Patting fully grown cheetahs as they lick your legs was a novel experience, encountered during two days driving through the Etosha Park, marvelling at the wildlife usually only seen on Attenborough specials. The claim by Miss Leivers and Mr Witcombe that they watched a leopard stalking prey for almost 20 minutes around a water hole has still not been substantiated by photographs. Tribal dancing in Rundu overlooking the Angolan border was followed by 2 days spent in the Okavango Delta. Travelling in a languid way through the streams and back waters of the Delta in makoras (dugout canoes), watching fish-eagles and monkeys in the trees, hearing hippos in the distance, is one of the most relaxing things to do anywhere. Having eight elephants standing metres the other side of the tents was less so. Under the close supervision of the local guides we watched them as they watched us. Satisfied there was no danger, the elephants left us to continue their foraging, although three revisited us the following day to check we were not doing anything we shouldn't in their back garden. A light aircraft flight over the Delta showed us the many islands and waterways comprising this fantastic wilderness.





Heading east we reached the Makgadikgadi Salt Pan, the start of the Top Gear drive across Botswana. Unseasonal heavy rains had left water in the Pan, and flocks of flamingos stood away from the shore as the sun set over the vast expanse. A day's drive north and we reached Kasane, gateway to Chobe National Park. A sunset cruise on the Chobe River along the edge of the National Park brought us within touching distance of elephants, hippo, crocodiles, impala and numerous other animals and birds. An early start the following morning had us in open topped vehicles watching the sun rise over one of the largest herds of Cape Buffalo in Africa, while some spotted a Bushbuck, one of the shyest of African antelopes.

Still short of tourists, the town of Victoria Falls continues to cling to its fading former glory: although the removal of the Zimbabwe Dollar in favour of the US currency has certainly filled the few shops with goods, these are still costly for the locals. An afternoon

swinging on lines and harnesses 120m over the Batoka Gorge, bartering for curios in the large craft market, donating clothes and toys to the children of the Rose of Charity Orphanage, walking the length of the spray filled 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' (the smoke that thunders) and white water rafting down the Zambezi saw the time before the flight to Johannesburg and back to Heathrow flash by.

So, was it all worth the scorpions at Spitzkoppe, the dust and the driving, the squat toilet and mosquitos in the Delta, the early mornings and long days? Of course it was; which is why over double the number of boys applied for the available places. The vast openness of the Namibian deserts, watching shooting stars through brilliantly clear moon-lit skies, the wildlife, the breathtaking scenery and of course the companionship of boys, staff and crew were well worth it.

Sajeed Ali



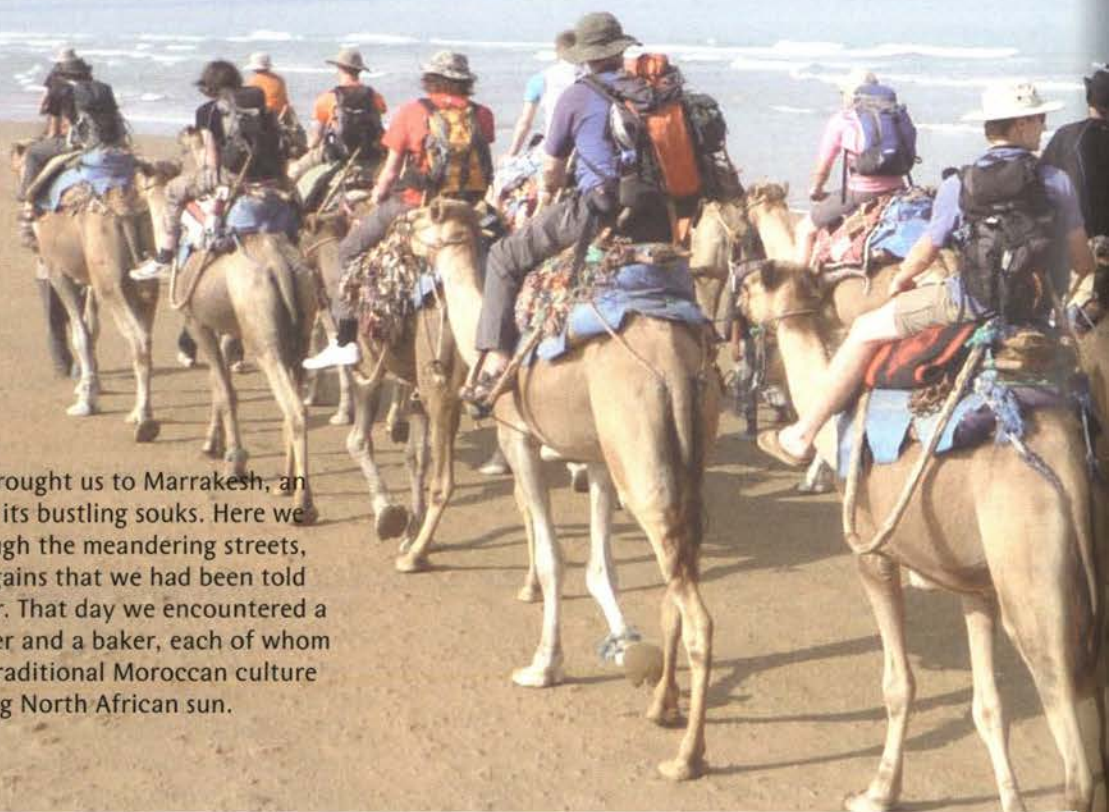


Getting up in the early hours of the morning was hard but worth it: the sun rising over the rocky mountains of Morocco transformed the landscape, painting it with beautiful shades of gold and orange. With our sun hats on and our water bottles full, we began the first of many ascents. Initially we found the trekking quite hard, but as we got used to the terrain, this subsided into the rhythm of an exciting climb. For acclimatisation purposes, this continued for the next few days, as we prepared for the high altitude and thin oxygen that we would have to deal with.

MOROCCO

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Our expedition firstly brought us to Marrakesh, an ancient city famous for its bustling souks. Here we set out to wander through the meandering streets, eyes peeled for the bargains that we had been told lay around every corner. That day we encountered a chemist, a leather refiner and a baker, each of whom shared a little of their traditional Moroccan culture with us under the baking North African sun.

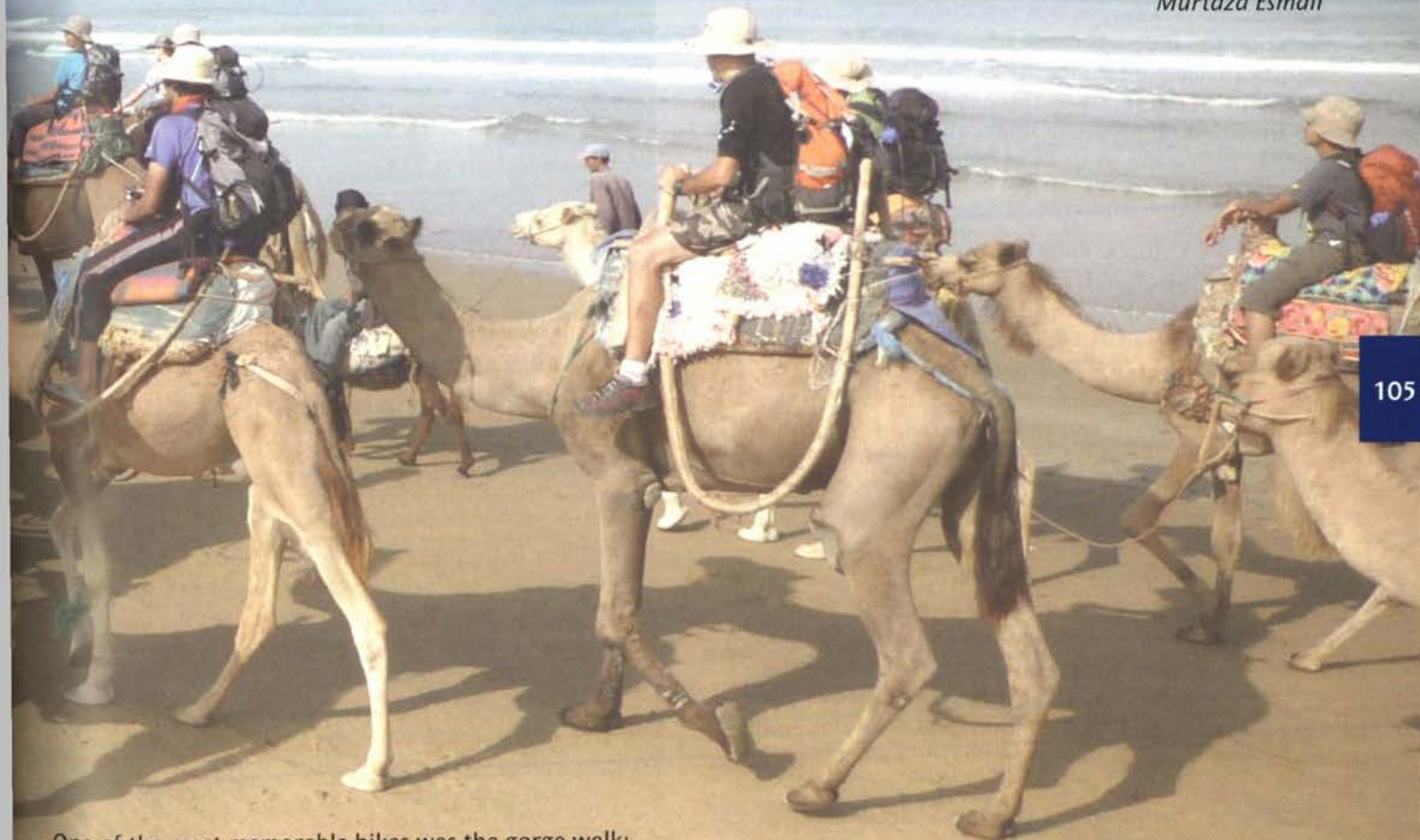




The next day was the day we all had been waiting for, the day we climbed Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa. Patches of ice glistened in the intense sunlight, as we gradually worked our way up. And when we saw the peak, we all darted forward, racing to the summit. We admired the phenomenal view through the Anti-Atlas Mountains out into the Sahara desert, and returned back down to the Toubkal Refuge.

After the long 12 days of trekking, we arrived in Essaouira, a beach resort on the coast of Morocco. We enjoyed the swimming pool in the luxurious hotel, and relished a feast in the evening. The next day, we were greeted by the beautiful sea-breeze on the beach as we tried camel riding. Our thanks go to the staff who provided us with this unforgettable experience.

Murtaza Esmail



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One of the most memorable hikes was the gorge walk; a valley cutting through the mountains, forged by the raging river that flowed through it. We started off in darkness, the route lighted only by our head torches. Clambering over rocks and wading through streams, the walk up the valley was perhaps the best hike of the trip. As we gradually progressed through the day, leaving the river behind as we ascended, we could see the sun gleaming down on its turquoise waters.

Running down the mountainside provided the second quickest way to get to the bottom, but with much less risk. The mountain side consisted of very fine scree that we almost surfed down. After watching our guides, Larson and Mohammed, dart down the mountain side, we were all looking forward to it. After a few trips, we ran down with confidence- a great way to end the day.



THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT GOES EAST AT EASTER - AGAIN

Following our fascinating visit to Istanbul and all things Ottoman in April 2010, we decided to go to St Petersburg and all things Romanov this Easter. As we descended through clouds towards Pulkovo airport and got our first glimpse of wintry Russia we quickly decided that Narnia it was not. A dull brown landscape streaked with old snow was densely planted with old-style Soviet architecture. We thought we might be in for a dull week. How wrong we were!

Everything from our lovely guide, Maria Smolentseva (who was really knowledgeable and enthusiastic) to our clean and comfortable Hotel Pribaltiyskaya (good food and a water park) was a really pleasant surprise. The historic city centre was fascinating. We crammed in rather too much, but one of the highlights was the Winter Palace containing the world famous Hermitage Museum. It contains over three million works of art and we tried to do it justice in under three hours. We may need to go back as most of us didn't make it off the ground floor!

Tours of the Yusupov Palace (where Rasputin was murdered), the Church on Spilled Blood (to mark the spot where tsar Alexander II was assassinated), the fortress of St Peter and St Paul (where revolutionaries were imprisoned), the Summer Palace at Tsarskoe Selo (occupied and destroyed by the Germans in the Second World War), and the battleship Aurora (which signalled the Bolshevik seizure of power in October 1917) reminded us of how violent Russian political life has been.

The sun came out and the River Neva sparkled as the ice floes drifted down to the Gulf of Finland. Trips to a school, the ballet, the circus and a folklore show all added to the fun. Our friends for the week from the Cambridge Centre for Sixth Form Studies proved to be excellent company, as Ed Siddons will testify! Everyone had a really enjoyable time and would love to go back.

The department's next 'East at Easter' destination, in 2012, is Berlin.



PWG



THREE EDWARDIANS IN GREECE

*Fair Greece! and relic of departed worth!
Immortal, though no more; though fallen, great!*

Particularly in light of the recent economic troubles, Lord Byron's words seemed very apt to us this summer as Kit Fowler, James Lloyd and I set out for the cradle of European civilization. Amidst news of frequent rioting and rumours of increased pick pocket activity in Athens, our exploration of the ancient sites, emulating the traditional Grand Tour of 18th and 19th Century young gentlemen, looked perhaps a little more complicated in the 21st Century.

Our journey began in Athens, the ancient birthplace of democracy and learning. The minor nagging fears some of us harboured about the safety of Athens weren't particularly helped by our taxi driver, who attempted to take a call from a friend and sort his sat-nav while driving down the motorway, or by our rather dodgy-looking back street Hostel. Upon leaving the shelter of our Hostel (for the record: safe, clean, staffed by fluent English speakers and with the cheapest bar in Greece) we began with the awe inspiring Acropolis. Even travelling in the off-season we had to fight through the crowds of tourists at the site itself and in the museum. The Archaeological Museum the next day also presented an astonishing quantity of artefacts, particularly in its seemingly endless collection of pottery. Outside the museums we were very much aware of the two

sides of the city. On the one hand the history of the country is inescapable: one can't even catch the metro without having to pass display cases of antiquities (even the airport has its own museum). Yet, Athens is also a bustling modern European capital city with its own brand of suicidal traffic, armed police surrounding the government buildings and constant anarchist/communist/anti-Nazi graffiti.

Our next stop, at Delphi, presented us with a Mediterranean town; the sleepy hillside village with its olive trees and red tiled roofs would have felt as much at home in Tuscany as in central Greece. The town has been relatively untouched by the tourist trade, probably owing to its having only one (if impressive) site. What it lacks in quantity Delphi makes up in quality. The town offers some of the most impressive views in Greece and the restaurants struck us as divine.

Upon leaving Delphi we headed South to Nafplion. The town that we were planning on using as a base to explore the more traditional sites of the Peloponnese also presented us with a different side to Greek history. Built by the Venetians and occupied by the Turks, Nafplion became the first capital of independent Greece in 1829 after the revolution. A memorial in one of the town's many churches bears the names of philhellenes who died in the war, including Byron's nephew. Its strategic importance is clear in the remains of its three fortresses (built in 1715 and falling to the Turks in 1716, the Palamidi, largest and best preserved of the three, is accessed by a 901-step climb beautifully demonstrating the casual relationship Greece has with health and safety) and its disturbingly patriotic War museum. It also gave us easy access to the sites of Epidauros and the heart of the ancient Mycenaean civilization.



After much Greek coffee, fried cheese and homemade wine, we eventually moved on from this gorgeous little town. We returned to Athens to catch a ferry to Santorini; after finally reaching the Piraeus (Athens' port for the past 2500 years, and apparently dreadful throughout its entire history) and having taken the metro and a taxi with a symbol to ward off the evil eye hanging from the rear-view mirror, we made the ferry. Santorini itself was a new experience. Life on the islands is different to the mainland, even down to the shape of the houses; the main difference to us though was the sheer greenery (although contrasted by the volcanic black and red rock) of the island compared to the straw like grass of the mainland. Much of the island is missing due to one of the largest volcanic eruptions in history some 3600 years ago, which wiped out the advanced civilization on the island, caused a tsunami and probably began the myth of Atlantis.

At dinner we were joined by the manager of the hotel, Mr Kostas, who regaled us over grapes and wine with wild stories of past guests and also a fascinating insight into the current Greek situation. Away from the chaos of Athens (where rioting had been occurring while we were in Nafplion) and surrounded by history, we had forgotten the troublesome nature of modern Greece. Mr Kostas, with his own difficulties owing to a turn down in tourism and increased taxation, had no complaints about having to pay – only a philosophical view on the justice of wealthy states far more responsible for the crisis making demands of struggling Greece. The Philosophers of Greece did not all die with the ancients. Heading home bearded and tired with backpacks which felt permanently attached, we felt sorry to be leaving Greece despite the promise of home and our first cloud in days. The Hellenic lands have enchanted people for centuries. We came in a similar spirit to our 18th Century forefathers, questing for mysterious ancient wonders, but we left enchanted not only by the ancient land but also by a vibrant modern country.

Alex Wakelam





RUGBY TOUR TO SOUTH AMERICA, JULY 2011

On our first day in Buenos Aires, we moved into our first billets, at San Esteban School. The Argentineans had thoroughly bought into many English stereotypes: we were expected to spend most of our time drinking copious amounts of tea and guzzling cake and sandwiches. The morning of our first match began with us eating Argentinean cake and drinking *maté*, a kind of sour green tea that is the national drink, before a bizarre question-and-answer session where the schoolchildren asked us about Cardinal Newman and *The Lord of the Rings*. It would have been easy to let our minds wander from the rugby match. In fact we nearly didn't play, because the unwatered pitches were rock solid. The 1st XV match against Los Molinos was a tense affair, shown by the 0-0 score line at half time, and in a game that we really should have won we lost our concentration, conceding two late tries to lose 14 - 5. The 2nd XV were also beaten by San Esteban 41 - 0.

The following day we had a short tour of Buenos Aires, taking in the famous sights such as the grave of Eva Peron, the Casa Rosada and La Boca before moving on to La Plata where we met our hosts from Albatross Rugby Club for a two night stay. For most of us this was an opportunity to appreciate the lifestyles of more typical Argentineans, as opposed to the gated communities and immense wealth most of us had experienced with our first billets.

Both teams were desperate to make amends for losing their first matches, and did just that. The 2nd XV blew their opponents away in the first half to take command of the match and, rallied by the bellowing calls of the great JP, kept their 'stone-faces' to win the match 26 - 14. Inspired by the performance of the 2nd XV, the 1st XV also went on to take control of the game and scored a wonderfully worked try in the 2nd half to wrap up a fairly comfortable victory by 16 - 14. The post-match hospitality ensued: whilst we once again feasted on coca-cola and chocolate, the staff were quite literally forced to drink excessive amounts of red wine until they escaped back to their hotel.

Back in Buenos Aires, we went to see a Top 14 game between Alumni and Belgrano, a fierce derby match which Alumni eventually won thanks to their impressive and stylish brand of quick rugby. We met our final billets, which involved most of us staying near each other in a large gated community that had three levels of security to pass through on entry and resembled Centre Parcs. The evening's entertainment was provided by watching Argentina lose to Uruguay in the quarter-final of the Copa America on penalties; some of us even cheered Uruguay on, much to the disgust of our hosts.

After watching how Alumni senior team had played rugby with pace and skill we knew that this set of matches would probably be the hardest of the tour. The 2nd XV were caught off guard from the start and failed to take control of the game, resulting in Alumni racing away to all but kill the game by half time. Despite a resilient second half performance they succumbed to



a 58 - 5 loss. The 1st XV, spurred on by an inspirational talk from Mr Johnson, gave everything they had on the pitch, but Alumni were simply too quick for us and scored a brace of tries in the last quarter of the match to make the score line 53 - 8. Thankfully our efforts were rewarded with what can only be described as a feast, as plate after plate of roast beef was delivered to us.

By now it was time to move on to Brazil. We landed in Sao Paulo in good time but the plane broke down after it parked, meaning we couldn't get off for an extra hour; but this was just the beginning of the torture inflicted upon us by TAM, Sao Paulo airport and the weather. Our flight on to Iguacu took off at midnight, so most of the party decided to sleep. When we woke up and were welcomed to Sao Paulo by the pilot, roughly 3 hours after we had taken off, there was a general air of confusion and bemusement. At about 4am we boarded the plane for the second time, only to fly to Iguacu and be told the airport was closed, meaning that once again we were back in Sao Paulo airport. By now it was morning and the group was sleep deprived and starving when we were bundled onto the plane for the third time; thankfully this time the plane did manage to land in Iguacu, although only after a failed landing attempt due to another plane being on the runway at the same time.

We spent our two nights in Iguacu recovering and visiting the beautiful waterfalls, where Mr James made sure the whole party got soaked by booking us on a boat that went under the waterfall and telling us not to bring waterproofs, and Mr Porter spent his time scouting for birds.

Unfortunately we had to return to Sao Paulo yet again for our final match. We were all in good spirits as the coach took us to a military base outside Sao Paulo to teach some underprivileged children how to play rugby before our game in the afternoon. During our games of touch with the kids it became clear that, not only had they played rugby before, but most of them had iPhones or Blackberrys, which explained why, when we handed out old football tops at the end of the session the only ones they would accept were Manchester United or England ones. When we saw our opponents arrive kitted out in the traditional Brazilian colours, the extraordinary nature of the experience dawned on us all; we were playing against a national side. The sense of occasion was completed by the singing of national anthems before the match began.

At half time the match was even and there was a real sense in the team that we could go on to win the game. We came out strongly after half time but Brazil scored straight away; yet we hit straight back to take the lead. However two late Brazilian tries killed us off and allowed Brazil to win by 19 - 14. It was a truly valiant performance against a team picked from the best rugby players in Brazil, including some players who were 21. At the post-match hospitalities we swapped lots of kit



and gorged on barbecued chicken before returning to our hotel to get some sleep for an early morning departure to Rio.

We passed through Sao Paulo airport for the 6th time in just under two weeks and landed in Rio to be greeted, not by glorious sunshine and scantily clad women, but by damp overcast conditions and a fully clothed tour guide. Our final day in Rio started with a tour of Rochina, the largest favela in the world. This was a truly amazing and unforgettable experience as we wandered through the narrow, steep streets passing gun-toting gangsters who made Jimi Oluwale delete his pictures of them, street vendors selling multi-coloured chicks and even the favela's annual gay pride parade. We followed this by visiting Christ the Redeemer for a truly unforgettable view of Rio and on Sugar Loaf Mountain we watched the sunset.

We flew home the next day via Sao Paulo: a final moment of incredulity was provided by the arrest by four armed policemen of a murder suspect on our plane when it landed at Heathrow.

Thanks must go to the coaching staff of Mr James and Mr Johnson for the 1st XV and Mr Porter, Mr Turner and Mr Taylor for the 2nd XV, as well as to our outstanding physio Emir. Most importantly Mr Turner and Mr James must be thanked for all the effort and planning they put into organising the tour. Mr Turner worked tirelessly as Tour Manager throughout to make sure everything went to plan, turning deep shades of red in the process. But he usually had a smile on his face; without him the tour wouldn't have been possible.

Ed Jackson



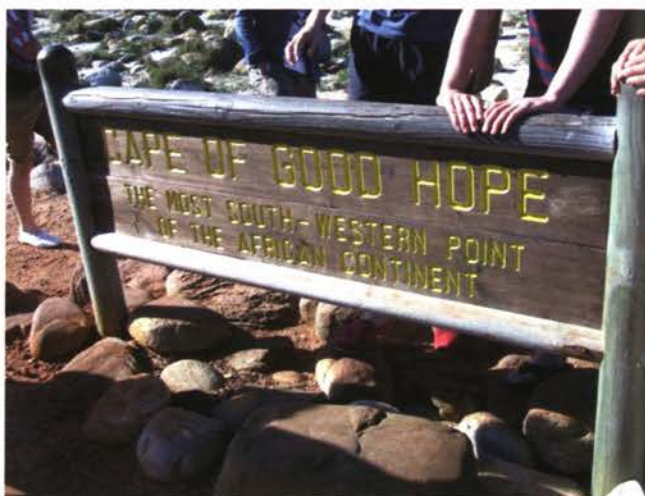


HOCKEY TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA

25 degrees of heat and the awe-inspiring back drop of Table Mountain provide a stunning setting for playing hockey. We played our first match against a team from Langa, a township formed from a pre-Apartheid "blacks only" area. We won 7-0 a game which proved to be one of the highlights of the tour: although the quality of the hockey wasn't of the best, it clearly meant a lot to both teams to be playing each other, after the horrors of a segregation that had wormed its way even into sport. We learned that the players from Langa had never had the chance to play on an astro-turf pitch before, so to be playing on an international-quality pitch was great for them; for us the match enabled us to understand the culture in South Africa better. The gulf between wealth and poverty there is physically manifested in the townships that surround the city. We got on so well with the team from Langa that they came to support us on our final game of the tour, before we returned to Birmingham. But we encountered a lot of friendliness there.

Our second game was a five-a-side tournament against Oakhill College, in which the all three of our teams beat Oakhill's. We then played against another local school called Glenwood House, a young school set up less than 10 years ago: we beat them 4-0 and shared a "braai" (barbecue) with the opposition, and a quick game of football too. Our next game was against Paarl Gymnasium, who were by far the best team we had played on the tour so far, and we had to travel six hours to near Stellenbosch in order to play them. A McDonald's lunch was probably not the best preparation, and we ended up drawing the game 2-2.

Despite our throwing away a two goal lead, this was still a great result and, given the remarkable scenery of the Paarl hills around us, it was certainly a match that we'll never forget. Our penultimate game was on the grass of a hill-top pitch, for many of us the first time we had played off astro-turf. Another picturesque backdrop





added to the occasion, this time a seaside view with Table Mountain in the background. We strolled to victory, beating the aptly named Table View High School 7-0. Finally, we played Wynberg School, one of the elite in terms of South African school hockey, cheered on by our friends from Langa. We went 2-0 up (again) only to (again) squander the deficit and end up losing the game 5-3; however, given the quality of the opposition and the fatigue of the squad this was not as bad as it may look, although we were all left deeply frustrated; overall, though, this was certainly a very successful first KES hockey tour outside Europe in a long time.

Off the field we had an incredible time, visiting Table Mountain, Robben Island, numerous beaches, Seal Island, a penguin sanctuary, even staying in a game reserve and going on two safari drives. The weather was faultless sunshine and heat for the two weeks, despite the fact that it was the Southern winter (although



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their definition of winter is evidently very different to ours). One of the squad found it difficult to grasp the difference between our winter and theirs, and hesitantly asked when their Christmas was...I think Bruno Richards is now fully aware of how the Gregorian calendar works. It is safe to say that all the lads had a truly memorable time with the perfect balance of quality hockey and arguably even better sightseeing. For many the highlight of the trip was the trip up Table Mountain and the breath taking scenery surrounding it. Ed Burns thought that Table Mountain was "man-made" and so not eligible to be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World; a comment he has yet to live down.

On behalf of all the team I'd like to thank Mr Johnson and Mr Edwards for taking the time to organise the tour: we really appreciate all the hard work they put in. This was only the second hockey tour out of Europe in KES history; it was certainly a credit to Mr Johnson and showed how far the sport has come since his arrival at KES.

George Adams



KES SENIOR CYCLE TOUR 2011: THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Billed as 'possibly the hilliest KES cycle tour yet' (and that is no low bar), the tour got underway on Sunday 24th July, with a brief 30 miles from Otley to Malham after a long drive in the minibus. Certainly, the trip through picturesque Wharfedale was not flat, but it provided a fine introduction to the terrain and scenery that we could expect over the next few days, as the sun shone upon us during some gently 'rolling' cycling through dappled lanes and old-fashioned countryside, with the occasional stop at the village pub.

The next day, according to Mr Phillips' hilarious route-notes, 'starts with a horrendous climb'. Two miles later, some of us regretting the extra slice of black pudding at breakfast, and having ascended at least four sections of 1-in-8 gradient, we reached (though gasping for breath) Malham Tarn, England's highest freshwater lake. We then had some respite, following the Settle-Carlisle railway for a while. Thankfully, trains can't do steep gradients, so we were safe. After passing the magnificent Ribbleshead viaduct and its less impressive but very welcome tea van, we found a pleasant pub in Ingleton for a light lunch before the second big climb of the day. Foolishly relaxing on a long flat section of road with fine views all round, we were suddenly treated to a surprise hill not mentioned on the route-notes, which was so steep that even the men with mountain bike chain sets ran out of gears. This really did lead to the top, however, and after a much-needed photo-stop at the summit we hurtled steeply into the cobbled village of Dent (brake pads were burned and rims were heated). Hereafter KDP had promised 'possibly the worst climb of the tour', a 300m wall from the village up to Dent station. We were not disappointed but horrified as, whilst stopped at the station for a rest (and, for the train enthusiasts, a look at the platform), the crowning

glory of all of Mr Phillips' quotes was uttered: 'I suspect we may not have quite summited yet'. An hour of incessant climbing later, we gathered at the summit for a well-deserved descent which rolled us the rest of the 51-mile day into Kirkby Stephen.

Facing a slightly longer day on the Tuesday, we started gently, only to face a long steady climb up to Tan Hill, the site of the highest (and certainly the bleakest) pub in England. There we were met by morning coffee in their comfy sofas and by Mr Birch, who knew the local terrain well enough to act as a Sherpa down another horrendously steep descent. After swooping through many picturesque Swaledale villages, and a pleasant pub lunch in Reeth, we were greeted by another gigantic climb to the Stang Forest. Allegedly, one can see the North Sea from the summit on a clear day, but we were too engrossed in our reward of a 45 mph descent. Finally, after 53 miles, we dropped (again, very steeply, and in the process, losing all the height we had spent all day gaining) into Richmond.

The final day started with what was described as a 'longish drag out of Richmond', but which was in fact a 25% hill partly cobbled and with temporary traffic lights half way up. This led us to the military training grounds associated with Catterick Camp and, despite rifle fire and frequent warning signs, we were glad not to encounter any tanks or exploding shells. We then enjoyed a long but gentle climb through Coverdale, and paused for tea and a lavish spread of cakes at Mr Birch's holiday cottage. The next few miles, although not hilly (relatively speaking), were made challenging by the newly laid loose-chippings, which make riding a bike akin to swimming through treacle. Once out of the treacle, we encountered a family of French cyclists, heavily laden with camping gear. Mr Phillips warned them in his best French about the very steep descent ahead, but his language skills were inadequate as a mile or so later, as we began the descent of Park Rash, we found two of their number sprawled on the road. Our brakes squealed and protested down several hairpin bends of the 1-in-4 gradient, before we rejoined the first day's route, heading gently back along Wharfedale to Otley to meet our transport.

So this tour lived up to its billing as the hilliest of all tours and even Mr Phillips had to admit that we were lucky that the weather was so kind to us. Had we not been able to rest and admire the view at the top of the climbs, the route might well have proved too hard, especially on day two. The descents, too, would have been trickier still had they been wet. Nevertheless, it is rewarding to think that we managed the worst that England can throw at us and the scenery was very much worth stopping to admire. We must thank the drivers (Mr Symonds, Mr Dewar & Mrs Phillips) for their efforts each year, and we must thank Mr Phillips for providing us with such comic misvaluations of both terrain and mileage. It's always a laugh.

Ben Phillips





DANUBE CYCLE TOUR, SUMMER 2011

After enjoying a visit to the Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart on the first day, our long tour started in Villingen, a small town just 12 miles away from the 'official' source of the Danube in Donaueschingen, a small town with a lively centre. We paid a visit to the source at which the water rose from the deep grounds of the Schwarzwald. The first day was short in terms of cycling, with only 33 miles to cover for the younger boys, which allowed a few of us to visit an amazing swimming pool in Tuttlingen. The older boys, however, had a tough 48-mile day, with a devastating 7-mile continuous climb at the end.

Day 2 was either very difficult and exhausting or easy and relaxing for cyclists, depending on the route option they chose. Brave bikers decided to pedal 66 miles, with a lot of climbs and descents. They however were rewarded by stunning views across Lake Constance, the Bodensee in German, from which they were able to see all the way into neighbouring Switzerland.

Day 3 was equally long for everyone. The highlight of the day was the stunning source of the river Blau, which gives overwhelming reflections in the blue-green water. There was a charming café next to the source at which everybody enjoyed a delicious ice-cream.

Day 4 was the most awaited day. It started with a tough climb up the cathedral in Ulm, which claims to be the highest cathedral in the world. In terms of cycling, the day was a short 22 mile ride to Legoland Deutschland, with a whole afternoon of fun and free-time. Another great aspect of Legoland was the lovely buffet and accommodation, the Legoland Feriendorf.

Day 5 was a beautiful day of cycling, ending in the very picturesque and attractive town of Donauworth. On the way there were many attractive town centres and cafés which most definitely made the day's journey much easier!

Day 6, which offered a selection of routes with lengths ranging from 34 miles to 55 miles, was a beautiful day. The weather was lovely and there were not many climbs. The day finished with 15 splendid miles of pedalling along the river Althmuhl through the valley. Our youth hostel that night was located in the university town of Eichstatt, which is famous for its huge castle.



Day 7 was the penultimate day of cycling, with some of the younger boys already exhausted. Everybody started the day with a visit to a lovely and very well laid out museum exhibiting fossils and different objects associated with the Jurassic period. At the end of the day we split into four different groups, each group occupying a different hotel. However, all of us were treated to a lovely dinner and breakfast.

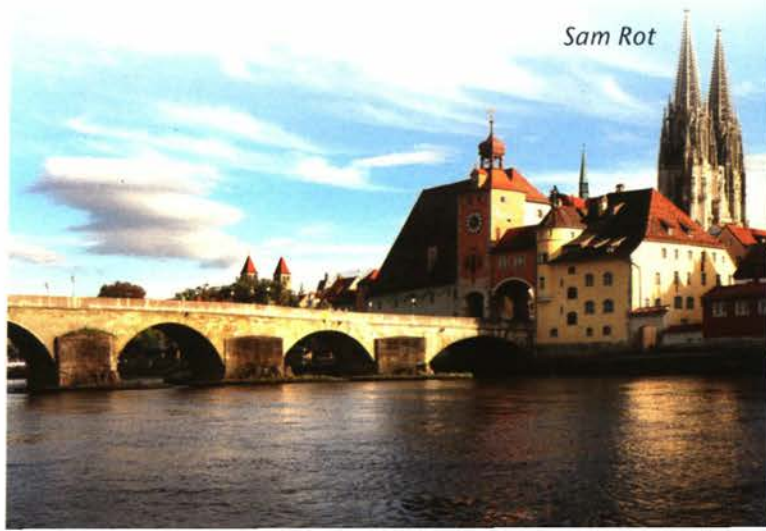
Then, suddenly, it was Day 8. The week had passed incredibly quickly, with all of us worn out but at the same time disappointed that such a tremendous week was over already! The last day of cycling was short at only 34 miles. The day ended in a high, with some free time to roam the amazingly beautiful and historic city centre of Regensburg;

And now, a final word, in German;

Vielen Dank an alle teilnehmenden Erwachsenen und Schueler die diesen beeindruckenden Trip so unterhaltsam gemacht haben. Das Wetter war fast immer perfekt und wir hatten nur wenig, fast gar keinen Regen. Vorallem aber vielen Dank an Herr Boardman fuer die wunderbare Organisation und die verschiedenen tollen Aspekte der Tour, es war garantiert ein wunderbares Erlebnis!

You may find yourself struggling to read the final paragraph, but fortunately that's what the oh-so lovely Google Translate is for!

Sam Rot



THE GERMAN EXCHANGE TO LAMPERTHEIM

Lying in the southwest corner of Hesse, within the Rhine rift and the Biedensand Conservation Area, Lampertheim sits between the beautiful German countryside and the bustling city of Frankfurt. As we sped down what appeared to be country roads at heart-racing pace, we realised that we were free and unrestricted by parents, though Fraulein Havel did her best to emulate their strictness: "don't do drugs or alcohol or mention the war". With this firmly hammered into our heads, we leapt at the chance to tarnish the German language in all its forms.

Each of us took part in some form of work experience. Some chose to don their journalistic hats at the *Lampertheimer Zeitung*; others found themselves

crossing borders to gain experience working in France. I wound up trekking down two flights of stairs to the dentistry practice above which I would be living for the next week. I would be helping out with fillings, the removal of dentures and teeth, and the regular replacing and cleaning of equipment. There is a lot of work in being a dentist.

However, I was slightly depressed when four-year-old children bounced into the consulting room, conversing with Dr Weitz, my supervisor for this exchange, in German so fluent that it made me want to rip apart my volume of *Na klar* in outrage. Nonetheless, constant use provided us with the best possible opportunity to improve our German.

My exchange partner's English didn't fill me to the brim with confidence, either. She was throwing phrases like "inferiority complex" around with such fluency that I was pushed into a greater state of depression. This was, however, helped by the fact that she was very kind and made sure I never exerted myself carrying a water bottle or helping with dinner. At one point I was being shouted at for trying to help clean the house.

I would like to thank to Fraulein Havel for putting in an unimaginable amount of effort, calling over 60 companies within a small time frame just to ensure that this trip took place. I can say, along with many others, that I have made great friends over the 2 weeks we were together. A return trip is definitely in order.

Naveen Sivakumar





DEUTSCHLANDAUSTAUSCH: BIRMINGHAM - DORSTEN

Es gab 12 freie Plätze für die Teilnahme am Deutschlandaustausch, und in der ersten Stunde des Tages nachdem uns die Briefe gegeben wurden, hatten sich schon 14 Leute angemeldet. Von den Jungen, deren Namen vorgelesen wurden, fiel die Anspannung sichtlich ab, und enttäuschte Rufe waren zu hören, als Andere realisierten, dass sie mit ihrer Anmeldung einfach zu spät gekommen waren.

Danach kam die Vorfreude darauf, mitgeteilt zu bekommen, wer unser Partner bzw. unsere Partnerin sein würde. Als wir es erfuhren und das erste Mal versuchten, Kontakt aufzunehmen, waren wir noch viel aufgeregter.

Und da brach auch schon der Tag der Abreise an. Die Meisten von uns hatten bereits ihren deutschen Partnern und Partnerinnen geschrieben und wussten auch schon ein Bisschen über sie. Als wir dann endlich ankamen, gab es ein ziemliches Durcheinander, als jeder Junge seine Familie zu finden versuchte, mit der er die nächste Woche verbrachte.

Am nächsten Morgen trafen wir uns am St. Ursula Gymnasium, der Schule unserer Austauschschüler/innen. Geplant war ein Tag voller Deutsch- und Englischstunden, der zu der an deutschen Schulen normalen Zeit, 13:30 Uhr, endete.

Am Dienstagmorgen ging es ohne unsere deutschen Freunde zum Dorstener Schwimmbad und am Nachmittag brachen wir alle gemeinsam zu einer lustigen Fahrradtour auf, wobei wir uns einige Male in den Wäldern verfahren und verloren gingen...

Die restliche Woche über machten wir zusammen einen Ausflug nach Köln und besuchten unter anderem Kölns beeindruckenden Dom und fuhren mit dem Zug zum nahe gelegenen Movie Park. Während der gemeinsamen Zeit wurden viele enge Freundschaften geschlossen.

Leider ging die Zeit viel zu schnell vorbei und leider müssen alle guten Dinge ein Ende haben. Am letzten Abend grillten wir im Garten eines Austauschschülers, und beim gemeinsamen Essen und Reden schlich sich schon ein wenig Abschiedsschmerz ein. Am Freitagmorgen war es dann an der Zeit, 'Auf Wiedersehen' zu sagen, und nach dem tränenreichen Abschied ging es zurück nach England.

Drei Wochen mussten wir ohne einander auskommen, bevor wir einander wiedersehen konnten. Wir blieben in ständigem Kontakt zueinander, aber auch zu den Partnern anderer und den deutschen Schülern, die wir in der Schule kennengelernt hatten.

Als die Wartezeit endlich vorüber war kamen die Deutschen an der Schule an. Während ihres Aufenthaltes hier veranstalteten wir ein Frühstück in der Schule mit den anderen Jungs aus dem Deutschkurs. Die Austauschschüler verbrachten den Rest des Tages mit uns in der Schule und mussten unumgänglich feststellen, dass die Schule hier bis vier Uhr geht...

Außerdem gingen wir noch Bowlen, und am Dienstag und Mittwoch besichtigten unsere deutschen Freunde die Stadtmitte, den BBC und Cadbury World. Am Donnerstag verpassten wir möglicherweise den aufregendsten Tag der Schule überhaupt um die schöne Stadt Stratford-upon-Avon zu besuchen. Uns wurde eine – naja, zugegeben nicht allzu spektakuläre – Stadtführung geboten, Shakespeares Haus und die Kirche, in der er bestattet wurde, mit eingeschlossen.

Der nächste Morgen war wirklich sehr schwer, denn dieses Mal war es viel schlimmer für uns, uns zu verabschieden, da dies soviel wir wussten das letzte Mal war, dass wir uns sahen. Viele weinten, und nicht nur die Schüler, aber letztendendes mussten sie gehen.

Großartige Freundschaften sind bei diesem Austausch entstanden, Freundschaften, von denen ich hoffe, dass sie noch über Jahre Bestand haben werden. Wir bleiben in ständigem Kontakt mit allen Deutschen, die wir getroffen, kennen und lieben gelernt haben, fast jeden Tag wird geschrieben. Wir alle planen schon die nächsten Male, an denen wir uns wiedersehen können, ob unsere neuen Freunde nun hierher kommen, oder ob wir dorthin gehen. Zwei deutsche Mädchen haben uns sogar schon in der letzten Woche der Sommerferien besucht.

Zum Abschluss sind wir Mr. Witcombe für seine Hilfe in Deutschland, und ganz besonders Frau Havel, Frau Helm und Frau Dumschat aus Deutschland zu großem Dank verpflichtet. Sie haben diesen Austausch erst möglich gemacht, vielen Dank für die Organisation und dafür, dass sie uns diese fantastische Möglichkeit gegeben haben!

Jack Walton and Annekathrin Buchenau





LA SEMAINE INTERNATIONALE AU LYCÉE FÉNELON À GRASSE

En avril dernier, nous avons passé une semaine fabuleuse en compagnie de nos partenaires d'échange français, tous aussi accueillants les uns que les autres. La semaine en France est principalement pour améliorer notre français et après ce séjour linguistique, je pense que nous avons vraiment progressé dans notre compréhension et utilisation de la langue. Nous nous sommes également bien amusés et avons participé à des excursions de découverte des paysages méditerranéens et de la culture locale. Notre visite de la vieille ville de



Grasse était particulièrement fascinante à cause de sa réputation comme capitale mondiale de la parfumerie et de son architecture sensationnelle. De plus, nous sommes allés à Cannes (où un festival du film a lieu chaque année) et avons profité du soleil à la plage, bronzé mais aussi fait un peu de shopping. Antibes et son vieux marché provençal nous ont enchantés et la visite du musée Picasso, nous a impressionnés par les tableaux rares de l'artiste espagnol. En conclusion, ce séjour en France, avec ses magnifiques paysages et le très beau temps, était inoubliable et enrichissant car nous avons appris beaucoup à propos de la France : sa géographie, sa culture et par dessus tout, sa langue.

Girish Murali



De camino a la Alhambra anduvimos una larga distancia dentro de bonitos parques. También cerca de allí hay muchas calles típicas marroquíes; pensaba que estaba en un país árabe. El ambiente era muy bullicioso porque había muchos turistas y grupos grandes como el nuestro.

Aprendimos muchas cosas de este monumento histórico y vimos la gran habilidad y la técnica que los musulmanes tenían. En todas las paredes y alrededor de las puertas había decoraciones que eran muy bonitas y magníficas porque muestran el carácter trabajador de la gente. En conjunto, este lugar y este viaje son un recuerdo que nunca olvidaré porque vimos cosas sorprendentes.

Tamir Choudhury

NUESTRA VISITA A ANDALUCÍA

Nuestra visita a la Alhambra fue la mejor experiencia que tuvimos cuando fuimos a España. Fuimos para aprender y mejorar nuestro español, pero sobre todo, para divertirnos y disfrutar aprendiendo español.

La Alhambra, que está en Granada, es un palacio que fue construido por los reyes musulmanes alrededor del siglo IX. La palabra 'Alhambra', se origina de la palabra árabe que significa 'castillo rojo'. Cuando los cristianos expulsaron a los árabes destruyeron las mezquitas y todos los edificios importantes, con la excepción de este palacio, para demostrar su victoria. Ahora, es un destino muy famoso para los turistas. El edificio es muy importante para la arquitectura de España porque representa la historia de la gente y la época de los musulmanes y de los cristianos en España.





SLAPTON LEY FIELD STUDIES CENTRE: THE BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Continuing the Lower Sixth "A" Level tradition of Biology field trips into the new world of the IB, we headed to Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre in the South Hams of Devon. We were ready to relax after a strenuous first year of the Baccalaureate, but soon found out that there would be minimal time for relaxing. We were there to work, specifically to practically complete the topic of ecology in an environment rife with different habitats – such as the Shingle Ridge and Slapton Wood Stream.

Our first afternoon involved a trip to Slapton Sands to investigate the diversity of species on the slopes. We used different types and sizes of quadrats, such as open quadrats and grid quadrats, to give us enough values to be able to conduct statistical tests on the results. The guides were excellent; they explained everything in a very clear way and used a Powerpoint presentation to familiarise us with the statistical tests necessary for biological investigations.

The second day saw us investigating plant species and succession along the Shingle Ridge, something that would not be out of place on a Geography field trip, as ecology is a topic that spans the subjects. The third day involved investigating freshwater ecology in Slapton Wood Stream by collecting samples of invertebrates and recording our findings. On the final day we had intended to carry out an investigation relevant to the IB Assessment Criteria for the Design section of our practical assessments, but the weather was such that this was not possible; so our designs had to be purely hypothetical.

The weekend was definitely a productive experience – not only did the trip improve our biological understanding, but it also sharpened basic biological skills such as taking a sample from a habitat and using quadrats. The Centre stresses the need to protect the environment, hence their heavy emphasis on recycling and their "state of the art" compost toilet, a facility few students chose to make use of!

David White

SUN, SEA... AND GEOGRAPHY

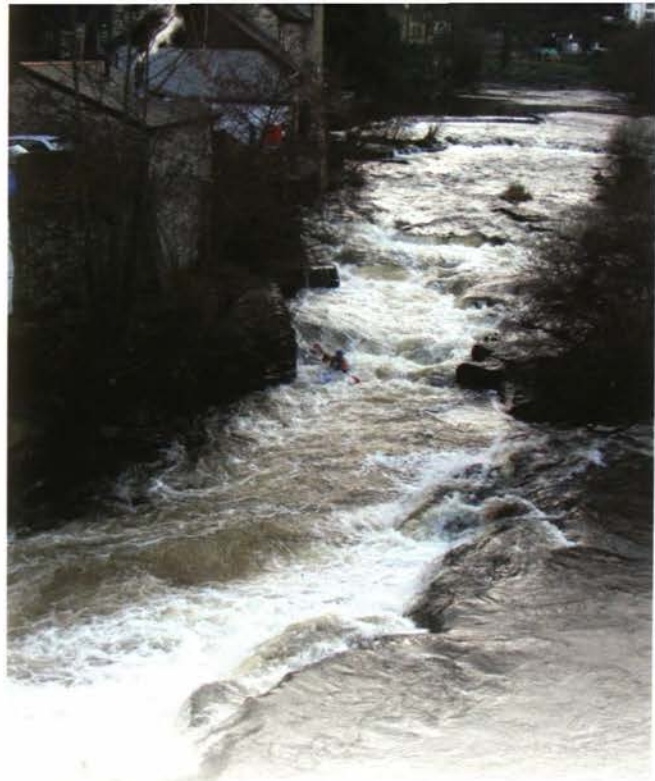
Sun-cream and shorts packed, we were ready for three days of beach fun with, obviously, some Geography, time permitting. Lyme Regis, a small coastal town once in danger of being consumed by the sea, was abuzz with eager geographers (and, apparently, the CBBC film crew of *Live and Deadly*).

The location was perfect as a case study: its many man-made sea defences have produced a variety of different beaches within a small stretch of coast, ideal for us up-and-coming Geography students. So, after the necessary fun-having, it was time for proper Geography, using ranging poles, quadrats, clinometers and other pieces of equipment we had seen lying about the classrooms for the past six years.

After a fulfilling day of beach-profiling, sediment-sizing and counting waves we had just about had enough of the rotten seaweed-covered seafront of Lyme Regis, so we moved on to fossil-hunting. Walking down the darkened Jurassic coast we found that the predictions of bountiful fossil veins proved true, though the glass bottles and bits of brick didn't look much like the dinosaurs we'd seen in the movies. Returning the next day, we began to realise we were at the very forefront of Geography when our very own weathering expert, Mr Stearn, explained the various theories as to the formation of sandstone holing. Nonetheless, a final race to the top of a huge natural shingle ridge seemed only appropriate to the majesty of where we were and what we were studying.

Alex Hunter





KAYAKING EXPEDITION

The beginning of a kayaking trip always starts with the same routine. We all turn up at 8.30 in the morning (we boys are never explicitly told when to turn up – we always agree on a sensible time to turn up the night before and always seem to be about right) and after half an hour or so of arguing over who gets which wetsuit, we head off. This trip was a Sixth Form memento trip, an intimate affair with Callum, Jacek and I along with Mr Irvine, Capt. Storey and Major Collins in what could be described as the most overstaffed trip ever, with a student-teacher ratio of 1:1.

After our traditional stop at some nondescript Travelodge to pick up Mr Storey and the kayaks, we made our way to our first kayaking destination, Llangollen, on the River Dee. It was a short hike past a pub and a canal down to the launch site, where after a pop safety quiz by Mr Irvine, we were in. The river consisted of some grade 2 and 3 rapids, and it was pleasant sailing and ferry-gliding until we reached the Serpent's Tail (grade 3/4).

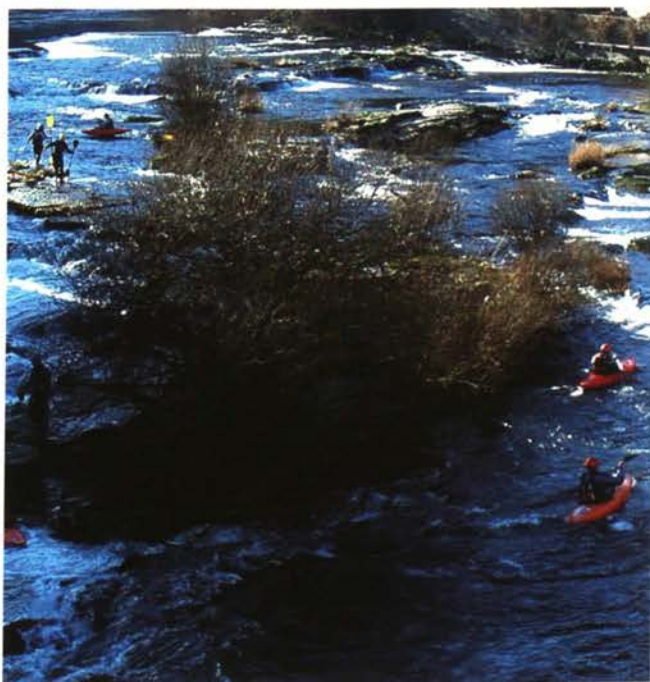
We got out of our kayaks just before it and walked over for an inspection of the rapid. It was a fast and bumpy ride with a mean stopper at the end, though the skilled can find rest stops aplenty. Jacek and I decided to portage it, but Callum was up to the challenge and, after a demonstration by Mr Irvine and Mr Storey, he conquered it in a single, daring run, not forgetting to be sufficiently smug to us afterwards. However, there were some brilliant rapids and surf waves waiting for us downstream, and we were not about to miss them, so we paddled on and paddled hard until darkness and weariness took us and we headed back to Capel Curig for the night.

After a night's entertainment of watching some kayaking documentaries and listening to Mr Irvine's inspiring account of paddling down Zanskar River, we were ready for our final paddling day with the school. When we first got to the river, we were somewhat underwhelmed. It appeared to be a slightly overgrown stream you could walk down. Mr Storey assured us that it would bulk up and offer excitement at every rapid, once the dam upstream had released. We looked at each other with dubious expressions. However, as we drove up the river with our kayaks, we could slowly see the water gaining strength and might, and our doubts subsided. By the top of the river, it was a different beast altogether, and we were ready and eager to hit the water.

Our first major rapid was the ski slope – it does what it says on the tin, giving you huge air after you hit it. The trick is landing right and getting out of it safely, and not all of us secured our escape. But a quick swim and re-entry never hurt anyone, right? We paddled on, and hit some more rapids (I had the unfortunate experience of going backwards down a mean one, somehow escaping unscathed), enjoyed some banter with the whitewater rafters and generally had a good time.

We all improved ourselves, pulled off some spectacular moves and rolls (kudos to Jacek for managing an almost uncountable number of rolls), paddled through some beautiful countryside, had a great two days. And thanks go to Capt. Storey, Mr Irvine and Major Collins for making it happen.

Irfan Mohamed





SKIING IN COLORADO

The members of the Colorado Ski Trip set out in two echelons: the unlucky ones shipped out from KES at the unearthly hour of 3.30 am, the lucky ones at 7am. All hundred of us finally made it to Colorado, though we remained in two groups, half of us on one side of the main highway and half of us on the other.

A day's skiing began with an American breakfast of scrambled eggs with syrup and, everybody's favourite, bacon and yet more syrup. We skied for 4 or 5 hours every day, split up into groups of varying expertise. The mountain had a perfect mix of slopes on it, suitable for both the beginners and the more advanced. During our free time in the evenings boys could be found crowded around the one pool table our resort had to offer, or heading up to 'the Dubstep Shop', a secret shop run by a few of the Sixths selling sweets and drinks at extortionate prices to the Shells and Rems.

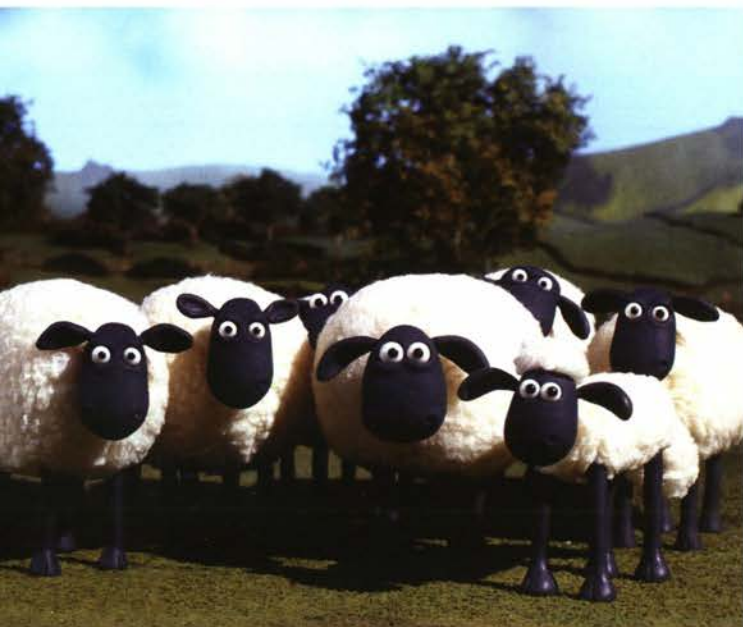
In true KES Ski Trip fashion there were a few injuries and a few trips with the helicopter were made, but this did not distract any of the other boys from putting their all into some amazing skiing. Our teachers took us out on some incredible trips in the evenings, including tubing down a dangerously steep slope, a trip to an 'all you can eat' meat restaurant where our boys really pushed the limits of their appetites, a sports centre where we enjoyed various activities such as swimming and basketball, and, finally, perhaps the greatest evening

we had, which was spent watching the Denver Nuggets' somewhat unexpected defeat of the incredible Boston Celtics. And who could forget the much-anticipated Balkham quiz night? A huge thank you must be extended to the teachers who took us away, namely Mrs While, Mr Balkham and the incredible Ms McMillan!

Seb Ostrowicz







REMOVES WEEK, 2011

Courtesy of Mr Dewar, the following documents relating to Rem S's Removes Week were forwarded to Chronicle as part of the school's Freedom of Information policy.

Dear Sir,

It is with the deepest regret that I inform you that the behaviour of your boys, whilst on their recent activity week, has upset my constituents so much that the Collected Sheep of Llanberis and Surrounding Areas have opted to place the matter in the court's hands.

The following case was to be heard against your boys in a Welsh court (namely the Ovis Arian Court of Tribunal), on the following grounds:

- Noise Pollution of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, caused by the boys of Remove S.
- Anti-Social behaviour and conduct of boys of Remove S, towards the Collected Sheep of Llanberis and Surrounding Areas.
- Public Nuisance committed by the boys of Remove S, against the Sheep of Llanberis.

However, before you were informed by me of my constituents' decision to press charges, the case and evidence had to be sent for the approval of a judge: luckily for your boys, the judge ruled that the case was not to go ahead because 'the charges were based on insufficient and biased evidence' and 'the defendant(s) had not been given a chance to submit evidence in his/her/their defence'.

Despite this, it is still customary for an accused person or party to receive a copy of the evidence that was to be used against them, even if the case itself never took place.

Might I take this opportunity to tell you that your boys, along with most other tourists and humans, are disliked by the sheep community of Llanberis and the Surrounding Areas. You may or may not be aware that this is not the first time that my constituents have raised a court case against tourists; boys and adults alike. Nay, in fact, my constituents make a habit of it; so please take head of this warning — but only if you want to.

Kind, but guarded, regards,

Your faithful prosecutor, Woolfred Lamb.

A Selection of Evidence Brought Before the Ovis Arian Tribunal

At the Hearing of:

**The Collected Sheep of Llanberis and Surrounding Areas
VS.**

The Remove S of KES

[Delivery to Judge for Pre- Tribunal Adjustment]

Evidence from the Tuesday

Statement from a sheep in Beaumaris:

"The rabble arrived within the vicinity of my field on Tuesday; the precise time I can't remember - a sheep's memory is far from infallible. However, the group of 'young people' got out of their metal boxes and trudged across my neighbour's field, guided by some weary 'older people'; noisily, I hasten to add.

(I had heard of a similar throng uprooting some friends of mine on the other side of the river, up in Aber Falls; only for the purpose of taking photographs and getting wet. I hear that the 'people' were the only creatures that came down the hill smiling. I have now concluded that it was the same mob who troubled me; this town is plagued by anti-social 'people'!)

The group of 'people' then went into the old stone building [Castle] and made even more noise. The old stone building is a wonderful place — very interesting. A direct ancestor of mine saw the men who built it [this family of sheep have been here since the 12th century; they can't remember exactly when.] - the builders came straight after my family's field was invaded by an awkward bunch of fools waving an English flag and sharp metal things. It was a shame that the builders never got round to finishing the place, as I imagine that it would have looked beautiful, being totally symmetrical. Anyway, the 'young people' seemed to enjoy themselves, and came out with slightly lower noise levels than when they went in.

The next I saw of the horde was soon after they left my neighbour's field. They appeared on a tin tub on their way out to Puffin Island. The gull told me that the

sea was quite agitated when the tin tub left the river's mouth; the seals and puffins turned out though.

Statement from a sheep near Llanberis Youth Hostel:

"There are few places in North Wales that get a true mix of tourists — I happen to live near one of them. This latest batch of excitable 'young people' appeared no different from the others; practically nocturnal, loud but easily tired. However, I was proven wrong — these 'young people' did not appear to get tired soon. Nor were they keen on the idea of sleep. For a sheep, I have exceptionally good hearing; I heard whisperings until high on the mark of three at dawn. Hopefully, these 'young people' will tire soon, for this sheep requires its beauty sleep."

Evidence from the Wednesday

Statement from a sheep in the fields at the base of Moel Siabod:

"The pack of grudging climbers assembled at the bottom of my hill - they seemed to have no concept of the laws about trespassing. Baah Humbug! Anyway, they soon reached my field, with all their chatter and bags and boots and the typical smell of tourists — an awful lot of sweat- masking-liquid. Unlike me, they were enjoying themselves. I watched with disdain as they marched contentedly around the lake and across the marsh. However, instead of turning around and walking up the hill, the fools decided to scramble up the rock face; a feat that I was going to enjoy watching them attempt to complete.

Scrambling can be very difficult, especially if you have the limitations of a sheep. Even so, hauling oneself up a large protrusion of potentially slippery and worn rock can be difficult for a fit, vain, over confident and apparently healthy 'young person'. It can also be incredibly rewarding, which, unfortunately for me, was the case with this particular rabble. They all completed the walk, the sun shone and the weather was very warm; they appeared to be very lucky in their choice of day — I hate warmth and I hate the sun. I don't live in North Wales to get sunshine... Whatever happened to regularity?"

Statement from a sheep located on a football field near Llanberis Youth Hostel:

"On the Wednesday night, I was mobbed by 'young people' who arrived en masse. I have never had any previous problems with the mobs of anti-social 'people', who walk around noisily and evict helpless sheep from their peaceful abodes, but it seems my record of avoiding trouble with insolent humans has been spoilt. The ruffians descended upon my field with strident voices and began to kick a colourful sphere very violently. Then, after turning me out from my cold, comforting grass, the 'young people' kicked this innocent sphere right at me. To worsen my situation, I believe strongly that the 'young people' kicked the

hard, innocent and colourful sphere at me deliberately.

Evidence from the Thursday

Statement from a sheep located near Lake Bala Water Sports Centre:

"I had heard of this so-called 'rabble' of 'young people' as being the latest thing to afflict Llanberis and its surrounding areas. 'Good' was my first response — the sheep in Llanberis are paranoid, pretentious and horrifically boring; they need to get out of their fields as a matter of enormous urgency. I, in complete contrast to the other sheep's accusations, thought that the group of 'young people' were quite pleasant and were a brilliant troupe to watch perform.

Their antics on the water included building strange and unstable water-going craft: these were all hilarious to watch. Their unstable water-going craft made a habit of either collapsing beneath them or causing the unfortunate 'young people' to fall off. The small tin-tubs seemed far safer, however, until the 'young people' joined them together and attempted to run across a line of them. Many 'young people' fell in. One, I think, aimed to get wet; but I felt genuine sorrow for those who experienced the water by accident, for Lake Bala knows temperatures that we sheep shiver at the mere sound of. Finally, there was the group of 'young people' who rode in the large tin-tubs — they looked absolutely frozen and nor did they move particularly fast. Nay, the Lake saw little wind, but a lot of rain. However, by almost predictable chance, one set of 'young people' succeeded in turning up their tin-tub twice and nearly did so a third time - the joys of harnessing the Welsh wind.

I would like to see these fair travellers return to my lake — if they achieved nothing else; at least they made an old, old sheep laugh."

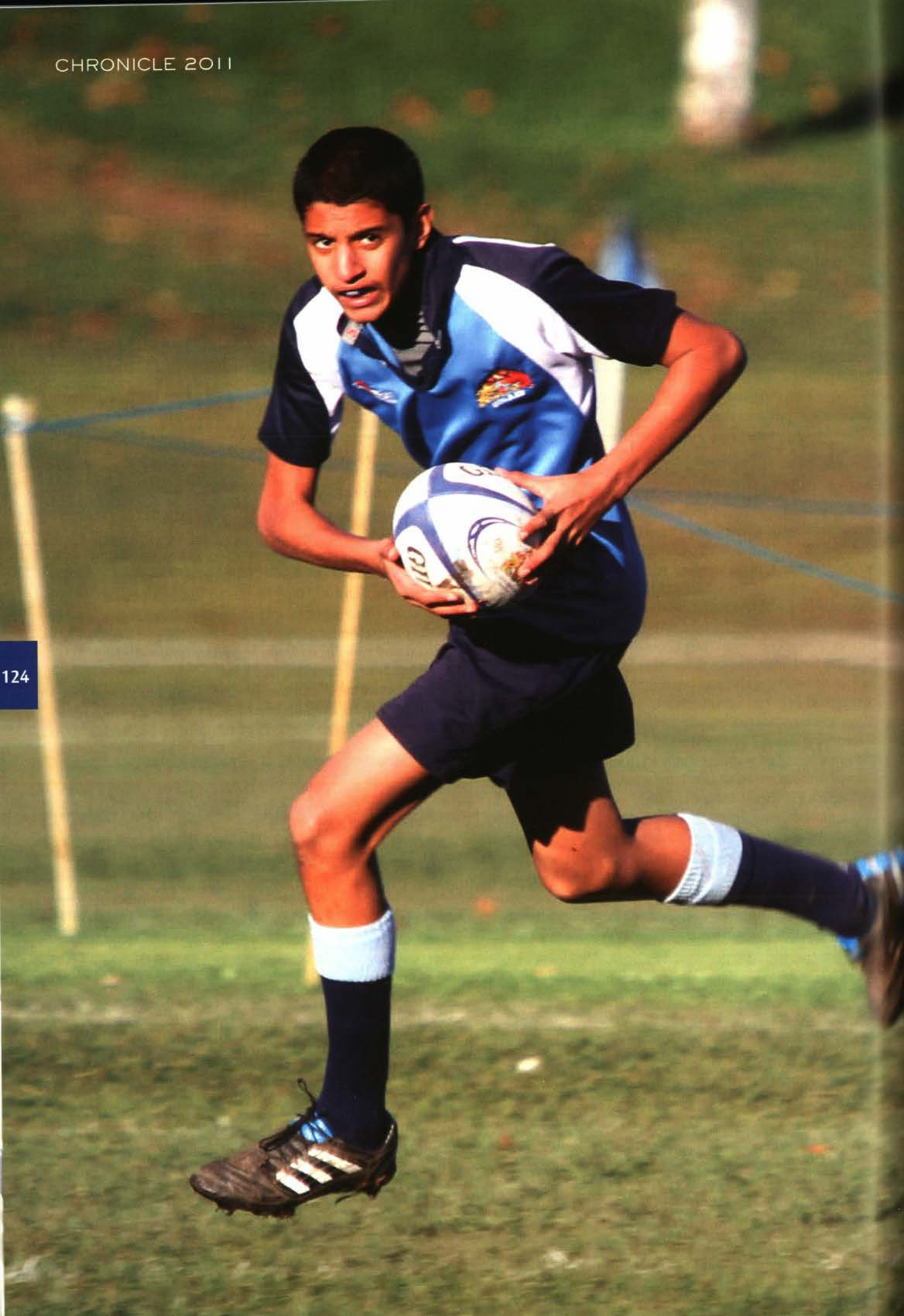
Evidence from the Friday

Statement from a sheep in Beaumaris:

"We cannot be sure, but there is a growing suspicion that our tormentors have left. They were last seen disappearing into the famous mountain-side-by-the-lake but, much to our disappointment, re-emerged around half-an-hour later. Following their trip there, the 'young people' do appear to have left. If we do not catch another sighting of the 'young people', there will be sheep street parties across the hills, for our week of misery will be over - ready for the next company of fools to move in."

with thanks to Joshua Kimblin







SPORT

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL RUGBY CLUB 2010-2011 SEASON

	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against
1st XV	24	16	7	1	557	294
2nd XV	15	8	7	0	282	227
3rd XV	10	4	6	0	198	186
U16 A XV	10	4	6	0	128	127
U16 B XV	3	0	3	0	10	121
U15 A XV	15	3	12	0	188	528
U15 B XV	8	2	6	0	60	259
U14 A XV	15	12	2	1	618	216
U14 B XV	12	7	5	0	318	168
U13 A XV	13	6	7	0	315	261
U13 B XV	9	4	5	0	167	287
U13 C XV	7	1	3	0	63	119
U12 A XV	11	4	7	0	133	175
U12 B XV	9	5	4	0	186	127
U12 C XV	9	7	2	0	319	32
U12 D XV	5	5	0	0	254	12
Total	173	88	82	2	3796	3169

TEAM HONOURS

1st XV	Round 7 of Daily Mail Vase
U16 XV	North Midlands Semi-Finalists
U15A XV	Runners up in the Greater Birmingham Cup
U14A XV	Winners Greater Birmingham Cup Runners up in the OSH sevens
U13A XV	Runners up in the Greater Birmingham Cup

INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Under 18

England Community Lions Rugby League v Wales and Australia - R. Millar

Under 16

Midlands Squad Millfield inter regional tournament - J. Duckett

North Midlands - J. Duckett

Greater Birmingham Selection - N. Simkiss

Under 15

Greater Birmingham Selection - W. Goldup, J. Schofield
N. Eccleston (Staffordshire)

Under 14

Greater Birmingham Selection - S. Geelan

KES RUGBY CLUB

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER AWARDS

Clubman of the Year	Morgan Hirsch
1st XV Player of the Year	Will Watkinson
1st XV Most Improved Player	Joe Hobbs
2nd XV Player of the Year	Will Parker
2nd XV Most Improved Player	Ifeanyi Chukwulobelu
3rd XV Player of the Year	Ben Harkcom
3rd XV Most Improved Player	Josh O'Donnell

1st XV Players Ties awarded to:

M. Hirsch, W. Watkinson, T. Barnes, E. Davis

Full Colours Awarded to:

M. Hirsch, T. Barnes, E. Davis, Joe Hobbs,
W. Watkinson

Half Colours Awarded to:

S Cousins, W Chesner (already received), B. Harkcom,
J. Lam, J. Nguyen, J. Tankaria, S. Ostrowicz,
O. Erinfoami, R. Lenton, E. Matthews, C. McGuirk,
R. Millar, S. Sadiq, J. Ward, J. Wheeler, R. Wigley,
J. Cull, Jack Hobbs, W. Parker, O. Dixon, M. Watts,
S. McIntock, M. Sandher, E. Jackson



THE FIRST XV

The team arrived back for pre-season training with zeal and an enthusiasm to improve on the standards set by the previous year. Although unfit and not as prepared as we would have liked to have been, we were thrown into a 'training game' against Monmouth in which we suffered a fairly comprehensive defeat; despite this result it was easy to see the potential that this year's 1st XV had.

The season proper began with a tough match against King's Worcester, ending in a sore defeat by an excruciating 3 points with the last play of the game. Our results, attitude and playing style picked up after the opening fixture in a major way: we ran up back to back wins against Wrekin, Lawrence Sheriff, Condon Court (a game in which the whole team really had the chance to stretch their legs, with the backs in particular running in a multitude of tries, and in which Edward Davis showed off finishing abilities which would improve even more as the season progressed) and King Henry's Coventry. The next game on the fixture list was the first of the Foundation matches, against King Edward's Five Ways. At the beginning of the season one of the team's main aims was to remain undefeated against the other Foundation schools, and a formidable performance against Five Way's at home not only continued the winning streak but took our first step on achieving this aim. After this, we welcomed Princethorpe College to Eastern Road in what promised to be a close encounter. The forwards played exceptionally well, with Ed Matthews and Joseph Hobbs acting as a force to be reckoned with.

The next fixture was a biggie: Bishop Vesey away in the Daily Mail cup. This game marked one of the real low points in the season: perhaps because of our over confidence or our lack of concentration throughout the match, Bishop Vesey broke the winning streak with a devastating 23-0 result. All the players and the coaches took this hard but we knew we had to dust ourselves off and get our heads back on track for the upcoming game against Camp Hill. The second of the Foundation matches offered a kinder result. Jamie Ward at 9 and

William Watkinson at 10 combined extremely well. Our spirits lifted, we went on to beat RGS Worcester in the following match 22-8 but draw against Nottingham High School 32-32.

The next game saw us travel to Old Swinford Hospital School, where we knew a real challenge awaited us. As expected, OSH put out a well-organised, talented team and even though there were moments when we seemed to gain some momentum, the opposition overpowered us and we travelled home battered and bruised after a heavy defeat. The 51-0 victory against Robert Smyth School in the Daily Mail Vase, put us in good heart for the match against long-time local rivals Solihull School. We were definitely the underdogs but every man played extremely well, and despite a 10-point defeat, we left the pitch knowing we'd played a good game. We then had a good win against Wellingborough College in which Tim Barnes, Ryan Miller and the Front row in particular (Salman Sadiq, Rob Wigley and Richard Lenton) all played particularly well, taking the scrum and the lineout in the direction in which we knew we, as a team, we should be heading.

Then came the snow and, with cancellations against Loughborough and Adam's Grammar and training proving difficult, the team could have gone off the boil, but we turned out for a gritty, convincing win against Solihull 6th Form College. The next game was the one we had been waiting for all year. The 12th of December 2010 saw Bromsgrove come to Eastern Rd. The status of this fixture need not be explained here, and stepping onto the field on that cold Saturday is a day I personally will never forget. The atmosphere was electric and every single player played out of his skin. We left the pitch at half time 6-5 up. In the second half, although we continued to put in 100%, the game started to drift away from us, but even if we couldn't produce that ever elusive win over Bromsgrove, all the boys were very proud to have competed in such a contest. The youngsters of the team put in particularly good performances. Connor McGuirk played exceptionally throughout the whole season and particularly in this monumental encounter.

After the Bromsgrove game, we racked up wins against Bablake, Queens Mary's, K.E Stratford and Richard Hale school and were really gaining momentum. Throughout the season we had been slowly working our way through the Daily Mail Vase Competition and our next was against Hereford Cathedral School in round 7 of the competition. We started strongly but took a blow when our standout fly-half William Watkinson went off injured; although Ryan Miller did well to replace him, the size and strength of the opposition pack proved too much for our defence. We left the pitch feeling a little dejected but with heads still held high at how far we had come in the competition. The last game of the season came quickly, a messy victory against K.E Aston to complete the domination of the Foundation schools. Of 23 games played, we won 16, lost 6, and drew 1.

I'd like to congratulate all the players on a successful season despite its ups and downs, and extend my sincerest gratitude to the coaches and the staff that made this season such an enjoyable one for me and all the players. I'd also like to thank everyone who has come along and supported us throughout the season: without them many results might have not been so thrilling.

Thank you for a fantastic year and Good Luck to everyone

Morgan Hirsch

2ND XV

Sixth form rugby at KES is a three tiered system. At the top, the so-called 'fifteen', renowned at KES for their gruelling training sessions, well fought matches and sporting talent. At the bottom, the 3rd XV, infamous for their banterous hungover style. Now between these two extremes sits the true beating heart of King Edwards School rugby, the mighty second team: some say that the segundos, as we are now called, are lost in limbo between the other teams. This couldn't be further from the truth: the segundos are the genuine home of all that is good about KES, with their unique and perfectly balanced mixture of natural born rugby talent and sheer lack of any discernible athletic fitness.

The start of this year saw many 'young guns' rising from the obscurity of the thirds to the stardom of second team rugby football. These youngsters, including Charlie Hughes, Ali Malhotra and Nathan Roberts, worked hard straight from the off to impress the ever-unimpressable Mr Turner. He gave them all their shot, though, and each one of them has proved himself to be a true second teamer. They have done us proud with their undying energy, witty comments and sheer determination. By 'us' I mean the backbone of the segundos, the Sixth formers. This year the backbone was admittedly pretty slim in numbers but it was stronger than it's ever been before, with Oli Dixon, Stan Cousins, Manny Sandher, Sean McIntock, Will Parker and James Cull showing the new boys exactly what the second team way of life is all about.

The team was a good one. Obviously we had weak points: passing, speed and endurance, to name but three. But these negatives were easily and literally outweighed by the absolute size of the second team this year. We won most of our matches with unstoppable



line-out drives and uncollapsible mauls. This is a testament to the techniques of the big man himself, whose training sessions would've completely forgone any backs training if it hadn't been for Mr Birch, who also refereed all our home matches. The team stood strong at the start of the session and remained a force to be reckoned with throughout.

It has been a truly great session. Maybe not the most successful in terms of actual scores, but successful in the sense that every single one of the players has willingly put his mind and body on the line week in week out to further himself as a member of the team and the school. They have all grown into young men and become far better people for their service to school rugby, because, at the end of the day, it's not about the scores; it's about the times. Thanks to all those who've done their bit for the formidable 2nd XV.

U14A XV

Under the tutelage of Mr Coverdale, we had an immensely enjoyable season. For the third year running we managed to win the Greater Birmingham Tournament, where we beat Camp Hill in a tense final. Other notable victories came against Warwick and Bishop Vesey. The victory against Warwick was even more impressive considering that we were 20 points down at half time.

Throughout the season, the backs showed great pace, skill and gamesmanship. Alex Hardy, Arun Shergill, and Christian Pritchard-Cairns chipped in with some crucial and spectacular tries, whilst Scott Geelan and Angus Crombie made vital contributions with their rugby know-how and sleight of hand. Elliot Parkes and Harry Jennings also had some outstanding games on the wing. The forwards, despite being considerably smaller than most other packs, always gave their all and set up good ball for the backs to use. James Harman put in a brilliant season's running and kicking. Paolo Odogwu's pace and power is formidable. Paolo scored a phenomenal number of tries throughout the season and has a very bright future ahead of him.

Massive thanks and congratulations must go to the squad for a brilliant season, but more importantly to Mr Coverdale, for not only putting up with us, but also making the season incredibly enjoyable through his positive and humorous demeanour.

Max Dixon



U14B XV

This was a largely successful season for the Under 14Bs. It kicked off with an excellent win against King's Worcester. After a poor first twenty-five minutes, a determined second half performance led the team to a comfortable victory. The work rate of Jeevan Dhillon during that match and throughout the season was phenomenal and he quite rightly gained promotion to the A team along with Saahir Mubarik and Toby Hubbard. Toby and Jeevan were the stars of the season and could always be relied upon to make a try-saving tackle or a powerful break out of defence.

Whilst there were some tough games with narrow losses against the like of Nottingham High School and Wrekin College's A XV, the team performed well on numerous occasions and gained some memorable victories. The win against KES Aston in heavy rain at the end of the season was a fine example of such a victory. Over twenty boys played during the course of the match, showing the strength of the squad. There is not the space to mention all of these names but many did stand out. Tom Lamb captained the team for much of the season and could certainly perform at a higher level. He and Alex Georgivic were both sorely missed when they moved to hockey.

In the backs, Yang Ma most frequently broke the opposition gain line and Will Ritchie-Moulin was perhaps the most improved player. They were well supported in the back line by the likes of Olly Cull, Hashim Butt, Rotimi and Hari Pannum. Up front, Oliver Bland played well in several different positions, Jack Walton worked hard in the front row and Oli Cattaneo was often the best ball carrier. Russell Evans and Sanjeet Sahajpal also performed well either in the front or second row, whilst Luke Nash showed himself versatile enough to play in the backs or forwards. Members of the A squad such as Harry Jennings also stood out when they appeared for the B XV. Well done to everybody involved, and good luck for your rugby in the future.



U13 A XV

The U13As had a fairly good run this year: we scored a lot more points than we conceded, and in the matches we lost the scores were very close. The team has come a long way this season; each player individually has improved a lot, especially in tackling. The team as a whole has improved considerably and everyone is working well together. It was a significant improvement on last season's performance. We had a good end to the season with respectable places in the Greater Birmingham tournament, finishing 2nd, and the Bromsgrove sevens, finishing 3rd.

Fin Koral

U12 A XV

This was not a particularly successful season for the U12A's, but we worked hard as a team. Some players had not played much rugby before but quickly learned the ropes, and a couple of weeks later a team was made. It was remarkable how quickly we bonded together. During the season the backs gained remarkable handling and passing skills and the forwards became more aggressive, efficient and effective in the rucking and scrummaging area.

Several matches were cancelled due to appalling weather in November/December and we are extremely grateful to Mr Boardman for getting up so early to check the pitches and e-mailing the outcome before we had even got out of bed! We look forward to better rugby and greater success in 2011-2012. Thank you to Miss Hunt for all her expert guidance and hard work.

Richard Chapman





U12 B XV

The B team played brilliantly together, though some of our results didn't reflect that: we came up against some extremely tough opposition and found ourselves outplayed despite maximum effort from each and every member of Mr Witcombe's team. Even though we lost quite a few games, the ones that we did win we won with great pride and graciousness towards our teammates and coach.

The player that stood out most in the season was certainly Matthew Smith, who fought at every opportunity to tear the ball from the opposition hands in defence, and in attack charged fearlessly into the bewildered opposition forwards. Sadly for our team, he earned a place in the A's, which did seem to affect our team for a while but we soon received strong replacements from the C team.

We would all like to thank Mr Witcombe for his dedication to our team. He spent many of his weekends on the touchline of an ice cold rugby field directing and supporting us throughout the games.

Gus Iliff



U12 C XV

I am proud to have captained the C team along with Tim Jones. We have won all our matches in the Shells and Removes. This was only possible because of our hard training, our fantastic coaches and Mr James. We enjoyed a brilliant starter match against Trent College which we won 60-0. This would not have been if it were not for some of our top players, such as Tim Jones and Patrick Moore. We have learnt from our mistakes and have worked hard. Overall, the C Team has done very well and will continue working hard.

Joseph Tedd





1ST XI 2011

Date	Length	Match Figures	Result
20-April	35 overs	KES 125-8	Magdalen College 100 ao Wigley 3-18
26-April	50 overs	Shrewsbury 236 ao	KES 132 ao Dixon 3-41
27-April	35 overs	Bishop Vesey 133 ao Sonsale 4-9	KES 134-3 Cornick 53*
30-April	50 overs	RGS Worcester 236-4	KES 237-3 Cornick 96, Roberts 72*
04-May	25 overs	KES 174-8 Cornick 94*	Bablake 79ao Murali 4-20
11-May	35 overs	KES 116 ao	Malvern College 117-3
14-May	50 overs	Warwick 129 ao Dixon 3-10, Murali 3-19	KES 104 ao
15-May	20 overs	Wolverhampton GS 80-8 Murali 3-5	KES 82-4
15-May	20 overs	Denstone 152-6 Sonsale 3-15	KES 101 ao
21-May	50 overs	Kings Worcs 223-8 Wigley 3-54, Murali 3-13	KES 208-8
11-June	50 overs	Bromsgrove 250-9 Murali 3-38	KES 250 ao Cornick 125, Chesner 70
18-June	50 overs	Trent College 43-0	Abd
22-June	40 overs	Repton 193 ao Wigley 3-30, Murali 3-18	KES 95 ao
25-June	50 overs	KES 262-7 Cornick 75, Roberts 56	Wolverhampton GS 169-9 Claughton J 3-22
28-June	50 overs	Prince Alfred's 153 ao White 3-35	KES 154-6
29-June	50 overs	KES 244-5 Roberts 74	Nottingham HS 246-3
30-June	50 overs	KES 194-9 Cornick 71	Loughborough GS 127 ao White 5-38
02-July	35 overs	KES 226-3 Cornick 89	OEA 101 ao Wigley 4-17, Dixon 3-24
05-July	Dec	MCC 122-8 Dixon 3-21, Murali 3-25	KES 77 ao
06-July	35 overs	Old Edwardians CC 162-6 Claughton J 3-24	KES 166-8 White 52*
07-July	Dec	Chief Master's XI 173-6 Claughton J 3-15, Murali 3-53	KES 136-8
			DRAW

CRICKET FIRST XI

Firstly, on behalf of all players in the 1st and 2nd team squad may I thank all the staff at Eastern Road, from Richard the Groundsman who works tirelessly all year round to make Eastern Road one of the most picturesque and radiant cricket grounds around to Julie (and occasionally her daughter) in the kitchen, preparing the lovely teas and lunches for us.

The season got under way in April against Magdalene College School, Oxford. We made only 125 in our first innings. Mr Roll looked upset with a sub-par score. After a pulsating opening spell by Rob Wigley in which he claimed a wicket with his first ball, we managed to hang on for a nail-biting but deserved victory. When Rob gets it right with the ball, he's as good as any schoolboy bowler on the circuit, and he has the ability to pick up plenty of wickets. When he gets it wrong, he gets hit all over the park. Our most impressive and well-earned victory came in early May against a strong RGS team. We chased down 236 with real determination and gusto, and it showed us that we were a serious batting team. The openers put on 100 without loss and Nathan Roberts finished it off with a fluent and mature half century – reaffirming how much talent he does have.

Despite a blip mid-season with losses against Warwick, Kings Worcester and Malvern, whom we quite frankly should have beaten, we found our feet again against Bromsgrove. Jack Cornick played the best innings of the season against Bromsgrove with a big ton. Jack has actually had a tremendous season, being not out in the 90's on three occasions, as well as getting numerous half-centuries. He has been the key batsman for the 1st team for well over four years – it's appropriate and correct to say that Jack has been one of the best batsman to ever grace the Eastern Road turf and we wish him every success with Warwickshire and with Durham UCCE.

We welcomed Prince Alfred's College, Adelaide to KES in June, a school that boasts 3 former Australian captains among their ranks, as well as numerous other Australian players. After the game, which we won, we recieved high praise from the touring team, who conceded themselves comprehensively beaten and declared their enjoyment of playing on such a beautiful ground. Hugo Clay's match winning innings against the Aussies will long be remembered. We could have collapsed and endured an embarrassing defeat – but no, Hugo stood up (to all of 5'3) and led us to a memorable victory. The Bromsgrove game saw the emergence of Will Chesner as a top-notch batsman. Will was a bowler early on in his school career but due to several crippling injuries he has resorted to batting. His 70 against Bromsgrove, which included a colossal 200 run partnership with Jack, showed just how far he has come as a batsman in such a short period of time.

Throughout the season, the whole team have been bedazzled by a spinning wizard, Girish Murali, who has taken a vast number of wickets this year with his right arm throw downs, whilst also managing to stabilise the innings through keeping the run rate down. It is encouraging that he still has one more year left at KES, and will undoubtedly take many more wickets for the 1st team.

Stephen 'Bill Frindall' Thatcher, our scorer, and a genuinely nice guy, has been an important member of the side who always turns up, whether home and away, and always encourages the team from the scoreboard.

The two most important people this season, in fact all year, are Mr Roll and the Grand Old Man of KES cricket, big Dave Collins. Their love and passion for cricket has reverberated through the team. They've even made Sam White enjoy his cricket! Their dedication to make us as successful as possible has led to some amusing moments. Mr Roll got rather carried away when coming up with our game plan for the year (a laminated A5 page), which included the phrases "the initial combat" and "the final assault". It appeared that he felt he was in the S.A.S.! As a whole team, we understand how tough it has been to watch us play over the past two years: batting collapses and below par bowling performances have been a regular occurrence. Messrs Roll and Collins also gave us the once-in-a-lifetime chance of touring the West Indies, which included playing on a Test Ground, and for this we are all eternally thankful. Good luck to Nathan Roberts and the team next year.

Ollie Dixon

AVERAGES

BATTING

Name	Inns	Runs	H.S.	Ave
J.P.P.Cornick*	16	833	125	59.5
N.C.Roberts	20	472	72*	24.8
W. Chesner	17	310	70	19.4
H.Clay	18	249	41*	16.6
R. Wigley	16	200	37*	16.6
T. Lilburn	14	170	36	12.1
S. White	17	164	52*	13.6
A. Sonsale	17	155	42	10.3
G. Murali	15	75	23*	7.5

BOWLING

Name	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave
G. Murali	168	31	507	38	13.3
R. Wigley	124	12	549	28	19.6
S. White	107	6	440	22	20
O. Dixon	152	22	575	22	26.1
J. Cloughton	41.5	4	181	13	13.9
A. Sonsale	47.2	6	204	11	18.5
A. Mulay	64	5	314	9	34.8
N. Roberts	31.3	3	137	5	27.4

2ND XI

The 2nd XI completed another successful season, ending up with the best win/loss ratio in the school. Jaspal Jheeta dominated the early part of the season, scoring a fifty against Bishop Vesey's before the bowlers cleaned the opposition up for a paltry 41, with Galyas taking four wickets. Jheeta followed this up with an unbeaten 99 against RGS, which the bowlers once again backed up, with Claughton taking advantage of home conditions to take five wickets. Bablake proved no match for the 2nd XI bowling machine, and were restricted to just seventy nine, which was chased down with aplomb.

A trip to Malvern followed, and contributions all down the order led to a highly defendable 150 being scored; Nathan Molnar's vicious accuracy and consistency enabled the score to be defended with ease. A trip to Warwick led to perhaps the best performance of the season, with 222 being scored against a strong Warwick team. Khangure ably supported Watkinson to a sublime half century, and along the way, despite being involved in two run-outs, managed to reach three figures himself. This total proved to be more than enough, especially with tight bowling from Molnar and Claughton, the former taking four almost unnoticed wickets. Khangure chipped in with the ball too, not for the last time, to complete a respectable return from the game.

The King's Worcester game was played on a tough wicket at home, and a silken 49 from Lilburn stood out as an exceptional knock where all others struggled. The bowlers once again teamed up, with Burns taking three wickets; the fielders provided strong support. Budhwar quickly becoming the team's cult hero, effected a jaw-dropping run out to turn the game on its head, and the 2nd XI marched to yet another victory. This completed an entirely victorious half term for the team, an almost unheard of achievement in KES cricket.

The next couple of games saw impressive individual performances in defeat, from Lilburn and Ghosh's 94 run partnership against Bromsgrove to the elusive Chaudhry's left arm seam bowling. Against Trent College, Galla let his gloves do the talking, and was involved in a solid opening partnership with Ghosh, who scored 52. The season ended on yet another high, with a strong win over Wolverhampton GS. The batsmen were not greedy, and allowed the whole team to contribute - everybody down to eleven scored runs in a true team performance, with Richardson's persistence, despite not yielding many runs, showing the team just how to occupy the crease. All the bowlers picked up wickets, but despite the solitary over KDP allowed Watkinson, the true highlight was Macarthur's outrageous celebrations, which even overshadowed his 3 economical wickets.

This capped off a great season for the 2nd XI, and our thanks go to the ever-present Mr Phillips, without whom the most enjoyable cricketing environment in the school would not exist. The relaxed atmosphere and the strong team ethic, along with Galyas' commitment to net practices, translated into success on the pitch. I hope this success will be continued, and I wish the 2nd XI all the best for the future.

Wrik Ghosh

3RD XI

When it comes to the 3rd XI, it's always a mixed bag of tricks. Although the season saw some strong individual performances, including a belligerent fifty from Aditya Kale, the results did not always go the way we hoped. After losing our first match, it was only the rain that could offer us some respite before further misfortunes befell us in the latter half of the season. The exam season always affects the cricket season, but even on top of this, we suffered everything from injuries to a mismatch versus Aston 1st XI. The addition of three touring Australians into our side was not enough to change our dismal luck, and a couple of close matches failed to go our way. At the end of such a season, there's nothing to do but thank Mr Evans for persevering with a side that has suffered at the hands of fate.

Vishal Patil

UI5 A XI

The season started, for four boys, in February, when Tom Claughton, Michael Durante, George Galla and Nick Porter ventured down under to experience life and cricket upside down. After an enjoyable experience, and slightly more tanned, they returned; on the 22nd April, four Australian boys came to live life the right way up. Mack Rivett, James Clements, Ben Douglas and Ben Hays came to experience cricket in England in April. They were in for a shock.

Unfortunately, they had too few matches to adjust, although they also experienced club cricket as the season got underway. In the two school matches they played, a lack of foot movement saw to their demise. Mack Rivett, however, made a spirited 40* against Solihull. Siddarth Rao, our opening bowler, should have been bowling for India this summer, on the grounds of his display throughout the entire season finishing with 14 wickets; his most noticeable performance was against RGS Worcester, where he bowled five overs for just one run.

Finally, our tight knit team started our campaign once the Australians had left on a high, beating Warwick School by 3 runs in a tightly fought encounter. Special mention must go to Michael Durante for a sterling last over which won us the match. But we took a knock.

Our opening batsman and keeper (turned off spinner) recieved his deserved call up to the 1st XI and Anuj Savani and George Galla became our new opening pairing. Jake Roberts stepped in with the gloves to help the team and, despite never having kept before, did a fine job. After a couple of setbacks against King's Worcester and a strong Bishop Vesey's side we got back to our winning ways.

Against Bromsgrove, our opening pair, slipping ever more comfortably into their new shoes, surpassed their first half century stand. George Galla did the bulk of the scoring and reached his own milestone (50*) later in the innings, whilst Anuj, obviously having watched Jonathan Trott's exploits, dug in deep. The rain threatened a draw, but a quick fire 54* from captain Nick Porter ensured KES won. Jamie Mitchell, who obviously had also been watching cricket over the winter and had learnt from the Australians how not to bowl spin, bowled Bromsgrove into submission. After comprehensively despatching Bishop Vesey's on a soggy green deck, Shiv Pabari combining wristy shots, quick feet and resolute defence to put in a performance of some merit (35* in testing conditions), we travelled down the M40 to Magdalen College School in Oxford to take part in a T20 tournament. Mr Worthington returned from retirement to drive us.

We were excited, to say the least: this was the highlight of the season and our exuberance inspired one of our best performances in four years of playing together. KES compiled a total of 188/2, with Tom Claughton (87*) and Nick Porter (72*) putting together a 180 partnership. Unfortunately our great form ended there, and there were no highlights to mention after that apart from maybe Will Goldup's fielding, which was sublime at times. But as a team we could not deliver the goods and bowed out at sixth place, after some inept performances. The season, however, was rounded off nicely with a win over KES Stratford.

Our thanks go to Mr Stearn, who put up with us, coached us, educated us; and to Dean Headley, the ex-England cricketer with a heritage stretching back to the great George Headley, who gave us all some tips.

Nick Porter

U15 B XI

This year we won the vast majority of our matches. We set out at the beginning of the season with a very large squad, and carried on through the season fielding a different team every week. A very able and committed coach, Mr Taylor, coached this squad, helping every single player develop as a cricketer. He dedicated a lot of time to being our coach and took the season very seriously, which was great from the team's point of view.

Along with a great coach, we also had a very strong squad who were very consistent. Great contributions were made both in bowling and batting. Special thanks to our opening batsmen, Saajan Jemahl and Anuj Savani, who always got us off to a great start, achieving many respectable scores throughout the season. Joe Attwood, Matt Shah and Rahul Karavadra also contributed greatly to the batting side of our game. Along with Haris Khan-Cheema and Saad Lakhani, the opening bowlers, Alex Russell, Jamie Mitchell, and Rahul Karavadra all made a significant difference to our team, taking many wickets and keeping the runs down to a minimum. This year we entered the Warwickshire cup and did well, falling short in the quarter final.

U14 XI

The U14 team had a successful year, only losing a total of 4 matches. Quite early on in the season the team managed a comprehensive win against one of our strong rivals, Warwick: thanks to strong performances from Saahir Mubarik, scoring 78 not out, and solid bowling from Scott Geelan and Jay Reddy, taking two wickets each, we made it increasingly difficult for Warwick to chase our score. This was an early morale boost for the team. A later match against RGS Worcester proved to be a solid victory: we needed only our top 4 batsmen to make a total score of 213, including half centuries from Hugh Lilburn and Jay Reddy. We backed this up by bowling them all out for 183, which included a five-wicket haul for Saahir Mubarik. Alex Georgevic and Max Dixon should be congratulated for taking many catches, which helped the team in its total wins.

The winning streak came to an end against our main rival, Bromsgrove, who had beaten us the previous year. Although we secured a defendable total of 223 runs, Saahir Mubarik scoring 79 and Jay Reddy 46, and mounted a good bowling attack, we were shown up by one of their main players, who carried his team to victory. We did extremely well in the Lord's Taverners Cup, fighting against many strong teams only to suffer a disappointing defeat against a formidable Rugby side in the final.

Saahir Mubarik



QAC V KES CRICKET MATCH

On Tuesday 21st June the King Edwards U14 A team were given an opportunity to play a game of blind cricket against largely visually impaired students, some of whom also have other disabilities such as autism. Queen Alexandra's College for the visually impaired and disabled is based in Harborne, Birmingham and is one of the leading colleges in the West Midlands of its kind.

The U14 team was very excited by this opportunity and were eager to understand more about sport for the visually impaired. We opened the batting, blind. This meant that the batsman is completely blindfolded, unable to see anything, therefore simulating the experience of a blind person. A ball filled with rice is thrown to the batsman for him to hit. After watching more misses than hits, the KES team had a much greater understanding of how difficult blind cricket is. Our respect for the skill of our opponents soared as they were able to hit far more balls than we could!

After a game of blind cricket, KES then enjoyed a game of normal cricket with those students who were either sighted or partially sighted. QAC bowled first; whilst batting we saw how, even with various disabilities, the QAC students were clearly able to perform many of the cricket skills that we have been taught. It was inspiring to watch them play their cricket so well and enjoy it so much. As a team we really enjoyed watching them bat. The QAC side were thoroughly enjoying themselves, as we were, with the laughter and encouragement growing with every shot they hit. Listening to them make the most of the game made us proud and humbled.

It was wonderful to see the happiness on the faces of both the QAC and the KES teams; it is likely that some of our players may have held pre-conceived ideas of how difficult it is to play sport when disabled, but we all came away from this game understanding how a college like QAC, with its motivated and positive students, always try to make the best of every opportunity. This fantastic experience left an indelible impression on everyone in the KES team and we hope to invite QAC back to KES for a game on "home territory" in the next school year.

Alex Georgevic

U13 XI

Living the dream? Well, not exactly. We did reasonably well in the 35 over-weekend fixtures, with some excellent bowling, but unfortunately did lose a fair number of these matches. However, we excelled in the T20 competition, reaching the final after conquering Warwick and Solihull only to lose out on first place to Bablake in a very tight match. Guy Marston, Guy Withers and Pratinav Sinha all displayed some captaining skills, while Ollie Brown and Pratinav Sinha, leading the bowling attack, put in some outstanding performances. Usman Khattak, Siddharth Singh and Guy Marston led the batting, including a 46* from Guy. Coming up from the Shells to play in a deciding cup match is very tough, but both Tarush Gupta, who made a 50* in the final, and Josh Ray managed the situation very well. Our aims for next year will probably be to improve our fielding, but we have enjoyed this season.

Pratinav Sinha

ATHLETICS

Athletics has always been an unusual sport in that individuals put in lots of effort separately in totally different areas of the arena to produce one overall team result. In other words, it is essential to have a range of people who are good in a wide range of events. And it shouldn't be forgotten that athletes often need to fill in regularly to cover injured or absent team-mates, to ensure that as many points can be gathered for the team as possible.

This Senior team has seen a few comings and goings, but there has always been a strong core of athletes who have been in their age-group team since the first year, and who have continued to progress and develop into excellent sportsmen. We have particularly excelled at long distance, where Adam Forrest, Matt Eyre and Tom Hubscher have proved themselves to be very useful over the 1500m and 800m.

Every year we go to Harrow School for one of our fixtures. Despite their superior track and equipment, we always give them a run for their money. This year we were just beaten into fourth place, by three points, by Eton, behind Harrow and St Pauls. I hope we have set an example to the younger years and that they see the Harrow match as a challenge that should be eagerly accepted in future years. Individual victories from Ryan Millar in the 100m, Tim Griffiths in the 800m, and Ed Davis in the High Jump, were well supported by second places by Morgan Hirsch in the Javelin, and Adam Forrest in the Steeplechase. In no event did we fall below fourth place against the eight competing schools.

Foundation meetings give us the chance to compete (and beat) our local rivals, Aston, Camp Hill, and Five Ways (when they turn up). Occasionally they may have one star, but the strength of this KES team is in our numbers. We do not need to rely on just one or two people. We have talent in depth across track and field, and as Andrew Eckert and Josh O'Donnell have found out, Mr Turner is always on the look-out for potential talent among those who have never before competed for the school.

As always, thanks are due to the members of staff who give up their time to officiate at school matches, be it for one match or for the whole season. Without them we would not have the opportunity to compete, to win and also to learn how to lose gracefully. I hope that the efforts of this year's team can inspire KES athletes in the years to come.

Ed Davis

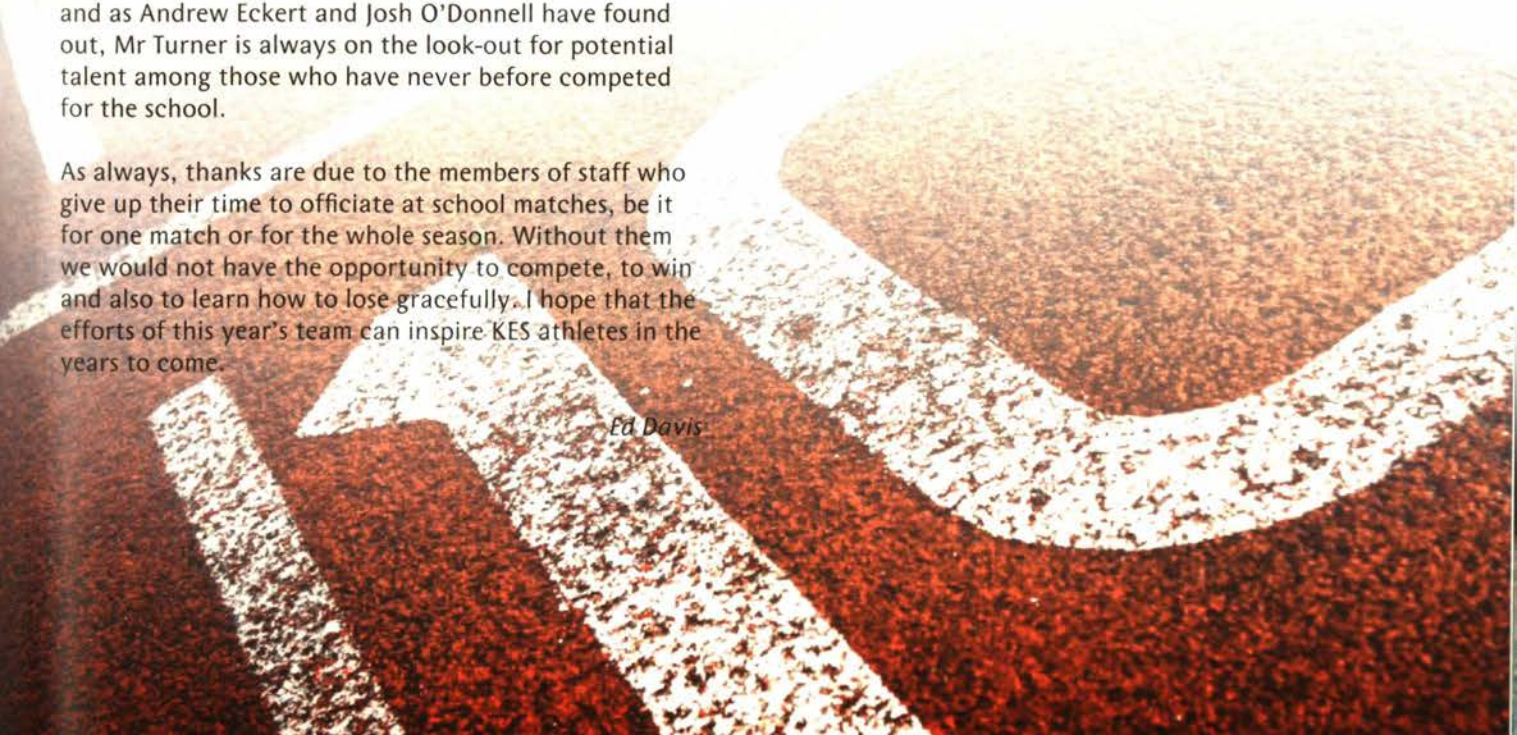
JUNIOR ATHLETICS

The Junior Athletics Team had only played a handful of matches in the previous two years. Therefore this season, competing against Harrow and the like, demanded maturity and commitment from the athletes.

Our second match of the season was a trip down to Harrow, where Will Ritchie-Moulin did exceedingly well by coming first in both the hurdles, and the high jump, with a jump of 1.60m. Throughout the entire season, Will won every hurdles race and only came second in the high jump once, an extraordinary performance. Paolo Odogwu had a similar magic about him; improving from 12.5secs for the 100m last year to a staggering 11.7secs this year was an amazing feat.

However, the team was more than the individuals in it. Even when there were just 6 people competing, we still put in an outstanding effort. This was a theme that was continued throughout the whole season, and it promises well for the future of this year group, and also for the school.

Harry Jennings





HOCKEY 1ST XI

This year's team had a lot to live up to after the heroics of the 2009/10 1st XI, who became the first KES team to reach the Midlands finals and play against some of the country's finest school sides. Our team was inexperienced and young: only 3 had played much for the 1st team before. We went into the start of the season in the shadow of our predecessors, yet there was a quiet confidence about the team.

The season started slowly as we had not been playing together for long; but the team spirit was there and we started to gel soon enough. However, injuries to the captain and the vice-captain near the start of the season made things difficult. Back on track a month or so into the season, the sweetest victory came against our arch-rivals Solihull. The game finished 1-0 to us, and for once I would like to extend my gratitude to the Solihull umpire for not gifting his side a goal, as was the case last year. The first term ended with a comprehensive victory away at Nottingham High School. Our play was fluid and fast-paced, our defence solid and our finishing clinical and decisive. We went into the second half of season inspired to be the best we could be and to prove that we could be as good as last year's team.

The Warwickshire cup came around quickly, and we found ourselves in a tough group. But we played our best hockey, winning every game, including comfortably beating Rugby 3-0 and recording our second victory against Solihull. We brushed past King Henry's in the semi-finals after winning our group and found ourselves up against Solihull in the final, for the

third time this season. Unfortunately we lost 1-0 this time. We progressed through to the Midlands round of the competition and on to the finals. Last year's team managed 3 losses with no goals scored and we were certainly not going to let that happen again.

We were delighted after winning our first game against Oakham, but we then had to play against Repton, a side crammed full of internationals, who were also the defending champions. We fought valiantly to a 3-0 loss, but still a landmark in our season, as we had come so far and had proven we could compete at the highest level. A special mention must go to James Claughton who played exceptionally in this game, but had a fantastic season overall, improving in all areas of the game, notably with his aerials. Our third game was against Uppingham, whom we beat 2-0. We then had one obstacle between us and the National finals: Bromsgrove. We were weary and drained but we managed to pull together, motivating and encouraging each other as the game commenced. Unfortunately we left the pitch empty-handed after a 3-0 defeat. Highlights of the match included Thomas Hook taking out their centre forward and Alex Roberts scoring a fine own-goal.

Overall the season was an incredible success: we are now officially the most successful KES Hockey 1st XI ever, have an impressive win percentage of 64% and have seen many players improve by leaps and bounds. George Adams was on top form all season, scoring some incredible goals at centre forward, whilst Sam White left defenders for dead with his sensational skills and blistering pace. A special mention should also go to Ed Burns, our token 5th former, who has developed into a

fine player and will be a great asset for the team over the next 2 years.

The team and I would like to thank Mr Johnson and Mr Edwards for all their hard work this year. Although they both saw red on a number of occasions, I believe they enjoyed the season as much as we did. I would also like to wish next year's team the best of luck in progressing even further in the Schoolboy Cup, hopefully we'll see KES lift it one day.

Adam Forrest

2ND XI

It was a highly successful season for the 2nd XI, who recorded 13 victories and scored 71 goals in the twenty one matches played. Out of those twenty one matches, nine games were against 1st XI opposition, which shows the improving strength in depth of KES hockey. An early 11-1 victory against Warwick demonstrated that the team had a strong forward line, led by Sam Taylor, who was rightfully promoted to the 1st XI for the latter part of the season. The highlight of the first term was a very good victory against a Lawrence Sheriff 1st XI containing one or two exceptional players. Throughout the season the team played a brand of hockey that was pleasing on the eye and demonstrated that the team was stronger than any one individual. The only real blips of the season were a couple of defeats to Solihull 2nd XI in closely fought contests. The Divisions from last year should develop into first team contenders in 2011/2 and Sixth Form stalwarts such as John Tsopanis, Ruan Shah and the impressive Nick Ratcliffe deserve special mention for their endeavours.

LMR

5TH XI

The 5th XI only play a game every few weeks, but the ample time we have for training means that the games that we have played have been well contested and enjoyable.

As few other schools have as many hockey players as KES, we often find ourselves playing against the 2nd XIs and 3rd XIs of other schools, and it is a credit to the team that we are capable of scoring (and in some cases, drawing or even beating) teams of this calibre. Solihull's 5th XI have been our main peer rivals, and competition with them is always rather exciting, if heated.

Hard tackling has been one of the team's strong points. Although several team members have been cautioned due to the aggressiveness of their tackles, the result has been that we are able to put up a decent resistance against much better teams. The 5th XI wouldn't be the 5th XI without Mr Lye and Mr Irvine: the latter's speeches at half-time about winning the war against the opposition have turned many games around to a positive result for KES.

It has been a very enjoyable year and although we have lost some of our long-standing members as they move on to bigger and better things, we look forward to a new and re-invigorated season of more victories!

Ben Fernando



5th XI

U15 XI

In a season of mixed success, the team was plagued with constant disruptions which led to the loss of many key players; but we managed to overcome many problems and won six, lost six, and drew one game. Thanks to a great goalkeeper, Tom Hodgkisson, only 22 goals were let in. In contrast, the team scored 45 goals over the 13 matches played. A key to the success of the season was the large range of goal scorers: twelve of our eighteen man squad got their names on the score sheet at one point or another, with Umar Galia leading the way with his haul of 10 goals for the season. The season finished on a high with a victory over Warwick 7-2. Thanks must go to our great coaches, Mr Edwards and Mr Johnson, and we can all say that we have greatly improved individually, and as a team, over the course of the season.

Haris Khan-Cheema and Alex Russell



The U13 team vs Fairfax





U13A XI

The U13A team should look back with real pride and contentment on a season that saw many players develop their individual games and bond together to become a fast improving team. The season started very promisingly with wins against Solihull and Nunnery Wood in which the boys quickly grasped the team ethos and the importance of a structure during matches. The team possessed two outstanding performers throughout the season, on whom many of the victories were based: Miles Jones in midfield and Hari Chauhan in goal. Although the team struggled to contend with one or two highly skilled opposition players during the course of the season, they never lost heart and remained buoyant throughout. I am sure that the strong will to learn and improve will take this team forward in the following year and although "Captain Miles" has departed to pastures new, Pratinav Sinha, Sid Singh, Alex Cheswick, Mason Gain and Yousef Khan Cheema have the opportunity to show that the KES U14A will be a dominant force in Midlands hockey!

LMR



The U13 team vs Fairfax





U18-WATER POLO

We came so desperately close to winning for the second year in a row: but by one goal the English Schools' Swimming Association national water polo final slipped away from us. This nevertheless marks a significant achievement and is an almost fitting send off for some of the best players to have passed through the School. Morgan Hirsh (captain not only of the School's team, but of the GB team for his age-group) and James Cull, supported by Ryan Hughes and Matt Richardson, have provided inspiration for younger boys in the sport for many years now through their achievements and commitment.

On the way to the final against Manchester Grammar School, KES eased past Bolton and Alcey's, winning 6-2 and 8-3 respectively. We held our nerve in a penalty shoot-out after a below average performance against Trinity School, Croydon (which had put us at 3-3 after normal time). Manchester Grammar School has been our main rival for some years now and unfortunately we were very quickly behind in the final. Our main chance of stealing victory (or at least playing for penalties)

Under 18 National Finals 1st Round



from 4-3 down came just seconds before the end of the match, when a foul inside the 5m line was awarded. Unfortunately, direct shots on goal from a foul awarded inside the 5m line cannot be awarded as goals, and so the game was lost. On the ESSA finals day, Morgan was the joint top scorer, with 11 of KES's 20 goals.

Looking forward to the coming season, yet another victory in the Warwickshire Cup despite missing several older players at various stages suggests further success is to come. Throughout the season, Hamish Scott and Peter Shipway (among others) have shown that the new blood has the potential to be just as successful as we have been in recent years.

Andrew Macarthur



U16 WATER POLO

The last couple of years had been a bit of a mixed bag for the KES Under-16 team: after winning the national competition in 2009, a series of uncharacteristically patchy performances led to our not even making the finals the following year. This year the Under-16s, keen to reassert themselves, came out of the blocks quickly into a series of tough games against Bedford, City of London, Torquay and Trinity Croydon.

Having made it to the finals, we went all out against a Manchester Grammar School side that were by far the tournament favourites, and were 2-2 at half time. However, despite a series of wonderful saves from Matt Horsley and valiant defence from Harry Divall and Peter Shipway, KES fell behind later in the game, to lose 5-2. Knowing that we now had to beat Durham if we were to earn a place in the semi-finals, we managed a more sustained performance, leading to a 9-5 victory. Accomplished attacking displays from Harry Cowley, Hamish Scott and Aslan Lewis made the difference.



A disappointing 4-2 loss to eventual champions Haberdashers' Aske's left us with third place to play for. A nail-biting encounter against Bolton followed, in which a strong performance from Upper Middle George Sadler and two late goals from Ed Burns producing a 5-4 win, securing a satisfying third place to cap a successful year for the team.

Ed Burns

Under 16 National Finals: Semi-Final vs. Haberdashers Askes





Left to right: Matt Eyre, Tim Griffith, Louis Parsons and Tim Woolley at the King Henry's Relay

SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY

Team success this year was limited by the number of runners available, but there was a lot of individual enthusiasm and two outstanding performances. Team Captain Matt Eyre was placed eighth in the Birmingham League, and Tim Griffith won it outright, having been unbeaten all season. Tim netted quite a haul of medals over the year, setting the fastest laps in the Queen Mary's Relay and Pairs Race and winning the Sutton Park Race. He broke the all-comers record over our home course in Cannon Hill Park, beating the times of several stars of the past, and achieved similar feats over at least two other courses on the League circuit. On a larger stage, his lap in the King Henry's Relay was third fastest out of an entry of 200 of the country's best schoolboy runners, and in the West Midlands Young Athletes' League he finished second. Finally, he came 21st in the UK U17 Inter-counties race, which is the top club competition in his age group. Fortunately, Tim still has another year's running for the school!

RTB



Tim Griffith at the Queen Mary's Relay



HMC JUDO TOURNAMENT 2011

On Saturday 5th March, KES competed in the Headmasters' Conference Boys Independent Schools' Judo Tournament. Given our small team of elite performers, expectations were high: the boys didn't disappoint.

Patrick Maughan started the day in the very first event, the Junior /42kg category, and took a total of 22 seconds to win his two bouts and take the Gold! Peter Thomas competed in the Intermediate / 66kg class and battled his way through two very gutsy bouts: he was very unfortunate not to progress to the medal competition.

The highlight of the day, a spectacle that had the whole crowd talking and applauding was Nafis Hussain's assault on the Senior / 60kg class. A Jujitsu specialist, Nafis had never competed in a Judo match before but was speculating that his prodigious talent in his favoured discipline would see him through. Three fights, three arm bars (one of which was a truly spectacular "Flying Arm Bar") and three wins later, Nafis was atop the podium collecting his Gold Medal Award.

All three boys fought tenaciously and represented KES with honour; we shall look forward to defending our titles next year.

CAPJ

TENNIS

The highlight of this year was the achievement of the school U13 team of Guy Marston, Olly Cull, Giordano Magnante and Hugh Hadley in reaching the quarter final of the National Schools Tennis Competition. This is becoming a regular occurrence but that should not detract from what is a fine achievement. In the end we lost 5-1 to The Minster School from Nottingham, a really strong side who were named as tennis school of the year by the LTA.

The school first team did lose all of its matches, but this was always likely to be a difficult year. Mikey East was our outstanding player and he performed superbly at first pair with Kshitij Kamat. The rest of the team battled valiantly, with Sam Arrand and Ed Radcliff in particular showing promise and Ruan Shah occasionally hitting an unbelievable shot.

Both the U13 and U15 teams easily won the Aegon Birmingham area schools league, which qualifies them for the regional section of the competition in the Autumn term of 2011. We had some excellent friendly results, the highlight of which was a 9-0 U12 victory against Warwick School. Many boys have contributed fully to the various teams that we have fielded, but Joe Carter, James Kuo, Shivam Pabari, Cameron McPheely, Finn Geelan, Siddharth Singh and Richard Newton in particular have impressed.

Jack Southall and Olly Cull both performed impressively in the Magdalen College School U15 tennis championships.

The Simon Booth Cup was won by Mikey East after a 6-3, 6-1 victory against Kshitij Kamat. Many thanks to Mikey for his efforts as School tennis captain and we wish all those leaving us the best with their tennis in the future.

SJT

BASKETBALL

We expected this to be a tough season, and our fortunes were not helped by an apparent lack of luck. To replace the eight highly talented players who left in 2010 was difficult, and our campaign began badly with injuries to key men: Will Chesner was lost for the season and Will Watkinson similarly succumbed to injury, ruling him out of key national games. Ranjodh Sanghera stepped up to the mark and led the team in scoring throughout the season, supported by good scoring contributions from Tom Oakey and Gurpreet Kainth. However, this proved not to be enough against tough opposition, so we crashed out of the national competition at an early stage. The unusual cancellation of the West Midlands competition resulted in our season ending prematurely, leaving us only with games against the University of Birmingham's second string, which, while useful for gaining experience, lacked the competitive drama of the annual tournaments. There are encouraging signs for next season, with a large under-19 squad registered and an under-16 side formed. Thanks must go to Danny Williams for his unrelenting hard work with the team and his continued production of challenging drills to force us to improve.

James Kennedy

CHESS

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, it was not possible for KES to play in the Birmingham League this year, but a lot of chess was still played: there is strength at all levels within the school, and we are lucky to have the services of Malcolm Hunt (OE) as a coach.

The first competition was the Birmingham Quickplay, which attracted entries from all over the country, including the likes of Haberdashers' Aske's and Nottingham High School. In a full day's chess in Big School the Senior team acquitted itself well against top class opposition. After Christmas, two Shell teams entered the Birmingham Year 7 Tournament and the A team played well to end up as joint winners; the B team, including many boys playing competitive chess for the first time, performed above expectations.

A few weeks later, KES hosted the Birmingham Lightning Tournament, in which each player has 5 minutes to make all his/her moves (yes, it is a mixed sport!). The Senior team was made up of boys who had not been involved in any competitions up to that date and finished second in their age group, whilst the Junior team romped home winners by a wide margin in their group. The final tournament was the Birmingham under-14 Quickplay held at Camp Hill. Again this attracted top teams from across the country and KES entered two teams; some of our reserves helped make up numbers for the teams from other schools. Once again the B team played well, but the A team excelled themselves, winning the members' trophy as well as holding the eventual winners, Hampton School from London, to a draw in the final round. Board prizes were won by Mani Nijjar and Srikar Karri.

In addition to all this, thanks to Mr Simpson's Herculean efforts in terms of organising matches and driving minibuses to some very distant schools, the school progressed to the last eight of the National Schools' Competition. After beating Camp Hill, Five Ways and Bedford Modern to win the local zone, the team, usually consisting of Tom Lilburn, Aaron Dhesi, Shakeel Choudhury, Aaron Dhesi, Mani Nijjar, Hari Nijjar and Jaspal Jheeta, went on to beat Kings Chester before narrowly losing to Manchester Grammar School.

DCD



FENCING

You get out what you put in: from lazy afternoons to a hard hour or two parrying and riposting (with the occasional disengage too), this is how we spend our game sessions, be they in KEHS's squash courts or Dancey's Diner.

This year Prof. Northam, has, as ever, put a lot of hard work and enjoyment into our afternoons, either through his expert coaching or his 'fasten-eight'ing jokes, and many of us have made progress in our fencing skills. Most recently, the three sixth formers (Alex Wakelam, Oli Clarke and James Lloyd) successfully passed their Level 1 coaching awards.

The tradition of the end of term feast continues strongly, homemade fajitas being a popular favourite. This year our turnout for the Public Schools' fencing championship was the lowest that it has been in a long while. In fact, only I attended, and I didn't win anything. But I achieved my personal best in my final year of this competition, being one point off getting into 'direct elimination'.

In the lower years the Junior Fencing Club has normally had around half-a-dozen members. This club meets weekly on Wednesday lunchtimes and is a great way for the lower years to be introduced to and pick up the basics of fencing, often displaying more eagerness and energy than the occasionally moody and broody upper years!

Five years of fencing has certainly been a hugely enjoyable time at KES, and as I move on I hope that the lower years continue to improve: there certainly seems to be the potential talent, especially epeeists, in the Fifths, in the shape of Dom Jolly and David Scott. Therefore I shall end in the only way possible, by giving Prof. Northam a huge thank you for the work which he puts into Fencing at KES, be this through driving us down to competitions, or in his role as coach and teacher of life lessons in general. I hope that the boys continue enjoying fencing as much as I did in the years to come.

James Lloyd

