



# King Edward's School

## CHRONICLE 2007



**The Annual Magazine of King Edward's School Birmingham**

# Chronicle

## 2007

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# Editorial Staff

<b>Hellos &amp; Goodbyes</b>	Adam Townsend
<b>Features</b>	Gerard McHugh
<b>CCF</b>	Harpreet Gohel
<b>Trips</b>	Mark Davies & Ryota Nishikawa
<b>Performance</b>	Tom Jewkes
<b>Words</b>	Jamie Baxter
<b>Houses</b>	Faizan Lakhani
<b>Societies</b>	Adil Ahmad
<b>Sport</b>	Amit Rajput, Alasdair Morgan, & Karan Jay Modi
<b>Cover Art</b>	Zander Weaver
<b>Staff</b>	Tom Hosty

# Editorial

Things change. Shortly after I joined the school in 1981, the lady who was in charge of producing the magazine in those days was rejoicing at the acquisition of an additional manual typewriter, with the aid of which editors could more rapidly prepare copy for the printer. In those days, you see, copy normally came in hand-written form on stray sheets of paper, and had to be converted into print by teams of *Chronicle* editors, who sometimes came into school during the holidays to work on the job. "Cut and paste" page layouts meant what they said: you needed scissors and a pot of glue.

Even when I took over the magazine in 1999, handwritten copy was not finally extinct, though it had become unusual. Much copy came in on floppy disks, but some pieces were submitted in typed format, and needed to be digitised at a keyboard. Photographs were normally glossies produced by a chemical 35mm camera; they had to be carefully guarded and returned to their owners after the magazine was complete. A completed section might consist of two or three floppies accompanied by a sheaf of photographic prints, posters and artwork.

This *Chronicle* has mostly been edited by e-mail. Contributors e-mail copy to editors, who e-mail it on to me after editing for final approval: I e-mail it back to them when I'm satisfied that the apostrophes and italics are all in the right places. The finished section is a CD-R, on which the articles and photographs are stored as .docs and .jpegs. *Chronicle* only begins to exist on paper at the print proof stage. Mostly the changes make for greater convenience. Occasionally there is a price to be paid: I for one mourn the glossy 35mm prints, which packed in a lot more information than all but the very largest digital files. Some of the photographs submitted for this edition were of very low quality, having apparently been taken using low-spec mobile phone cameras. In places pictures were literally too poor to survive printing, and had to be dumped. But *Chronicle* has more pictures in it than was the case ten years ago, and that is certainly owing to the digital revolution.

On the other hand, nothing changes. It is still sometimes absurdly difficult to persuade boys to write about activities which they have enjoyed: that's a complaint that was being made back in 1981. Boys are still amazingly casual about signing their articles: I regret that there are quite a few unsigned articles in this magazine, but in many cases the editors can no longer identify who wrote a particular piece. Pictures are still hard to come by in some sections: digital or otherwise, we were very hard up for illustrations to the Houses and Societies sections among others. I know, before anyone tells me, that the few photographs there are in the Houses section do not necessarily show the right House, but they were all we had. How about House Photographs next year?

And the school is still a remarkable place in which an astounding range of things happens. *Chronicle* is still packed with military training courses and adventurous travels, with sporting escapades and glittering concerts, with debating and poetry and clubs and camps and cycling and plays and competitions. KES is still a very exciting place in which to grow up, and a healthy sample (though not, ever, the totality) of it is represented in these pages: running robots in Atlanta, slogging through unprecedentedly ferocious weather on the Long Mynd, defeating 27 other schools in one season as part of the Senior Athletics squad, singing a lead role on Big School stage...the list is bewildering and exhilarating.

And I still depend utterly on the editorial team, whose names adorn the previous page: they are a good bunch of lads who, despite giving me the occasional sleepless night, always rose to the challenge in the end. I should like to thank all the members of the Modern Language Department for assistance with copy not in English. I should like especially to thank Sandra Burden at the Resources Centre, whose input into the design and visual appeal of the magazine seems to increase with each passing year: she is a true professional without whom *Chronicle* would not look nearly as good. And, of course, I'd like to thank all of you who wrote for the magazine: that, by definition, can't change.

Tom Hosty





## Sue Thorpe

### Learning Support

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

**Mrs Thorpe:** I lived in Singapore in my teens, and after university I worked in accountancy. Later I started teaching mainstream in an 11-18 comprehensive, and after a couple of years they had a position that they couldn't fill in their special unit. I had a Psychology degree, so they thought I was suitable for the job! I've been lucky enough to work in several different educational establishments, from Special Schools to a Children's Hospital school. I worked as the Head of Learning Support at a large comprehensive school in Solihull, and then went to work for the LEA, where I was an advisory teacher for Special Educational Needs.

**What was living in Singapore like?**

I lived and went to school there up to fifth-form age: the hot weather meant that school ran from seven-thirty to half-past one. When I'd finished my hours, there were lots of activities to get involved with in the afternoon at school or we could meet down at the pool: our social life was much better than in England.

**What do you consider your role within such an academic school as King Edward's?**

Boys may have individual learning needs wherever they go to school, and I'm here to support such needs so that every boy can achieve his potential. Comparing King Edward's with the comprehensive school I worked in, it's more

satisfying here since boys want to learn, work and succeed, so my advice is taken on board. At the comprehensive my time was limited, so I spent it with those that were less able; as a result, the more able students tended to miss out.

**What initially attracted you to this position?**

It was a telephone call! I had a chat with the Chief Master, and although I was very happy in my last job and wasn't looking to return to being a Head of Special Needs, the challenges, the staff and the atmosphere here won me over.

**Are there any improvements you would like to see made?**

I'd like to see Learning Support more involved within the whole school. Obviously, I'm talking to all the staff here, bringing them up to date with issues and information, to lead to even better teaching and learning in the classroom, if that's possible! I also don't want it to happen solely in the Maurice Porter room: everybody can benefit from extra tips and strategies on how to learn.

**Outside work, what do you enjoy doing?**

I play tennis and enjoy taking walks in the country. Eating and drinking with friends is definitely something I enjoy, as well as going to the theatre and travelling. I'm beginning to learn Spanish, but not very successfully. I'm hoping to go with the Shells on their trip in July: I'm really looking forward to that.

**Have you personally got any future goals or challenges?**

My personal long-term ambition is to travel the world. Growing up in Singapore, I'd love to go back there, and see how it's changed!

**Mrs Thorpe, thank you.**

**"everybody can benefit from extra tips and strategies on how to learn"**

**Favourites**

**TV Programme:**  
*Have I Got News For You*

**Food:**  
Smoked salmon (with all the extras, including wine...)

**Author:**  
PD James

**Song:**  
*Vienna* by Ultravox

**Sport:**  
Tennis



# Jessica Putt

## Biology

### *Chronicle: Can you tell us about your life to date?*

**Mrs Putt:** I was born in London, but I moved to Bath when I was very young. I took my gap year in Tanzania to work with some children and missionaries there. At nineteen, I went to Brasenose College, Oxford to read Biological Sciences, which I finished in 2004. After getting married in 2005, I moved up to Birmingham, where my husband was living and working as a teacher. One of the biggest events in my life was when I was 17, when I became a Christian.

### *What attracted you to KES?*

For my A-levels I went to King Edward's School, Bath, which is similar to here, and I really loved it. When the job came up here, I thought it would be a brilliant opportunity, so I applied. I also like the extra-curricular activities that go on here. The pupils are generally nice and it's a brilliant school. I feel very supported by the other staff and there's a really good atmosphere.

### *Had you always intended to teach?*

No: originally, at A-level, I wanted to be a lawyer. But I was probably only in that for the money. When I was at university I changed my mind and thought that I'd rather go into teaching. My mum's a teacher, so I'd always thought about it.

### *Do you think more people should go into teaching?*

I don't think everyone is cut out to be a teacher: different people have different personalities. We're lacking in Science teachers, though: those who do sciences at A-level tend to go

on to medicine, engineering or research, instead of coming into teaching. Unfortunately, this leads to a downward spiral, since fewer people will do Science because the teachers aren't as good.

### *What made you want to study Biology at university?*

It's strange really, because up until GCSE I hated Biology. Before, I had always thought that I would be doing History, but that didn't work out. During my A-levels, I started to really enjoy Biology and found it fascinating. I thought 'I'd like to do this at university', so I applied to do a degree.

### *What do you do outside school?*

I'm quite heavily involved with the church that my husband and I go to. We run two youth groups for kids on a local estate. I also enjoy walking in the countryside. I also love going to see friends, having people round for dinner.

### *Do you have any future goals or ambitions?*

God willing, I'd like to have children; but I don't know if the school would like that! Not quite yet, though: I want to see how teaching goes, really. If I continue to enjoy it, then I will hopefully stay as a teacher.

### *And finally, have you been bird watching with Mr Porter yet?*

I have, yes!

### *And how did you find it?*

It was good: I never really knew much about birds and they're not my strong point. However, on a Friday afternoon when it's quite warm, it's quite a nice activity. I was amazed by Mr Porter: just by the sound of a bird he can work out what it is, which I thought was amazing. To me it just sounds like a bird!

*Mrs Putt, thank you .*



### **Favourites**

**Film: *Pride & Prejudice***

**Food: Cheese**

**Book: Beside the Bible, don't have time to read much.**

### **Band: Stereophonics**

**Sport: Netball to play, but cricket/tennis to watch.**

**Biological Subject: Animal behaviour.**

**"I feel very supported by the other staff and there's a really good atmosphere."**



# Paul Golightly

## Head of History

**Chronicle:** *Can you tell us a little bit about your time before KES?*

**Mr Golightly:** Like a fair number of people, I am a grammar school product. But I went to different schools: from London, to Manchester and then to Newcastle. For University, it was St David's. Not a very fashionable choice, but a nice place to be for three years and a lovely part of the world. I graduated in the early eighties, when jobs were not at a premium, and so I had a gap year working as a Kibbutz volunteer. I travelled a bit in the Middle East for just over six months, then went to Egypt, where I got a job on a tourist boat going up and down the Nile. Israel was a fascinating place. It's not the safest place in the world, but I didn't actually see anything too bad at all. I just really enjoyed myself. After that, it was off to Dartmouth for officer's training, after which I worked as an officer in the Royal Navy on HMS Invincible and other ships. Since then, I have taught at Kineton High School, Nicholas Chamberlaine High School, and King Edward VI Five Ways.

**What attracted you to KES?**

I hadn't worked in the independent sector before, although I wanted to. I knew the school from my time at Five Ways: we're allowed in the back door occasionally to come and visit. I had met John Cloughton before, at another school, and as he was the Chief Master here, I thought it was the place to come. I've passed the place a number of times and wondered what it's like to work there

**How do you like to spend your time outside school?**

I'm not sure I quite have any time outside school: I've been very, very busy—but not in a way that I resent! But if I did have time, I like doing things that normal people do: going to the theatre, to the pub, going for a walk, riding a bike, and holidays if you can get them. I think hobbies are for people who have too much time on their hands. I don't really have any, and so I do things when I can.



**Favourites:**

**Film(s):** Most of the best films ever were made in the 1970s: *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Star Wars* to name but three.

**TV Programme(s):** American imports I'm afraid. *The Sopranos*, *The West Wing*, *The Simpsons*, 24

**Food:** Italian – simple food, cooked well, eaten outside in the shade on a sunny day. My flight leaves in ten minutes...!

**Book(s):** Anything that makes me laugh out loud on Public Transport.

**Band(s):** In a desperate bid to be vaguely trendy I could say The Kaiser Chiefs; but The Clash would be nearer the truth. I'm very fond of classical music, too.

**Sport(s):** Rugby, rugby, and rugby (cricket, cricket and cricket). Am I allowed to say football?

**Period of History:** If pushed, I'd go for British Imperial and foreign policy, 1854 to 1945. I want to teach medieval history at A-level, as well.

**Individual(s) from the past:** Capt R. Burton; C B Fry; T E Lawrence .

**What, in your opinion, gives you, as a History teacher, an edge over the rest of the besuited individuals who roam these halls?**

If I told you I'd have to kill you. [Interviewer uneasily assesses whether to make a run for the door]

**As the new Head of History, do you have any changes that you would like to make in the Department?**

There are lots. But to implement them all at once would be foolish. We have had a big discussion about what gets taught to all pupils. The only thing that seems to be staying the same for the foreseeable future is the A-level course. Everything else will be seeing changes eventually.

**What are your future plans and ambitions?**

I would like to see more boys take the subject up. I know it's quite popular but I'd like to make it even more so. I know we're not living in a 'numbers game' world, but it is important to me that more and more boys are attracted to the subject, especially where pupils are spoiled for choice in terms of what they can do for GCSE or A-levels. I've devoted my teaching career to this subject: I think it is a vibrant and enthralling one, and I want people to see it the same way.

**Mr Golightly, thank you.**





## Ben Lodge

IT

**Chronicle:** *Where did you grow up?*

**Mr Lodge:** I was born in Huddersfield, and later I moved to Stourbridge. I went to school at Old Swinford Primary School, followed by Old Swinford Hospital School, which KES plays rugby and cricket against. I stayed on into the Sixth Form, then went on to Glamorgan University, and did a BSc Honours in Sports Science with Environmental Pollution Science.

**Which is why you're now our IT technician?**

Exactly! That's the question that always comes up at an interview. I was unemployed for a time after I graduated, which is when I learnt about computers. I worked for a few years at a company that builds computers. Later, I worked at Woodrush High School, in Worcester, before getting the job here.

**Our last IT technician was somewhat of a miracle worker: how do you intend to live up to his reputation?**

Well, people will find that I'm very approachable. If anyone does have a problem, they'll soon find out that I'll fix it whenever I can; and if I can't, I'll certainly try!

**The computer system at KES is as much admired as it is loathed: what do you make of our set-up?**

I think it's actually quite good. You've got four servers: at my old school we had one server running the entire network, which was awful. Here, it's very stable, and seems to work well. That said, there was an occasion a fortnight into my job when Mrs While wasn't in school, and a server decided to die on me. The good news is that I got through it!

**IT isn't taught here as an academic subject: do you think it should be?**

I have to say that, judging by the pupils' grasp of IT, I would've thought that it *was* taught here at GCSE. Everyone seems to be familiar with the formalities of the computer, and in my opinion, all you need to know is taught in the Shells and UMs. I've found the best way to learn IT is to mess until you get it right: it's one of those subjects that you learn better through experience.

**Outside IT and school, what do you enjoy doing?**

Well, I play and referee basketball, as I have done in the Senior House competition. Other than that, I like to go out, have a few drinks, and play on internet gaming. I play the acoustic guitar and the harmonica, and so enjoy music. Fitness is a very important part of my life, which is why I keep myself active.

**Do you have any long-term ambitions or challenges?**

I've never had any, to be honest. I chose an odd combination at university because it appealed to me, and I tend to go where fate takes me. I can see myself staying here for a while: it's a nice job, and I enjoy it. I would love to travel: I'd like to go to and work in Australia and the Americas, and travel around the world, but I need the money first!

**Since you're planning to stick around, what do you see yourself repairing in twenty years' time?**

Hopefully not computers! The way technology advances is so fast, and what we'll have in the future has so many possibilities: whether computers will be the size of a pen or embedded into us, I've no idea.

**Mr Lodge, thank you.**

**"there was an occasion a fortnight into my job when Mrs While wasn't in school, and a server decided to die on me. The good news is that I got through it!"**

### Favourites

**Film:** *White Men Can't Jump; Aliens*

**TV Show:** *The Shield*

**Book:** *Run* by Douglas E. Winter

**Band:** Counting Crows

**Sport:** Basketball

**Technological Invention:** The Internet



# Jan Springob

German Assistant

**Chronicle: Könntest du ein bißchen über dein Leben erzählen, bevor du zu KES gekommen bist?**

**Jan:** Ich habe 2003 mein Abitur an einer deutschen Schule gemacht. Danach habe ich ein Jahr Zivildienst im Kinder und Jugendhaus gemacht und ab Oktober 2004 studiere ich Englisch und Geschichte an der Universität in Köln

**Was sind deine ersten Eindrücke von KES und den Schülern?**

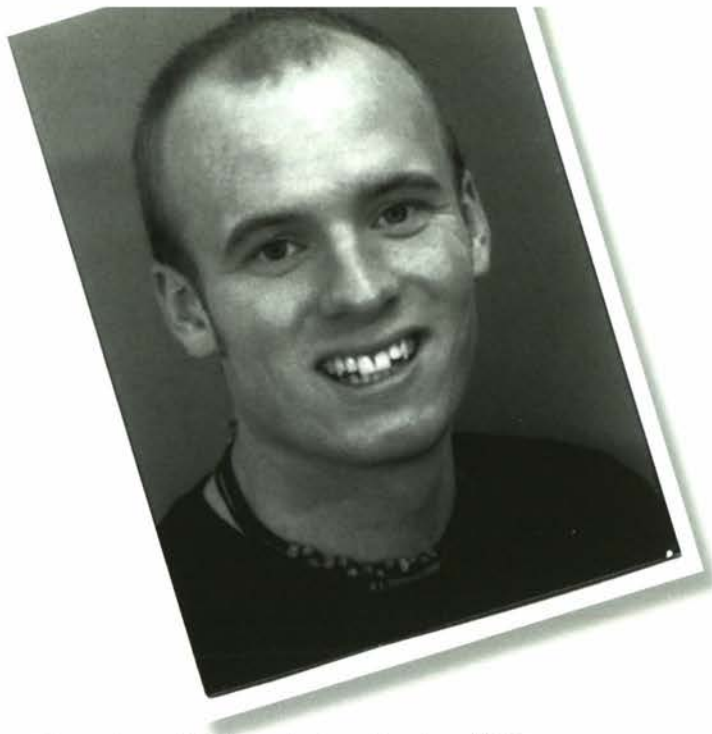
Ich habe einen sehr sehr sehr guten Eindruck von der Schule und von den Schülern. Die Schule verfügt über eine tolle Ausstattung. Die Lehre sind sehr freundlich und offen und haben mich herzlich willkommen geheißen und die meisten Schüler, die ich unterrichte sind sehr motiviert und sehr interessiert und sehr gute Schüler.

**Was sind die Unterschiede zwischen den Englischen und den Deutschen Schulen?**

Ich glaube, daß der große Unterschied ist, daß es in England Privatschulen gibt, sehr viele Privatschulen und in Deutschland gibt es keine Privatschulen. Somit gibt es in Deutschland keine Ganztagschulen sondern Halbtagschulen und die deutschen Schulen haben zum Beispiel mehr Fächer und dafür weniger Stunden in den einzelnen Fächer. Ansonsten glaube ich, daß es rein Arbeitstechnisch, daß es keine großen Unterschiede zwischen englischen und deutschen Schulen gibt.

**Wie findest du Birmingham im Vergleich zu Köln?**

Köln und Birmingham sind beides Ein millionenstädte, also rein größentechnisch, sind sie sehr ähnlich. Beide Städte sind im Zentrum von ihrem eigenen Land. Ich finde, daß man sehr viel in Birmingham machen kann, also, daß es viel zu unternehmen gibt. Man kann viel feierngehen, man kann ins Kino gehen, man kann lecker essen gehen, das kann man auch alles in Köln machen. Der Unterschied ist, glaube ich, einfach, daß ich mein ganzes Leben in Köln gelebt habe mit der Ausnahme von einem Jahr Amerika und jetzt ein Jahr England. Somit kenne ich Köln einfach ein bißchen besser. Ich glaube es gibt Unterschiede in jeder Stadt. Ich finde beide Städte sehr schön und sehr attraktiv und ich lebe in beiden Städte sehr gerne.



**Warum hast als Lehren als einen Beruf gewählt?**

Ich wollte immer schon Lehrer werden. Der Grund dafür ist einfach, daß ich sehr sehr gerne mit Menschen zusammen arbeite also im Kollegium oder mit Schülern und Schülerinnen und ich glaube, dass es eine gute Möglichkeit ist, das eigene Wissen und die eigenen Fähigkeiten an andere Menschen weiter zu geben.

**Könntest du etwas über deine Hobbys erzählen?**

Ich habe sehr viele Hobbys. Ich treibe sehr viel Sport. Meine Hauptsportart ist Schwimmen, aber ich spiele auch Badminton und Tischtennis, ein bißchen Tennis und Basketball. Außerdem spiele ich Theater in einer Theatergruppe. Ich lese viel, viel Englisch und Deutsche Literatur.

**Was sind deine Pläne für die Zukunft?**

Nach dem Jahr in Birmigham werde ich für einen Monat nach Frankreich fahren mit einer Jugendgruppe und im Oktober dieses Jahres werde mein Studium aufnehmen und dann werde ich hoffentlich als Lehrer arbeiten, in Deutschland oder in England.

**Jan, vielen Danke.**

**Lieblingfilm oder Lieblingssendung: Robin Hood**

**Lieblingessen: Nudeln, Nudeln und mehr Nudeln**

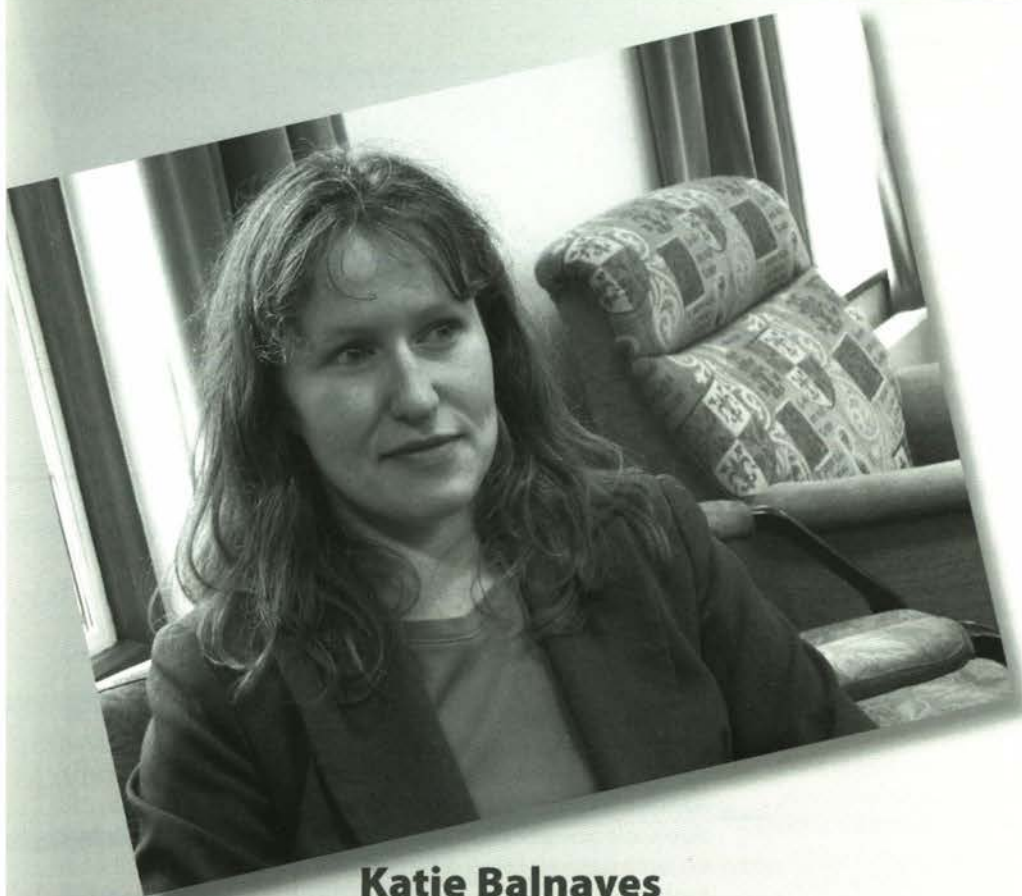
**Lieblingbuch: Die Mitte der Welt, In Drei Hundert Jahren Vielleicht**

**Lieblinglied: Amerika von Razorlight**

**Lieblingssport: Schwimmen**



# goodbyes



**Katie Balnaves**  
Religious Studies

"She swiftly proved herself the queen of display, transforming room 72 into a visual stimulus second to none, and matching this with the intellectual stimulus of her teaching."

**K**atie Balnaves joined the Religious Studies Department from Manchester Grammar School in September 2006. She made an immediate impact both on the Department and on the wider life of the School. She swiftly proved herself the queen of display, transforming room 72 into a visual stimulus second to none, and matching this with the intellectual stimulus of her teaching. Her impressive command of her subject, combined with a strong interest in history and a keen awareness of current affairs, meant that there was never a dull moment when she stood up to teach. Outdoor Activities benefited too from her involvement, and Katie proved to be as much at home halfway up a mountain as debating determinism in the classroom or confronting students with the unexpected wisdom of Homer Simpson.

Sadly, Katie found it increasingly difficult to combine professional life in Birmingham with pressing family responsibilities in Hereford, and was obliged in the end to take the courageous decision that family comes first. She was fortunate enough to secure a post nearer home as Head of Religious Studies at Monmouth, and I am sure she will enjoy the move up to Head of Department. We wish her well, and assure her that she will be remembered with affection at KES.

DHR



## Sally Billingham

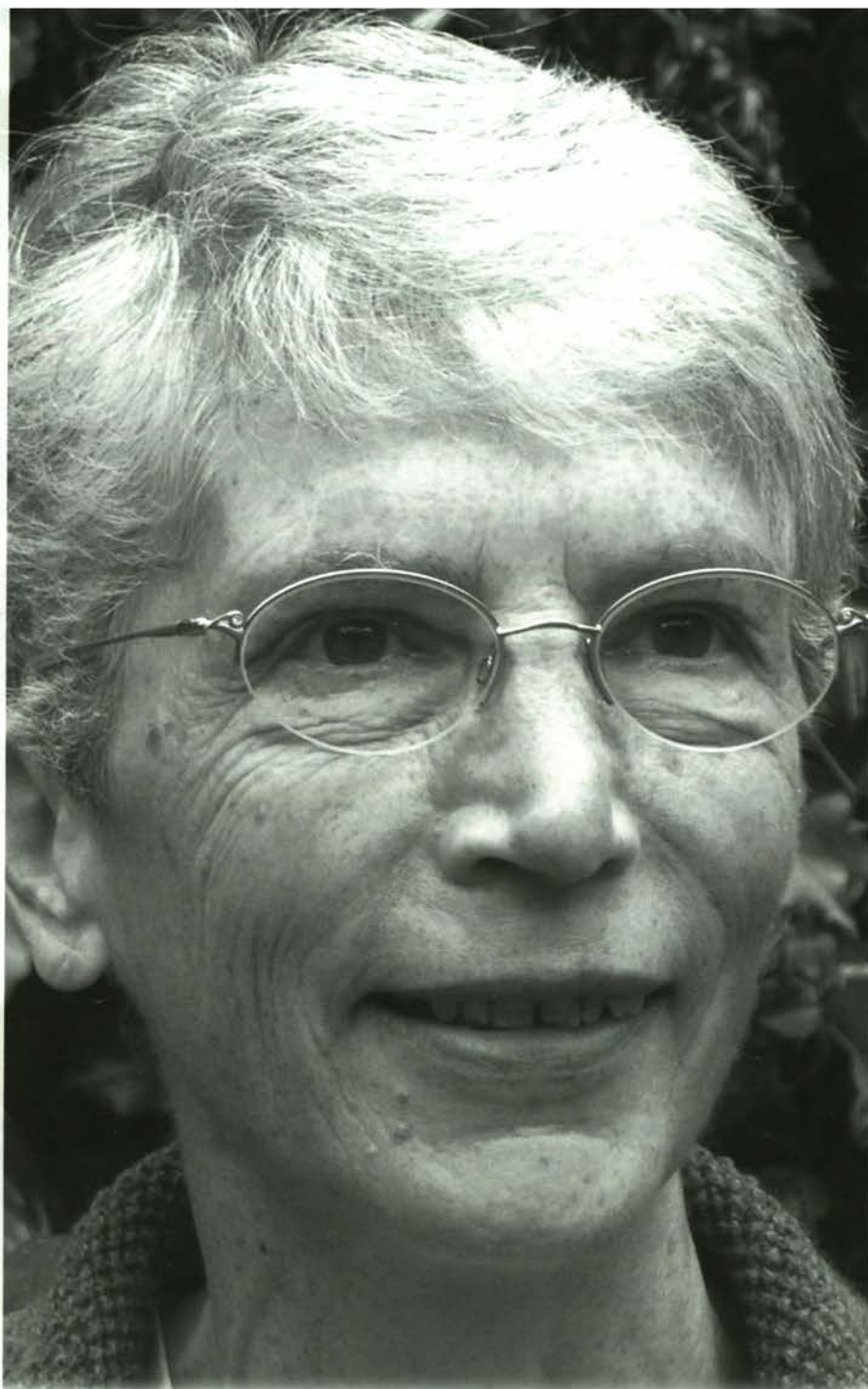
### Careers

Sally has, of course, retired at least once before. I could never work out how or why the school had managed without her and her incredible wealth of expertise in all matters to do with careers and higher education. It was my great fortune that she was persuaded to come out of retirement to work with me when I was appointed Head of Careers in 2004. Sally enjoyed referring to me as her boss – it was a bit like a Regimental Sergeant Major calling the young new lieutenant 'sir'; we both knew where the experience lay.

Considering Sally was only employed to work for two mornings a week, she did an astonishing amount. Incredibly organised and efficient, endlessly cheerful and always on hand to give advice and time to the boys, Sally's input to the development of careers education at KES has been pivotal in getting us to where we are today. She has shouldered the lion's share of the administration of the work experience programme and has been energetic in getting out to visit many of the boys at their placements. She instigated an annual survey of old boys, ten years after they have left the school – an interesting undertaking that continues to bring young men back into KES to share their experiences with the current pupils. Many of those who respond to the questionnaire take the opportunity to thank her for her help and advice – even after a decade. Sally has also eased me into the job with quiet reminders of what I should be doing at any particular time and, periodically, she has rescued my desk from piles of paperwork.

Sally has done what we are always telling the boys to do; make the most of their time here at the school. She has been a regular swimmer, she has helped out on Geography trips, sung in the Choir and been a great friend to many. She has also found time in the last few years to do some pretty adventurous travel in South America and Africa. I miss her chatting away to herself in the Careers Office, her occasional swearing under her breath, and her company. We all wish her the very best in her retirement and she should know that we will always be delighted to see her back in KES.

IJC



"Considering Sally was only employed to work for two mornings a week, she did an astonishing amount. Incredibly organised and efficient, endlessly cheerful and always on hand to give advice and time to the boys, Sally's input to the development of careers education at KES has been pivotal in getting us to where we are today."





## Gail Walster

### English

Joining the English Department in 1999, Gail was assigned the role of Form Tutor in the Fourth and Fifth years. She established herself as a particularly popular and respected Form Tutor once it became clear to the boys in her care that she took a close interest in their welfare, success and happiness, and was prepared to give generously of her time and attention to help them make the best of themselves.

This commitment to the boys is really Gail's hallmark in all areas of her work, whether with her form, as a Gifford House Tutor or as an English teacher. She has always seen "the pastoral side" as central to the job. Her English teaching has been based on a determination not only to enthuse her students and to develop their competences, but to enhance their self-belief and confidence as writers, readers and speakers. "The buzz of the job is in the classroom," she has said, because it is in the classroom that pennies drop, lights come on and boys break through into a fuller sense of their own capability. She describes King Edward's as "a strong network, very much focussed on bringing out the best in the boys," and it is this which she has enjoyed most about her time here.

Gail has always been very keen to encourage boys to read, and she and Rob Milne did a lot

to develop the Department's relationship with the Library, incorporating more library visits and activities into her lesson plans. Her forte as a teacher of literature was the championing of drama and of creative approaches to texts: on one occasion boys doing an A-level in Big School were bemused to hear the strains of *Midsummer Night's Dream* drifting up from Gail's Shells lost in the woods below. I have watched her take a class of Rems through the thickets of Renaissance love lyric en route to writing their first (amorous) sonnet, and marvelled at her nerve. She supported such work with theatre trips, and a few years back set up a visit to the school by "Shakespeare 4 Kidz", who presented a workshop on the *Dream* to the Shell year.

For obvious reasons, female teachers tend not to have much to do with sport at schools like ours, but Gail arrived with coaching qualifications in Rugby and tennis, and proved perfectly ready to roll up her sleeves and get stuck into Games afternoons, as well as running more than one Middle School tennis team. It somehow seemed quite characteristic of her cheerful equanimity and determination to get involved wherever she has something to contribute. When the Sixth Form were looking for a staff member to oversee production of the Year Book back in 2004, she cheerfully signed on. In the same spirit she has specialised in ingenious Cot Fund-raising activities: she organised her form to sell ice cream on the South Front one hot summer; she was one quarter of "Abba" in a Big School fundraiser based on the then-current TV talent show *Stars In Their Eyes*; she organised a sponsored Staff Bristol Road Run (which Geoff Howe's dog won); expecting her first baby, she challenged the school to "guess the weight and name" of the newcomer.

Gail's participation in school was necessarily reduced (though by no means ended) when she went part-time in 2004, and now the time has come for her to move on to pastures new in the shape of Abu Dhabi, following her husband Simon. It may well be that she will shortly resume her teaching career at the British School there, once she and the family are settled in. I find it hard to imagine that she will give up teaching for very long: she's too good at it. We wish her, Simon and the children the very best of luck in this new stage of their lives.

TFPH

"I have watched her take a class of Rems through the thickets of Renaissance love lyric en route to writing their first (amorous) sonnet, and marvelled at her nerve."



## Robert Milne

### English

Rob joined the school in 2003, coming to us from Oundle, where he had begun his career under Juliette Bond, an earlier graduate of the KES English Department. Despite having nothing but praise for Juliette as a Head of Department, he has said that coming to KES "kept him in the teaching profession". He was, and still is, a very keen sportsman: a cricketer first and foremost, but ready to turn his hand to anything short of Formula One racing ("That actually sounds like fun," Rob says at this point). Boarding school life made it difficult for him to find the time to pursue his own sporting passions; a day school leaves him more space.

I think we can claim to have done the world of education a favour by making it feasible for Rob to go on teaching. He is really an exceptional English teacher: his pupils recognise how seriously he cares about their welfare and their progress, but also how much he cares about the standards which they work to. He is direct, realistic, good-humoured but unsentimental in the way that he confronts boys with the need to apply themselves, to read, to think for themselves, to take responsibility for their own progress and avoid the easy dead-end of laying off the blame on others. He knows his stuff, but more importantly he enjoys putting it across: many of his pupils will testify to his ability to enthuse a class.

Not that he leaves the sporting enthusiasm at home. Rob is adamant that one need not choose between being an academic specialist and being an athlete, and he has always bridled at any attempt to pigeonhole him one way or the other. Ever since joining the school he has been responsible for U14 Rugby (the Bs in his first year, the As thereafter), and he has looked after U12 and U13 Cricket teams for most of his time at KES. This on top of after-school or lunchtime coaching sessions in both sports and, in the last two years, Senior Squash sessions weekly in the winter. He's also played for the Kestrels, and accompanied the South African Rugby tour of 2005.

In September 2005, he became the House Master of Vardy. One of his regrets in leaving us now is that Vardy came close to winning the Cock House trophy last year ("We missed by about one catch in a game of cricket," he protests), and he's pretty sure that, with a bit more fine-tuning, he could have installed the House at the top



of the list for the foreseeable future. He's very keen on the House system: it is a great source of opportunities for boys in the school, encouraging many lads to take on, and achieve success at, activities which they might otherwise not have considered, so generating experience and self-confidence. With this in mind he has overhauled the Vardy House Colours system to make it more transparent and open to scrutiny, and he has instigated the House newsletter, production of which creates chances for boys to contribute to the House spirit as writers and photographers.

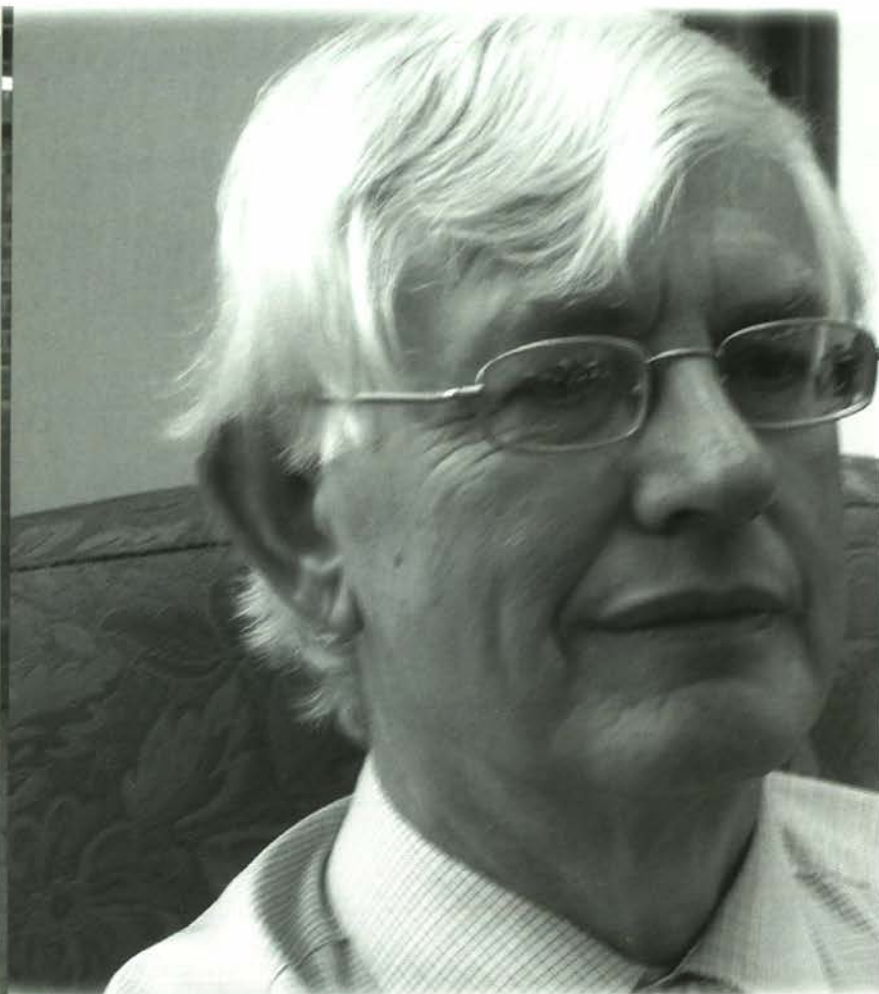
Rob pays ready tribute to his House Tutors for their hard work and enthusiasm, but he clearly has the makings of a good House Master. Most important, he wants the boys in the House to be happy: he is careful to watch the teams play whenever he can "because the boys like it when you take an interest. They know when a teacher cares about them, and they like that."

Rob leaves us to become Head of English at Magdalen College School in Oxford. He says that there's plenty for him to do there, and I have no doubt that he will throw himself into it with his characteristic brio and good humour. But we shall miss him. All the very best, Rob.

TFPH

"Rob is adamant that one need not choose between being an academic specialist and being an athlete, and he has always bridled at any attempt to pigeonhole him one way or the other."





## David Rigby

### Biology

David joined the Biology department in September 1968, at a time when England were holders of the World Cup in football and Charles de Gaulle was president of France. Before this he had taught in Italy, spent two years doing unspeakable things to the brains of cats in Birmingham Medical School and one year teaching science and remedial maths in a Secondary Modern school in Weoley Castle (which burned down shortly after David left – quite *how* shortly he is reluctant to say). David tells us that he thought he had ruined his chances of getting the job at KES when, on the morning of his interview, he had the temerity to walk across the “sacred sod” (the grass area in front of the main entrance) only to hear a very loud voice saying, “Get off the grass”. The words had been uttered by a youthful Derek Benson (erstwhile long serving Chemist and CCF supremo). David realised, however, that it was in the bag when Canon Ronald Lunt, the then Chief Master, said in his inimitable way “...and yer will be doing the Scouts, won’t yer?”. Clearly, finding someone to get involved with Scouts was a much higher priority for the self-styled Chief Master than finding a good Biology teacher, since Canon Lunt was well known at Fifth Form Parents’ Evenings for offering advice that “if you want your son to go on nature walks, then let him choose the Biology”. As it turned out, of course, KES got the best on both counts!

Scouting certainly formed a significant part of David’s life in his first twelve years in the School. In those days the 70th King Edward’s Scout Group involved around a quarter of the boys and, as Scout leader and then Group Scout Leader, David was involved in organising Friday afternoon activities, expeditions weekends, hikes and summer camps. “Many of the activities we routinely encouraged boys to take part in would certainly not be allowed nowadays, with all the current emphasis on risk assessment,” he says. “Can you imagine what would have happened if the rope that formed the aerial

“in his 39 years at the School, he has taught around 300 boys who have gone on to become doctors”

runway over a ravine had snapped?”. In those days, no annual Scout Camp was thought complete without a trip to the local A&E department, and to hear a full account of all the near-misses would certainly send the School’s Safety Committee into spasms.

Of course, it is for his outstanding contribution to Biology teaching that David will be best remembered. In the early years, the Biology department consisted of only two full time Biology teachers, with a bit of help from Peter Russell, who taught UM Biology for many years. In 1977, David succeeded the late Chris Dodds to become Head of Biology and the years that followed saw a very significant expansion of the department both in the numbers of boys taking A level and in the size of the teaching staff. Staggeringly, David estimates that, in his 39 years at the School, he has taught around 300 boys who have gone on to become doctors, so it comes as no surprise that he is rumoured to carry with him, at all times, a list of names of former pupils who under no circumstances are to minister to him should he need urgent medical attention!

Throughout his time at the School David was involved both in front of and behind classes, most notably as Head of Science, where his diplomatic skills were very much in evidence as he mastered the impossible art of getting all the members of the Science Common Room to row roughly in the same direction without catching (metaphorical) crabs. He was very much involved in the design of the current Common Room, and he was instrumental in the successful scheme which moved Biology from what is now the Junior Science area to purpose built laboratories in the Robson Fisher Building, again playing a key role in its design.

It is often said that nice guys don’t have successful careers, but David gives the lie to that. Always self-effacing and self-deprecating, he led by example and by consensus, persuading others with his gentle good humour and light touch. I don’t think he ever went on one of those new fangled “How to be a Head of Department” courses, but he didn’t need to, since, as one of his less successful pupils once memorably answered one of his challenging questions, to David it was “just natural, I guess”.

We wish David and Sian a long and well-earned retirement; and he knows that if tending his many grandchildren should prove more onerous than teaching, he is always most welcome to come back.

RWS



## Peter Russell

### Chemistry

**A**t KES we often labour under the misguided belief that everyone, everywhere, knows all about us: so it is disappointing, to say the least, that Peter Russell had never heard of the School when, in 1970, his teacher training tutor phoned him at a boarding school in darkest Somerset to suggest that he should apply for a vacancy. Such ignorance is even less forgivable since Peter, though a Yorkshireman by birth and upbringing, admits to spending lots of time as a boy in Birmingham with his extended family; it becomes totally incomprehensible when we realise that he spent three years as an undergraduate just on the other side of Edgbaston Park Road!

Now, some 37 years later, Peter's knowledge of the School is considerably greater: he has the unique distinction of having served simultaneously under both a Chief Master and a Head of Department whom he taught as boys in the School. It is more difficult to count all the teaching colleagues he has known over the years, but it is certain that all of them will remember Peter as an entertaining and affable character, and a truly professional schoolmaster. Former pupils say much the same: Peter's refreshingly down to earth and consistent approach is very much in keeping with his Yorkshire upbringing in Baildon and his schooling at Bingley Grammar.

Peter's early years at KES (or at least those that can be recorded here without fear of litigation) were characterised by his appetite for the outdoor life. He joined a then thriving Scout group, rising eventually to become Group Scout Leader, and showed himself to be a keen organiser and a pioneer of many activities that continue to thrive in the present day: camps, rock climbing, Duke of Edinburgh schemes, personal service and leadership activities to name a few. On Scout camp he took on an entirely different character to that shown in School, and it was often very tempting to reduce his Mexican-style moustache to that of a well known dictator. I'll never forget an exchange over the Common Room photocopier in which Peter politely asked the newly appointed first ever Director of Leadership what he was going to try out with the boys that the Scouts were not already doing. There wasn't much of a response.

Though by his own admission Peter was no sportsman in his later years, he singlehandedly ran KES Table Tennis teams in local leagues for many years, and continued to organise the House competitions and lunchtime sessions until his retirement. His earlier sporting interest was in the game that dare not speak its name at KES: soccer. In the 1970s Peter coached, almost secretly, weekend teams of KES pupils

in Saturday and Sunday leagues. None of this came to light until revealed by another of Peter's former pupils at Speech Day in 2007! All this is typical of Peter: he never jumped on bandwagons, and never worked just to get himself noticed; he contented himself with being an unsung hero and quiet worker behind the scenes. Actually, hero is a very appropriate word to use for Peter, since in his first year at KES he rescued a boy who had gone overboard from a canal boat, receiving an award for his actions!

So, pausing just to mention that he was also Cary Gilson Housemaster and Warden of Andrew's Coppice for about 20 years, it is with genuine thanks and gratitude that we wish Peter a long, happy retirement. As he works to maintain his Michael Winner look-a-like status, his lunch and dinner diaries are certain to be full; but if they, and the necessity of visiting his several homes and caravans, allow him to return, he can be sure of a warm welcome. It goes without saying that huge numbers of former pupils owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his Chemistry teaching, his straightforward counsel and genuine friendship during their time at KES, and I guess that goes for all his former colleagues, too. The Science Common Room isn't quite the same these days!

**"Peter's refreshingly down to earth and consistent approach is very much in keeping with his Yorkshire upbringing in Baildon and his schooling at Bingley Grammar."**







## Maurice Workman

### Modern Languages

**T**he other evening, when the Modern Languages Department dined at the Coach & Horses at Weatheroak, Maurice told us about the final day of the Summer Term at King's Worcester when he was a pupil. It sounds like a really good idea, actually – the whole school was given a huge general knowledge test, which was rapidly marked and for which prizes were distributed at the end of the morning.

I imagine that Maurice flourished in such an exercise, as any of us will realise who have been roundly thrashed by Maurice's team in the ludicrously titled Parents' Association Light-hearted Quiz, or who have witnessed Maurice carry off the title of KES Mastermind, or seen him triumph faced with Rob Symonds' worryingly realistic portrayal of Anne Robinson in the KES *Weakest Link*.

One other King's Worcester pupil in Maurice's class also profited from the end of term GK Quiz: the young Chris Tarrant, of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* fame. As sixth-formers, Chris and Maurice edited the school newspaper together. Console yourself, though, Maurice – Mr Tarrant may have made a little more money than you, but you behave much better in restaurants.

Maurice read Modern Languages at Worcester College, Oxford, and spent a year as an assistant at a school in Nancy in northern France. The year in question was 1968, a time of considerable political upheaval, not least in the schools and universities. The pupils went on strike, the domestic staff went on strike, the teachers went on strike, but Maurice did not. He was told by the (striking) headmaster that he was not entitled to do so. Did this, I wonder, sow the seeds for Maurice's years as ATL rep at KES? Does Maurice still yearn to man the barricades, to run from the CRS? Was this when he first grew a beard?

After university Maurice did a PGCE at York, taught at Hatfield School in

**"Mr Tarrant may have made a little more money than you, but you behave much better in restaurants."**

Hertfordshire before coming to KES in 1975. I have already alluded to his work as ATL rep, a post he's held for over 30 years. He was for many years House Master of Prince Lee – moulding them into the lean, mean trophy-winning machine they are today. Stuart Birch tells me of Maurice's contribution to school sport – he describes, rather worryingly, distant basketball tournaments at which Maurice drove the minibus, helped manage the team and drank whisky. Stuart is also very grateful for Maurice's help at countless Eastern Road athletics matches.

Like Peter Russell and Dave Rigby, Maurice in his early days was part of the KES Scout empire of which Simon Schretter spoke at Speech Day. Maurice was heavily involved with the Birmingham Schools French Exchange and, once again partly as a driver, with the musical links we used to have with a school in Lyon.

Most recently, Maurice has been chairman of the Common Room for 12 years and has supervised the Oxbridge entrance programme for 14 years.

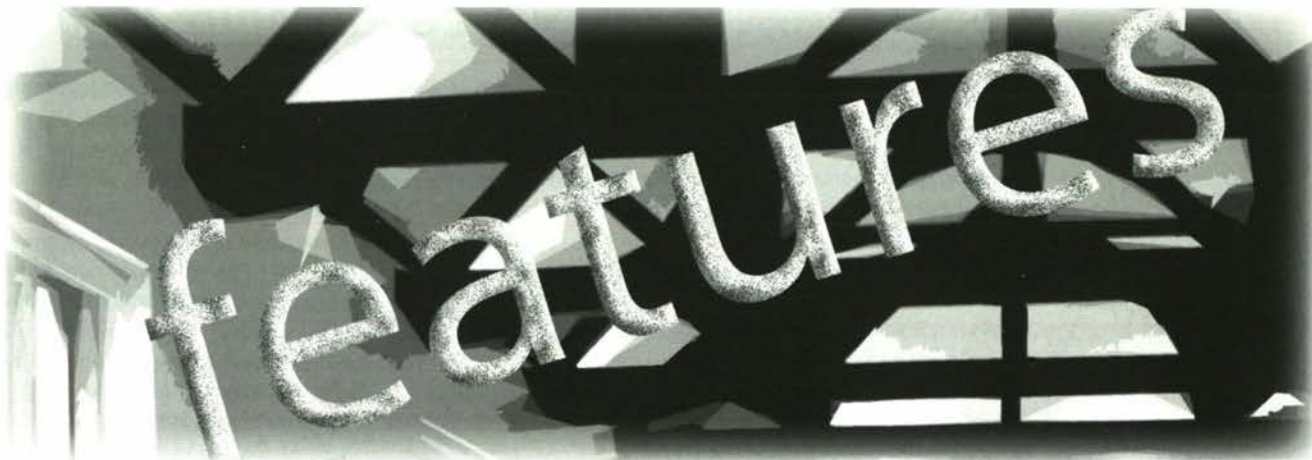
But of course it is to the Modern Languages Department that Maurice has made the greatest contribution during his time at KES. At Speech Day you will have seen the Chief Master brandish a copy of an old school timetable – in fact that of 1984-5. This was, coincidentally, my first year of teaching, when I was only let loose on Rems and UMs and when the Head of Modern Languages taught a mere 31 periods a week.

Maurice is for me personally the only remaining link with the Modern Languages Dept of my first year at KES and I am reminded of how much help and guidance Maurice gave me at that time, when not all of the rest of the department were quite so keen on sharing good practice as we are, of course, now. In the early days of on-the-job teacher-training, Maurice was mentor to Catherine Tudor, Tamara Hodgkin and Simon Booth. Maurice has always been totally up to date with the latest developments in Modern Languages teaching and curricula and as such has been an invaluable source of advice and guidance to us all in the department. I'm not sure what we'll do without you, Maurice.

Maurice tells me that for their retirement he and Pat have no plans but plenty of ideas – an admirable approach, I think. Though as you may not have earned quite as much as Mr Tarrant over the years, I can offer you £9.40 an hour for a spot of invigilation next January. Whatever you get up to, we wish you all the best and a long and happy retirement.

KDP





# Leadership Overview

**K**ES Leadership offers more than what it says on the tin. Not only do the option's pupils get to learn the priceless skills inherent to leading, but overall they emerge at the end of the option's four year course as well-rounded, mature and capable young adults. One of the charms of Leadership is that all of this is achieved through fun and dynamic afternoons.

Leadership has come on in leaps and bounds from its first embryonic days over a decade ago. This is partly because of the way it is run: Sixth formers who have been in the option for three years have the opportunity to teach the lower years. As such, with each new Sixth form comes a new wave of ideas, ability and experience. Over

time the wealth and diversity of the option has grown rapidly, into the machine of innovation and organisation that it is today.

Pupils enter in the Fourth form, where they learn the basics of Leadership through a series of afternoons run by the Sixth form. They practice important skills such as teamwork, both in large and small groups; communication, whether in a team or in public speaking; and innovation. In the Fifth form these afternoons grow in complexity, making the pupils use all their skills in conjunction. The group may be given a task to complete over the course of a week, and while the Sixth formers aim to impress the lower years with well planned and co-ordinated afternoons, it is often the lower years who continue to stun the Sixth form when they show their eagerness and ability in these tasks.

In the coming year Leadership will be offering more to its pupils than ever before: residential expeditions will be available for the first time to the lower years, while the highly successful Foundation Schools Leadership Weekends will also run for the Divisions. Meanwhile the advent of new and easily

accessible technology means that pupils in Leadership may be producing and presenting a short movie one week, recording a radio interview the next, and returning to the traditional roots of teamwork games like "Capture the Flag" the following week.

Leadership's pupils and the prosperity they bring to KES are themselves a tribute to the option. The teaching team of 07/08 look forward to the responsibility of the coming year, with the Divisions taught by Luke Tisdale and Phil Neale, and Ci Yao and Mohammed Saqib leading the teaching teams for the Fourths and Fifths respectively. In the coming months we look forward to fulfilling our goal: creating the leaders of the future.

*Gaurav Vohra*





“The year started with an activity that involved us trying to find ways of saving an egg from certain death”

## Leadership: Fourths

Our first year of KES leadership was an eventful, insightful learning experience. A teaching team led by Max Dowd and including great characters like Karim Kassam and Tissione Parmar instructed a healthy number of Fourths in skills like innovation, negotiation and corrugation. The skilled coaching of these “specialists” and the ebullient enthusiasm of their pupils made for a year of enjoyable education in the ways of Leadership.

The year started with an activity that involved us trying to find ways of saving an egg from certain death at the hands of a fall from Geography Room B’s window. Using only paper, string and sellotape, we constructed different devices that would ease the fall of the egg. Needless to say, most eggs ended up smashed, broken or scrambled. But lessons were learned and we moved forward.

Though all of the afternoons were well planned and executed by the teachers, a few of them stood out. Fairly early on in the year, we were asked to put together a newspaper full of different stories and articles given to us. There were also chances to pick up exclusive scoops, which made for a competitive and exciting afternoon. And, despite some last minute editing of the more risqué articles, we accomplished the task that had been set us. Another afternoon that stood out involved us designing high street fashion around particular themes. With the help of “experts” from KEHS we designed and created our clothes, and one person from each group modeled them in front of said “experts.” The afternoon proved successful: everyone got involved and put their all into the different creations.

I was one of the “lucky” few who had the opportunity to devise and put on our very own afternoon for the rest of the year. Based on the television show *The Apprentice*, six different teams were set varied tasks that tested their skills. We got a taste of what it’s like to run an afternoon rather than have one laid on for you, and all those who took part learned from the experience.

Our first year in Leadership was overall a positive experience, one from which we all took different things. Those who taught us also learned, albeit about different things. Perhaps the most important thing is that we finish the year ready for the new challenges that will arise in the Fifths.

Sam Hobbs

## Leadership: Fifths

Having completed our first year of KES Leadership, we knew that, whether the afternoons were to yield an enjoyable outdoor activity, a popular scenario involving inventive film-making, or merely an afternoon of learning skills, we would enjoy the option in the 5<sup>th</sup> form.

From the first afternoon, it was clear just how much the year group had developed since the 4<sup>th</sup> form, in learning vital leadership skills. As the year progressed it became obvious that qualities such as maturity, cooperation and experience were constantly being improved. We enjoyed and benefited from an extremely varied collection of activities, from setting up a restaurant to playing “Capture the Flag”. Amongst the best afternoons were the highly popular film-making scenarios, which typically took place over several weeks, and the assault-course-style exercises held in the school grounds. The best afternoons were not simply those that we enjoyed the most, but the more challenging ones.

Towards the end of the year, one of the most exciting dates in the KES Leadership calendar is the Leadership Awards. These look back over the year and the development of the option. Congratulations go to Sandip Sangha, who won the ‘MVP’ award, and also to Shivam Bajaj who won the ‘Most Improved’ award. The award for “best picture” went to Dat Kan Woon for his inspiring army film, and finally the award for “best restaurant” deservedly went to Richard Sham for his sumptuous sushi venture.

As a year we were extremely lucky to have such an entertaining team of teachers, whose interesting yet effective coaching was invaluable. Many thanks must go to Jamie Scott, whose extrovert presentations and brilliant ideas made for extremely memorable afternoons. The entire Sixth Form teaching team dealt commendably with what was, at the beginning, a rather unruly group of Fifths. However, I’d also like to thank the staff for their guidance and effort over the year, which made it possible for us to enjoy such a unique option. The skills and leadership qualities that we have learnt from the 6<sup>th</sup> form teachers will help us a great deal in our Divisions year, and when we come to run the option in the future.

Rowan Khanna



# Divisions Leadership

The Divisions year in Leadership involves the transition of the students from learning skills to preparing to teach them. It is a year of preparation for taking over and running the option, and therefore plays a huge role in one's Leadership career. This is one of the toughest years in Leadership as it involves everyone being in an unfamiliar environment; yet this is also perhaps what made the year the most enjoyable.

At first we were not sure how to take our instructors, Tom Duggins and Adhuv Prinja: their banter came across as worrying and slightly scary. However, a mixture of exercises involving planning and teamwork saw the group bond and really begin to work as a unit: essential to the teaching of skills within Leadership. Within a few weeks we had our first experience of running an afternoon. We soon realised that, no matter how much preparation we did, teaching was a lot more difficult than first thought. However, with the help offered to us by Tom and Adhuv we picked ourselves up and continued. After the baptism of fire we had some teaching experience, and after getting over the initial shock the group could not wait to teach again.

Now on to Tom and Adhuv: no ordinary teachers, they were mentors to the young, fresh and inexperienced Divisions. The afternoons they prepared for us ranged from films that were shot at the pub (something we are obviously looking to continue) to speeches from the Chief Master. Tom concocted a "top ten" list of things to improve your confidence when public speaking: I believe number one was 'Herbal Essences'. Without their help I doubt that we would be as strong as we are, and we would certainly not have the confidence to carry such a huge option forward.

Next year, with Gaurav Vohra in command, we will continue to push forward the school's most popular option, Leadership. There is a great passion for Leadership running through the whole of our year group, from the Heads of Years to the teaching teams, and I'm sure this enthusiasm will be passed on to the youngsters just joining the option, helping them to mature as people and leaders.

*Luke Tisdale*





# The Engineering Education Scheme – a review

**T**he Engineering Education Scheme (England) is an EDT Programme which links teams of year 12 students with local companies to work on real scientific, engineering and technological problems. I recently took part in this scheme, attracted by the opportunity to solve a real life problem using the methods employed by engineers all over the world.

The team consisted of myself, Jamie Cutler and Faizan Lakhani. We were paired with a Birmingham civil engineering company, Mott MacDonald. Our brief was "to devise a transport-based solution to the social, economic and environmental issues surrounding Cradley Heath High Street". We spent our Friday afternoons working in the Design Centre, assessing the advantages and disadvantages of possible approaches. Ultimately, we decided upon a solution, and prepared the necessary diagrams and documentation to accompany it.

The objective of this article is not to summarise our project, for it is on display in the Design Centre foyer, and a copy of the report is available on request. This article is intended to explain to pupils who are interested in engineering, and who potentially wish to take part in the EES, what will be required of you.

First of all, you are given a project brief, which is the basis for your work. This may be in the area of civil, mechanical, structural or electrical engineering. The likelihood is that the next project will belong within civil engineering, as (to the best of my knowledge) the school is still paired with Mott MacDonald. This brief is given to you on the Briefing Day (ours was held at the Think Tank at Millennium Point), when students meet their company contacts, and get an idea of what the project will entail.

**"the EES can be extremely beneficial to anyone interested in engineering: it gives one a great insight into how the world of engineering works, especially the processes employed by engineers in the real world to solve real problems."**

Following this, you work for several weeks with an engineer from the company to prepare for the next event in the EES calendar, which is the university workshop. By the time you reach the university workshop, which is held in the first few days of the Christmas holidays, you are expected to have the beginnings of a solution to your problem. The university workshop is an opportunity for you to carry out practical tasks related to your project, using equipment and expertise that are not available to you in school. It is a three-day event, during which you will be resident at the university. The majority of the time is spent in the workshops, but on the last

day you must prepare and give a short presentation to an audience of around fifty, detailing the work you have carried out during the university workshop.

The last stage of the EES entails the finalisation of your solution, the writing of a report, and the completion of any practical activity. This takes place during the Spring term and over the Easter holidays. The official ending of the EES is the Celebration and Assessment Day (ours was held at the NEC), where you will display your project, and deliver a fifteen-minute presentation on it to a board of six engineers.

There are some aspects of the EES that you may not enjoy. For example, students are given no choice as to the project they are given. It does require commitment above and beyond

Friday afternoons, and it is not entirely practical. However, the EES can be extremely beneficial to anyone interested in engineering: it gives one a great insight into how the world of engineering works, especially the processes employed by engineers in the real world to solve real problems. It is a great experience for potential engineers, as it offers an opportunity to complete projects that are not possible within the confines of the school's resources and the curriculum. I would strongly recommend that anyone interested in engineering should take part in the scheme.

Mark Lloyd





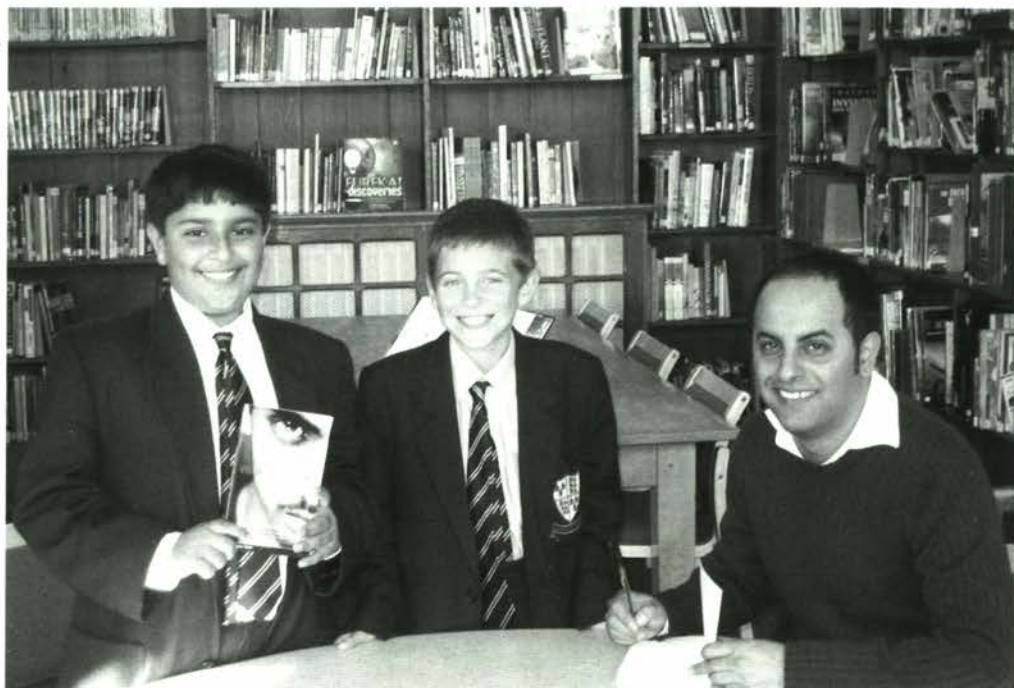
# Author! Author!

The second annual KES Library author visit was from the exciting young British Asian author Bali Rai. Bali has written a number of very popular books including *Rani and Sukh*, *(Un)arranged Marriage*, and *The Angel Collector*.

Bali spent the morning talking to the Removes and the afternoon talking to the Shells about his life, his books, how he writes, and what enthuses him. He gave lots of useful hints on how to enjoy writing fiction. Bali was also very keen to hear what the boys had to say about a variety of topics, including racism, religion, and football.

Lots of boys bought his books and queued up to get them signed.

In 2007 the visiting author will be Alan Gibbons, author of *Shadow of the Minotaur*, *Caught in the Crossfire*, and many other brilliant books.



Bali signing books in the library

JLA

This year saw every boy in the Shells becoming a judge in the annual Red House Children's Book Award. KES pupils devoured hundreds of new books, and joined thousands of young readers across the country in voting to decide which books should be shortlisted for this prize.

When the shortlist was announced, four lucky Shells won a Library competition to attend the award ceremony at the Hay Literary Festival with Ms Allen and Dr Hayes.

We saw lots of famous authors, including Michael Morpurgo, Michelle Paver, Sophie McKenzie and Rick Riordan, and managed to get plenty of autographs. The award ceremony was great fun – we had a fantastic meal, and heard a talk by Anthony Horowitz about (guess what) the importance of reading!

We were fortunate to have Michelle Paver (author of the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series) on our table. She told us how she got ideas for her books, and about the research she did for them, including eating raw seal blubber!

The winner of the Red House Children's Book Award 2007 was Andy Stanton.



Xiaoyuan, Ryan, Aditya and Alex with the winner, Andy Stanton

JLA

# Authors! Authors!



# The C.R.A. (Computing, Robotics)

We were just 6 Arkwright Scholarship hopefuls, called to a meeting about an extra-curricular activity that might benefit our applications. Something about robots...? Had we been told that, in five months' time, our quest would have taken us across the Atlantic, would we have believed it? If we had known we would be spending a considerable amount of those five months as a team, would we have been so enthusiastic? We didn't all know each other that well: amiable, yes; friends...no. I would learn a lot about my fellow members of the C.R.A.C.K. Team- Kyle Berman, James Buckley, Tom Dawes, Iain Evans, Aaron Freeman-Powell- and meet a lot of new people besides, on this adventure.

The regional final was an unexpected success. The other twenty-odd teams from around the West Midlands had been building their robots for months; we had had a fortnight. The presentation we had to give (on nanotechnology) was practically unwritten when we arrived at the university, never mind unrehearsed. But our simple, down-to-earth robot performed admirably, even if it did not show a huge amount of technical brilliance. The presentation and teamwork assessment were both fairly successful, and we came out with one trophy for winning the Robot Performance section, and a second for winning overall.

At the National Final in January, we retained the home advantage- it was again held in Birmingham University's Great Hall. Many of the other teams seemed to be a little younger than we were, but they were definitely enthusiastic, and this time things did not run so smoothly. An impressive presentation (complete with illustrative model, thanks to Dr Brookes) went well. The robot, however, was feeling the heat to begin with. A surprise visit from the Chief Master seemed to make the difference, and we recorded some very good scores, until a judging error put us out at the semi-final. Needless to say, the more competitive members of the team were onto the judges at once: I don't know if I can speak for everyone, and I do so with the benefit of hindsight, but I always believed that we would travel to Atlanta as U.K. Champions.

I cannot thank Mr Balkham enough for his lightning-fast planning of the trip. Finding out that it would be in no way "expenses paid" (there was a \$1000 entrance fee for the competition) was quite a shock, but thanks go to the school for footing half the bill, whilst we picked up money from two travel scholarships and a sponsor.

The scale of the thing was immense. We had known that there were 92 other teams in our competition; we *hadn't* known that ours was only one of three competitions. Team "pit-areas"





sprawled over a main hall that dwarfed the NIA, a fine example of everything American out-scaling everything from this country (buildings, food, attitude). Between the difficulties of the competition table, there was a lot of time for both licking our wounds, and socialising. I would say we were a mystery to the Americans (and the Taiwanese team didn't seem to understand my Mandarin either). What did C.R.A.C.K. stand for? Were we advertising something? Was all British humour this funny? Most importantly, did all British people speak in such a sophisticated and adorable manner?

The competition itself was hard, and though we again did well in the technical and teamwork sections, we had trouble elsewhere. Our robot and our laptop were jet-lagged, and we were feeling it too. Battery trouble was our main challenge: American mains refused to be adapted, and sparked angrily on more than one occasion. When our neighbours, the "Pigmice" from Portland, Oregon (who were the eventual winners), graciously lent us a spare battery for our alliance round, the robot replied thankfully

by performing perfectly. Considering that most of the other teams there had a lot more experience of the competition, having attended in years past, a mid-table result (we didn't "lose", as was announced in Big School) was respectable. We were disappointed, but the experience was a fantastic one.

We were delayed by two days when our return flight was cancelled due to the weather. I was slightly worried at this point: for the team, which had avoided arguments up till now; for what Mr Balkham, who had remained friendly up till now, meant by "I might start getting a little irritable"; for Aaron, who would be flying to Spain within 24 hours of our arriving back; and for my stomach, which had had enough of American food. I needn't have worried: for two days we would be fed and housed by KLM, and we took the opportunity to do a little shopping, play innumerable games of cards and watch *Alien* vs. *Predator*, the last of several unexpected additions to the C.R.A.C.K. team experience.

*Ben Walpole*

**"The presentation we had to give (on nanotechnology) was practically unwritten when we arrived at the university, never mind unrehearsed. But our simple, down-to-earth robot performed admirably"**





## London International Youth Science Forum 2007

Given that for pupils at King Edward's "science forum" is a synonym for "geek camp", I was cautious about applying for the forum when the notice came through the register one morning. But I can safely say it was one of the best decisions of my life thus far.

Two pupils from the school were selected and sponsored to go, following a rigorous interview by the dynamic duo of Mr Symonds and Dr Daniels. On arrival, it was clear that in these two weeks there was much fun to be had. After the first night's introductions and a chance to meet some of the 260 other participants, we had a (rare!) early night in preparation for the activities to come. It is difficult to explain exactly what the phrase "science forum" means. Over the course of the two weeks, we learnt a great deal about the world of science through structured lectures and day visits to truly remarkable places. A highlight of the trip was the visit to the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, and being put into what is essentially a huge freezer at a cool -20 degrees Celsius! Another highlight was a lecture entitled "Chemistry and Light" in which the lecturer, a rather likeable middle-aged Geordie, was not at all hesitant about showing off the chemistry of glow-in-the-dark body paint!

However the weeks weren't entirely filled with lectures and scientific visits – we were given lots of free time (and a two-week travel pass) to explore all that central London has to offer. It was quite odd to find how easy it is to be a tourist in your own country! Most of the other participants,

of course, lived in far off exotic places: 52 different nations were represented at the forum.

This for me was what the fortnight was really about – talking to and befriending people from all around the world, and seeing how science is affecting their respective countries. Friendships made in these two weeks will surely last a lifetime, and I can feel assured that, no matter where I get stranded in the world, I will always have a place to stay!

I learned many things whilst in London, on what were possibly the two best weeks of my life. Firstly, that not all Americans are stupid, and not all Australians are criminals (although they do have the annoying habit of reminding us of how much better they are at most sports!). More importantly I learned a great deal about the growing world of science, and the problem of global warming. A full day was spent analysing this problem in detail and a few of us reported back to everybody what we had come up with. Take it from me – talking to a room of 300 or so people is nerve-wracking to say the least!

To conclude, I leave you, the Division scientists of King Edward's School, with a message: when the notice comes around to you in the register and you are presented with the opportunity of going, give it some consideration. Don't be put off by the prospect of learning something outside school time: who knows, you may even like it as much as I did!

Harpreet Gohel

## Fifths' Trip to Manchester Art Gallery

With the threat of our final GCSE Art project looming over our heads, and with the fear that we didn't know our art from our elbows, the fifth form artists boarded a coach to the beautiful city of Manchester. Our goal was to tour around its art gallery, seek inspiration in its multitudinous masterpieces, and buy overpriced novelties from the slightly tacky gift shop. This we did (and with great zeal), and generally got to feel as if we were cool, trendy art students, carrying around those funky little portable stools, making quick sketches of women's bottoms, and discussing loudly with one another the framing, contrast, or the simply divine use of the 'golden proportion' in every piece of painted canvas, sculpture, or *objet d'art* we came across. In one location met many hundreds of artworks, from all four proverbial corners of the globe, stretching back several centuries.

In the opinion of all involved, the trip was extremely beneficial and, indeed, rather pleasurable too. The writer Saul Bellow once asked the question, "What is art but a way of seeing?" Perhaps, that day, we all became a little less blind.

**"Another highlight was a lecture entitled "Chemistry and Light" in which the lecturer, a rather likeable middle-aged Geordie, was not at all hesitant about showing off the chemistry of glow-in-the-dark body paint!"**



On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, the Divisions studying AS level R.S. assembled in school at 7:15am for the annual trip to Oxford Town Hall to hear three lectures on ethics. The first of the three talks was given by the eminent Dr Peter Vardy on five of the most well known ethical theories: Catholic Natural Law (as set out by St Thomas Aquinas), Virtue Ethics, Proportionalism, Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism (with a particular focus on John Stuart Mill).

Catholic Natural Law, the belief that it is possible to deduce from nature the five key purposes of human life, sets out to dissuade persons from carrying out immoral actions, whereas Virtue Ethics focuses on persons developing virtues. Catholic Natural Law identifies some actions as necessarily forbidden, while Proportionalism, a more sympathetic, flexible take on Catholic Natural Law, allows people some flexibility to occasionally act against the laws. John Stuart Mill's Utilitarianism holds that the ideal is that the greatest happiness or pleasure be received by the greatest number. Situation Ethics is a liberal Christian take on Utilitarianism whose

aim is to seek in every situation the most loving outcome of our actions for the majority of people affected.

The second talk, given by Julie Arliss, focussed on how these ethical theories can be applied. Topics included animal rights, and whether humans are merely advanced animals and so should not have greater rights than other animals; "shallow" and "deep" ecology, whereby environmental issues are looked at either from a human perspective or from a more holistic view; and finally the hotly debated issue of euthanasia.

After this talk there was an hour break for lunch, during which pupils were able to amble around the picturesque town of Oxford. Following lunch, the final talk was by Dr Peter Vardy on sexual ethics: the issues of virginity and promiscuity were discussed from the perspective of each ethical theory. Overall the day was hugely enjoyable and thought-provoking, as well as being a great help in expanding upon areas studied as part of the AS level syllabus.

Danny Elphinston

## **"Pulling into Durham station all players were obviously raring to go, yet Ashvir and Jamie somehow ended up stranded inside the carriage when the train pulled slowly away from the platform and off towards Tyneside!"**

Debating

Although one of the most successful of school activities, Debating manages to maintain its position as also one of the most exclusive societies in the school. This season's first pair, Ashvir Sangha and Atharv Tillu, have enjoyed considerable success, beginning with the England Debating Trials in which they both reached the top forty, Tillu making the final twelve. Still not satisfied, the aspiring pair left England and, deciding to take advantage of the wonders of BT Connect, flew to Aberdeen to take part in a Scottish competition for the first time. This splendidly enjoyable tournament, replete with bagpipes and silver whisky bowls ("quaichs") as prizes, was organized by Aberdeen Grammar school to celebrate, wait for it, their 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The KES team didn't quite conquer but beat strong opposition to come 6<sup>th</sup> overall. Faced with the Herculean challenges of the Oxford and Cambridge Union competitions, they reached new heights: they were placed 6<sup>th</sup> again at Oxford and reached the semi-finals at Cambridge, triumphing over hundreds of schools. In the Observer Mace Competition Tillu and rising star Tim Kiely reached the Central England Final before falling foul of a combined team of girls from Nottingham and the judges!

On to the last major competition of the season: with the second pair of Jamie Scott and Andrew Browning in tow, the team caught the train up to Durham. Pulling into Durham station all players were obviously raring to go, yet Ashvir and Jamie somehow ended up stranded inside the carriage when the train pulled slowly away from the platform and off towards Tyneside! After a slight detour, the School Captain and his sidekick arrived back in Durham with excuses about grannies blocking the aisle and train drivers locking the doors. Not a good start! Yet as the competition progressed and the train debacle was forgotten, the first team found their rhythm and made the final of the competition, humiliating the eventual winners, Haberdasher Aske's Boys School, in the semi-finals. In the final the duo proposed the motion *This House Would Ban Alcohol* (ironic, considering the last night's activity for most of the chamber!) and were runners-up overall. They were also individually placed 10<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

At the end of another successful year our thanks go to Mr Stacey for his enthusiasm and commitment to training, and for accompanying the teams to competitions.

Andrew Browning



# JUNIOR CHALLENGE

# LIVING

**"And so, with a points score advantage of 140, we were through to the next stage of the competition... or so we thought."**

Those who have read the last *Chronicle* may remember last year's highly successful Junior Challenge team, that passed through a series of rounds eventually to win the national plate competition. As three of those players were still able to compete in this age group this year, we were hoping to emulate last year's success. In this optimistic mood, the team (Oscar Denihan, Ben Fernando, Ed Jackson, Andrew Macarthur and Vishal Patil) headed off to King's Worcester to take part in the Regional round.

Our group consisted of KE Stratford, QMGs Walsall and Wolverhampton Grammar School. Teams were to play two of their three opponents, and in the event of a tie, the result was to be decided on points. Our first opponents, Wolverhampton, were convincingly defeated by 150 points, despite their best efforts and a worryingly impressive start. A break of one game, while KE Stratford took on Wolverhampton, was followed by the showdown between us and Walsall.

The match was tight from the start with both teams striving, with little success, to build up some sort of advantage against the other. Whenever one side looked like taking control, the other closed the gap. This was all too obvious when the end of the match saw the scores level. And so, with a points score advantage of 140, we were through to the next stage of the competition... or so we thought. I am not exactly sure what happened in the next five minutes but the result was that, so as to avoid an "inter-school diplomatic crisis", KES were forced to play on for another five minutes to decide who would win the crucial match. Those minutes came and went and the points stood at 290 a piece. Some way had to be found to split the two schools. A tie-breaker question was proposed.

"What is an arranger of dance called?" We were beaten in the "buzzer race". Neither KES nor KEHS were able to break through the Regional round this year but the team played well and our thanks go to Miss Bubb and Mr Milton for their efforts.

Andrew Macarthur

And so it came to pass that all the Big People were scattered to the four winds, and I was the only one left in the society above 4'6". That was all in 2005/6, and I'm glad to say that, though the average height of the group has yet to reach the minimum required for dangerous rides at theme parks, it hasn't stopped us having yet another successful season.

It should have started with the acquisition of a brand new place to hang our hats/hooded cloaks/mail coifs in, but sadly, due to unforeseen builders' tea breaks, a door that they couldn't quite get to fit, and a surprisingly porous wall, it took rather longer than planned to install ourselves in our swanky new home.

We're proud no doubt, of its elegant and efficient storage solutions, but in terms of new stuff, there is nothing that excites a living historian more than the skin of a dead animal. Our branching into the Tudor fur trade has provided us with a whole range of scary-yet-strokeable items to appal the visitors with; the best being an ermine, which looks as if someone took hold of





# HISTORY

the wriggling little beast and squeezed from one end, ejecting the entrails rather in the manner of a tube of toothpaste.

Showing off such gruesome specimens has been a whole lot easier under the brand new mega canvas awning, designed to keep all but the heaviest rain off our heads so we can look smugly at the dripping crowds. Well, that was the plan, but at Cosmeston Medieval Village we encountered the most thoroughly Welsh weather in quite some time. Midnight on the first night found us hanging on to the tent flaps for dear life, as the pegs lifted from the sodden earth and the canvas over our heads attempted to imitate the action of the sail, and billow off somewhere towards Cardiff. Torrential downpours were also a feature of Osterley Park, a very prestigious event occurring somewhere under the Heathrow flight path. The onslaught of weather and passing Easyjet aircraft did not deter us from putting on our scheduled display of skirmishing archery, and our bloody-mindedness did not go unnoticed by the event's organisers, who have asked us to do

lots more work for them, even if only for the light entertainment of seeing us run around like goons in the pouring rain.

As for the rest of the season, the other events were positively sedate. Our spirited performance at Selly Manor brought in a record seven visitors, but we got a chance to run around in silly clothes (or "bring history alive") for the Shells and KEHS Upper Thirds at the first KES Medieval Day in June. The last event of the Season, Blakesley Hall, went off without a hitch, including the now traditional sixteenth century game of "how many people can we fit into this timber framed house kit".

As I leave KES, I'm glad to see that the Living History Society hasn't changed much. Yes, we may have acquired rather a lot of shiny new stuff, and changed our staple reading matter from "Mizz" to "Sugar", but our willingness to grab innocent members of the public, and talk their ears off about various Tudor paraphernalia remains undimmed. Oh, and for all you who thrill to the sound of the word: we're getting a bigger Trebuchet.

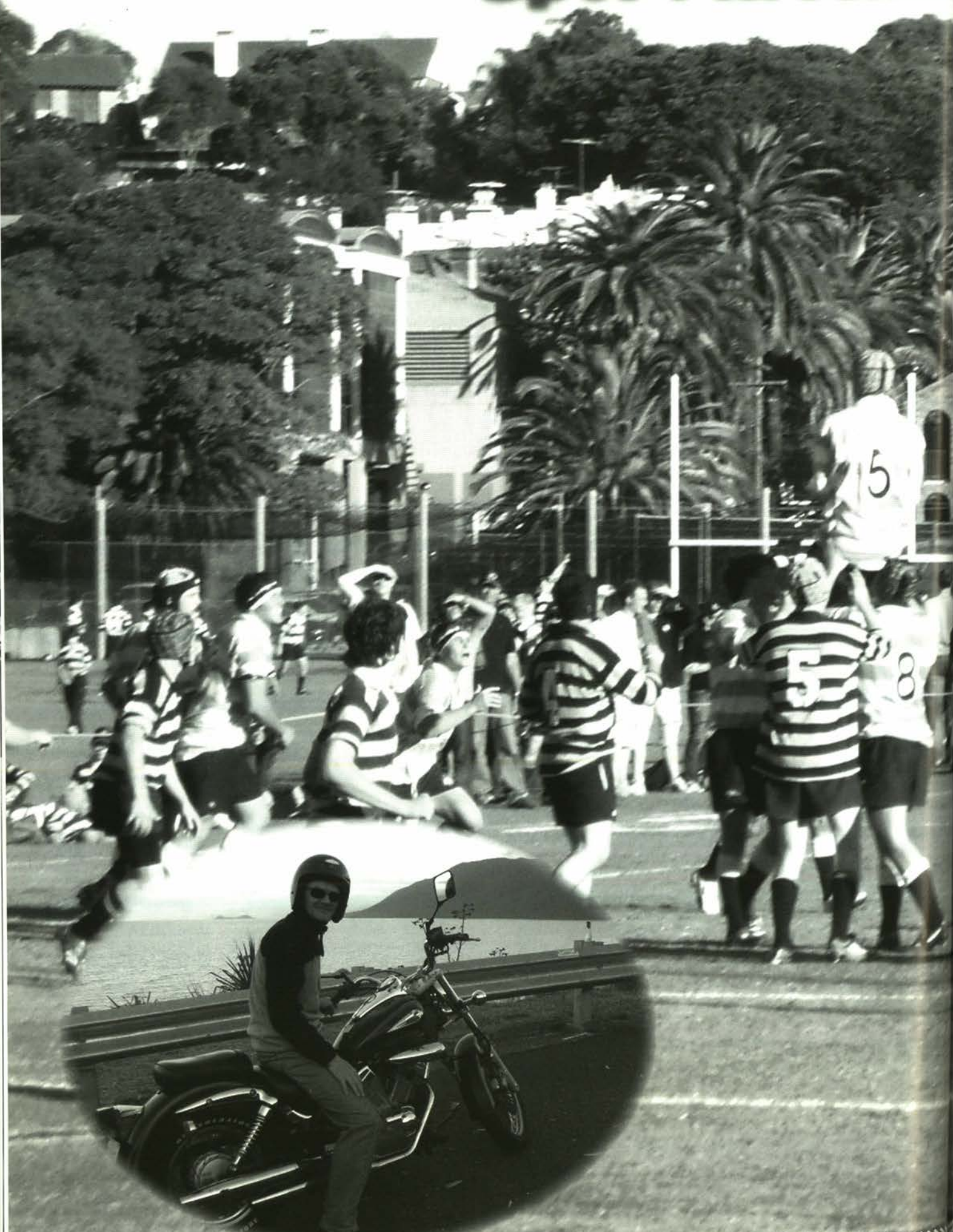
*Tom Davies*



**"The last event of the Season, Blakesley Hall, went off without a hitch, including the now traditional sixteenth century game of "how many people can we fit into this timber framed house kit"."**



# Sport in Aust





# alians Schools

**M**r Lye spent part of the Summer Term of 2007 on Sabbatical in Australia. His plan was "to visit schools in the major capital cities and explore why Australians are such a great sporting nation". He also "hoped that contacts could be made which would enable King Edward's pupils, who were considering a GAP year abroad, to travel and work in Australian schools to further their experience". He wrote a report on his visit which is, unfortunately, too long to publish in its entirety: we have chosen the section in which he focuses on sport and the teaching of sports in Australia.

It was evident during my travels that the Australian public like action in their sport. I was able to visit all the test grounds: the WACCA, Adelaide Oval, MCG, SCG and the GABBA. All but the GABBA laid on organised tours in which volunteer members showed you round the magnificent stadiums and were indeed passionate about their sports. But having attended several of the grounds mentioned, along with the Telstra Dome in Melbourne to watch AFL matches, it was evident that to be passionate does not have to involve being intimidatory. Travelling to games with 50,000 sell outs, and watching rival fans shoulder to shoulder, was indeed an eye opener. There was cheerful banter and alcohol in abundance but no trouble to speak of. Surely a lesson we would do well to observe. Being part of the crowd at these matches showed the mentality of the Australian public when it comes to sport. AFL produces many goals, and cricket, played Aussie style, is all attacking flair and power. Although massively popular in Australia, soccer has never really been their forte. Partly, I feel, the reason is that there is not enough action: Aussies like goals, tries, runs etc. and soccer just does not give them that regular thrill often enough.

All the schools I visited put great emphasis on sport as an integral part of school life. The majority run compulsory sport programmes whereby boys are expected to be part of a team regardless of ability. To accommodate everybody, age groups would run 'A', 'B', 'C' (and possibly more) teams. Some people I spoke to felt that this is counterproductive: because of staff shortages and illness and injury, fixtures cannot always be fulfilled. This situation sounded similar to KES's but it was evident that Australian schools have a better call on outside coaches than here in the UK. Their system of education allows for greater outside involvement. With thirty-nine state universities in the whole country, each major city

has a selection of these establishments. Unlike in the UK, when students leave school they almost always remain in their home city to attend one of the local universities. This means that schools have a broad base of past students on whom to call with regard to coaching positions within the sporting arena. Good sportsmen willingly return to their schools in order to earn money.

All the schools I visited are members of the Western Australian Public Schools Association or its equivalent in other states; through such associations, fixtures are centralised in each city and this results in any school playing up to forty fixtures a weekend in a variety of sports. This requires a massive involvement of staff, who have to be present even when outside coaches are running a session. This commitment is written into contracts and regularly adhered to. Necessarily, women teachers have been forced to undertake these managerial roles in order to fulfil their contracts. It is not possible for teachers to opt out of sport on grounds of sex or lack of knowledge; everybody is expected to do his or her part, regardless of ability or expertise.

What impressed me greatly about the organisation of school sport there is the free choice offered to all individuals. Pupils are able to select from six to eight sports on offer in any particular term. They are then required to stay with that sport for the duration of that term and honour sporting fixtures at weekends. There is no pressure exerted on any individual sportsman to do a particular sport, and although all schools offered soccer as an alternative to rugby, they did not feel that the one sport compromised the other. The feeling I picked up from all the establishments visited was the need to put the individuals and their future development first. Physical Education is an integral part of school life. It is a compulsory subject between the ages of 11 and 16, and can also be an elective (optional subject) in the last four secondary years. This amounts to two hours per week formal P.E. for all, with another 3 hours per week if taken as an elective. Lessons for all involve practical and theoretical elements on fitness and general well being, as well as being introduced to a number of different sports. Games afternoons begin at the end of the school day at 3.30pm. All boys are expected to attend two training sessions per week after school as well as fulfilling a fixture commitment on a Saturday (for Seniors) or a Friday afternoon for years (ages 11 to 13).

RNL





## SHELLS' CLASSICAL PLAY COMPETITION



**"they engaged their audience with a wholly unexpected 'plot': that is, a sequence of scene changes in which characters interact meaningfully with one another. This has been a rarity throughout the years of the Shells' plays."**

In a fashion closely paralleling Aristophanes' own brand of zany slap-stick and socio-political satire, the Shells performed their plays to a packed auditorium of their peers on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The basic premise behind the plays was simple: the plots were to revolve around an *X-Factor*-esque competition; live music and IT-utilising backdrop had to be incorporated, while extra points were available for witty reference to current affairs or recent and controversial diplomatic events.

Shell B kicked off the proceedings with some solid entrance music hammered out on the stand-up piano to the side, an instrument which featured in a number of later performances. Perhaps the most detailed character study by Shell B was the masterful interpretation of Sharon Osborne, harpy-like and somewhat obsessed with a small toy dog which lay rigour-stricken in her arms, no doubt a metaphor for the powerless entertainment junkies of modern Britain, trapped in the rapacious coils of ITV and Channel 4. Tony Blair made a brief appearance and endeared himself to the locals; however, his appearance felt tacked-on, and the promising young actor was unable fully to develop his character.

Next was Shell C's play, which attained a very respectable 739 points out of a possible 1000, and won second place. An early appearance by an outspoken Texan banker on the *X-Factor* panel charmed the audience and the judges, while the depiction of Vesuvius' eruption, a common feature of Shells' Classical plays over the years, was perhaps one of the all-time great moments, with a masterful synthesis of striking visual and sound effects; for the latter, the class drummer must take credit.

The eventual winners, Shell D, stormed the stage next. Rather than basing the play on the Aristophanic tradition of the *agon*, the "contest" of debate or performance, they engaged their audience with a wholly unexpected "plot": that is, a sequence of scene changes in which characters interact meaningfully with one another. This has been a rarity throughout the years of the Shells' plays. George Bush was the hilarious and engaging comedian, played with real wit, flair and some of the funniest lines heard in a Shell play (it will be hard to forget his greeting to the Roman town of 'Popeye').

Shell P's performance, my personal favourite, was next. The eventual outcome saw them only 0.3% away from a joint second position, perhaps unfairly: their excellent musicianship and surrealist innovation (such as the slow-motion gangster shoot-out) were highly convincing, while their judges – including the opinionated, kebab-wielding father of a contestant, and a tuxedoed and obnoxiously posh Simon Cowell figure – yielded plenty of entertainment in the relatively short performance time.

This leaves only the final group, Shell S. When I was in this class, we triumphed over the rest of the Shell year with a sterling *Simpsons*-based version of *Gladiator*. In this, my final year, Mr Tinley's form lost by several hundred points; but I shall offer a brief defence on their behalf.

First of all, after the four other *X-Factor* plays, audience interest was – quite naturally – depleted; imagine seeing four consecutive versions of *The Sound of Music* and you'll see what I mean. Secondly, the computer through which their music and the backdrop were generated played up spectacularly at the start of the performance for about seven minutes. During this time, the presenter from Shell S generally proved his capacity for fronting the show. I would go as far as to say that he was the single most resourceful actor of the entire afternoon, and remained steadfast throughout the play. Finally, though the story line, *per se*, was rather lacking, this was the case for the majority of performances. I can only hope that subsequent Shells will be able to produce plays of a similar standard to this excellent collection.

Dominic Hyde





A rambunctious "Proms-style" *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* played by Concert Band opened the two titanic shows which are the annual Christmas concerts. These concerts, which fill the Adrian Boulton Hall twice on consecutive nights, demonstrate the true variety of KE music, with hundreds of boys and girls taking part in various ensembles. Next on were the KES Chamber Choir, who sang three traditional carols in a confident but gentle manner; but the atmosphere was soon heated up by rip-roaring playing from the Wind Band and Junior Swing Band. After the interval, we were treated to Jonathan Pether's medley based on *The Sound of Music* which was all the greater for its audience participation. Our Maria for that night came in the form of Tim Lawrence, who finished the evening beautifully by singing *The Most Wonderful Birthday of All* and *O Holy Night*. These two young musicians have bright futures ahead of them!

On the other night, we dreamt of a *White Christmas* with Concert Orchestra and heard Tom Lilburn play a finessed solo in Saint-Saëns's *Danse Macabre*. Brass Band treated us to a *Ding Dong Christmas* and some *Christmas Swing* before the Senior Swing Band got us in the mood with *Big Noise from Winnetka* and *Zoot Suit Riot*. Choral Society sang Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* and Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas* with a magnificent sensitivity and then treated us to some John Rutter. To end the show in true KES fashion we heard Gordon Sill's celebrated arrangement of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* alongside the lesser-known composer Shostakovich's *Galop* from his opera *Cheryomushki*. Well done to all on two fantastic shows and many thanks to the Music departments of both schools for all of the energy and verve which lies behind these great successes.

Andrew Browning

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"These concerts, which fill the Adrian Boulton Hall twice on consecutive nights, demonstrate the true variety of KE music, with hundreds of boys and girls taking part in various ensembles."

Once more KE musicians headed to the Adrian Boulton Hall in Birmingham to put on another magnificent concert. The concert began with the KES Choir and soloists performing J. S. Bach's famous *Magnificat*. Accompanied by brilliant piccolo trumpets and sparkling string playing, the KES Choir showed its true potential with majestic choruses and complex fugues. Soloists Tim Lawrence and Jenni Payne sang beautifully and Matthew Reeve presented a wonderful male alto *Esurientes* movement. All this was under the watchful eye of Mr Evans, whose guidance and input made for a great performance.

After the interval all were ready to be wowed by John Garner playing Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D major*, and they were not to be disappointed. The *Allegro Moderato* was played skilfully with a deft touch, especially in the fiendishly difficult cadenza, and the second movement floated along

beautifully with impressive wind accompaniment. In the finale John, playing with a virtuosity that has seldom, if ever, been seen at King Edward's, was rewarded with a standing ovation from an electrified audience. Considering that this piece was originally deemed "unplayable" by Leopold Auer, John seems to have achieved the impossible.

The grand finale was Mendelssohn's musical interpretation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* played by the Symphony Orchestra. The *Scherzo* was characterised with delightfully elegant string playing and the popular *Wedding March* was performed with much aplomb. Many thanks to all of the Music staff who made this concert possible and coached the combined talents of KES and KEHS to such a high standard.

Andrew Browning

## CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT (MARCH 2007)



*Chronicle* also received a report on 2007's Summer Concert, but unfortunately too late for it to be included in the magazine.



# SENIOR PRODUCTION 2007: THE H

Take some time out for a moment and think about all those great stage musicals you know and love. Most – if not all of them – will have been taken on by the KES Drama Studio in the past few years: *Oliver!*, *Les Miserables*, *Sweeney Todd*, and last year's rock opera, *The Little Shop of Horrors*. On first sight, little seems to connect these productions other than some catchy songs and a series of glowing *Chronicle* reviews from years past. If you examine the content of these plays, however, you see that all of them are steeped in the grit, grime and pain of the proletariat: thieving orphans on the smoggy streets of London; the revolting French underclass; the murderous lives of 19<sup>th</sup> Century England; even *Little Shop* was filled with small-time losers and nobodies, most of whom wound up as plant fodder. Doesn't it appear to be a beguiling paradox that the glitz and glamour of Broadway should so often be staging the misery of the poor – even if they are tap-dancing? With that in mind, perhaps it wasn't too surprising when the Drama Department began to publicise their production this year. Despite its obscurity, *The Hired Man* was familiar thematic territory for Mrs Herbert: the singing, downtrodden proletariat.

Based on one of the novels in Melvyn Bragg's 'Cumbrian trilogy' and transformed into a musical by Howard Goodall, the play is based in Northern England come the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The production opens at a hiring fair where the chief protagonist, John Tallentire (Nick Oakley), searches for profitable employment, finding it as a farm labourer for the landowner Pennington (Kieran Iyer). John leads a simple but happy life, surrounded by a close-knit, loving family. As well as his brothers, Seth and Isaac (Charles Morton and Charles Douglas), there is his pregnant wife, Emily. Gradually, she becomes dissatisfied with the life John has taken on and that discontentment leads to adultery once Pennington's son, Jackson (Phil Marzouk), determines to seduce her. John eventually discovers his wife's unfaithfulness, understanding why the two have become so distant. Ashamed and enraged, he fights Jackson, beating him.

Act Two begins several years later, with the Tallentire children, May (Roslind Urquhart and Lauren Bostock) and Harry (Phil Neale and Luke Murphy), in their teens. The Great War breaks out and the community suffers as families are torn apart and loved ones die in France. In a society where men are men and all Brits patriots, Harry cannot resist signing up to join the trenches, despite being under-aged.

No one could ever accuse the Drama Department of being amateurs. Each year they match their ambition with bravado and professional skill. The moment the lights went down and the labourers stepped forward in unison from the gloom, their harmonies ringing out "The Song of the Hired Man", you knew this was going to be a consummate production. One needed only to watch the battle scene to understand that. Ms Proops had wonderfully designed the stage with the mines to the left and the Tallentire home on the other side. The latter was crucial to the play: while it was, I suppose, a man's play, with its shovelling and gunfire, Emily was almost always present. As the action developed centre stage, she was its counterpoise, singing at home. War and labour affect those not directly involved just as much as the actual participants. Only with her voice singing over the troubles could the audience understand the loneliness that drives her into Jackson's arms (their duet, "I Wouldn't Be the First" was perhaps the best number in the show) or the pain she suffers on the home front.

The principal roles were all admirably handled. Both Jenni Payne and Helen Watkinson donned Emily's rags and rouge, and while I only saw the latter's excellent performance, Ms Payne was said to be just as good. Watkinson delivered strongly, handling a level of grief which might have tempted lesser actresses to sink into melodrama; mercifully for the audience, she chose to portray her pained character honestly and invest Emily with real pathos. She also gave the best vocal performance of the night, with an enchantingly beautiful, husky voice ably carrying off her many musical numbers. She should perhaps take top honours for her work. I say "perhaps" because she faced some very strong competition from Charles Morton in the supporting role of Seth.





# D MAN



Morton was the best actor on the stage and nailed the performance perfectly. He was rich and convincing, right down to his momentary discomfort with Emily, which indicated how deeply this character had been thought out. It was in the second Act, however, where he really stepped into the limelight. His passionate work in the trade union scene was one of the play's strongest moments, and as the coalmine collapsed and Emily died, Seth represented the anger of the proletariat: sympathetic for his working class brothers, but never one to slip into complacent melancholy. But what of Mr Oakley, our lead and star? *The Hired Man* does not need, or indeed want, showboating; it has no time for scenery chewing and big, grandstanding performances. Oakley recognised this, his finger on the pulse of the play and his character, giving a nicely complex performance of a downtrodden man.

It was a sumptuously made production then, but there was one flaw; and that lies with Bragg, not the Drama Department. As the second Act developed, I couldn't help but wonder what the *point* of it all was. What was the overriding message? There was almost no connection between the Acts: Emily's adultery emerged as the theme in the first half, only for the play to ignore it totally in the second. John is not driven off to war out of shame, but as part of the patriotic spirit capturing the town. Jackson, the son of Pennington, may represent how the rich exploit the poor in the way he philanders with Emily while John toils, but that's as far as Bragg takes the storyline. What's more, the circular narrative seems pointless when one considers that working as a farm labourer in the first place was what led Jackson to tear John's marriage apart.

KES should be exceptionally proud of what its Drama Department has pulled off yet again. Its acting, music and production were all excellently treated. Mrs Herbert can add another feather to her cap. Who knows what she'll do next? But you can bet it's probably going to be gritty.

Jamie Scott





# JUNIOR PLAY

**Y**ou enter the theatre and are instantly transported into the decaying ambience of an inner-city flat: a wasteland of broken chairs, sideboards and discarded fast food boxes. And into this gloomily lit netherworld a single terrified young boy in brightly coloured pyjamas appears, scavenging among the litter for some form of nourishment. Before long, the sound of a blazing argument between a woman and her alcoholic husband is ringing around the dripping walls as a trio of neglected children huddle together on a stained duvet and wish frantically that they were somewhere, anywhere, other than here.

Not what an audience traditionally expects when they come to see a Junior Production of *Peter Pan*. But after some furious studio sessions and a summer of endless chopping and changing, co-writers Tim Kiely and Roly Grant had crafted a world that defies traditional expectation. In the capable hands of KES/KEHS, J.M. Barrie's original story of youth and freedom has been given something of a facelift.

There are constants, of course. Peter Pan remains the youthful rebel who ran away from home the day he was born, leading to his chaotic struggle against the murderous Pirates, accompanied by the heroic Lost Boys. Captain Hook is still the personification of adulthood gone sour. And yes, there's still an epic sword fight at the end (choreographed by resident duellist Jonathan Davies so as to make *Pirates of the Caribbean* look like a kindergarten sandpit scuffle). But with these core elements and ideas safely intact, the writers and actors have been free to experiment with a new tone and direction, so as to present a more universal and appealing piece of drama. This is *Peter Pan* at its most natural, affecting and believable, a realm of conflict and madness brought to vivid life, the way it should have been done long ago. And no, there are no men dressed in green foam rubber going 'tick tock', before you ask.

Peter Pan has gone from being a blonde, leotard-clad cherub to a rebellious ball of militant anarchy thanks to Nick Gateley, who brings a real drive and energy to the role that fleshes the fantastic character out and manages to explore the darker side of his personality with rare skill. Fallon Routledge's Tink is now a fully three-dimensional character, a pouting, acid-tongued nymph with a poisonous appetite for revenge but, ultimately, a heart of gold. And Captain Hook leads a double-life as the abusive Mr Darling, roles that John Tsopanis plays with a kind of wonderful roguish mania that has audiences both recoiling from the flesh-crawling villain and cheering him on in his vile schemes. Special mention must also go to Sarah Baghdadi's Tiger Lily, whose fresh perspective on the character manages to conjure up real chemistry with Ed Siddons' John; to Charlotte Merriam's side-splitting depiction of the long-suffering Smee; to Ted Smith's heart-warming portrayal of Michael and to Olivia O'Neill's Wendy, a genuinely human and motherly presence in the wild, dark new kingdom of dreams called Neverland.

So, under the guiding hand of Ms Proops, the Junior Play has become a work of genuine power. At times it is unsettling, enthralling and comic, but never anything less than brilliantly entertaining. The classic tale of the Lost Boys, Braves and Pirates has been given a new lease of life by a director with vision and talent to spare, and an audience has been treated to a fresh perspective on the story of the Boy Who Never Grew Up. Junior Theatre may well have lost its veneer of childlike innocence in the process, but it has been replaced by a maturity that will cling to it for years to come, a glimpse of the genuine dramatic clout that our young actors can muster when they are given the proper tools and unleashed upon a captive, and crucially open-minded, audience.

Tim Kiely

# PETER PAN











## CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S OVERVIEW

**T**he CCF's 101<sup>st</sup> year could have been a bit of a damp squib after the excitement of the Centenary. But in fact it has proved one of the most memorable of recent years, with unprecedented successes, unprecedented activities, and such successful recruitment that many volunteers had to be turned away. What is the attraction? Read on....

### Inspection

The Annual General Inspection was unprecedented as well – the first in living memory to be so spectacularly 'rained off' that the programme had to be radically curtailed and the presentations transferred to Big School. The Contingent did manage to parade and march past in style before the heaviest rain hit, and then demonstrated the age-old military skill of 'Improvise, Adapt, Overcome' to present a modified range of indoor activities, leading to an extremely damp but cheerful and good-humoured gathering in Big School. The Inspecting Officer, Colonel D J Paterson OBE, lately

of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, to which we are affiliated, covered all bases by complimenting the cadets both on the quality of their drill and on the remarkable skill with which they adapted to the ever-changing plans of the evening. It was particularly good to be joined by friends from the local Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps – we hope this will lead to a closer relationship in the future.

### Team Achievements

The weekend after the Inspection, the tri-service Skill at Arms Team pulled off their second victory in two years at the Brigade Competition at Kingsbury Ranges, winning all CCF competitions outright and trouncing all the ACF but our old rivals from Warwickshire C Coy. This continued something of a winning streak: the Brigade Military Skills Shield already resided in our trophy cabinet after a strong team performance in October, and was soon to be joined by the Brigade First Aid Trophy for an outright victory at Tyddesley Wood in June by a combined RN/RAF



**Regional First Aid Champions**



team. This qualifies us again for the National Finals at Sandhurst, and we hope to regain our national title there. Only the March and Shoot prevented us achieving a clean sweep of Brigade competitions, and we have high hopes of next year after our successes at Penhale Summer Camp, where our junior team won the March & Shoot, and a combined senior and junior team won the senior Assault Course. The RAF too did us proud, with a close third in the Regional Ground Training.

## Individual Achievements and Opportunities

This year there are far too many individual achievements to record them all, as I have tried to do in the past. From Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award to Cadet Leadership Courses, Ocean Diver and Open Water Diver qualifications, First Aid courses, to Gliding and Flying Scholarships and Sail Training, our cadets have acquitted themselves well; some of them have written about the highlights in the following pages. The Royal Navy continues to offer a stunning portfolio of courses, and cadets have attended courses in diesel engines, powerboat driving, military training, range firing, leadership training, and naval warfare. A particular highlight was the development of the SCUBA Diving programme to an altogether new level – see below. And I'm sure I've forgotten something – but this should give an idea of the huge range of opportunities available to CCF cadets with a bit of enterprise.

## Training Opportunities

Mind you, even if you confine yourself only to what is organised by School staff, there are still plenty of things to do. Since the last *Chronicle* staff have taken cadets to Summer Camp at Penhale in Cornwall (Army) and RAF Valley in Anglesey, where Cpl Govind Sharma was given a flight in a Hawk jet trainer, as used by the Red Arrows, as a reward for being voted best cadet on camp. Expeditions Weekends have been organised for all cadets in the RN Section at Capel Curig, for adventurous training, and at HMS Bristol in Portsmouth, for water-based training and night navigation in the Solent; the RAF Section have been en masse to Swynnerton and Nesscliff, playing box and cox with the Army who visited the same training areas in the reverse order. We have also taken cadets flying, gliding, kayaking and sailing on a regular basis, trained them in First Aid and Leadership skills, and guided them over Dartmoor in thoroughly unpleasant conditions.... Again, there is plenty on offer over and above Friday afternoons. So get out there and join in!

## SCUBA

It has been particularly satisfying this year to see the SCUBA programme

take off: what began as a local enterprise organised by Lt Leaver for the RN Section has now blossomed, with the enthusiastic support of Lt Sigston, into a programme offering taster sessions to all fifth year Army and Navy cadets, with the chance to move on to complete a PADI Open Water qualification and join a KES Dive trip to the Red Sea – see the report later in this section for an account of what is planned as an annual experience. This year sixteen senior cadets have qualified as Open Water Divers, together with the Contingent Commander and the OC RN Section, while Lt Sigston has recently progressed from PADI Divemaster to Assistant Instructor.

## Staff News

After thirteen years in the CCF, Squadron Leader T A McMullan decided to hang up his uniform and move on to new challenges; we thank him for a stunning period of service, which saw the RAF Section more than double in size, and become one of the leading Sections in the Western Region. Flight Lieutenant P B Evans takes over the Section, with Flying Officer J C Howard leading the Flying programme. The RN Section too is at its largest for many years, and benefits this year not only from the inspired leadership of Lieutenant R Leaver but from the enthusiasm of Mrs J L Putt, who is assisting with the Section and especially with the Sailing programme. A warm welcome to her. Major Collins is now ably fulfilling the role of 2i/c, and continues to give the Army Section the benefits of his experience, while Lieutenant Sigston has made an excellent job of looking after Connolly Platoon as well as the Diving programme. Finally, we congratulate WO1 C Storey, the SSI, not only on his leadership of a wide range of military and adventurous training, but on gaining his Winter Mountain Leader qualification last winter – no easy feat! We are still short of Officers, however: if any colleagues feel like giving us a hand, just let us know....

## And finally, Thank You

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

**"AGAIN,  
THERE IS  
PLENTY ON  
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FRIDAY  
AFTERNOONS.  
SO GET OUT  
THERE AND  
JOIN IN!"**



Cadets firing on the .22 range



# ARMY SECTION

## Army Summer Camp Penhale 2007

Seventeen Army cadets and a single Royal Navy cadet from King Edward's School arrived after a mammoth coach journey at sunny Penhale camp on the coast of Cornwall. Before many of the Connolly boys had even had time to unpack, their attention had been taken by groups of young female cadets, and before long various Connolly cadets had gone AWOL.

After a late night the group was woken up by the dulcet tones of Robin Joseph. The first day was devoted to military skills, the highlight being the "Bravo 20" simulation, in which the group was taken hostage by terrorists armed with high-powered super soakers. We were also taken over an assault course which was mainly in a river. On the second day, we enjoyed rock climbing, abseiling and body boarding along with some general lazing about on the beach. On Monday evening we faced the first of the 3 "Penhale Challenges", orienteering. This has never been a strong point of King Edward's CCF, and despite strong performances from Michael Hoffman and George Anfilogoff the team still finished low down.

Tuesday was our Range Day: we gained experience on how to fire and clean light support weapons. There was also a session in which survival skills were learnt. That evening saw "March and Shoot", the second of the Penhale Challenges. The junior team finished a 1.5 mile March and Shoot course with a time of 17.20, while the senior team managed 16.10. We had to wait till the final parade to find out the results for this competition. Wednesday was the turn of Cadet Skills: the group was separated into 2 teams and each team went through 8 stands, accumulating points. The day was going very well until a group of junior cadets went onto the range. During their time on the range one of the boys fired a round, which landed only a matter of centimeters from the Sergeant's left boot. At that point the rest of the group, watching, fell silent. Luckily the Sergeant did not hold grudges, and both team progressed through the rest of the day, scoring very highly.

Our final full day was a Water Sports day, when all boys had a go at kayaking, sailing and raft building. Some stayed a lot drier than others. That evening was the final Penhale Challenge: the obstacle course. We went flat out and had high hopes of winning with a time of 3.55; but again, we had to wait till the final parade to find out the results. The wait was worthwhile: King Edward's CCF gained the following medals:

- 1<sup>st</sup> U16 March and Shoot
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior March and Shoot
- 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Obstacle Course

This capped a very successful camp, with prizes going to Hamish Robertson, Henry O'Brien, Mike Thebridge and Prashant Desai. Finally, a

special thank you to all the staff who came on camp with the group and helped it to be another successful summer camp.

*Prashant Desai*

## Dartmoor Leadership Training Weekend

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, while everyone else was looking forwards to the start of their Christmas holidays, the Cadre year of the Army Section was bundled away in a minibus to Dartmoor – the training ground of the Royal Marines.

We arrived at 10pm, to be faced with a two-hour walk to 'camp' in darkness and rain. The next three hours were challenging for all members of the group, navigation being the hardest task we had to contend with. We finally arrived at 'camp' - a large field of heather - at 1 a.m., hastily set up our tents and were soon asleep. We were up bright and early the next morning ready for a full day's walk. We were very lucky with the weather; hence navigation was not a problem. A highlight of the day was finding the book at the old post-box, which all visitors are to sign – we even saw the previous year's Dartmoor group's entry! Finally we arrived at our last campsite: this time a proper

**"8KM OF  
CONCRETE  
REALLY DOES  
NO GOOD FOR  
YOUR FEET"**

camping place, with a pub. Hot food, pool and darts were enjoyed by all, though by far the most popular activity was sitting in front of the rather cosy fire inside one of the pubs!

The next morning we all woke with a fresh sense of optimism: we were walking home today! There was a rather long walk between us and home, but we were all in a hurry and soon reached the 8km downhill concrete path to the minibus. This may sound good, but 8km of concrete really does no good for your feet, as many cadets in the group found out! But finally we reached the minibus, headed back to Birmingham, and began to get back into the festive spirit!

It was a very tiring but thoroughly enjoyable trip and I must thank all the staff that accompanied us, in particular Major Collins and WO1 Storey, who walked with us the whole way and whose stories really kept us going!

*Harpreet Gohel*



**It's a hard life in the army....**





Major Collins rallying his troops





## RAF Valley Summer Camp

After another busy year of inspections, drills and competitions, the annual CCF Summer Camp was held at RAF Valley, a Royal Air Force station on the island of Anglesey, Wales, which provides advanced pilot training using the BAE Hawks.

No. 4 Flying Training School (4FTS) takes RAF and Royal Navy pilots and trains them to fly fast jets. 4 FTS is divided into two squadrons; 208 Sqn provides the advanced flying training, while 19 Sqn offers tactics and weapons training. Valley is also home to 22 Sqn, with Sea King helicopters which are busy in a Search and Rescue role, rescuing people from the Irish Sea, the mountains of nearby Snowdonia and elsewhere.

The camp started off with a slight shock, followed by some excitement. Four of the KES cadets, fresh from pushing our broken-down minibus into a parking bay, were sent to the barbers to receive some militarily "fashionable" haircuts - which was greeted with much delight, as you can imagine! Yet the arrival of the other, mixed, CCF schools, turned the atmosphere back to anticipation and excitement. The evening's activities started with the splitting of 50 cadets into competing "flights" and some bonding exercises on the beach, which included inter-flight football and softball, before a BBQ and a formal welcome by the section commander, who emphasised the fact that the next week would be both exhilarating and educational; which proved to be true!

All 50 cadets were told at the start of the week that the best cadet would be allowed to fly in a Hawk T1, an aircraft currently used at RAF Valley for fast-jet pilot advanced flying training with No 208(R) Squadron, and at RAF Scampton by the RAF Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows. In its

weapons and tactical training role the Hawk is used to teach air combat, air-to-air firing, air-to-ground firing and low-flying techniques and operational procedures. Its maximum speed of 550kts is something like 7miles/minute! So when I was informed that I had been chosen as best cadet I was in a euphoric mood: I would be actually sitting in a Hawk. But only if the medical went well....

On the Friday morning, I woke to the sound of thunder bellowing outside and rain lashing upon the window. Perhaps the idea of flying in the Hawk was unrealistic, especially in this weather. But with a few words of encouragement from the other cadets, I was off with Mr Evans, heading to the medical centre. Fortunately the weather cleared up, I was deemed fit to fly and so headed over to 208 squadron to be "suited 'n' booted".

The Hawk pilot drew out our route, which went from RAF Valley to Liverpool, over the Mersey and back again. If I had to describe my flight in a few words, I think the words "immense", "awesome" and "stomach turning" would come to mind! It was an indescribable experience and I was honoured to have been chosen for the flight.

At the camp disco on the final night, cadet awards were given out and by 9pm the party was ready to begin. The next two hours seemed to be a blur of excessive jumping, cheering and attempted break-dancing. Yet the image of Mr Evans and Mr Howard dancing to the Cha Cha Slide remains unforgettable.

It was a perfect end to an amazing week and all thanks must be given to Flight Lieutenant Evans and Flying Officer Howard, without whose efforts and planning it would not have been possible.

*Cpl.Govind Sharma*

"IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE MY FLIGHT IN A FEW WORDS, I THINK THE WORDS "IMMENSE", "AWESOME" AND "STOMACH TURNING" WOULD COME TO MIND!"





## Air Cadet Leadership Course

"Air Cadet Leadership Course No. 77", from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2007, was how we were collectively referred to by Sqn Ldr Miller, Course Commandant, throughout one of the most prestigious RAF courses available to cadets. Joining 38 ATC and CCF cadets from across the country at RAF College Cranwell were 2 Hong Kong Air Cadets, as part of the International Air Cadet Exchange.

Every morning started, at 0530hrs, with drill, during which we would prepare for the graduation ceremony at the end of the course. Much of the course was concentrated on developing leadership through the form of command tasks, with each cadet completing at least 3 command tasks during the week, each one increasing in difficulty. Much guidance and feedback was given to cadets in the form of task, mid-course, and end-of-course debriefs, thus identifying our strengths and weaknesses, allowing us to develop the best within ourselves. Theory of Leadership lessons and presentations also taught us different styles of leading a group and how to deal with certain situations effectively.

Wednesday morning saw the course move out to Beekingham Training Area, where we were pushed to our limits in the form of phase 3 command tasks, PT, log runs and orienteering, followed by a night exercise. This highly demanding phase is even more challenging when sleep deprivation kicks in, making it even harder to concentrate than at the start of the course. Determination and resilience are essential in passing this arduous part of the course.

Come the end of the course, we had found a new sense of pride, which was evident in the standard of our drill as we halted on the parade square, with the picturesque image of College Hall behind us. No doubt this pride grew when we turned to face Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Moulds, who was to inspect the parade.

In all, I found it an immensely enjoyable week. I made friends whom I will never forget. It is a very demanding course, which requires a great amount of dedication and persistence to pass. I learned so much about teamwork and leadership, as well as about myself. I look forward to developing such leadership skills when I return to the RAF section as a Non-Commissioned Officer, to teach Cadre what I have learnt.

*Sgt Prathiba De Silva*

**"EVERY MORNING STARTED, AT 05 30HRS, WITH DRILL"**



# NAVY SECTION

## Royal Navy Section

One are the days of the Royal Navy section struggling to recruit: in recent years the Section has undergone a renaissance, growing year on year in size and stature from a small, rather inconsequential outfit with an NCO complement of 3 into an integral part of the CCF with 10 NCOs. They were all kept busy, though, by the 16 new recruits joining at the beginning of the year: a record haul. Although the Section was without Ms Leaver for the early weeks of term, under the able guidance of Sqn Ldr Raynor the NCOs pulled together and began one of the most successful years yet.

Not long after the uniform had been issued it was time for the first expedition of the year, to Capel Curig Army base in the Welsh Mountains. Here cadets experienced everything from rock climbing to kayaking, and also a new and welcome addition to the programme, mountain biking in the Welsh mountains. As is prone to happen in Wales, the heavens opened: but everyone enjoyed what were for most new experiences, albeit muddy and slightly painful ones in places. The now infamous and highly mysterious night exercise arranged by the NCOs took place on the Friday night. Although the sight of slightly inept Cadets sneaking around an Army base at night aroused some suspicion amongst the guards, the night's team building exercises were deemed a success. One NCO's shoes are still missing in action.

After we had returned and washed off all the Welsh mud, it was back to a busy schedule of sailing and kayaking with the help of Mr Cumberland, as well as training exercises, weapon drills and the character-building marching practices. The NCOs were determined to win the Annual Intersection Competition held on the last Friday before Christmas, and went on to do just that, for the second time in four years.

The months flew by and all too soon the second

expedition of the year was upon us. In March the Naval section embarked on the epic voyage through the labyrinth of roadworks that separate Birmingham from HMS Bristol. HMS Bristol is a destroyer that saw service in the Falklands but is now moored permanently alongside in Portsmouth for use as a training ship. The skills of boat handling and navigation that had been practiced throughout the year were put to the test during excursions into the Solent and to the Isle of Wight for the Fourths, whilst the NCOs and Fifth year cadets went for a team-building exercise of paintballing. After a thoroughly bruising encounter with a team from China, and a birthday party, the RN section returned to HMS Bristol victorious. Later that night the NCOs took a boat out into the Solent in what can only be described as adverse weather conditions whilst the Fourths played football in the cavernous hall that is the RN drill shed. Although the NCOs learned how large ferries look close up, we all returned safely and almost dry. On the Sunday before we returned home we toured the historic dockyard of Portsmouth, including the awe-inspiring HMS Victory.

Once home, we began preparations for the Annual General Inspection: as always the Navy Section performed excellently, even when driving rain and wind threatened to carry the PO caps away. The indoor display was, as usual, hampered by the Pool acoustics and lighting problems. If only the school would invest in a lake!

All too soon the year was over: as most of the kit returned to stores, the departing NCOs passed the torch on to the Divisions, who we are sure will carry on the success of the Naval Section. I speak for all the NCOs when I offer my sincere thanks to Lt Leaver, Sqn Ldr Raynor, WO1 Storey and Mr Cumberland for offering their time throughout the year. Lastly we have to thank the cadets for putting everything into the afternoons.

PO Mark Woodward

"EVERYONE ENJOYED WHAT WERE FOR MOST NEW EXPERIENCES, ALBEIT MUDDY AND SLIGHTLY PAINFUL ONES IN PLACES."



## Range Firing Course

**A**t the beginning of July 2006, I went to HMS Raleigh to do a range-firing week with the L98 Rifle. I started the week not knowing how to use this weapon at all, but after a long morning of commands, everyone on the course knew how to assemble, disassemble and fire the weapon efficiently.

Because this was a time when more British troops were being sent to Iraq, a lot of the firing ranges were taken up for practising, so we only got 3 days of shooting. In this time, however, I fired 200 rounds and managed to get a first class shooting badge. For the rest of the week, we used a simulator for the SA80 rifle, which is also employed by the British army, and visited some of the Naval museums.

All in all, the week was very enjoyable and I acquired a whole group of new friends. I also learned valuable skills with the L98 and found out what it was like to stay on an active Naval base.

Kyle Berman

## Dartmouth

**T**he Dartmouth summer camp takes place over the course of a week in the summer holidays. It is hosted by the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and the course involves everything from knot work to power boating to leadership exercises.

The cadets arriving in our smart civilian clothes at Totnes Station during a downpour got rather wet whilst loading the bags onto a removal lorry. The course comprised 250 cadets, hence the heavy haulage. After a short coach journey through the countryside we came upon our first sight of the magnificent college façade, which we would all become acquainted with over the next

week. Once inside in the dry, we were allocated rooms and spent the next hour finding them.

The cadets were split into six rival groups all named after different Trafalgar Class submarines. Over the week points were awarded for different activities and these made an overall winner at the end. Most days were taken up with different naval activities, from going on the Bridge Simulator of a Type 23 Frigate to leadership tasks to excursions in the Picket boats along the River Dart and out into the open sea. Every morning there was a drill practice, preparing for the final parade in front of a visiting dignitary: in our case it was the Duke of Westminster who inspected the parade. Standing in the heat for an hour, unable to move an inch, took its toll on some people: cadets were reminded by the Chief not to hit their heads on the tarmac if they fainted: *'the bloodstains are very hard to get out'*.

After the parade the camp became more relaxed and wind down activities included a barbecue and summer games such as the *'Wellington boot throwing competition'*. That night the winning squad was announced and everyone had a final night in the cricket pavilion that doubles up as a bar. The next morning everyone said their goodbyes, masculine handshakes all round, and the tears flowed. The emotion showed in the final meeting on the quarterdeck was a testament to the bonds of friendship that developed between everyone on the course. The week highlighted everything that the CCF can offer to *all* cadets and not just those who want to join the forces. After an action-packed week for everyone, it was back onto the nation's rail network: the bewildered ticket inspector wondered why so many young people got on to her now-packed-out train at Totnes.

Mark Woodward





## Ocean Diver Course

The Ocean Diver course is probably one of the best courses that is available for cadets in the Navy section: it provides a vastly subsidised opportunity to qualify as a BSAC Ocean Diver.

The course was held at HMS Raleigh in Plymouth and was attended by cadets from many different schools from all over the UK. The first day saw us allocated diving equipment along with a form containing the daunting prices of kit you really didn't want to break. On the second day we had pool training and were taught all the information needed for the incredibly tricky multiple choice theory assessment. The first problem I encountered in the pool training was the need to breathe through a snorkel, not my nose. The second pool session of the day was the first one involving our Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus, or SCUBA equipment. Putting it all together was quite complicated, due to there being many tubes to put in the right holes.

The next two days consisted of finishing off the pool training, doing the swim assessment and being taught the contents of the teaching manual, which in itself took a tedious six hours. On the third day we dived in a six metre deep tank so that we could test out our equipment properly and prove that we could carry out the Valsalva manoeuvre, necessary to accommodate pressure changes when diving at greater depths.

On the fourth day, we travelled to Bovisand where the first two sessions of open water diving would be carried out. The first four dives were only relatively shallow, up to ten metres, and the visibility was rather poor: only two and a half metres on one dive. That evening we took the test which would almost qualify us, only twelve minutes additional dive time being required. We all passed, leaving us with the penultimate day to relax.

As a last treat, we were to travel out to the wreck of the *Glen Strathallan*, where we would dive to around twenty metres to see the wreck. Along with the boilers, we saw a pair of hefty adult conger eels and, with the visibility easily fifteen metres, a few cuttlefish and other sealife. We were then allowed to take the last dive of our trip with another cadet, giving us the freedom to dive around Bovisand harbour, and pick up a few scallops to have on the barbecue.

## Marsa Alam

Thirteen of us, Army and Navy cadets, flew to Marsa Alam, in Egypt, to expand our experience of Scuba diving. Our first contact with water was in the bath-like swimming pools at the Coral Beach Hotel, but after that each day involved us in diving at various locations in the area. We left at around 8 a.m. every day and dived at some of the most spectacular locations nearby, taught and helped by the two local dive instructors, Aladino and Wael.

At Marsa Mabarak we dived only to depths of around 10 metres, as for many of us this was our first dive in the open sea. This first day was to get us used to the water and to make sure that we had a good grasp of buoyancy before diving any deeper. It was amazing, diving for the first time in the open sea: compared to a cold English quarry, it was heaven. The surface temperature of the water was around 33°C and even the bottom temperature was 28°C, which is around 10°C warmer than the school Swimming Pool. Wet suits were not needed for this trip.

For most of the inexperienced divers, the only wildlife we had seen was the odd pike at Dosthill Quarry, so we were all amazed by the huge numbers of fish, the coral and aquatic biodiversity we could see, and this before we had even submerged. And once we had, there was a mass of aquatic wildlife and the sea was full of colour. Even on our first dive we saw lionfish, one of the most poisonous fish in the water, eels and yellow-spotted rays. We also saw "Nemo" fish, as the majority of us called them, which were rather friendly: if you were to wave your finger, the fish would happily try to chase it. This trick was shown us by one of the dive instructors, Aladino.

The highlight of the week was when we went to Marsa Shouni, where we saw a turtle which looked about the size of a Mini. It was amazing to see such a big creature swim off gracefully, and surprisingly quickly, as we tried to get a closer look. During the dives you could see a noticeable improvement in our buoyancy control and underwater skills: and we soon became very efficient with our air intakes once we stopped panicking and learned to feel at ease at depths of close to 30 metres.

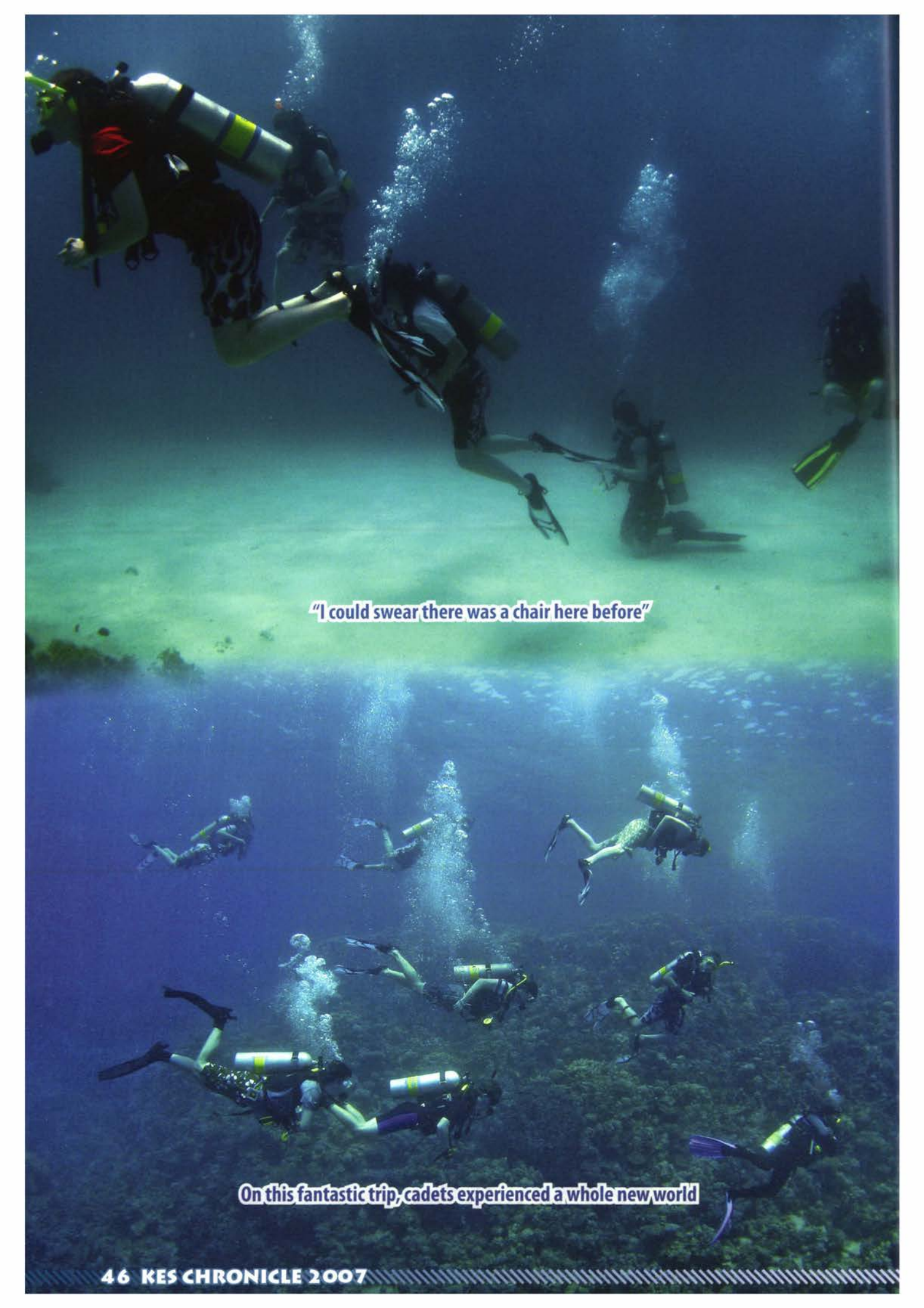
I would like to thank all the staff on the boat, especially the chef who made delicious lunches for us everyday. The crew made us feel very welcome and made the experience a lot more enjoyable. Thanks also to Miss Sigston, Miss Leaver and Paul Goodard who put up with us for a week and made sure that the week was one of the best any of us had ever had. I myself have very vivid and fond memories: this trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and for many has fuelled a passion for diving.

**"THE  
HIGHLIGHT  
OF THE WEEK  
WAS WHEN  
WE WENT  
TO MARSA  
SHOUNI,  
WHERE WE  
SAW A TURTLE  
WHICH  
LOOKED  
ABOUT THE  
SIZE OF A  
MINI."**







A large group of divers is shown underwater in a deep blue environment. In the upper half, several divers are clustered together, with one diver in the foreground wearing a white tank and a patterned swimsuit. Bubbles rise from their regulators. In the lower half, more divers are scattered across the frame, some swimming horizontally and others vertically. The background is a dark, textured seabed. The overall scene conveys a sense of exploration and adventure.

"I could swear there was a chair here before"

On this fantastic trip, cadets experienced a whole new world



# pictures



"Wrap" Joe Bunce (GCSE exam 5th Year)  
Acrylic





"Still-life" Joe Neary (4th Year)  
Acrylic



"Still-life" Aaron Rai (4th Year)  
Acrylic



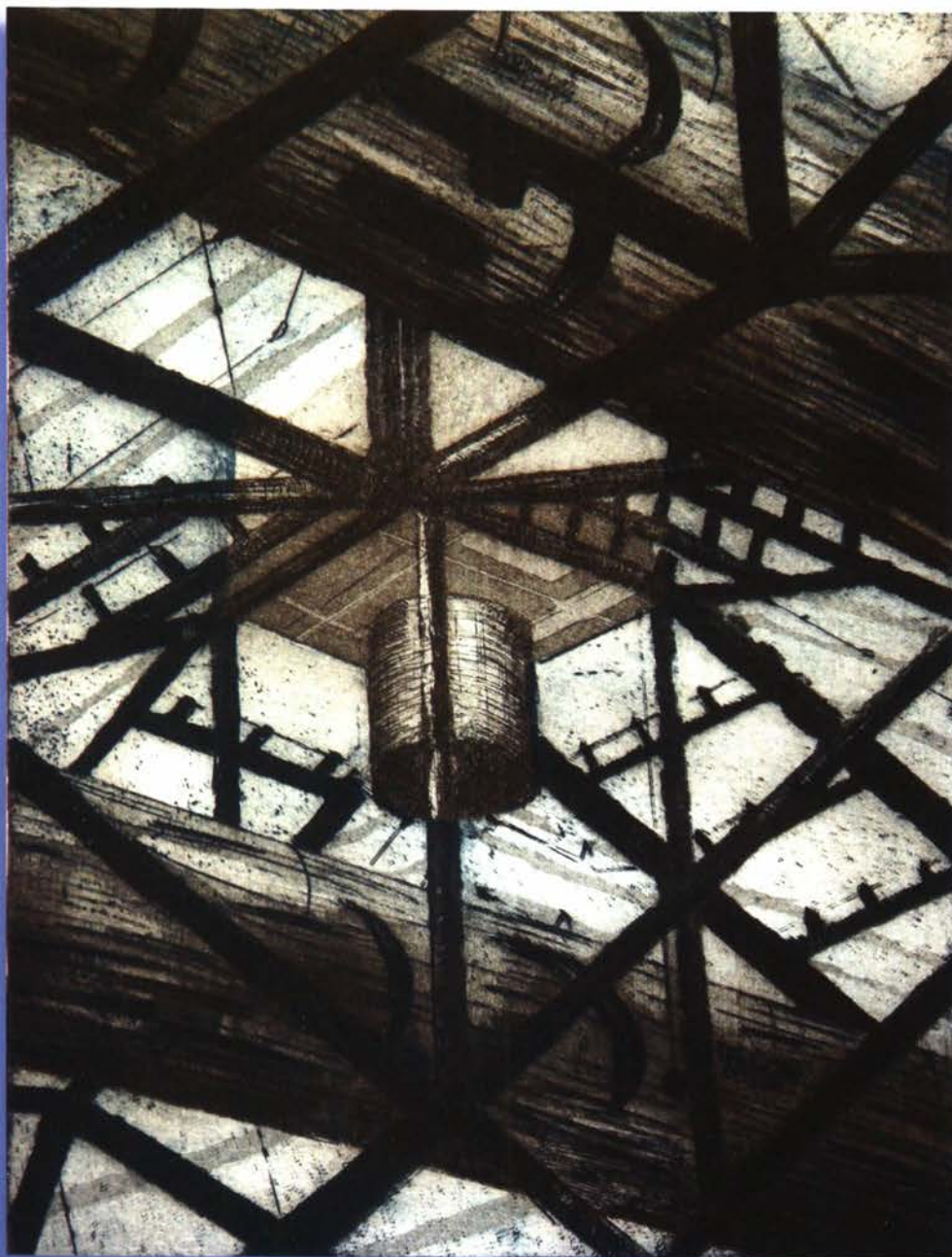


"Still-life" Gareth Davies (4th Year)  
Acrylic

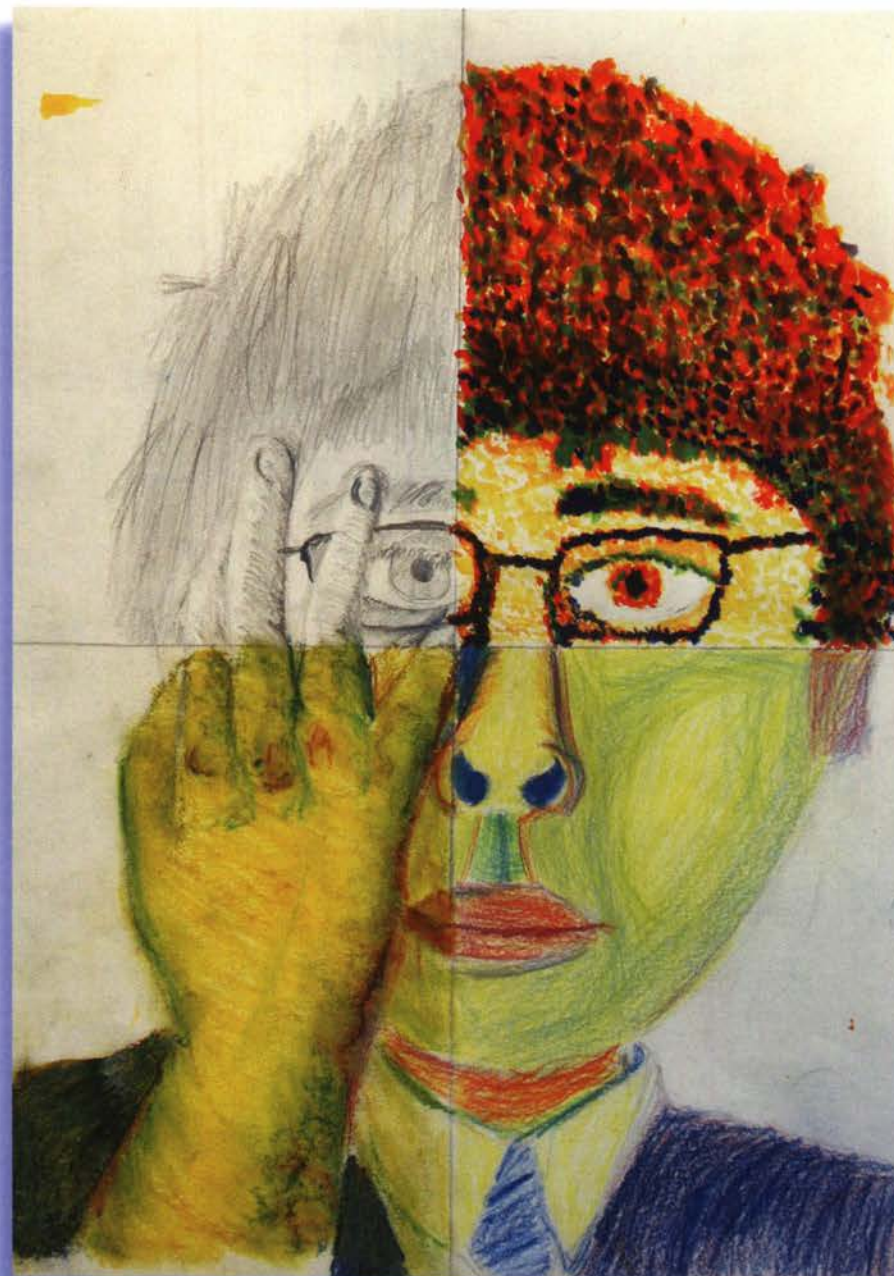


"Still-life" Matt Poole (4th Year)  
Acrylic



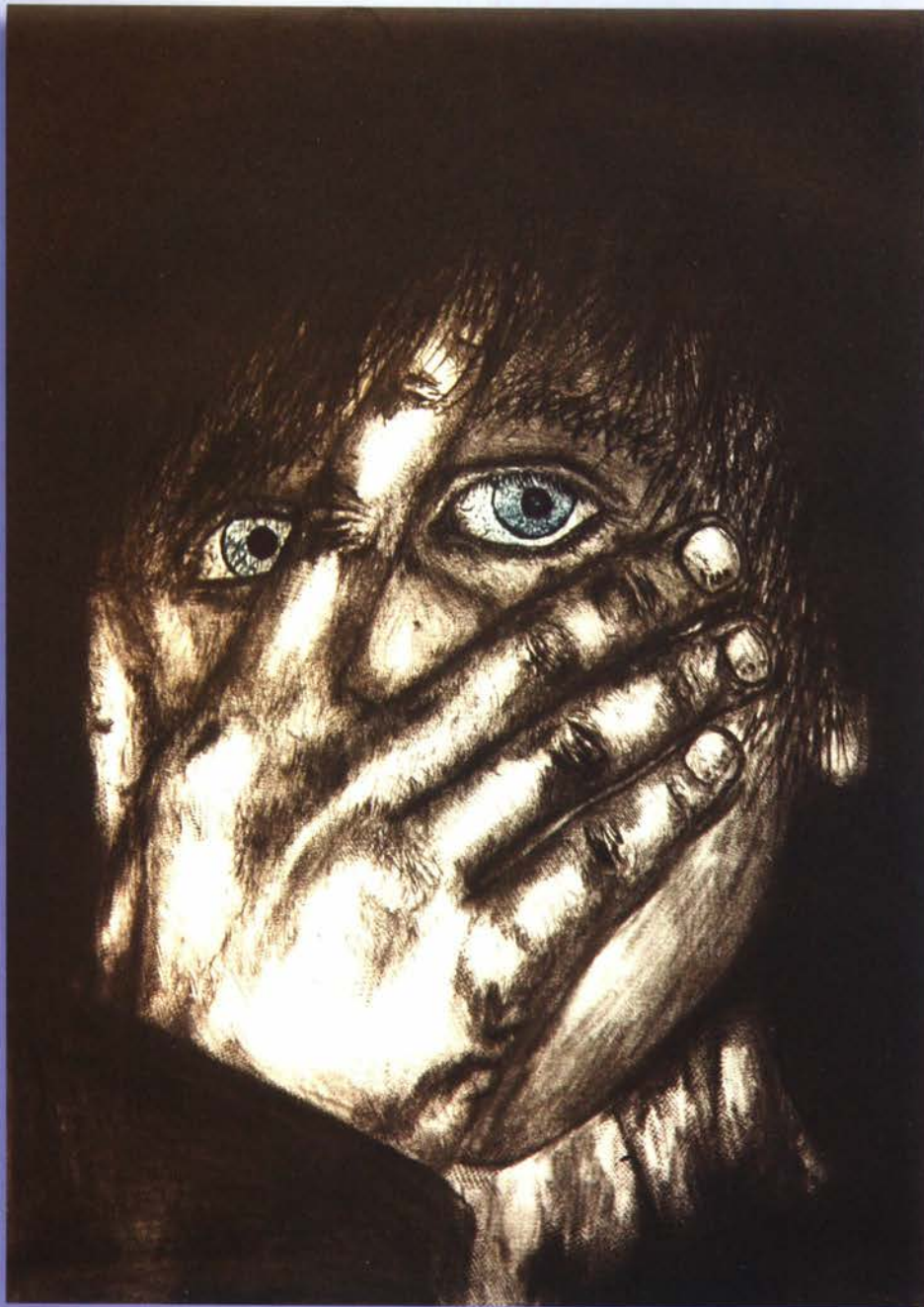


"Roof Structure, Birmingham" Gareth Davies (4<sup>th</sup> year)  
Etching

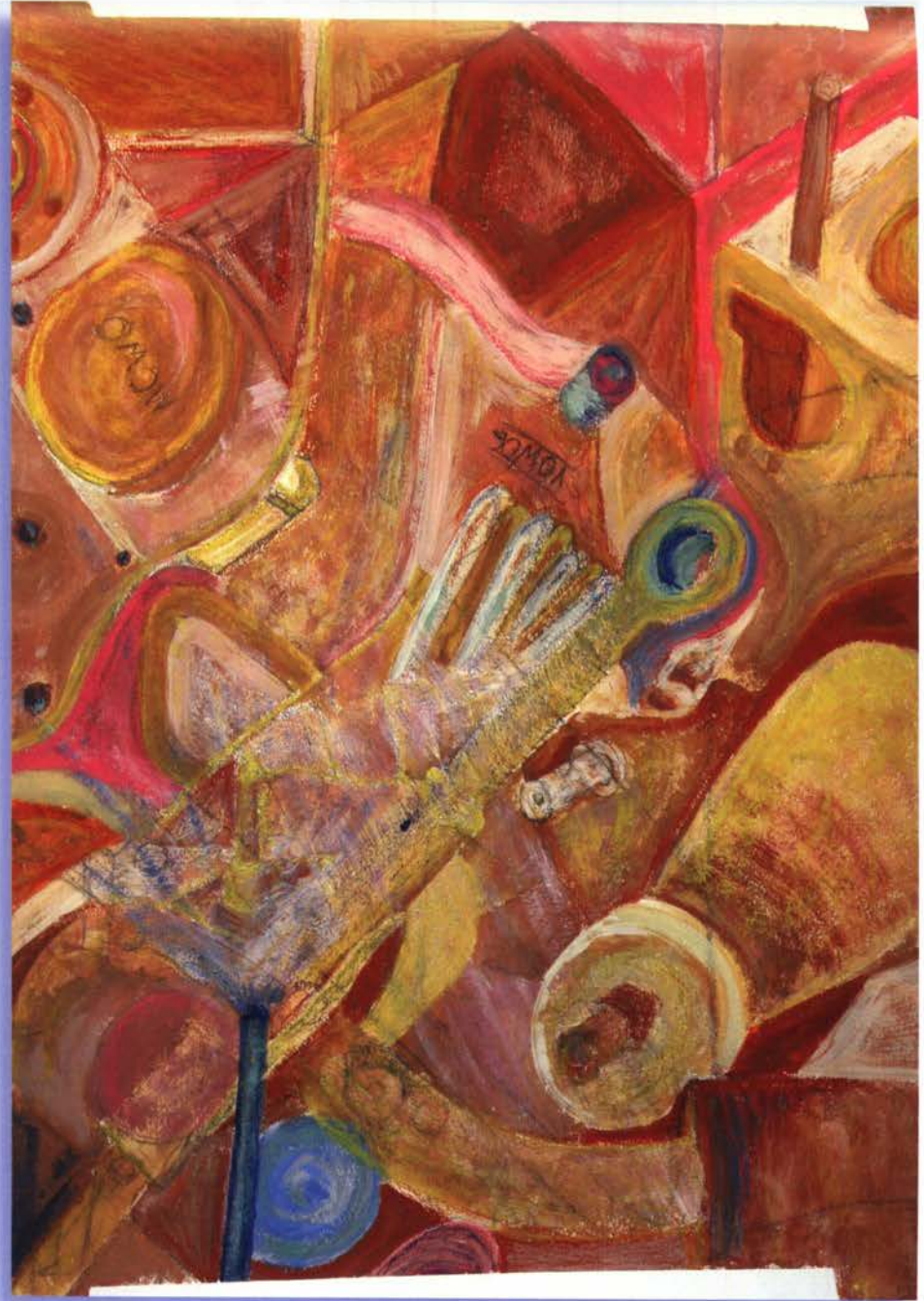


"Self-Portrait" Dat-Lun Woon (Shell)  
Mixed Media



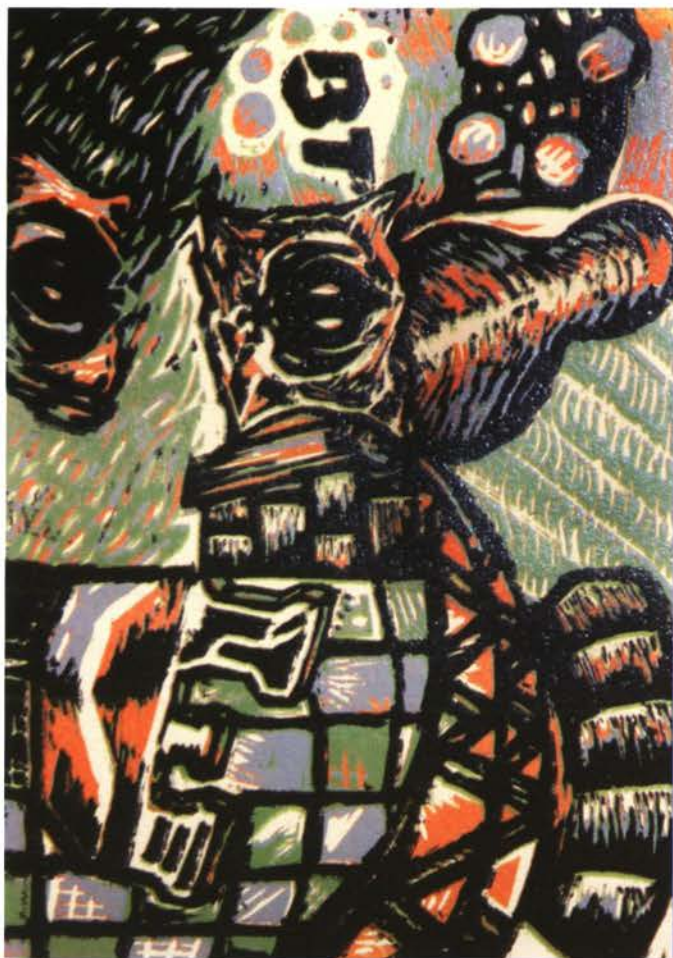


"Self-Portrait" James Reilly (4<sup>th</sup> year)  
Engraving



"Mechanical Forms" Jamie Wheeler (UM)  
Mixed Media





"Birmingham" Amrit Chahal (5<sup>th</sup> year)  
Lino Print



"Birmingham" Alex MacPherson (5<sup>th</sup> year)  
Lino Print

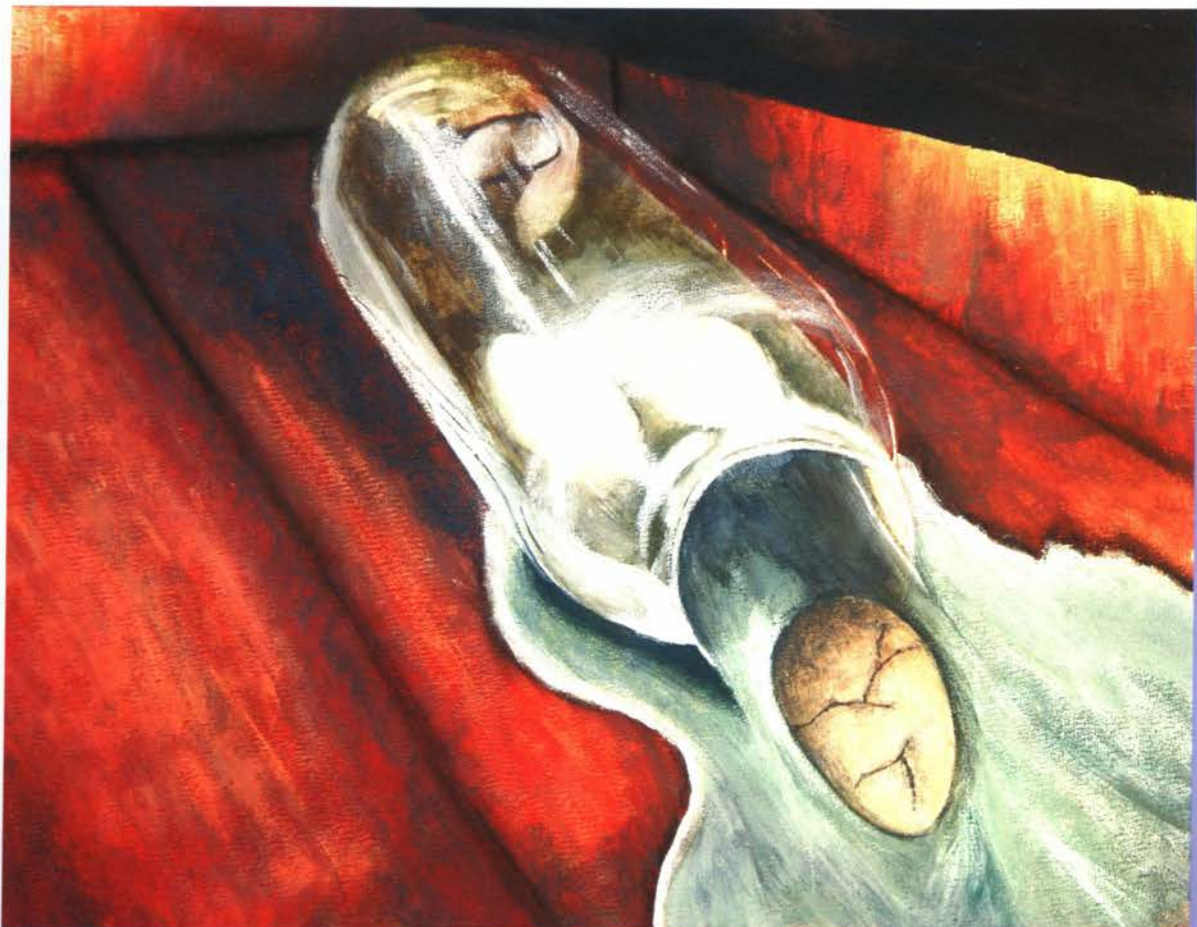


"Self-Portrait, Music" Mike Thebridge (5<sup>th</sup> year)  
Mixed Media





"Wrap" Gary Berns (GCSE exam 5<sup>th</sup> year)  
Mixed Media



"Wrap" Bob Cheel (GCSE exam 5<sup>th</sup> year)  
Acrylic





Untitled Tom Davies (6<sup>th</sup> year)  
Cellograph and Etching



"Hands" Iain Hutchinson (6<sup>th</sup> year)  
Oil Paint



# trips

## Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls

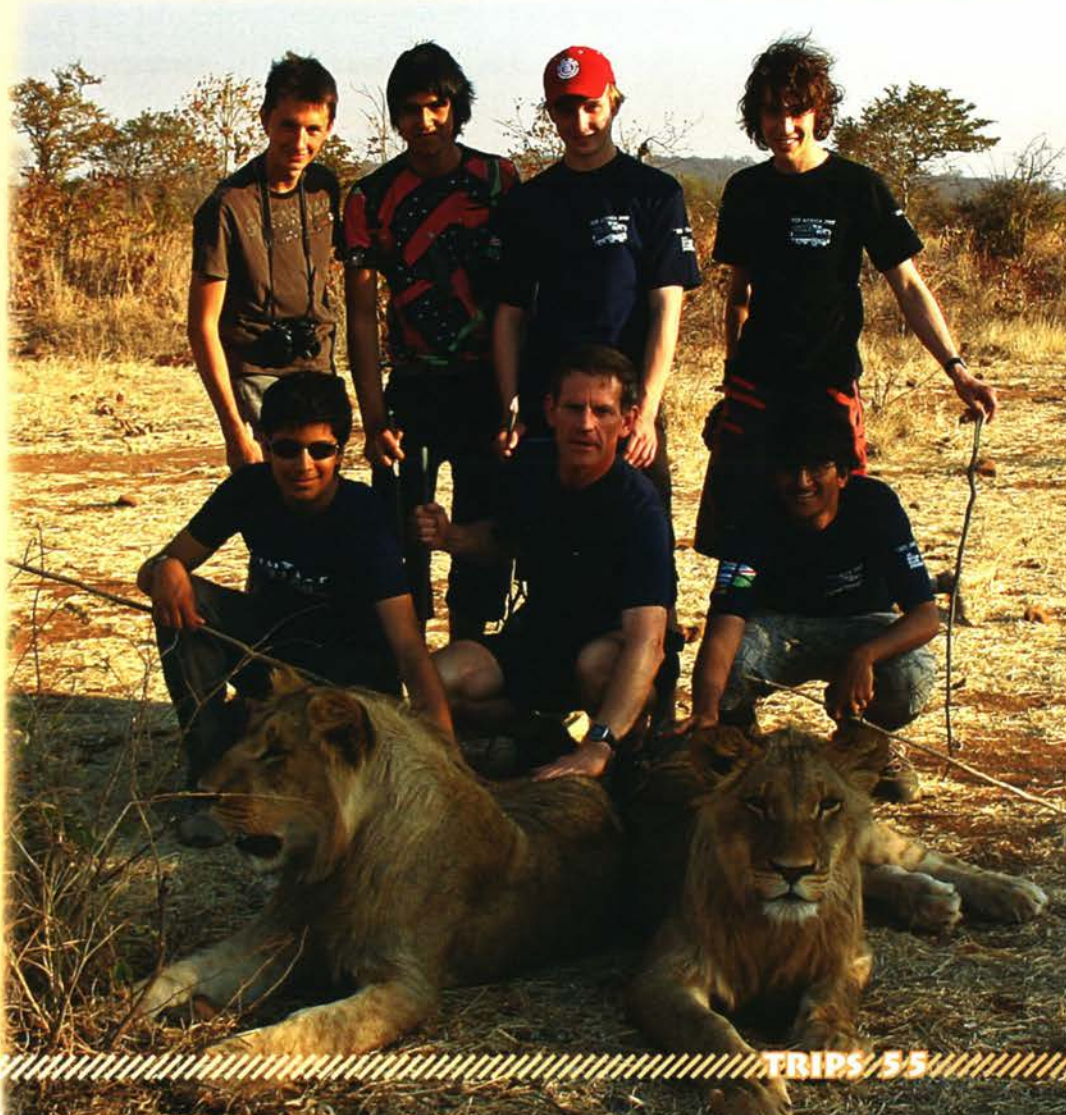
**A**frica was a richly varied experience. The scenery was breath-taking yet unforgiving, the animals were extremely photogenic and the people were always friendly and open. There were also a few digressions from our tour of the 'real' Africa. We quad-biked, sand-boarded and many of us indulged in adrenaline-fuelled activities at Victoria Falls including zip-wires, gorge swings and bungee jumps. However, it was the people we encountered that truly made this a life changing experience.

Arriving in Windhoek, Namibia, by way of Johannesburg, we were greeted by our guides, Vic and Shaun, and our cook and driver, Mark and Finni. After loading up the 30-seater overland truck in which we would be spending most of our trip, we set off on the long and dusty road.

The Spitzkoppe is a mysterious site, sacred to the San people. Huge granite rocks hundreds of feet in height surrounded our campsite. We spent the night without tents, choosing instead to sleep beneath the stars. The following day we visited Katora primary school. The children were exuberant to see us arrive. We found ourselves the centre of attention and were begged to take photos and play football with them. We were originally there to resurface the floor of their dining hall. However the work took less time than expected, as there was a professional builder providing us with help. This gave us more time to talk to the students and learn about their lives.

Next on our itinerary was Swakopmund, a small town by our standards but Namibia's second largest city, located on the coast near an astounding sand dune system. We spent a day quad-biking and sand-boarding. Now the trip began in earnest, as we left the westernised Swakopmund behind and headed northwest to Etosha National Park. On the way, we spent a night at a small cheetah reserve where we saw the

**"WE SPENT  
THE NIGHT  
WITHOUT TENTS,  
CHOOSING  
INSTEAD TO  
SLEEP BENEATH  
THE STARS."**





**"HOWEVER,  
THOUGH I  
MAY REMAIN  
IN THE  
COMFORTABLE  
WESTERN  
WORLD, THE  
PEOPLE I  
MET AND  
THE THINGS I  
EXPERIENCED  
IN AFRICA  
WILL STAY  
WITH ME FOR  
THE REST OF  
MY LIFE"**

cheetahs being fed and spent the morning with the owner's three 'pet' cheetahs. We arrived in Etosha hoping to see lions but were disappointed in that respect. However, the spotting of a leopard and a rhino along with dozens of giraffe, several ostriches and herds of zebra more than made up for this. The landscapes were truly astounding: miles and miles of perfectly flat land with vegetation scattered here and there. It was almost unbelievable that so much lived on so little.

After Etosha we continued north and crossed the border into Botswana. Here we visited the Okavango Delta, one of the world's few *inland* deltas. We left our truck with Finni and travelled through the still and completely clear water by makora (small, dug-out canoes). Our polers brought us to a small island where we spent two nights, going on game walks during the day. We were privileged to see a small group of elephants not two hundred metres from our campsite, though we had to be very careful not to provoke them. Also, we took our first bath of the trip in the pure and perfectly drinkable water.

After the delta, we left Botswana to re-enter it further north, giving us access to Chobe National Park where an evening river cruise plus an early morning game drive provided us with photo opportunities with hippos, elephants, buffaloes and the long-sought-after lions!

Finally we entered Zimbabwe to stay at the Victoria Falls. The group split and partook of numerous activities, such as white water rafting down the mighty Zambezi River, airborne tours of the Victoria Falls and walking with lions. The Falls themselves were breathtaking. They are called 'the smoke that thunders' in the local language, and with good reason. The noise was almost deafening and we felt the spray from half a kilometre away. Shaun casually informed us that the water was currently at its lowest. We ended our trip with a night out at The Boma 'Place of Eating', where the meats were exotic and many, the décor was colourful (to say the least) and the post-dinner entertainment was audience participatory. The following day we said our goodbyes and flew out from a Zambian airport.

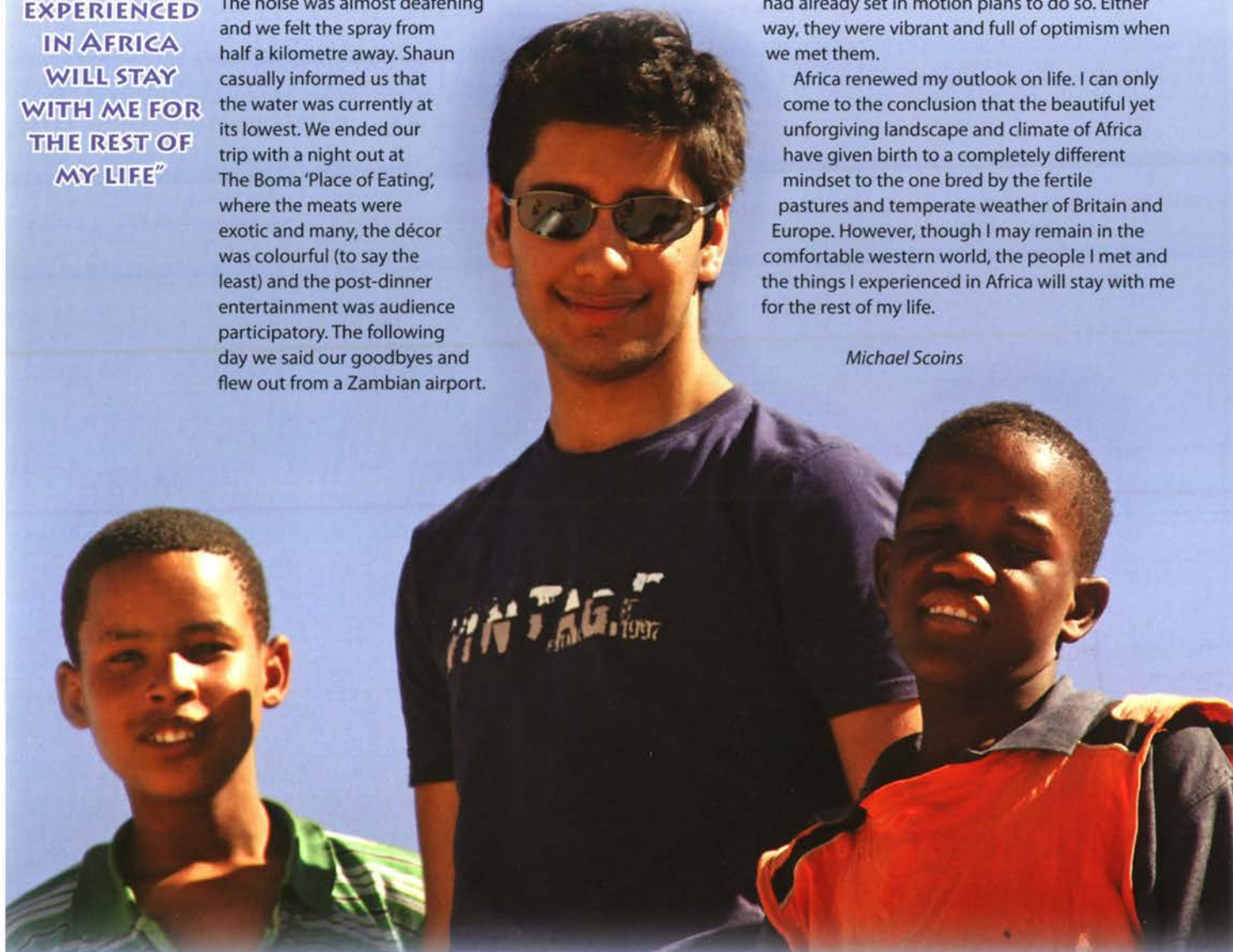
What truly made this a life changing experience was not the bungee jumping or quad biking or even seeing a leopard in the wild. It was the people we saw and talked to. As we travelled along the dirt roads, especially in the more northern parts, we passed numerous villages, the children of which would stand by the road and wave at us as we passed. At times, it seemed that there was nothing for the inhabitants to live off: the arid ground appeared to yield next to nothing.

Our cook, Mark, was a native Zimbabwean. His soups were delicious beyond words, yet he was barely earning enough to keep his four children in school (US\$8 a day for our trip). However, although he was not content with his position Mark didn't complain. He explained that he, like many people he knew, was working tirelessly to provide a better future for his children. What was even more inspiring is that Mark seemed to be succeeding. His cooking abilities had caused another tour group to request him specifically, and there was talk of hiring him for the company rather than having him as a temp.

Even at Katora primary school there seemed to be two types of attitude among the students. There were those who were content with their lives and those who weren't. Both groups were to be admired, because the first found joy and happiness in simplicity, while the second group were fiercely determined to improve their lot and had already set in motion plans to do so. Either way, they were vibrant and full of optimism when we met them.

Africa renewed my outlook on life. I can only come to the conclusion that the beautiful yet unforgiving landscape and climate of Africa have given birth to a completely different mindset to the one bred by the fertile pastures and temperate weather of Britain and Europe. However, though I may remain in the comfortable western world, the people I met and the things I experienced in Africa will stay with me for the rest of my life.

*Michael Scoins*





# Shell Camp

I remember sitting on the coach as it rolled through the countryside, wondering what was going to happen over the next few days. Little did I know it was going to be an unforgettable experience, full of excitement, fear, badly cooked food, loads of laughs and sleepless nights....and the realisation that only we would be camping outdoors, whereas the teachers would be sleeping inside!

My memories of a packed few days include putting up tents (with difficulty); forgetting the warning from Mr Dewar that we should sleep with our heads above our feet, and waking up with a headache; getting up and struggling to put on mud caked clothes; some Shells going 'hardcore' and cooking their own breakfast, but some of us not being able to face it and sloping off for cereal and toast provided at the camp.

The activities were brilliant. The assault course was a great excuse for getting completely filthy. Some Shells were brave enough to face their fear of heights and walked down the abseiling wall with the helpful advice of Mr Storey guiding them. Remembering orienteering gives me strong memories of getting lost in what felt like the middle of nowhere. There was also air rifle shooting and archery. Some of us were good, some not so good, like me. I never actually hit the target!

The highlight, though, of Shell Camp was the Wide Game. The sense of freedom we experienced crashing through the woods was very exciting. Everyone, I am sure, has his own memories of what happened when we raided each other's bases. One of the most memorable for me was of the brave duo, Johnny Browning and Harkaran Kalkat, who unfortunately set up their base on top of a wasps' nest and got stung several times. All part of the Shell Camp experience!

I remember the exhaustion we all felt in the evening, and the smell of bacon giving us extra strength to face the challenge of cooking our own supper after a long and tiring day. Some Shells didn't want to reveal their lack of cooking experience when faced with a blackened slice of bacon, and claimed 'I like my bacon well done!' We did notice, however, that the teachers didn't always enter into the spirit of the open air cooking. We had bacon, chicken and sausages off the camp stove, but the teachers ate pizza!

Another highlight was eating toasted marshmallows and frankfurters around the camp fire, supplied by Mr Boardman. The atmosphere was great in the middle of the woods, with a hot fire going, eating marshmallows and talking to our friends. I'll never forget it. At bed time, some of us slept immediately, some of us never slept at all; there was a lot of talking well past midnight. I think it must have been a dream, but I seem to remember some of us finding ourselves at Shell C's camp around two o'clock in the morning 'helping' them take out their tent pegs. I also seem to remember them returning the favour the next night, when we found that our clothes had disappeared and our tents had collapsed. But perhaps it was all a 'dream'...

I think we will all remember Shell Camp for a long time to come. We were gutted to leave it all behind: the countryside; the freedom; no homework; no parents; personal hygiene being a very low priority; being always covered in mud. This year's Shell forms are in for a treat!

*Noel Newman*

# Madrid Art Trip

A trip to Spain? We could hardly contain our excitement. 30°C plus temperatures, palm trees swaying in the light, warm breeze... So you can imagine our thoughts when we stepped off the plane and into a rather overcast and breezy Madrid. It was only then that we were informed that Spain is not as we imagined it *all* year round. Especially not during February. However, the KES Art Students were not to be disheartened: with the prospect of visiting some of the finest galleries in the world and experiencing the vibrant culture which Spain has to offer, we were raring to go.

It was immediately obvious that Madrid was the perfect location for our trip. Even the airport is a great example of contemporary architecture. We appreciated the beauty of Madrid on our coach trip to the hotel, along with some emergency Spanish lessons from the multi-lingual amongst us.

Due to our tight schedule, we dropped off our bags at our hotel and immediately set off to visit our first gallery. This was the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, which has a stunning collection of not only 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century painting but also Impressionist, Expressionist and Surrealist works. Our gallery visits involved much observed drawing and some contextual seminars given by

Mr Spencer.

For our meal that evening, the majority visited a local tapas restaurant, where some managed to rack up a bill of €70! The less cultured of us sought out Spain's take on McDonald's. The first night also involved the discovery of a self-service bar where beer was sold by the litre; it was a rather expensive night.

Our second day was much more positive, weather-wise, and we were looking forward to visiting numerous galleries including Madrid's Reina Sofía and the Prado, arguably the best art gallery in the world. The second day also proved to be the most eventful when, whilst enjoying our meal in Madrid's only fish and chip restaurant, three of our group had their bags stolen from under their chairs, totally unnoticed. All three had cameras stolen and Ci Yao lost his passport. As a consequence of the thefts we spent the night form-filling at the local police station, which would have been a very difficult task had it not been for the translation Mr Turner could offer.

We were hoping to visit the vast Prado again on the third day, but most of Madrid's tourists had descended upon the gallery that day and we settled for the certainly acceptable substitute, the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo. This offered a selection of contemporary Spanish art which was very different to what we had experienced before and certainly had a great impact upon our thinking and development in our own work.

Like all good things, our trip had to come to an end. All boys enjoyed the trip and took a lot from it: not only a new perspective and inspiration for our artwork but also greater insight into the culture of Spain and an enhanced appreciation of the pleasures of travel.

*Keir Stewart*



# Duke of Edinburgh Scheme: Silver Expedition

**T**he Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expedition is a serious test of one's determination, sheer will, stamina, organisation, independence and capacity for teamwork. Sounds tough? Well yes, it is, but don't let that put you off. It is also the most fulfilling challenge I have ever accepted in my time as a schoolboy.

Despite the hard work I got a lot out of it and found it extremely enjoyable. We met our instructors in Llangollen and began plotting the best way to handle the task at hand. Having done Bronze, we were thoroughly educated in camp craft, map reading and, just in case, first aid too. There were around eight hours of walking a day and different checkpoints we were meant to reach. We each led at least one leg of the journey and, thanks to our knowledge of map reading, we all managed to do it perfectly. Every time we saw an uphill section groaning in unison was inevitable, but as we proceeded we became used to the relief of the land and settled into a nice rhythm, taking breaks when the group felt they were needed.

The first day was the hardest: at least, it seemed so because it was the first time I had climbed a mountain since....well it *was* the first time. On the second day we had to climb four mountains, so you can understand what my face was like when I first saw that day's route.

Overall I can safely say that this expedition is one which I will never forget, because I had such a tremendous time. The countryside we walked through was sheer, untainted beauty. We braved an endless array of mountains, followed the most inconspicuous of trails through woods, waded through thick, boggy marshland, and, if we were lucky, the odd small road was thrown in to give us a rest. This diversity of environment was a joy to experience, as were the astounding views. The teamwork in my group was of a very high standard, as we all helped each other through the tough times we endured, having a surprising amount of fun on the way. The bags we carried were heavy with food, parts of the tent, clothes and so on, yet when we tightened them around our waists the weight felt like nothing. At the top of one mountain I was almost ready to give up when I saw three more stacked in front of me. Then I thought to myself: "If I manage this, when I look back on it I will be amazed and proud at what my body and mind can accomplish when I commit myself." And you know what? *You* could be thinking that, as I am right now.

*Rohith Sunkaraneni*



# Leadership Weekend, March 2007

It was a cold Friday when we prepared ourselves mentally and physically for the challenge that was to be the first Leadership weekend of 2007. Our first hurdle came a lot sooner than we expected; as we mounted the faithful steed, we followed our instincts and began to move to the back of the bus. However, to our dismay we found our rightful seats stolen, prised away from us by Camp Hill Girls' School; this weekend was going to be tough.

Having all managed to decipher a clue given to us prior to our departure, we peered out of the minibus as we neared our destination, but the driving rain that battered our windows told us very little of what was to come. Was this Lawson Roll at his best? Could he in fact control the weather? Was this new clue a step too far? We wanted answers.

The weather failed to improve upon our arrival, but dinner was a jolly affair: a little banter here, a little love there; the supposed rivalries between the Foundation schools had no place where Leadership united all. We were gathered and teams were decided; for the next 48 hours, these people were to be our only friends, our family.

The first game was simple, designed to encourage communication and provide an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other a bit better. This opportunity was furthered

when LMR announced that as we worked hard we played hard; it was off to the pub.

A good night's rest was had by all, but the next day began early. Very early. 6 a.m. to be precise. It was dark, cold and raining, and so the early morning jog wasn't high on the agenda of many people. However, at the end of this jog was the promised land, a clue, a vital clue to help us on our mission, so we wearily pulled on whatever clothing we could find (the combinations were genuinely hilarious) and began the long ascent up what appeared to be a river, and upon closer inspection was confirmed to be, in fact, a river.

The weekend continued in much the same way. The games were designed to challenge us in ways we hadn't anticipated, testing every aspect of our knowledge, fitness and ability to work as a team. Canoeing in a river current that endeavoured to drag us down to a watery grave built character, and orchestrating the rapid movement of stolen gold bullion taught us the necessary skills of the expert bank robber, a career path many of us I'm sure have considered.

The minibus ride home was a world apart from the outbound journey. There was no division between the schools: the bus was filled with chatting and the laughter of school children, and onlookers would have sworn we had all known each other for years. There were promises to stay in touch, and farewells between the schools were heart-wrenching, with hugs being handed out here, there and everywhere.

Our expectations of Leadership had been changed forever, and, thanks to the legend that is Lawson Roll, we were all proud to proclaim: "KES Leadership – more than just barrels and planks"

Matt Hodgkinson

## The German Exchange

After three years of being taught the set phrases and "essential" vocabulary for survival in Germany, it was now time to put it into practice. On a wet Saturday morning in June we touched down in the rain at Frankfurt airport; however, we would not let this dampen our spirits. As we entered the Arrival Hall, we met our exchange counterparts: I was to spend the next week with *die Familie Uhl* and Florian was my exchange partner.

Lampertheim is a little town half an hour away from Frankfurt. We were all staying in either Lampertheim or Bürstadt. The town was very picturesque and typically German: low wooden criss-cross fences in front gardens, wooden shutters on the houses, window boxes in full bloom, and the streets were immaculate. The town itself was a mixture of traditional and modern buildings but what struck me most was the calmness everywhere.

We had all been allocated a work experience placement beforehand. Sandip, Greg and I had the honour to contribute to the *Lampertheimer Zeitung*. Despite there being no big headlines the newspaper was nonetheless informative and enjoyable. The atmosphere at the office was very relaxed and all the employees, especially the head of the Sport section, were welcoming; we frequently entered into deep discussions/debates about sports.

Florian and his family made me feel very welcomed and included me in family occasions, including talk around the dinner table. Although they could speak English, they ensured that they kept to German as I had come to Germany *für die Sprache*. Mealtimes were when the whole family met, and breakfast was traditionally German.

During the week we had numerous opportunities to practise German. On the first day we all met at Boubar, the centre of night life in Lampertheim, and met many German teenagers. We were bombarded with amusing questions regarding everyday life in England. Of course, being in Germany we had to have a taste or two of German beer! The following day we all went to Heidelberg, a beautiful town known for its *Alte Brücke* and its *Philosophenweg*. A couple of days later we took the train to the industrial town of Mannheim for a visit to the Kino to watch *Shrek the Third*.

Florian was in his school theatre group and they were preparing a show based on a comedy called *Minna von Barnhelm* by Gotthold Lessing. As I was staying with Florian, I made many friends at the dress rehearsals. I saw the main performance on the Thursday evening and it was indeed most entertaining, although I must admit my knowledge of German did not stretch as far as a full appreciation of the play.

Boubar welcomed us again on our last evening for our farewell party. It was quite obvious that we had all had a most enjoyable week. We would all like to thank Dr Amann for organising this trip. We all felt the benefit, made great friends and will cherish these memories.

Ed Powell



# Salamanca: Spring, 2007

**T**hirty Spanish GCSE students gathered very early on an April morning by the Foundation Office, to travel to Salamanca. Once there, we were introduced to the families we would spend the following five days with. When we had dropped our luggage and used our Spanish dictionaries to make polite conversation with our hosts, most of us managed to ask permission to go out. A group of us met up in the Plaza Mayor, a lively square full of tourists and good-looking Spanish girls. We got back to our hosts in time for the evening meal, which, as we had been forewarned, was very late: around 9 or 10pm.

The following day we had another rendezvous in Plaza Mayor, whence we were led by the staff to the Don Quijote language school, the 'best part' of our trip. We spent our five mornings in this school, learning Spanish from native Spanish language teachers. Not only did we learn more grammar and vocabulary, but our confidence as speakers got a boost, since we spent the majority of each day speaking Spanish.

Each afternoon a different activity was planned for us. The first day we had a tour of Salamanca, and cameras were clicking non-stop. We saw the cathedrals of the town, as well as having a detailed tour of the Plaza Mayor. A treasure hunt, prepared by the staff and our kind tour guide, Marga, was a pleasant ending to the day.

The following afternoon, a trip to the famous walled town of Avila was on our itinerary. Even the bad weather could not spoil the magnificence of the town. Our tour guide took us around its walls, explaining the history of their construction and of the town.

On Wednesday we were all excited as it was the sports day. Many of us were looking forward to playing football or basketball after the classes. To get us 'warmed up', we were first shown some Spanish games. We then split up into two groups, either to play basketball or football. The weather was very good; perhaps even too hot.

The tour of the Cathedrals and the university on Thursday afternoon left some of us stunned, some of us bored and some of us suffering from vertigo. We entered the Cathedral and climbed up a series of stairs to reach the balcony overlooking the interior, before heading out onto the roof, from which we had a spectacular view of Salamanca. At the university, one of the oldest in the world, we were guided through the library and old classrooms. That evening, we set out on a tour of tapas bars. The Spanish food we were served was simple but tasty and the staff and students had fun together.

On Friday we went to visit the bullring, where we met a real matador. We were given a demonstration of bullfighting by the matador and his assistant Fernando, who amused us greatly by acting as the bull.

After thanking our hosts and saying goodbye, we headed to Madrid on Saturday morning. On arrival, we were immediately warned of pickpockets, and to our amusement we were made to stand around our luggage in a ring as it was unloaded. We were then marched to our hotel which, according to the staff, was very expensive and high-class. Our tour guide from Salamanca accompanied us to Madrid and gave us a tour of its famous landmarks, which included the Royal Palace and Picasso's *Guernica*. We also visited the football stadium of Real Madrid, the Santiago Bernabeu. In the evening we set out to a restaurant where we thanked the staff for an excellent trip. Mr Ash, Ms Bubbs, Mr Lampard, Mr Boardman and Mr Davies were all instrumental in making the trip a success.







## Ski Trip to Utah

Not content with the success of the 2006 Serfaus ski trip, this year KES skiers decided to reclaim America. Arriving in Utah, we checked into our hotel in the town of Sandy. As we spent the rest of the day acclimatising to the altitude we took the opportunity to visit the site of the 2002 winter Olympics outside Salt Lake City. As we suffered from vertigo at the top of one of the tallest ski jumps in the US, our guide casually mentioned that the track record had been set by a fourteen year old.

The following day we hit the slopes with our friendly American instructors. The skiing itself was a fantastic experience. Runs ranged from the pleasant "greens" to the near-vertical "double black diamonds". Everyone found his limits tested and expanded.

Although the skiing was, naturally, the major event of the trip, it wasn't the whole story. One evening was spent at a basketball game between the Utah Jazz and the Cleveland Cavaliers, the team of the legendary LeBron James. The intense atmosphere affected everyone as we spurred on the home team with chants and cheers. A close run game ended with a narrow Jazz victory, inspiring much excitement on the journey back to the hotel.

Inner tubing was another activity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A five minute ride up

the slope was rewarded with twenty glorious seconds of ice and screams. We joined our tubes together in sizeable rafts before pushing off onto the steep track before us.

The trip also saw the return of Mr Balkham's notorious Quiz Night, with mind-bending rounds such as translating American words into their English counterparts. Less popular was the return of the fining system, though ironically Mr Evans imposed the first fine on Mr Balkham for forgetting the fine book.

On the final day we flew to Minneapolis, where we visited the Mall of America (because there are some things one simply has to do in the USA). This was no ordinary shopping centre though; this was the largest mall in the whole of America. Just for an idea of the scale, it contained an entire amusement park complete with a Ferris wheel and roller coaster. Over the course of four hours we lost ourselves in retail heaven, buying countless souvenirs and clothing items, a fitting end to a fantastic trip.

However, there was poignancy on returning to the airport as we said our final goodbyes to America and, on arriving back at school, to Mr Aydon, who has put so much into the KES ski club over the years. We wish Miss McMillan all the very best in continuing the tradition he has established.

*Michael Scoins*

*Chronicle also received a report on a second skiing trip to Utah which took place in the Easter vacation, though we have not published it owing to its similarity to the above.*



In hindsight, the Bronze DofE Assessed Expeditions were a great success since all 79 participants completed the two day expedition and have passed with high commendations from their assessors. However, it was certainly the greatest challenge any of the boys have faced, or are likely to face in the outdoors.

The conditions on the Long Mynd were the worst ever on record for June; indeed nothing similar has been experienced there by any of the National Trust staff at any time of year for a very long time. It rained relentlessly all day long, transforming all the streams into raging torrents. One of our routes, along Ashes Hollow, was exceedingly dangerous as the paths and bridges had been completely washed away!

The 35 boys who participated in the first expedition, on 25-6 June, showed great resilience in the face of real adversity, demonstrating superb judgement, navigational skill and teamwork. Those ascending Ashes Hollow sensibly rerouted themselves a hundred metres or so above the path by picking a route carefully along the slopes, steep and windswept though these were. No groups got lost, even though visibility was severely compromised. The teams stuck together and those who were clearly struggling were well supported by their fellows, both morally and physically. Never the less, this did not prevent several boys really suffering by the time they emerged on top of the moor. Here the rain was horizontal, penetrating waterproof layers and soaking some boys to the core, while wind chill created near freezing conditions.

As they emerged, each group was withdrawn to the emergency backup vehicle to recuperate: several seriously expressed the desire to quit, though surprisingly only one boy had begun to develop hypothermia and needed to be retained for the rest of the day. The rest showed true KES fortitude by leaving the relative comfort of the

school minibus and going 'forward where the knocks are hardest'!

Meanwhile, I began to have serious doubts about continuing, since the camping grounds were flooded. Therefore the leaders had to explore alternative options. The Bridges Youth Hostel and the local pub were already fully booked. However, the pub landlord revealed that the farmer in whose field we were supposed to be camping had a large barn relatively clear of the normal farmyard detritus! It didn't require too much persuasion to get farmer John Sankey's permission to use his barn - he immediately understood our predicament, willingly moving his mammoth machinery to make way for our fleet of 15 tents. Somewhat cramped but cosy, tents were erected free standing on a concrete floor, and as cold bodies were warmed by a change of clothing, spirits soon began to rise.

Once cooking had begun it was hard to believe that this was the same bedraggled and demoralised assemblage that had drizzled down the lanes an hour before. After the consumption of mountains of pasta, chocolate and Nutri-grain bars, an evening review session exposed the full range of emotions from expressions of triumph over adversity to the fears verging on panic that had gripped some of them! Everyone - myself included - was challenged by the events of that day, and everyone has learned to respect the environment, which on this occasion dominated over all.

We owe particular thanks to John Sankey, our 'barn host'; to Martin Jones and the team of assessors from Adventureworks for their expertise; to Jess Putt and Duncan Raynor, my invaluable staff assistants on the first expedition, and to 'Doc' Evans, who stepped in at the last minute to tour the rain-swept lanes in the emergency vehicle, simultaneously searching out wayward groups and bird-spotting!

SEL

In June the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Geographers travelled to Aberystwyth to carry out a series of investigations for our coursework projects. The group consisted of two forms: Miss Jones' form worked in Aberystwyth and Mr Cumberland's form worked in the surrounding towns and villages. We travelled by coach from school and left at 8:30am on Thursday in order to get there early enough to work during the afternoon and evening.

After arriving in our study areas by midday we split up into smaller work groups of three or four people, taking a little time to get used to our new surroundings before starting work. In the evening we met up at our accommodation in the University of Aberystwyth and were pleasantly surprised to discover that, although we would all be studying in the same housing block, we would

each have our own en suite bathroom! After dinner, we were given a bit of free time, returning to our work groups again for late night study. This time was spent organising any data collected during the day, drawing maps and tables.

The next day we ate breakfast at 8 and got ready to work. This work, which varied from persuading people to fill in questionnaires to taking photographs, was stimulating. But beach football and the many other events during our free time were undoubtedly just as fun and interesting! Many thanks go to Mr Cumberland, Miss Jones, Mr Lambie and Mr Roden for giving up their free time to take us on this trip.

Alex Bion

**Duke of Edinburgh's  
Award: Bronze Level**

**4ths Geography  
Field Trip:  
Aberystwyth**



## 4ths Geography Field Trip: Bangor

After an arduous three hour coach journey to the north-west of Wales we immediately started, like true scholars, to gather information for our projects; all based on topics that both challenged and interested us. Each day we completed many questionnaires and surveys, basing our research on the towns of Caernarfon, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairfechan and Llandudno (phew!). Given the local demographic, we were faced with the extra challenge of collecting data whilst dodging the thousands of elderly people in electric wheelchairs who were seemingly drag-racing each other along the local promenades. Thankfully our in-depth risk assessments kept us safe and we managed to complete some excellent research.

After a hard day's work, each boy was relieved when we went back to Bangor University. Here we consolidated and analysed our results and then retired to our rooms in the Halls of Residence. We used the added luxury of some free time to challenge the local Korean students to a game of football. Overall, the Field Trip was a pleasure. Many thanks go to Miss Bubbb, Mr Davies, Mr Melville and Mr Pitt for ensuring a successful few days.

*Anuj Wali*

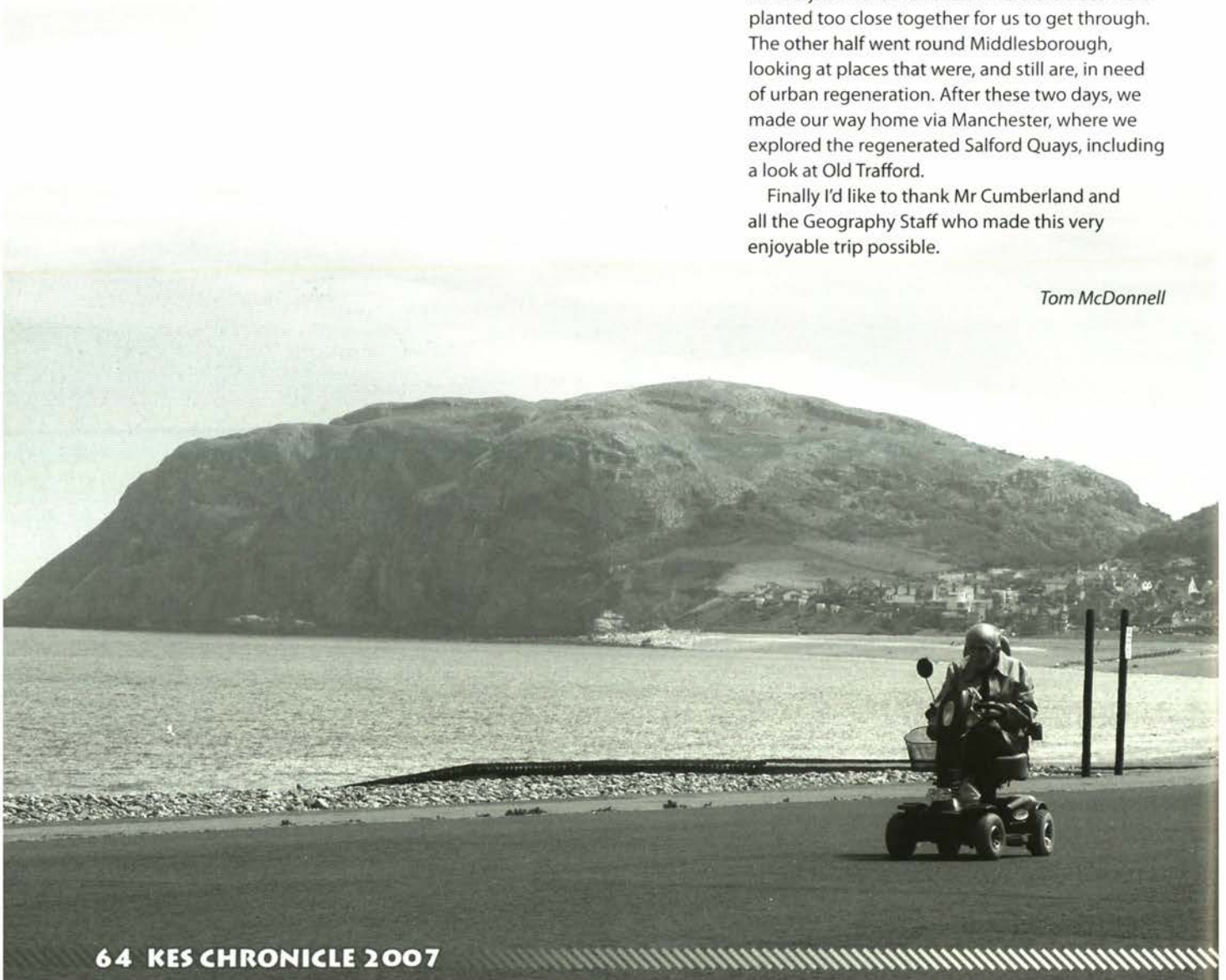
## Geography Field Trip: Yorkshire

The intrepid Geographers of King Edward's School set out one cold March morning on what was described by Mr Cumberland as "the best geography field trip in the world". So, with expectations high, the long coach journey to York began. On the journey up we were prepared for the bonanza to come, and arrived raring to go in the metropolitan village of Haxby. Here we looked at how the proximity of the village to York has affected it in terms of size and culture, which it has done considerably, the idyllic "pub and church" feel of a traditional village being replaced by a village based around a Somerfield store. After this we travelled further north to look at rural villages in the Yorkshire Wolds, but not before a well-earned lunch, taking advantage of said glorious Somerfield store!

In the evening we came to our hotel, which to Mr Roden's delight had its own golf course. However, to most of the rest of us the prospect of having to get up at 5am to play, made all the more attractive by the forecast of rain the next morning, proved too much and most of us stayed in bed. This allowed us to be refreshed and ready for the next day, which brought for half of us some Physical Geography work looking at streams. Then on to some work looking at biodiversity in different types of forests, which included some lumberjack work in a forest where the trees were planted too close together for us to get through. The other half went round Middlesborough, looking at places that were, and still are, in need of urban regeneration. After these two days, we made our way home via Manchester, where we explored the regenerated Salford Quays, including a look at Old Trafford.

Finally I'd like to thank Mr Cumberland and all the Geography Staff who made this very enjoyable trip possible.

*Tom McDonnell*





## Cycle Tour of the Peak District

The older boys of the school embarked with their snazzy bikes and laden panniers early one Monday morning, *enroute* for four days of pure cycling endurance. Setting off from Ashbourne along a narrow and shaded cycle path, we ate up the miles, and completed the first half of the day's route in just under an hour. Things were looking good. However, when the time came to turn off the flat cycle path we discovered the Peak District that we had all been expecting. We found ourselves on small country lanes with hardly any cars, so although the cycling became tough, it also became more sociable and enjoyable. Along Axe Edge, one of the highest and most desolate parts of England, the view from the top of the ridge extended for miles and we were fortunate with the clear sky and sunshine. The landscape seemed to extend to eternity. When we swept down to 'Gradbach Mill', our youth hostel, the hills had taken us well over three hours.

Next day was the longest day of the trip, totalling a tough 42 miles through treacherous mountains and blistering heat. Gradually, as the group began to split up, with Jim Langran, the tour's star cyclist, inevitably leading the way, riders in their high visibility jerseys became faint, fashionable dots in the distance. We reached what was, for me, the steepest and most memorable hill on the trip. The sheer length and gradient of this hill made it a mammoth task to overcome. We would find ourselves weaving to-and-fro across the road, much like a group of skiers except that we were going uphill! Bobbing up and down on the pedals, we *finally* reached the summit for a well deserved lunch break. Then we began our descent to a ford crossing, where a rather reckless

Daniel King tried to go too fast and ended up horizontal and mud plastered in a bog. Luckily a nearby river offered a quick-wash solution. Finally, the much needed flats of the High Peak and Tissington trail led us to Hartington Hall, our youth hostel for the next two nights.

The next day, we were joined by our two guest riders, Dr Forrest and Mr Birch; finally Jim would have some competition. A circular route was planned, looping back to the hostel. A key section was Winnats Pass, a gorge with by far the steepest descent I've ever attempted: a mighty 25% gradient. The thrill was immense. However, in a reversal of usual roles, you'd find yourself having to brake because of the slow cars in front of you. This slowed many of the boys down, though it did help to control their speed. Jim, however, wasn't a happy man: he felt that it was such a wasted opportunity, that he decided to drink his Red Bull and fly back up to the top of the pass for a re-run. It was truly amazing that he made it back up the slope.

Putting our panniers back on the next day was a blow to the mind and the legs, but the last day was a nice, round 28 miles. The route began with the same old hilly terrain, but as we got further it began to flatten out, eventually leading us to Thor's Cave. Menacing though it sounded, it gave us an opportunity to get off the bikes and explore. Once inside the gaping mouth of the cave, all the boys went for a quick climb, exploring the cave into its darkest depths. Having cooled down, we returned to the bikes to complete our journey, along the Tissington trail to a relaxing descent into Ashbourne, where our coach awaited us for the travel back to school.

Many thanks go to Mr Phillips for putting in the effort to organise this amazing trip.

Daniel King

**"A KEY SECTION WAS WINNATS PASS, A GORGE WITH BY FAR THE STEEPEST DESCENT I'VE EVER ATTEMPTED: A MIGHTY 25% GRADIENT. THE THRILL WAS IMMENSE."**





# Biology Field Course: Aberystwyth

I arrived at school on Sunday morning expecting students to be frantically loading the coaches; but to my surprise it seemed that the teachers had full control of the situation. The students, having already allocated themselves seats, were ready to embark on a trip that Mr Witcombe promised we would never forget.

Our first stop was Gilfach Farm, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The farm is managed to demonstrate sustainability and to reduce the impacts of farming on wildlife. It was helpful to see the effects that the removal of the use of pesticides has on wildlife and biodiversity. We had two great guides taking us round the farm; you could see how enthusiastic they were about their work and what it really meant to them. After lunch we departed for Aberystwyth.

Everyone was excited to see their accommodation and begin hatching late night plans for how to get past the likes of Mr Lampard. The accommodation was typical of any University and I had a feeling that this Biology field trip was in part an extended Open Day. Re-energised by a great meal at the canteen, we were ready to get down to the Lecture Theatre as quickly as possible,

not so much for the love of Biology as because of the punishment that had been announced: a page for every minute you're late. Some people still managed to get there ten minutes late!

The following day, we headed to the Ynyslas salt marshes and sand dunes. Mr Rigby's expertise was very useful for this part of the field trip. We measured numerous abiotic factors including the pH, temperature and wind speed of the habitats, and collected lots of data. Through analysis of these figures we were able to identify how abiotic factors influence the biodiversity and distribution of organisms. We spent our penultimate day on the rocky shores of Borth. We collected data along transects, studied rock pools and looked into the relationship between species distribution and shore zonation.

This field trip was a memorable one not only for the students but also for Mr Rigby, as it was his last. Having spent a year in his class at AS level, I truly value what he has brought to the school and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

*Faizan Lakhani*





**W**e went from snowballing in Birmingham to the expanses of the Sahara desert, the flowing waters of the River Nile, the run down shanty towns of Cairo and the truly Grand Pyramids Hotel in less than eighteen hours!

The first day began with a visit to the colossal Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx. Amid the two million two-tonne blocks of stone which compose the Great Pyramids, we speculated on the reason for the lack of the Sphinx's nose, and learnt how to evade the very persistent Egyptian salesmen as we basked in the sheer glory of the place. We also learnt about the stubborn nature and distinctive odour of camels.

The second day was a tour of the oldest standing stepped pyramid, at Saqqara, designed by Imhotep for Pharaoh Djoser, and the Dashour Pyramids. For lunch we visited El Alsson International School, where we enjoyed an interesting history and Arabic lesson while making many great friends and trying Egyptian delicacies such as stuffed pigeon. Later, in true British fashion, we lost (umpteens-to-one) in a game of football against the school's U14 football team! The defeat would have been much greater had it not been for three of us who could actually kick a ball.

Day three consisted of a tour of the Cairo museum, home to a great selection of artefacts from ancient Egypt, including several mummies. Not surprisingly we found the dead faces of the mummies, one of which had onions for its eyes, very fascinating. The gruesome tales of how they met their ends also held our interest. We ascended the 187m tall Cairo Tower, but unfortunately the

stairs were out of order, so we had to endure the lift operator's attempts at bribery. Worst of all, he supported Man U! This was followed by tea at the British Council with an ex-KES boy who could only remember "Edwardum!" and "some to failure, some to fame" from the school song.

The next day found us in Alexandria, at the northern end of the Nile Delta. Here we visited the catacombs, the new museum and the old Greco-Roman museum, where we were introduced to the Roman age of Egypt.

The following day, we were given a guided tour of the fortress and amphitheatre in Alexandria before returning to Cairo, where we ended the day with a felucca trip on the Nile as the sun set, before meeting up again with some of the friends we had made at El Alsson.

The sixth day was devoted to Islamic sites, with visits to the Ibn Tulun and El Azhar mosques. We also visited the Guyer Anderson Museum, the house of an eccentric who collected many amazing and strange antiques from around Egypt. The Khan El Khalili market put our bartering skills to the test in a fantastically chaotic atmosphere. Our purchases included a guitar, a skateboard, lots of cheap Coca Cola, chocolate, perfume and 'Rolex' watches for as little as £3! At the concert of Bedouin music we witnessed the horrors of Mr Pitt's dancing skills!

The final day was spent looking at the Coptic history of Cairo, including a massive, ancient graveyard, as well visiting the Citadel. Finally we visited one of only three synagogues in Egypt.

We returned to a cold England after an amazing and unforgettable trip. Our warmest thanks to Mr and Mrs Dean, and to Mr Pitt.

## The Egypt Trip

*Mike Hoffman*





## Your Future in Europe: The Paris Trip

Paris is a city of the suave, the debonair and the chic, all qualities that a group of 50 pupils from KES and KEHS have in abundance. Over one weekend at the end of January 2007 we set off in search of our "Future in Europe", though in truth not many of us knew what we were letting ourselves in for. This report should probably be split into two parts. Firstly, the reason we were there: the conferences and the educational motive to the trip. Secondly, the social and cultural element.

Having travelled to Paris via the Eurostar and survived our first night in Paris, we were sent off to conferences on either French or Business Studies.



I'm sure all of those who attended the talks would agree that they were both interesting and helpful, though some, perhaps, had enjoyed themselves a little too much the night before, to judge by the way some eyelids drooped. However, the talks on the Friday were only a warm-up to the conference at the Palais de Congres on Saturday. With speakers such as John Sargeant, MP Charles Kennedy, Stanley Johnson and even Boris Johnson's dad, the bill was set for a high powered day of European political interest. Through a variety of talks, question sessions and then an open forum towards the end of the day, the conference showed many in the group just how important Europe is.

During the weekend we saw several members of the party, including Mr Pitt, attempt to break the record for climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower. The evening boat cruise on the Seine also offered a plethora of gorgeous views from the Eiffel Tower to Notre Dame. While those who had attended the Business Studies conference were treated to these events, Mr Ash took it upon himself to give an incredibly thorough tour of Paris, a city in which he had lived many years ago. His small band of followers came back footsore, but maybe they had soaked up just a little of that Parisian style during their five-hour guided tour.

Free time during the day and evening allowed us to enjoy the Paris lifestyle, whether that be sitting in a small café just a couple of streets from the Eiffel Tower, or maybe shopping in the Champs Elysées, where many of the KEHS girls found a haven. However, there were some examples of the less exciting aspects of the French, exemplified by their sense of humour when they decided to set the fire alarm off at six o'clock in the morning. Just what was needed to get the party in a good mood!

Many thanks must go to Mr Mason and his counterpart at the Girls' School, Mrs Sangha, for organising the trip, and to the staff who helped them that weekend. If Mr Mason has recovered from this trip in a couple of years, I'm sure he'll be happy to lead another group of students back to Paris for the next conference.

*Richard Johnstone*

## Hayward Travel Scholarship

With our Travel Scholarship, we took off on a voyage down the River Rhine to explore the landscape which has inspired so many artists, musicians and writers. We arrived at Zürich airport and, having collected our rucksacks, had to ring home to find out our exam results. Following this trauma we made our way into the city centre to begin the daily ritual of finding the youth hostel. This proved no mean feat, as our knowledge of German only extended as far as "Wo ist die jugendherberge?" (where is the youth hostel?): fine, until they talk back at you! We made our way through Basel and Strasbourg to Frankfurt and from there we travelled the most scenic area of the river on foot and by cycle. Leaving the beauty of vineyards and castles behind, we headed on to Brussels via Cologne and home to the UK. For us, the highlights of the tour were an impromptu street "rave" in Basel, Strasbourg Cathedral, wine-tasting, a village party in

Bacharrach, lounging on a beach by the Rhine, and all the castles we saw en route.

One of the most memorable times, however, was watching the England vs. Germany football match in a German pub surrounded by a host of large Germans, and being bought drinks by a drunken Italian when Michael Owen scored. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately for us!) England lost the match and we survived.

Many thanks to the sponsor of the Hayward Travel Scholarship for giving us an unforgettable experience.

*Andrew Browning and Danny Elphinston*



## Cycle Tour to Normandy

**E**ight days away, six days of speaking the French language (bonjour!) and a lot of work: even though this was probably the shortest of our recent cycle tours in terms of distance covered, we weren't disappointed. On one day we rode 61 km, and over hills too!

After disembarking from our ferry at Saint Malo we set out to Beauvoir, which is near Mont St. Michael. The route was around 50 km on really flat roads. When we arrived at the Hotel Du Beauvoir we went around the town to buy crêpes, ice cream, sweets and soft drinks, before coming back to dinner: an omelette, some meat and a dessert.

The next day we set out for Mortain, cycling along an old railway line. We saw an adder, that one of us almost ran over. Poor thing! At Mortain a lot of us went swimming at the local pool. After that we had dinner at the Hotel De La Poste, which is a fantastic hotel. The owners could speak eight languages between them!

The following day we cycled a much hillier but shorter day to a place called Condé Sur Noireau. At the end of the day we walked our bikes down, yes, *down*, a hill as our path opened into a main road just at the bottom of a steep slope. We were split into three groups, of whom one went to Le Cerf, one to La Promenade and another to La Renaissance, which was very luxurious hotel - ask one of those who went on the cycle tour.

Next morning we cycled our longest day, through the Suisse Normande to a forest very near St Lo. At the end of the day we stayed in a hotel, which was meant to have a crazy golf course, but it wasn't open. After a well-deserved meal - which included free cokes! - we all had our rooms checked. Some people got very annoyed when they were told to throw away their hydration packs!

After leaving the hotel we set out for Bayeux, where we stayed in a Best Western. We walked to see the Bayeux Tapestry - an amazing piece of handiwork completed in the 1070's. We were mostly given audiotours - the ones who went without were the people who had visited the embroidery before. Back in our rooms, we settled down to enjoy some English television.

The last day's cycling was very sad. First of all we went to Batterie de Longues. We spent time having a look at the gun emplacements, before visiting the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, which was just over the beach. There are nine thousand three hundred and eighty seven graves (not counted by myself) there. We then went to Arromanches to see the Mulberry Harbour. After lunch we cycled up to the Arromanches 360° cinema.

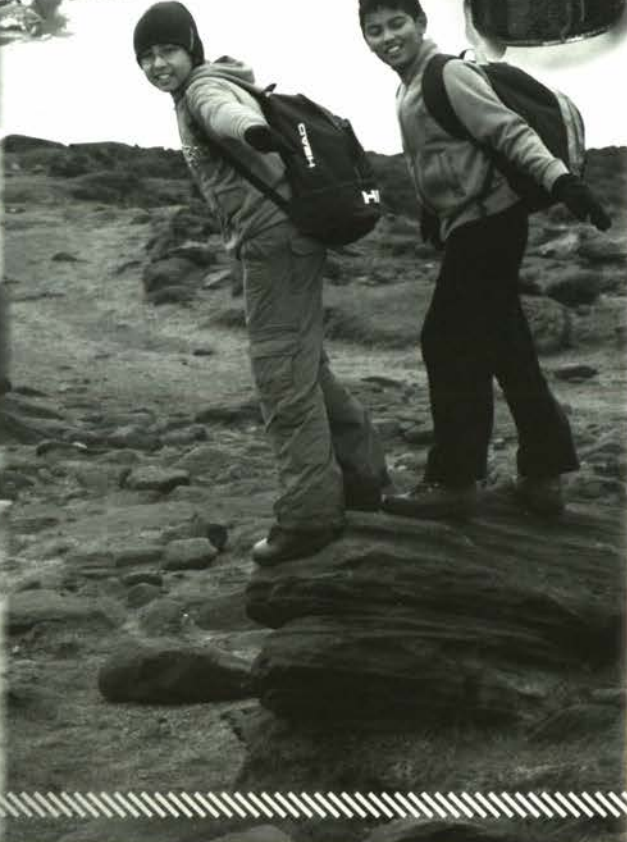
Our final hotel was next to the port of Ouistreham; after seeing the hotel we set quickly off to the Pegasus Bridge Museum that was 6 kilometres away.

The next day we boarded the ferry for England - the crossing was very rough. That was the end of the Cycle Tour of Normandy and we just have to look forward to the Cycle Tour of The Low Countries in 2008!

Tom Fenton











## Mayo Shoreline

To stand upon the lapping shore, against the baying wind,  
And turn to see the laughing sky and the emerald teeth within;  
To gaze into those hardy hills and know each cotton cloud  
Wisping gaily overhead will shadow time and ageless ground.

I will sit under the watching Sun and listen to the sea,  
Keeping silence with the patient azure listening to me;  
Hear it break among the waiting crags that line the pebbled shore,  
Watch the black and blue and golden eat into the evermore.

Those monoliths that resting there, unmoved save over years,  
Have known the tread of tribesmen, the aged blood ran here.  
And 'twixt the looming lakeland hills, from under and above  
The bonds still fresh of fear and hope, of laughter and of love,

I pick among the tumbled stone, walk with the whispered wind  
While wondering aloud and in my head what world I'm in.  
The land, my own, both wrought and grown, alive under my feet  
Was here under spectating Sun, a prodigal to greet.

The rivulets be wrinkles, the wind the firm handshake,  
A bawl of laughter from the sky to make the revels quake,  
The land the welcoming embrace amid the gentle reeds  
And age's eye, aloft and nigh, to watch on youthful deeds.

Be that a wink, from crafty Sun, a smile within the blue  
At defiance now defeated, a fondness now in view?  
I smile into eternity, let the laughter wash my skin  
And keep vigil with the eager sea, against the calling wind.

Tim Kiely  
Fifth



# Water

Like a mirrored glass it reflects all up,  
Up to the highest sky, which seems so deep  
And distant once in its crystal grasp.  
The tension breaks under the smallest stone,  
Causing a constant ripple, then a wave,  
A splash, with spray of fine white cloud explodes  
Up beyond the far-flung, flat horizon.

As I wander, through the power of one  
And a thousand white tipped horses, all who  
Fall and are drawn in retreat to charge with  
No relent. I leap forward, glide and glide,  
A stroke, a pull, I break my way to seek  
A scene, without dispute, calm and still.  
Yet now I find the scene I seek is here,  
Among the blue, the brine, the tide, the sea.

*James Cull, UMH*

*Winner of the Julian Parkes Memorial Poetry Prize 2007*

## An October Hillside

Clouds are twisted white fire;  
Others, the softest ash.  
Rocks are the home of brave men's hearts;  
Others, the cage of wise men's words.

The tide below tells too many stories,  
Murmuring tales of tempests,  
Whilst the rain falls foul  
On this sodden earth.

Atlantic seals sit below the skyline  
Of grey churches, scarred  
While I sit on the hillside  
Of this Cornish town.

Beside me, the stingers scream  
As the hydrangea's palette scowls  
At the two tone horizon  
Of an October afternoon.

*Jamie Baxter  
Division*



## El Flamenco

El flamenco viene de las bajas esferas de la sociedad andaluza. Era una forma de arte de los campesinos. Durante el desarrollo del flamenco, mucha sangre fue derramada en el nombre de Dios: la Inquisición Española persiguió a los Moros, gitanos y judíos. Sin embargo, una vez que las semillas fueron plantadas en Andalucía, el arte continuó creciendo. Al principio, se centró en las provincias de Sevilla, Cádiz y parte de Málaga, el área conocida como 'Baja Andalucía' – pero pronto se extendió por el resto de Andalucía, absorbiendo y transformando la música folklórica local. Otras tradiciones musicales como la Castellana influyeron y fueron influenciadas por el flamenco y desarrollaron así otros estilos del flamenco. Con la llegada de los Moros en el siglo ocho, las formas musicales en España tomaron forma y especialmente el flamenco fue influenciado por este aporte morisco. Después los judíos dieron su aporte e incluso se dice que hasta los Celtas también desempeñaron un papel.

Ha habido muchísimos los cantantes y bailadores flamencos que han dado orgullo a este arte pero quizá entre esos famosos han sobresalido dos artistas que a mí en particular me encantan: Camarón de la Isla, quien era un gitano auténtico con un talento innato, una voz magistral, y un arte y estilo propio con el que sabía transmitir esos sentimientos y expresiones propios del flamenco. Desafortunadamente murió muy joven, víctima de las drogas, un hábito nocivo del que no pudo escapar.

Paco de Lucia, quizá más conocido por su arte magistral de tocar la guitarra, ha sido también un representante único del flamenco. Sus conciertos son fascinantes, además tiene una forma particular de escribir sus temas musicales que dan un toque especial al flamenco.

*John Garner  
Division*

## El Medio Ambiente

Hoy, voy a hablar del medio ambiente. En mi opinión, es un tema más importante hoy en día y hace poco todo el mundo empezó a darse cuenta del peligro del efecto invernadero. Muchos personajes públicos han cambiado de opinión

Hay muchos diferentes problemas con respecto al medio ambiente. Por ejemplo, en ríos, océanos y humedales la vida acuática está en peligro a causa de la contaminación del agua. En efecto, hace cinco años, una marea negra en la costa gallega mató más o menos 25,000 aves marinas.

A nivel mundial, la polución está afectando nuestro clima y por consiguiente hay más tormentas e inundaciones. En los países tropicales de Suramérica, las inundaciones causan grandes daños, pero por otro lado las sequías acaban con los animales, cosechas y habitantes. Por ejemplo, en el Sudán, dentro de poco casi un millón de personas estarán en peligro de hambre.

En años pasados, usábamos demasiada energía, producíamos demasiada polución y destruíamos demasiadas selvas tropicales. Ahora, deberíamos reciclar más, tratar de ahorrar electricidad y reducir la cantidad de basura que tiramos. Solamente tenemos un planeta, Tierra, –tendremos que salvarlo. Ya que, si no conseguimos cambiar nuestras vidas ahora, las generaciones del futuro sufrirán.

*Ismail Akram  
Fifth*



## Mes Vacances Idéales

Mes vacances idéales, c'est aller à l'île Maurice parce que c'est une belle île dans le sud et il y a toujours du soleil. J'aimerais beaucoup aller en Inde encore une fois aussi parce que ma grand'mère habite dans ce pays et que mes tantes et mes oncles habitent là aussi. Ma grand'mère habite en centre-ville de Delhi, la capitale de l'Inde.

J'irais en île Maurice pendant deux semaines parce que l'île est très petite et qu'il y a beaucoup de montagnes dans le nord de l'île et alors y aller, c'est dur. J'irais en Inde pendant le plus longtemps possible parce que d'autres membres de ma famille y habitent et je trouve le pays très beau ; je peux aussi parler les langues hindou et anglais – les deux langues principales de l'Inde. Quand je pars en vacances, je par souvent avec ma famille – mon père, ma mère et ma sœur qui fait un stage en entreprise à Cambridge et qui est allée en Allemagne la semaine dernière. Elle va toujours en vacances sans nous et avec ses amies, mais elle nous apporte beaucoup de cadeaux. J'y vais normalement avec ma famille mais quand le voyage est un voyage scolaire; je dois aller sans ma famille et avec mes copains comme quand je suis allé à Pompéi en Italie l'année dernière pendant la première semaine de juillet. Je préférerais prendre l'avion parce que c'est plus rapide et plus confortable que les autres transports en commun. L'avion est génial aussi parce qu'on peut prendre l'avion pour aller à des pays lointains, mais j'ai peur de prendre l'avion !

Nous logeons toujours dans un bel hôtel parce que les hôtels de l'Inde sont très bien équipés et toujours fantastiques, mais quelquefois nous logeons chez mes tantes et ma grand'mère. Nous dormons normalement dans une chambre d'hôte mais quelquefois dans une chambre dans l'appartement de ma tante. En île Maurice je logeais dans un hôtel pittoresque ou avec mon cousin qui y habite avec son épouse. Quand je pars en voyage scolaire, je loge dans une auberge de jeunesse mais je préfère loger dans un bel hôtel. Mes activités idéales sont les excursions et bronzer sur la plage avec un bon livre à lire. J'aimerais bien faire de la planche à voile en île Maurice et en vacances j'aime bien acheter beaucoup de choses – j'ai fait ça en Italie à Pompéi. En Inde j'adore passer du temps avec ma grand'mère qui est très gentille. J'aime bien aussi faire les courses pour elle et aussi avec ma mère. Il est très amusant de parler avec mes cousins et j'aime surtout ça !

En Inde en été il fait très chaud alors la saison idéale pour venir en Inde est l'automne parce qu'au printemps il fait aussi très chaud et en hiver c'est très ennuyeux, il y a toujours du soleil et il ne pleut qu'en été. En île Maurice, il ne fait pas aussi chaud qu'en Inde et il y a normalement du vent. On peut aller en île Maurice en toutes saisons. Il ne neige pas beaucoup en Inde, seulement dans le nord, à la montagne et il ne neige jamais en île Maurice. Je vais aller en Inde cet été parce que ma cousine va être mariée en août, je vais y aller avec ma mère pendant la troisième semaine de juillet et après une semaine mon père et ma sœur irons en Inde.

Anirudh Saxena

UMJ



## The Cave

**I**t's getting dimmer. The dark is closing in on me and my torch is rattling as its glow becomes fainter. The stomach of the cavern is shrinking and a blackness extends for infinity backwards cut further and further into the wet rock. The dark is getting bolder and at last I'm blind. The torch is useless now. The cave is alive. I could call out for the group but *wait*. Listen and feel and breathe in the absolute dark for a moment.

At once, my ears are filled by the rhythms of the cave – its heartbeat. Some way off I hear a steady drip, drip, drip. My party's voices come back to me, over the top of a rushing stream, faint and echoing. I hear them but don't understand their calls. I can hear my own heart thumping away, drumming inside my chest, and footsteps bounce around the walls of the cave. All these sounds going this way and that. They shout louder and louder.

I let go of my breath slowly and pull the acidic atmosphere into my lungs. I begin to choke on overpowering smells which I had not noticed whilst rushing through the cave with the expedition. On my tongue is the salty sea. It tastes fresh at first but the saltiness turns sour and I pull away. Water drips from the wetsuit onto the slippery rock below and the hairs on my neck are standing. Cold slowly seeps into my blood and my heart pumps it round and I think about the cave.

The noises begin to get louder. They are the wailings of a mournful ghost forever trapped inside the cave – the last soul to get lost in the underground? Shall I myself be so unlucky? The group's echoes are faint now. They're just an accompaniment to the main piece that is the moaning, dripping, crashing fanfare of the blackness. The darkness is getting colder and meaner. I call out for help. A second attempt fails as well and my pathetic plea falls on my ears only. I fight back tears and catch them before they burst. One more call, crackly and resigned, reverberates around the chamber. No answer. The silence echoes longest.

Andrew Macarthur  
Remove S

## The Breaking

**G**rinding on the sandy ground, the last car sped away from the beach, the groaning of its engine echoing and reverberating off the cliffs. Gone were the people. Gone were the shrieks and screams of little children splashing in the azure water. Gone were the sights, smells and sounds of the ice cream, the sandcastles, the suntan lotion, the seagulls. And all that was left was the wind rushing past the caves and crevices of the forgotten bay. Nothing could be heard, except the whistling of the wind.

Yet, despite all this, there was still an unmistakeable atmosphere in the air. An atmosphere of power, of majesty. The silver-grey clouds above allowed a fraction of light to shine behind them, casting an ethereal glow on the vast, stardust-swept expanse below. The waves reared their heads and crashed with an almighty sound, their hooves pounding the ground as their manes rose in great streaks above them. Wind sped across the terrain, whipping up silver dust in swirls in its wake. And the sculptured cliffs, with their deep, unending caves and jagged rocks, bore witness to the awesome power of nature.

But then, there was suddenly a great rumbling. It shook the earth – it was not the wind, it was something else. Far out to sea, a sheet of water was rising, rising, rising to a colossal, unprecedented height. It breathed energy, it radiated magnificence. The clouds suddenly parted, and a wash of golden, incredible light fell upon the wave, illuminating every single water drop in a wash of white, blue and green. And over the top of the wave he came, the wind sweeping through his hair, his powerful muscles flexing as he became one with the board, astride his terrible, gigantic stallion. Just for a second, he was a ruler of all that lay before him; of the cliffs, of the sand, of the wind, of the ocean. But then, the wave collapsed in an extraordinary, enormous explosion of water, froth and light. As suddenly as it had come, the light disappeared, blocked by a cloud. The wind suddenly stopped howling, dying in the embers of the wave. Darkness fell upon the beach. And then there was nothing, save the echoes of the waves.

Dan Mort



## Money Well Earned/Spent

Shaving foam, volumising spray,  
The dapper affair of a well cut jacket.  
Such cavalcade in pursuit of dim-lit eyes,  
That he might gather their looks  
like garlands round his throat.

Such fine skin, such a spotty mind:  
Money well earned, money well spent?  
Oozing from his pockets after tending to the rent-  
A modest affair smoke-screened in opulence.  
Never let any soul say this boy don't care  
For the austere finery of a life extraordinaire.  
Measured with compliments, garnered with hard cash,  
A pity unblemished satin doesn't last

By 12 the singular procession was upon them.

As the demagogue danced flamenco  
blood drops flew from his cut neck,  
with baying children at his feet, tongues poised.  
The rest were detritus, torn around by the music,  
limbs twitching in vague time to the chorus.

Money well earned, money very well spent.

*Tom Duggins  
Sixth*

## Mi instituto

Estudio nueve asignaturas: inglés, francés, dibujo, deporte, matemáticas, geografía, historia y ciencias.

Me gustan las matemáticas porque son fáciles y el profesor es gracioso. La geografía, no está mal pero no me gustan los trabajos manuales porque son difíciles. Me gusta mucho el deporte porque es muy divertido. No me gusta el dibujo porque es aburrido. Normalmente, me gustan mucho las ciencias porque son interesantes.

Como instalaciones, mi instituto tiene dos gimnasios grandes, dos salas de ordenadores, una piscina, muchos laboratorios y una biblioteca.

Mi horario, no está mal. Tengo cinco horas de clases al día. Mi día favorito es el martes porque tenemos deporte y biología.

*Josh Brampton  
UMB*



# Paris

J'ai visité Paris il y a deux mois et c'était génial. J'ai été au musée du Louvre. Il y avait beaucoup de touristes et il faisait trop chaud mais les peintures étaient magnifiques. J'ai vu *la Joconde* et d'autres tableaux au Louvre avec ma famille et ma copine qui s'appelle Tash. Je pense que les tableaux étaient très jolies et j'aimerais retourner au Louvre. Après ça, je suis allé au restaurant qui s'appelle Le Meurice. Le restaurant était exceptionnel et la nourriture était délicieuse et très belle. Ensuite, je suis rentré à l'hôtel Balzac. C'est situé 13, rue de la Paix

Le lendemain, je suis allé au Sacré-Cœur, une grande église assez près du centre de Paris. Elle était ancienne et très impressionnante. Il y avait beaucoup de touristes aussi. J'aime bien les églises anciennes, elles sont souvent très jolies. Ensuite, j'ai visité le pont Mirabeau. C'est situé sur la Seine, et c'est très célèbre.

Jeudi, nous sommes allés à la campagne pour faire du camping à un endroit qui s'appelait Le Château de Drancourt. Le camping, c'était assez bien mais je préfère l'hôtel. Après ça, nous sommes allés au marché assez près de ma tente. Le marché était très bruyant et assez sale, mais j'ai aimé l'ambiance. J'ai acheté des chaussures et un jersey bleu. J'aime beaucoup les courses et le marché. Le marché s'appelait Porte de Montreuil et c'était très agréable.

J'aime beaucoup Paris et j'aimerais beaucoup retourner en France parce que c'est un pays magnifique avec beaucoup de choses à faire.

*Ed Siddons*

*UM*

# Snake Bite

I'm alert, aware. Of every noise and shuddering gust of wind... There's a scream rising up inside my chest that only I can hear, longing to burst out. To let that urge win would make the snake bite, the snake of fear that's wrapping its constricting body around me. The scales of this terror leave goosebumps where they trail: it's just the cold, that's all. A man waddles with a camera to look out over the city from the Edge. I wish he wouldn't lean out that far because as he does the serpent's tongue is flicking out, tasting my blood, the blood I taste in my mouth.

Turn away, I tell myself, I tell myself, and go back down the elevator. You're five hundred metres up and it's too dangerous, but *think*: you'll never see a view like this from the ground. Surely a quick peek won't hurt? Every moment I wait, the anaconda is getting hungrier. It shows its fangs and my pulse doubles as my feet start to carry me toward the Edge. They are pounding down on the metallic roof of the tower. It all sounds so tinny, so flimsy, like it's been made out of Meccano. I reach the Edge and clasp my hands on the top of the railing. It's cold.

I take two deep breaths through my nose and, though the air stings my throat, I suck in another. I open my eyes wide, like a camera trying to focus on everything in a picture at once. The skyscrapers point upward like daggers and my eyes plummet down to look at the figures below me. The ground that they walk on jumps up at me, inviting me to take a leap. Then, the snake bites. His jaws clamp into my arms and legs and my knees fail. I'm crying, aloud, slumped against the railing. Crying the tears of terror.

*Andrew Macarthur*

*Remove S*



## Father

When I think of my father,  
I think of his table tennis:  
His serve,  
Loaded with spin;  
The trick question he asks me  
To catch me out;  
His regular commitment  
To the weekday games,  
The way he stands by what he believes,  
Always.  
The aggressive forehand,  
The harsh words often said.

When I think of my father,  
I think of cricket:  
His love of being in a team,  
His enjoyment when at a party;  
His stubbornness at the crease,  
The regular refusal to say he is wrong;  
His annoyance if a team mate misfields,  
The scolding I receive  
If my piano practice isn't done;  
His defensive shots,  
His quietness at home;  
His ease under pressure at big games,  
The calmness with which he approaches exams.

When I think of my father,  
I think of his driving:  
His love of older cars,  
The 80's music ringing through the house;  
His dream of owning a Ferrari,  
The effort put into achieving his targets.  
His road rage at other drivers:  
He often preaches differently to what he practices.

I often think of my father

*Wrik Ghosh*

*UMB*

## The End Of The World

Another scrap, the final.  
The sea-flecked fringes of the known  
Stretching broken into the broad blue Atlantic.  
The wind assaults the coast:  
A phantom pack, their howls wrack the ruined shells.  
The stone long since worn to stumps.

One more jewel in a jagged crown,  
Another tooth in the open set of ancient,  
Everlasting jaws. Open to drink in the furious brine,  
Wallow the vastness of the land  
In the boiling blue Atlantic.  
Worn through fathomless ages  
To the barest of stone, the shreds still crawling out  
To meet the milky beards of the breakers.

I stand in the middle of the motionless madness  
And feel the wind whip and snap at my flying hair,  
Chew into my face,  
On its way to meet the dead hulks.  
They sprawl behind me, prostrating,  
Bowed before the onslaught, tumbled.  
The overgrown grass joins them,  
A carpet flailing, thrown in adoration  
Shimmering green and gold like the sea.

Soon that will be swallowed too.  
By the hungry black Atlantic, by hungrier time,  
The empty cottages wait, curtains drawn like weeping lids,  
For the drawn instant of the end.

*Tim Kiely*  
*Fifth*





## The School Recorder

**Name:** Adam Richardson

**Title:** The School Recorder

**Mission:** To add up the Cock House points; without *anyone* knowing.

Flicking my way through old copies of *Chronicle*, I have noticed that there is never a mention of the School Recorder, despite his carrying out the most important job in the school (well, maybe not as important as the Chief Master's). The Recorder is a member of the Sixth form who counts the points for the Cock House Competition, and announces the overall result and the trophies at the end of a term, whilst having a steely determination not to reveal results in advance, no matter how many times Mr Milne and Mr Melville (his understudy and partner in Vardy crime) corner him before break. The job isn't very well known to those outside the Sixth Form, but there is a growing awareness of the elusive

Recorder, due mainly to the evolution of the notice boards over the last couple of years.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Recorder, and pass the honour over to Jamie Baxter, so he's now the one to pester for the positions. I would advise anyone who is about to enter the Sixth form, and who is interested in the post, to apply when the notice first goes up. But be wary: whilst one-eighth of the school will thank you, the other seven-eighths will have different feelings! My thanks go to Mr Roll, who liaises with the House Masters, as well as to Mr McMullan, who double-checks my arithmetic. Finally, a thank you to all the staff who supervise the competitions for handing in the results quickly. Good luck Jamie, and remember, keep quiet, especially around people from Vardy!

"The Recorder is a member of the Sixth form who counts the points for the Cock House Competition, and announces the overall result and the trophies at the end of a term, whilst having a steely determination not to reveal results in advance."

Adam Richardson  
School Recorder 2006-2007

## Cock House 2006-2007

Place	House	Points
1	Gifford	501.5
2	Vardy	480.5
3	Prince Lee	470.5
4	Evans	458
5	Heath	424
6	Levett	413
7	Cary Gilson	407
8	Jeune	395.5





## Gifford

The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes. Filing into the Concert Hall in September of 2006, many of us doubted the readiness of the Giffordian Army. Some felt there was passion; a belief; an aura so intense that the Dark Lord himself would flee in terror. Others were sceptical. Towering over the recruits were the burly figures of Jamie "Freddie Mercury" Scott and Francis "Iron-Fist" Gardener-Trejo, alongside the boss, the stalwart, the keystone: Max "King Of Kings" Dowd. The sound of *Purple Rain* echoed through the corridors. The foundations were laid for the Giffordian Revolution of 2006/07.

Many expected the crew to run a tight ship early on, to mark their authority. It was, however, somewhat more of a train wreck. Woody Allen once said, "70 percent of success is showing up", but Gifford apparently became a Common Room joke through our inability to assemble a chess team. Clearly some had not mastered the art of competing. After all, following nearly a decade of very little success, the mere concept of Gifford mounting any sort of challenge was laughable. Our best placing was 2<sup>nd</sup> ...in Shells Squash.

James Taft

## Evans

As 2006 champions, hopes and expectations were high when we started to defend the title of Cock House. Unfortunately we stumbled out of the blocks. The only highlights of a disappointing first term were a respectable second position in Junior Table Tennis and a fine win in Badminton. First pair Rousseau Das Gupta and Nimesh Sodha won five out of seven matches, but stars of the show were Tissione Parmar and Arun Kumar, who won all seven of theirs. By Christmas we were a long way behind Vardy; this was, sadly, a gap that we were not able to close.

The Spring Term has traditionally been our strongest in recent years. We did, however, proceed to shoot ourselves in the foot with a ridiculous and controversial 8<sup>th</sup> position in Basketball. This was caused as a result of a combination of Ammar Haider's lackadaisical approach and Guy Thomas's inability to count. There were nevertheless several successes to compensate for the occasional disaster. The Removes won Cross Country, led by Ryan Miller, who won both races. The Juniors kicked in, winning Squash and Badminton. Sam Hobbs, Rob Dudley and many others made significant contributions and once again Tim Lawrence sang his way to victory in House Classical Music. By the end of the term we had held out, but hadn't made a great impact on the rankings.

Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek. The masters knew something had to be done. Christmas came, but Max asked for something extra special this year, and Santa pulled a red hot flame from his sack: a flame to light a fire in the heart of every Giffordian who had ever lived. Gifford became united as one.

From nowhere came a string of first places. Removes Rugby and UMs Cross Country earned valuable points, and a last gasp win in Senior Hockey meant that Gifford started to make headway up the table. There was a clear lack of 8ths, 7ths and 6ths on the Gifford score sheet too. It was a sign of steady growth. Avoiding defeat was proving just as successful a strategy as the unstructured pursuit of glory that Gifford had chosen to adopt over recent years.

Highlights came first in the form of House Shout. Miss Gifford herself, Miss Jones, directed a phenomenal rendition of *I Want To Break Free*, led by the great Jamie Scott. The decision was unanimous: 1<sup>st</sup> place. Crowds of glory-seeking Giffordians in skirts lined the school celebrating. The result left Gifford in a promising position for the start of summer. Finally, after nearly ten years of waiting, Mr McMullan saw his dream begin to take shape.

Summer Term saw one final push from the army that had been unified under Max and Co. A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the three triple-weighted Cricket competitions, topped off by a narrow victory over rivals Vardy in Athletics Standards, saw Gifford pick up 90 points from just 4 events. The momentum of the Gifford train was now huge, and the army didn't stop pushing until the death. A historic 21-point clear victory was just deserts.

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins- not through strength but by perseverance."

The Summer Term was approached with a degree of trepidation. Cricket was helped by an excellent second position by the Minors. However, the other two main summer events, Swimming and Athletics, could have been better. Our only success in the latter came from the Shells, which was mainly due to Connor McGurk and Jonathan Duckett amassing enough points to win the competition on their own, which surprisingly helped us push up to a second overall. So we had to rely on our banker, Tennis. If only we could have played a Joker. We won Senior, Junior and Minor Tennis comfortably, thanks to a number of players including Ravi Soni and Henry Arnold.

In summary, our overall position was reflective of an up-and-down year. Thanks to Dom Hyde and Emilie Halpin for steering the ship through slightly choppy waters. Good luck to Henry Arnold and Ryota Nishikawa for the forthcoming years.

SJT



Another year has passed for Levett, full to the brim with triumph and defeat and, although we have come a long way from the abysmal performance of 2006, as I write in July 2007 we have suffered more loss than gain.

The year began with disappointment as the House failed to deliver in the 'intellectual' competitions. Even with a Challenge team led by Mohammed Saqib, we were denied a podium finish. The only relief came in Senior Debating where the team (led by the formidable Ashvir Sangha) achieved first place and, in the process of doing so, slew the fearsome Debating dragon affectionately known to many as 'Tills'. Despite this epic victory, we finished the Autumn Term in eighth place.

Spring brought new hope to Levett. We prepared in earnest for rugby, cross country and House Music, which have always been Levettian strongholds. We proved our mettle in the indoor competitions, achieving respectable places in squash, badminton and table tennis. Preparations for House Shout were well organised by Tom Hawkey and Mark Heath and eventually culminated in an astounding performance of Supergrass's *Alright* fronted by Nick Oakley. His singing talents, in addition to huge inflatable balls provided by Ashvir Sangha, landed us a respectable third place. However, even this result was topped in Senior Rugby when Will Arnold led an all-star team on a long journey, culminating in a titanic struggle against our arch-nemesis, Jeune House, to achieve a victorious first place. These efforts all combined to place us third for the Spring Term and lift us from bottom to seventh place for the year.

The Summer Term didn't bring as much good fortune as expected. Cricket provided us with initial optimism, with the Juniors knocking all that opposed them for six to reach first place. Tennis



and swimming respectively smashed our dreams and sank our hopes: our highest placing was a fourth place in Senior swimming. Athletics proved more worthwhile, the Fifts showing their various talents by winning the hammer, the 100 metres and the 200 metres. In Standards we managed 3<sup>rd</sup>, thanks to our exceptional Removes, ten of whom were awarded bonus points for their efforts. When all was said and done, however, we were rewarded with a final place of 6<sup>th</sup>.

Motivation has never been lacking in Levett. In fact, under Mr Roll's superb leadership Levett has always tried its very hardest to achieve that ultimate goal, the Cock House Cup. However, it appears that next year we must do better than our best if we are to have any hope of reliving the glory days of 2005.

Of course, competitions only show one side of a House and, at least in the case of Levett, there is a far more important element that binds the House together like one large family. From the motivational talks in the MPL at the start and end of each term to the Tuesday morning tutor group meetings, Levett is an organic community that aims to grow and nurture young boys, turning them into men. I would argue that this sense of duty to its members is what makes a House truly great, and is worth far more than some trivial trinket awarded to those possessed of sporting and academic prowess.





## Prince Lee

2006-2007 has been a varied year for the pink House. After losing several strong Sixth formers, Prince Lee has had to strive once more for dominance.

However, with the loss of the old comes the new. For the first time in years, Prince Lee has won a Cross Country competition; Shells Cross Country. Our Shells also claimed victory in Athletics, as well as coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in Rugby. With so much potential, the Prince Lee Shells will no doubt be a force to be reckoned with in the years to come!

The Removes, with the helping hand of their younger counterparts, managed a fairly successful year. Our Upper Middles, a particularly strong year, have seen huge success, winning the hallowed Rugby competition as well as Athletics and contributing some future House stars, not least Will Chesner, who has proven himself to be a shining symbol of one-man heroics.

However, Prince Lee is not just a cascade of heroism. Our House values everyone. There are those who provide the base without which the House wouldn't function. Take the Senior Swimming team. As a member, I can say that it is not the strongest team in the school. However, every member does his share of events and in the end we manage. Our team came 5<sup>th</sup> this year after finishing last the year before. I think this is a fair reflection of our attitude as a House.

But as Seniors we make up for our weaknesses by focusing on our strengths. The tradition of winning the Fives competition continues. As well as a 1<sup>st</sup> in Senior squash, thanks to Karan Modi and Satnam Reehal, we have done very well in the indoor House competitions. The greatest disappointment for the Seniors this year has been an incredibly unfortunate 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in House Rugby. Despite our being seeded 4<sup>th</sup>, three consecutive missed penalties and an injured captain (Guy Thomas) saw us off to a finish low in the table.

Highlights of the year include the House Shout. Jack Davenport was the name and *Brown Sugar* was the game. Despite our unexpectedly low 4<sup>th</sup> place, everyone who saw the performance will agree that it was not to be forgotten! Thanks to Tom, Karim, Chris and all involved.

So all our labour culminated in a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall position in the Cock House competition, an improvement from last year. So as the year ends, and a new one waits to begin, thanks must be paid to all House tutors, not least Mr Jon Porter, our Grand Master. We look forward to room 180/181, and, hopefully, this time next year we will be celebrating a well earned Cock House victory!

## Jeune

They say good things come to those who wait. The Jeune army has been waiting since 1992 to grasp once again the Cock House trophy, but this year, as in previous years, it wasn't to be.

The House with undoubtedly the most spirit and the best members has fallen. This year was but a mere stumble in the march of the Jeune army towards greatness, and Cock House glory. Under the leadership of Chris Adamson, the house made a shaky start to the year in the Autumn Term, traditionally our weakest. However we didn't let this phase us, with all teams getting out and enthusiasm and effort shown by all.

This was a continuing theme shown by members of the House throughout the year. No matter the ability or age group, full teams were represented in nearly every competition and commendable effort was shown by all. Particular highlights of the year were the Senior Cricket team dominating the rained off, indoor House Cricket competition, blasting all competition away. A similar story was seen in Senior Swimming and Polo, as Jeune obliterated all other Houses.

Yet why, despite these sparkling performances, did the House come 8<sup>th</sup>? We know, and we're pretty certain you all do too. That's right, once again in true Cock House spirit, the results were fudged. We feel that our performances in competitions do justify our being put in a position lower than Cary Gilson; yes, we'll never outlive that one. The fact that Gifford were named champions must surely be proof to everyone else that the Cock House was fixed. And we won't stand for such an injustice. We will respond, but rather than try to force some inquest like many other, lower Houses would try, we will fight back with action, not words. Next year, under the joint leadership of Jamie Cutler and Prasant Desai, we will once again rise to where we belong, the top of the Cock House table, and make up for the injustice this year. Good things come to those who wait...we have waited; it is time for the Jeune army to rise. Next year, under the able guidance once again of Mr James, we will march, and we will win to cries of...WHOSE HOUSE???

You have been warned.

Harpreet Gohel



# House Basketball

For virtually all Shells and many Removes, the inter-House competition is their first experience of competitive basketball. As well as being exciting it marks the start of a considerable learning curve. The competition is designed so that every boy in each age group team plays at least half of every match, and each House plays all the others. The Upper Middles and Fourths combine as one House team: the format of their competition is similar to the Juniors. The players are more skilful and knowledgeable, and most are playing at a high standard. They are also bigger and more physical, and the confines of the

gymnasia make for a unique atmosphere, with lots of noise, contact and generous refereeing! By the time players reach the Senior competition they are usually too big to play productive basketball in the gymnasia: the best basketball is usually to be found in the Sports Hall, and the play-offs attract plenty of spectators. This year the Shell competition was won by Vardy, the Removes by Heath, the combined UM & Fourth by Gifford, and the Senior by Heath. On the basis of combined results, Heath were top dog in 2007.

SB

## Heath

It was an interesting year for Heath, 2006-2007. There were moments of sheer brilliance by some (more later) and real highs. Sadly, the lows were very low and much of the rest was quite mediocre. We'll miss the 6<sup>th</sup> form; they were certainly a nice bunch of lads. But we will not miss their lack of leadership or lack of organisation. I think the top end of the House let the younger ones down.

Concentrating on the highs, there were some memorable moments. Top of the list has to be the fact that Bradley Garmston in the Removes broke 3 Athletics Records (80m Hurdles/100m/200m) and, had he been allowed to compete, would have won UM, 4ths & 5ths 200m. He also held the House record for High Jump for half a minute before being beaten by Sam White, another Heath Remove. Our Senior and Junior Swimmers did us proud (both 2<sup>nd</sup> places) and Water Polo remains one of our better events (3<sup>rd</sup> Juniors and 2<sup>nd</sup> Seniors). Athletics Standards, when analysed, gave an interesting summary of the House: Fourths, Shells and Removes had worked hard and come in the top 4; Upper Middles had a slightly more lazy summer, coming 6<sup>th</sup>; whilst in the Seniors the Divisions had come up trumps (Hurray!), but the 6ths and 5ths managed only 4 cards between them. It says it all.

There were some brighter moments throughout the year. Rugby went well: Shells were 4<sup>th</sup>, Removes 2<sup>nd</sup> and Seniors 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shell Squash was 1<sup>st</sup> place (well done Matthew Bates and Andy Wilson); Shell Badminton, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Remove Basketball 1<sup>st</sup>; Senior Basketball 1<sup>st</sup>. Luke Shipman did his best to salvage the House Shout but his lone talent was sadly not enough. Meanwhile Dan Mort and Kiyam Lin did us proud in House Music Round 1.

The most important thing is that many boys worked extremely hard and gave of their best: that is all we ask. Of note (and in no particular order) were Tim Wheeler, Ihsaan Faisal, Jamie Wheeler, Joe Harrison, Sam Ceney, Callum Crombie, Sam White, Brad Garmston, Alistair Malhotra, John Hunt, Stan Cousins, Michael Hawrylak, Seb Hall, Andy Hutt, James Buckley, Max Haig, Amreet Kang and Olly Mitchell. Huge thanks go to those boys, but also to others not named: to all those who spent the year rushing about and doing their very best.

Thanks to our House Captain, Alastair Mason, who did a fine job throughout the year, and thanks also to the House Tutors, Mr Smith, Mr Stacey, Mr Golightly and Mr Milton for their loyalty, support and sheer hard work. We look forward to a great year ahead.

CMLT and MDS





# Vardy

To be part of a House at school is something we should not take lightly, and not take for granted. We are told that it is like a family, a society of boys you can relate with outside the hours of lessons and your other friends. Whilst this enchanted image may not be entirely accurate, for the majority of boys at King Edward's, the House does give something extra on top of the regular school day. It allows those who are naturally timid and quiet a chance to compete against others as part of a team and it rewards those who endeavour.

Much was said in the House at the start of the last school year about how this was our year, our turn finally to lift the illustrious Cock House trophy. Naturally, we left Big School with searing confidence knowing that we had it within ourselves to prove to everyone else that we weren't just the "nearly" men. The previous year had been all change; taking over at the top, Rob 'Milney' Milne had altered the House's ethos, and had given us a "last man standing" mentality. In his first year the House did not disappoint, narrowly missing out on the great cup by a single point: just one run in House Cricket.

So in Big School this time around we were, of course, told our frailties and failings and how we could improve. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect start; our chess immortals proved their divinity by winning House Chess with only one game dropped. The brilliant minds of the Challenge and Debating teams fueled the Vardy wildfire with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places respectively. Everything seemed clement then at the end of the Autumn Term, with us on top of the pile, and by a long way. The Spring Term was, in essence, a disappointment. At its conclusion we were still leading the rest, but not by much. An unorganized House Music preparation led to 5<sup>th</sup> place and the House indoor competitions didn't provide the upward thrust we required. However, there was one year that stood up above the rest: the Fourth Form showed the rest of the House their true Vardy spirit, emerging victorious in nigh all that they entered.

What is the power of one man when measured against the many others in this world? To a Vardian, the influence of one man had come to seem immeasurable. So when rumours of Mr Milne flying the coop to go to Oxford started circulating, the morale could have dipped; it could have been the beginning of the end; but we weren't about to lie down and accept defeat. With the start of the Summer Term came a renewed sense of direction and motivation; we would deliver on our promise, we would win the Cock House as a tribute to all that Rob had done for our House.

Alas, it was not to be. When the results were



read out by a deflated Mr Milne, the whole House descended into silence; it was the quietest House meeting since he had arrived. However, despite finishing our quest once again in second place, there remained honour in the distinguished House. We could hold our heads high and say that most of us had given our all, and that next time we are handed such a chance we will seize it with open arms.

*James Alsopp*



# IS NO Societies

Freshly elected by Dr Daniel at the beginning of this year, the Scientific Society Committee of Rousseau Dasgupta, Henry Cathcart, Ian Thebridge, Vishnu Aggarwal, Xu Zhu, Richard Burrows and Jeffrey Yu (some of whom were never seen at meetings), brought renewed life and excitement to the Society. Bringing science to the masses has never been an easy job, and has not been made easier by the great range of alternative activities on offer on a Thursday lunchtime. However, the committee, putting our combined scientific intelligence to best use, employed several ingenious methods to attract our fair share of punters.

It began with the revival of a feature of the Society that had not been seen for a couple of years...girls. In days of yore, there was one "Joint Scientific Society", but the correlation between serious scientists and lack of social prowess caught up with previous Committees, and the links were lost. However, this year's Committee was not to be plagued by such problems, and the more "popular" amongst us proceeded to call in some contacts to enrich our demographics.

Owing to a combination of this lure, that of chocolate cake, and our new flashy, full-colour posters wasting much precious toner from the Ruddock Room, male turnouts have also soared this year, reaching a peak of forty six for the talk on *Greenhouse Gases and Global Warming*. Unfortunately, half way through the year, the Senior Management decided to cut off our chocolate cake budget: expenses had soared

because of the variety of new Societies that had established themselves. Turnouts fell like a lead balloon. Despite this setback, the Society is still alive and kicking, still drawing in a sizeable clientele.

Talks this year have been highly varied. They have come from students and teachers as well as external speakers. Topics have been widely different, from esoteric CREST Gold Award talks, about receptors used to detect specific DNA antigens and particle physics, to more trivial talks like *The Physics of Rock*. Who can forget Xu Zhu's celebrity status attracting half of the Sixth form to his CREST Gold Award Talk, which only the most hardcore biologists understood, or his virtual assistant, "Merlin", who gave a live glossary on every slide as it came up on screen in an attempt to reach out to the masses?

In a year when the construction of the Large Hadron Collider is to be finished and the ITER project is about to begin, in a world where new diseases and climate problems are the plagues of today, we could all use a little more knowledge of science, and I feel that the Scientific Society has done its part in spreading this knowledge. We leave the society in the capable hands of Ci Yao who heads up the committee along with Adam Townsend, Dan Sullivan and Adil Ahmad. May the Society continue to flourish in future years as it has over this year.

Rousseau Dasgupta

Scientific  
Society

Each Wednesday afternoon during games, a noble few give up the chance of Rugby and Hockey to train to become lifeguards. This year, there has been an influx of "newbies", as well as the qualifying of some Divisions. Supervised by Mr Owen and Rev Raynor, we train to complete the RLSS lifesaving award, which allows qualified lifeguards to work at swimming pools across the country. This year has seen the Head lifeguard and his qualified compadres teach the trainees, always

under the watchful gaze of the staff.

Qualified Lifeguards have helped at school functions, such as lunchtimes when voluntary swimming is in session, the Family Barbecue and the CCF General Inspection, as well as helping outside hirers of the pool. It is an extremely worthwhile qualification to have, and my thanks go to Mr Owen and Rev Raynor who train us.

Adam Richardson

Life-  
Guarding



## Classic Film Society

By September 2006, CFS was one of the big boys: we had survived the turbulent weeks of seeking to establish the Society and were now able smugly to count ourselves among the crème de la crème of the school's extra-curricular activities. Here was a strong club with firm foundations and a core audience passionate for all things cinematic. What would *Classic Film Society: The Sequel* hold in store, we pondered?

If CFS was to prosper in its second year, Room 159 would not do. The answer was across the hall: Room 161. Mrs Southworth graciously allowed the Society to nurture the school's cinematic tastes from here, and we kick-started the year in ebullient fashion with *Back to the Future*. Acting on the principle of 'Get 'em while they're young', we thought to target our September movie at the Shells, but a film of such calibre could not but attract a cross-section of the school. Indeed,

so strong was the response, I felt compelled to screen the sequel.

By now, even Room 161 would not suffice. CFS was led out of the History Corridor and into Geog Room B, under the mentorship of Mr Pitt. The new HQ witnessed record attendance figures, as dozens sat and stood to watch *Home Alone*. CFS decided to inject some Disney into the month of March with *The Lion King*. The classic musical was an unprecedented success. With song sheets printed off for all, the meetings were spent singing along to numbers like *Circle of Life* and *Can You Feel The Love Tonight?*, further demonstrating that this is the most dynamic club in the school (eat your heart out, Choral Society).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CFS Awards was to be my final bow as we celebrated the better moments of the year, ranging from a Best Interjection Award for Francis Gardiner-Trejo and his acid

tongue, to a Best Disciple of The Year Award for the devoted Dan Neale. Mike Jones, meanwhile, was able to retain his Worst Disciple accolade from 2006, despite some strong competition from Alex Skouby. Both should be ashamed of themselves.

At the end of the Awards, Adam Townsend was officially crowned the next Pope and President of CFS, with James Eyre as his deputy, both pledging to uphold the integrity of the Society. I wish them the best of luck. As I leave KES, I genuinely look upon CFS as one of my finest experiences – from the wit of the audience to the indisputable brilliance of the films. I now feel secure that it will last for years to come. Since its inception, there have been no fewer than 45 separate CFS meetings, involving 19 films and approximately 38 hours of screen time – this is a massive achievement. KES needs a film society – whether the majority of its staff and pupils realise it or not – and CFS will continue to fight the good fight in the name of all things artistic, pretentious, profound, and pretty darn cool.

Jamie Scott

### The next Spielberg?





This time last year I was telling you how excited I was about re-branding the Amnesty International Society as KES Amnesty in the hope of bringing the society to the masses. In fact I even published one of our posters to try to lure the mainstream to this largely underground society. I quickly found that supporting justice and upholding human rights as set out by the United Nations' Declaration is something that all of us (give or take a few) support; but only the most devoted join our society.

Personally I think it is a great shame; I can only hope that my successor is more able to draw in masses of people to fight the corner of the little guy against some of the corrupt figures and governments of the world. That said, the faithful few of KES Amnesty went about their business with fervour and we were able to fulfil one of our main propaganda tasks. After some light badgering, I was finally able to secure our society two notice boards in the RS department corridor to showcase the material which Amnesty International sends us. To my delight, this worked

to attract some newer members in the Fourth and Fifth years, which bodes well for the future. In addition we continued our conventional role of writing letters and supporting the campaigns of the time. This year there was a strong focus on the atrocities in Darfur and the corruption in the diamond trade in Africa.

I strongly urge members of the Upper School to give the society a go. You may have already seen our notice boards outside rooms 180 and 181, and I feel that now would be a great time to have a wander around room 201 on a Tuesday lunchtime to see, if not take part in, what we actively do. I don't want to give too much away, but there may even be cake! I would, of course, like to thank His Holiness Rev Raynor for being a straight up G and helping us out, Victor Joannou and Will Bridges for helping to run the show, Joaquin Phoenix for making AI look cool and Amnesty International for sending us great material to work with. Once again: join, if for no other reason than the fact that it's great for the personal statement and the chicks love ardent supporters of human rights!

*Adhuv Prinja*

KES  
Amnesty

Agora is a society which provides an opportunity for philosophical, religious and reasoned contemplation and discussion. Mrs Ostrowicz, Charles Douglas and I have endeavoured to attract guest speakers from a wide range of backgrounds, with reasonable success. Unfortunately my main target of the year, Benjamin Zephaniah, was completely unreachable and Charles found representatives of Huntingdon Life Sciences somewhat dismissive of the prospect of having to answer probing questions. That said, we still had a reasonably eventful year. Joe Jackson and I gave the first talk, on our experiences of traveling through Africa and helping out at a primary school there. The talk was well received by pupils and teachers alike, including the Chief Master, who seemed truly intrigued.

The Spring Term saw the main event of the year, after I managed to secure a visit from Mr Yann Lovelock, a Buddhist who represents his religious community at the Home Office. He reflected upon how the Buddhist faith might deal with modern problems such as global terrorism and the environment. The talk was enjoyed by the great

number of people who attended; most thanked Mr Lovelock for giving us insights into modern Buddhism.

Our third speaker of the year was meant to be Robert Beckford of Birmingham University, to talk on Black Theology, but we were unable to agree dates for his talk, which therefore had to be postponed. Unfortunately, Charles and I will have left KES by the time he speaks, but have found both of his programmes, shown on the BBC on Christmas Day, fascinating. Charles' work in securing this contact will not, I hope, go in vain.

This year, Agora has, once more, served up some interesting discussions and drawn in the crowds to appreciate it. Charles and I both wish our successor(s) the best of luck in trying to contact speakers, as we both understand the difficulty. Many thanks to Mrs O for keeping it real and giving us a helping hand when we've needed it, and also to Mr Cross for letting me take part, in his Maths lessons, in conference calls to non-English speaking Buddhist monks while I was trying to reach Mr Lovelock!

*Adhuv Prinja*

AGORA



## History Society

This year saw the creation of the History Society; formed for those who find the extreme enthusiasm for codpieces in the Living History Society a little unnerving but who still wish to grab some extracurricular history-based fun. Before its creation, all the historical excitement to be had was larking about with Mr Davies' seemingly endless supply of pikes, swords, shields, medieval siege machinery and "deactivated" rifles. Then came a new kid on the historical block: Mr Golightly. Though armed only with a penchant for newsletters and an enticing supply of cake, he soon recruited a core of followers willing to sacrifice Break or lunch so that others could know the joy of history. Before long, it was suggested that a newsletter be published once a term, featuring articles such as verbal reconstructions of battles, biographies of historical figures and historical crosswords. After much debate over the name of our publication it was decided that it would be known jointly as "The Cabal" and "Yesterday's News", much like the adult and child versions of the Harry Potter series.

The first issue was a rip roaring success. Distributed to almost every form room in the school in December, it has now been estimated that it has been glanced at in well over seven different form rooms. However, for the next issue it was decided to pass the baton to a younger generation of historians, while the focus of the rest of the group turned to preparing a picture

aided talk to be given to the school on Holocaust Memorial Day. Whilst roles such as "Secondary Picture Researcher" and "Script Checker" were eagerly snapped up, it was soon revealed that nobody wanted the honour of standing up to deliver a talk on the Holocaust in front of their peers and teachers, so on that fateful Monday morning Greg Divall and Jerome O'Neill stepped into the breach.

Behind the scenes, Mr Golightly organised a trip to Wolverhampton University to hear Holocaust survivor Hanna Ulatowska talk about her harrowing childhood at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and her experiences of wartime Warsaw. Soon afterwards, an excursion to Birmingham University was in order to view the archived diaries, letters and photographs of Neville Chamberlain, especially in relation to his attitude towards Hitler. There was also time for a brief tour of the rest of the Chamberlain archives, which also include material from Joseph and Austen Chamberlain.

Next year the society will be organising more trips and continuing to publish the newsletter: articles are expected to include *Ask Ivan*, the much anticipated problem page featuring Ivan the Terrible.

Jerome O'Neill

## Graphic Universe

When I joined *The Graphic Universe* in late 2001, it was a busy, jolly society, which watched things on a rickety old television in the depths of Room 160. Over time the technology improved, but numbers dropped, until at more than one point, we were almost stripped of Friday afternoon status. But we survived through those dark times, and this year things have finally (and thankfully) changed as *The Graphic Universe* has risen from the flames.

Starting once again with the traditional call for new members, we were pleasantly surprised with the number of Shells that attended. This is, in part, down to an external force, *Dr Who*. Rejuvenated (or should that be regenerated?), David Tennant's Doctor has reached younger audiences better than Christopher Ecclestone's more intense version, thanks to the scripts' increasing amounts of humour and in-jokes. The new Shells are the lifeblood of the society, and this has meant that on Thursday lunchtimes, we have watched more than the occasional *Who* episode. The year has also seen the re-instatement of the *Graphic Universe Christmas Party*, where, by popular demand, we watched David Tennant in his first outing as the Doctor in the 2005 *Christmas Invasion*. As 2006 moved into 2007, *GU* has moved into new territory, introducing the Shells to the world of comic book movies such as *X-Men*, which was well received. Meetings have also included reviews of *Torchwood* and an introduction to

Superheroes in films and comics.

This year has also seen a revival for *GU* as a Friday afternoon, as the long-suffering activity has gained much-needed new blood. Finally emerging from the loss of *Buffy*, *Angel* and *Firefly*, we have moved onto the rejuvenated *Battlestar Galactica*. No-one who watched (or perhaps suffered) the original 1970s series would recognise this version of *Galactica*. With great scripts, first-class acting and special effects to boot, the show has become an international success. As one of our members put it, *I leave Friday afternoons exhausted; it's a real rollercoaster*. The increase in numbers has even led to seating problems (which hasn't happened in a long time!) when entertaining Upper Middles.

In last year's *Chronicle* I predicted that the society would grow as we moved into the mainstream, and finally it has happened! In my final report for *The Graphic Universe*, I leave the society in a strong position, but *GU* would not have continued without Mr Milton, our resident expert. They say it's good to go out with a song, and whilst I could quote the *Buffy* musical (*Where do we go from here?* springs to mind), I think it's more appropriate to quote Christopher Ecclestone's Doctor; *Now before I go, I just want to say one thing. You were fantastic, absolutely fantastic. And you know what? So was I!*

Adam Richardson



## Joint Debating Society

Competition Debating has long been a source of pride for KES, due to the success of individuals such as Richard Lau, Shane Murray, Ashvir Sangha and Atharv Tillu. The success of the KES/KEHS Joint Debating Society, however, has been severely limited in previous years. In collaboration with Mrs Shore-Nye of KEHS, we decided to place the emphasis, this year, on bringing Debating to the masses on a regular weekly basis: we have had an extraordinary response, with turnouts which have threatened to fill up the KEHS Lecture Theatre.

The first debate, *This House feels that Tony Blair has been an effective Prime Minister*, saw Michael Scoins and Adil Ahmad successfully oppose the motion with a significant majority. The debate will be remembered for Chair Laura Scott's reproach of Adil after his use of the phrase 'pissed off' less than thirty seconds into his speech, which she and the proposition (Liv Wall and Sapna Sian) deemed inappropriate. Having been accused of having no substantial arguments and winning through demagoguery alone, Adil, after taking advice from Andrew Browning, requested a mixed debate with a representative from each school on either team, in order that the "battle of the sexes" aspect of the debates be abolished.

In a much more closely matched debate, Giulia Lazzaro and Adil Ahmad came up against Rainbow Crawford and Andrew Browning, who elegantly snatched victory away from the Opposition with his summation speech, adamant that *This House should fear Islam*. Despite the

success of this mixed debate, it was felt that the "battle of the sexes" aspect should not be *entirely* abandoned, as it is a huge selling point for the Society. So Laura Scott and Khaleda Rahman narrowly lost by two votes, in the final debate of the year, after James Eyre and Izu Chukwulobelo successfully opposed the motion that *This House would make Abortion illegal in the UK*.

Unfortunately, because the Society was started up during the Summer Term, the Sixth form (Upper Sixth) from both schools were on study leave and hence only members of the Divisions (Lower Sixth) were able to attend. In the new academic year we hope that, once meetings are open to two year groups, only Big School will suffice to contain the masses who will wish to be a part of the incredible phenomenon that is KES/KEHS Joint Debating Society.

We hope also to experiment with different styles of Debating. So far, much to the displeasure of KEHS debaters, we have had Impromptu debates, where the motion is only revealed fifteen minutes before the start of the debate, requiring an ability to improvise. Since it was felt that KES had an advantage in this because (as Mrs Shore-Nye puts it) 'boys have a natural arrogance which works well in Debating,' the first debate of the new year will be prepared in advance: Becky Briscoe and Katie Scott will propose the motion that *This House would allow torture warrants for Terror Suspects*.

Adil N. Ahmad



Andrew Browning (left) with a Point of Information to Adil Ahmad (right)

The meetings of the Economics and Business Society were, unfortunately, rather sporadic. The events that were held were always interesting and proved a great help to the members who were sitting their AS and A2 examinations. The society's meetings consisted of talks by external, or occasionally internal, speakers knowledgeable in a particular field of economics. One popular topic near the start of year was corporate social responsibility, with representatives from Cadbury-Schweppes

and Rover, amongst other firms, talking about its growing importance in the modern market. Probably the most popular talk of the year was given by the Target 2.0 Competition Team: Hugh Davenport, Charlie Scott, Amreet Kang and Nimesh Sohda. The talk, which was arranged at the eleventh hour, was delivered to the members of the society before being heard in the actual competition. It has been a very interesting year for economists to discuss: I hope the society continues to flourish next year.

## Economics & Business Studies Society



## Literary Society

**This report begins with an account of an event from the year 2005-06, which was inexplicably omitted from the last issue of Chronicle:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* with the appearance of *The Return of the King* on this date in 1955. The KES Literary Society (to which Old Edwardian J. R. R. Tolkien once belonged) honoured the moment with an evening of readings from the Professor's works in the Concert Hall.

There were too many Divisions and Sixths readers to mention individually, but the verse or prose stretched all the way back to the very poem which was the genesis of Tolkien's legendarium. Of local interest was an early vision of his mythical West in a 1915 piece recorded delightfully as having been composed in "Moseley and Edgbaston... (walking and on bus)". Later lesser-known works followed, leading up to extracts from *The Return of the King* itself.

And a tipsy cat featured: unconnected, it should be stressed, with the goodly volume of wine accompanying proceedings.

SLS

**And now, on with the report for 2006-07:**

"Who is the commander of this vessel?" demands a swaggering Russell Crowe in the big screen adaptation of Patrick O'Brian's novel *Master and Commander*. Ultimately, for the KES Literary Society, this crucial question was asked too late, as the two potential candidates for leadership – Thomas X and Dominic Y, for the sake of anonymity – each

vaguely assumed the other to be in charge and so proved unable to establish anything resembling a regular meeting.

Nevertheless, courtesy of the enthusiasm and support of Messrs Stacey and Milne, two literary events were able to take place. The more professional of these was undertaken by Mr Cumberland with a confident and engaging presentation on the writing style and personal history of the aforementioned O'Brian. The talk focussed on the 'Aubrey-Maturin' series for which the novelist is primarily known, but also discussed the nature of his highly extensive research into naval history and the ongoing dispute regarding his nationality.

Less organised but more passionate was the single open-mike Creative Writing session. Although only two people eventually read from their own material – X Duggins and Y Hyde, for the purposes of privacy – there was much valuable discussion about literary devices, the merits of poetry and prose in conveying ideas and the extent to which an author's work remains truly his own once published and open to assessment. Encouragingly, a number of those in attendance suggested that in the event of similar meetings, they would be happy to read from their own material; it would be nice to think that, with the long summer to build their confidence (and repertoires), these aspiring young writers might establish a more regularly attended Creative Writing group.

Thanks must go to Mr Stacey and Mr Milne for their patience, zeal and considerate conduct towards failed T. S. Eliot impersonators.

Dominic Hyde

## Geographical Society

As per usual, we have had yet another action-packed year here at Geog Soc. After all, it's not all just about various shades of beige, tweed jackets and shoulder pads, is it? As is the case pretty much every year, perhaps the most memorable event was the Magic Lantern Show, when we witnessed a wide range of geographical, and some not so geographical, slideshows brought to us by staff and students from their various excursions round the world. Slideshows included the 2006 trip to Iceland, the various birds of paradise spotted by KES's very own bird expert Mr Porter, and the activities that Mr Boardman gets up to in caves during the long summer holidays. And, of course, there was the well-researched presentation made by members of the Divisions about housing types in Birmingham. One recurring let-down at Geog Soc Magic Lantern Shows, however, has been the absence of Sir Cliff Richard, who Mr Cumberland has promised will attend for a number of years now. Instead, we welcomed the return of a legend of the Mathematics department, Mr Simpson, who took the place of the 'mystery guest' this year.

Moving on to the slightly more formal aspects of the Geography Society, we had talks

by university lecturers, one of which will be particularly remembered as the host turned up an hour late, much to the dismay of the audience, who knew full well that they had missed the last bus or train home that day. Alas, we received a talk on the social relationships between classes and the impact of gentrification on urban areas (now there's a nice geographical phrase).

What I really admire about Geog Soc is the way it draws people from all spheres of the school, whether or not they study Geography, and the way students and teachers are put on an equal playing field when it comes to standing in front of an audience to talk about whatever trip they recently went on. So the society itself is not just about colourful posters on Mr Pitt and Mr Smith's doors, but also about the way people are prepared to give up an evening every so often to listen to the experiences of others on their excursions round the globe. If the jovial atmosphere of every meeting in Geography Room A continues, I am confident that Geog Soc will remain as popular as it has been since I was a Shell. And who knows, perhaps even Sir Cliff Richard will finally make an appearance at the Magic Lantern Show!

Jeremy Rison



## Islamic Society

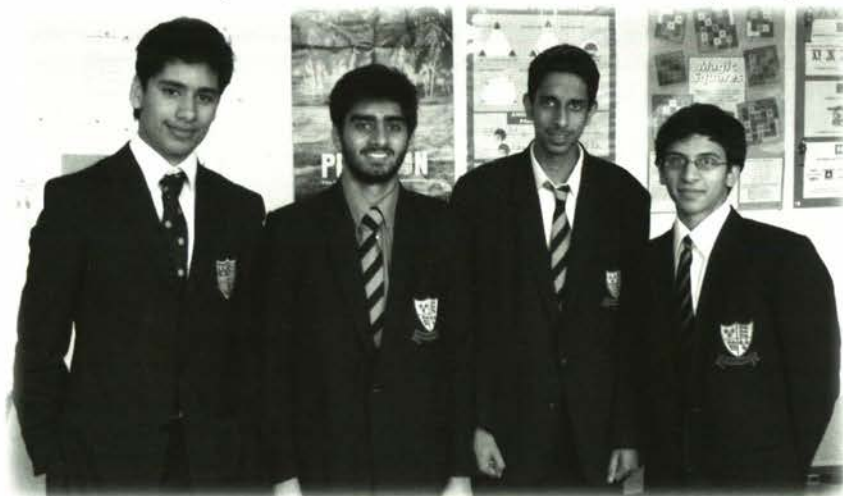
The purpose of the Islamic Society (ISOC) has always been both to provide a means by which Muslim students can carry out their daily prayers and to serve as a forum for the large number of Muslim pupils attending KES. From the start of 2006-07, however, an emphasis was placed upon making the Islamic Society accessible to non-Muslims in order to enhance understanding within KES of Islam as a way of life. The Head of the ISOC, Zubair Rahim, in corroboration with the Chief Master and Reverend Raynor, was able to arrange a talk by a speaker from the University of Birmingham which attracted more than just the Muslim community. We are adamant that the

availability of cake had nothing to do with the high level of attendance.

One of the great focuses of the Islamic Society is the annual Iftaar Evening, which is held in the last week of the holy month of Ramadan, during which Muslims fast each day from sunrise to sunset. The Iftaar Evening had always been held in the Sports Hall, but this time round Zubair secured the Dining Hall as the new venue. With a record attendance, not only of current KES pupils but also of ex-pupils and teaching staff, the tone was set for future Iftaar Evenings. Our aim for 2007-08 is to encourage a deeper understanding of young British Muslims by inviting external speakers to

KES and thereby stimulating debates and discussions.

Faizan Lakhani  
and  
Adil Ahmad



## Maths Society

The KES Maths Society is indeed a strange beast. Open to all but cruelly ignored by the many, it lurches forth from room 60, occasionally poking its bespectacled head out merely to pin a notice upon the board outside. Armed with no gimmicks but Mr Cross's "unique" sense of humour, MathSoc provides the riff-raff with the opportunity to sample some of the extra-curricular delights of the subject.

"Exotic" is perhaps not the word which springs to mind when you hear tell of MathSoc. Yet we've travelled all over the country, from Derby and Nottingham to Oxford. Indeed, all over the country *within a 70-mile radius*. We don't always get it right: "But surely," I hear you say, "the occasional free yellow mug makes up for this." Yes indeed.

Typically, the year started off with some of the popular, get-to-skive-Games events. The London Mathematical Society's Popular Lectures set the ball rolling at the University (starting off gently with travels within a 70-metre radius); here we learnt, amongst other things, how not to lose at *Noughts-and-Crosses* by constructing magic squares. This was followed by a high turn-out for the annual Maths Inspiration Conference in Birmingham. The Conference is one of the year's highlights, both entertaining and informative, with subjects ranging from Cryptology to Gyroscopics to exactly why buses really do come in threes.

A trip to Nottingham followed, to attend an impressive talk on *Rock Guitar in 11 Dimensions*, although the level of attendance did not allow for a full appreciation of the "I'll have a root beer squared, please" pub quip. After a dry spell, our astronomical ignorance was demonstrated at the *Search for Extra-Solar Planets* talk, which supported a prize project that was being run by some members, and provided us with a little background (personally, I'd say that the sky was quite a big background!).

As the year progressed, the British Society for the History of Mathematics hijacked the Common Room for various lectures. Always eager for biscuits and sordid knowledge, boys jumped at the chance to catch a glimpse of the other side of those double doors. Much to our disappointment, an unexciting collection of comfy chairs was all that was on offer. Finally, a trip to Oxford to hear talks on Euler proved a mixed bag, but if you can come back having thought rather more of "hmm, that's quite neat", and less of "those seats were bloody hard", then you are a mathematician, my son (© GA).

So the misfortune of the MathSoc is that, while we offer some great talks and trips, few have come forward to partake. Perhaps we'll flog Mr Tinley's Smartboard (as new and unused) and buy some brightly coloured "Mathlete" jackets. MathSoc: be there, or be a regular plane quadrilateral.



## Shakespeare Society

The year started with a relatively impressive turnout for a reading of *Macbeth*, which boded well for the future of Shakespeare Society. As the year progressed, a reading of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which will be remembered for the frantic last-minute attempts to secure a room, and one of *Othello* (memorable for impassioned performances from Ali Pardoe and George Hancock) provided KES and KEHS pupils with opportunities to read Shakespeare outside the classroom. It says much for the dedication of members that, even when there was an absence of cake and the only provisions comprised a (half-full) small bucket of bite-size chocolate bars, the Shakespeare Society banded together and managed to overcome all adversity. Reading with grumbling stomachs, there was outrage amongst the masses when it became apparent that Mark Davies, a Committee member of the Society, had in his possession a packet of crisps and two packs of Iced Gems, which he proceeded to indulge in, feeling no pity whatsoever for his comrades. In an attempt to avert a *genuine* re-enactment of *Julius Caesar*, Adil Ahmad, Laura Scott and Ela Matthews, the rest of the Committee, beseeched a return to the focus on the text.

Attendance numbers held up well throughout the year, despite the fact that we were, on more than one occasion, ousted out of school prematurely by the Porters' warning bells. It was

not until the final reading, of *Julius Caesar*, which unusually took place during the Summer Term, that we achieved an almost equal turnout of young men and women – the fruit of Mark and Adil's endless propaganda. A huge thank you to all the regulars, to volunteers who helped with the rearrangement of rooms and clearing up afterwards, and to the organisers for helping this most literate, inspiring and scholarly of societies to run smoothly. Hopefully next year more KES boys will see their way clear to turning up.

The Society thanks Dr Hosty, who has ensured plentiful copies of texts and has provided bridging summaries to sections of plays that time would not allow a reading of. A big thank you must also go to Miss White, of KEHS, for not only allowing us to use KEHS as a venue, but for helping to keep order, and indeed, for filling in most ably an extraordinary range of roles whenever silence descended due to the absence of a reader for a less-esteemed part; never has 'Third Citizen' been played with such gusto. I doubt anybody present at the time will forget Doc Hosty following the stage direction '(sings)', which was just as awesome as it sounds ('it' being the idea of Sir singing, not the singing itself. That was not so awesome.) With their guidance, and the passion and enthusiasm of pupils, we have no doubts that the Shakespeare Society will continue to thrive.

Mark Davies and Adil Ahmad



## Parliamentary Society

After a year's sabbatical, the Parliamentary Society returned to the forefront of the KES political world. The first meeting of the year encompassed an *Any Questions* session, with panellists Mr Milne, Mr Pitt, Mr Golightly and Atharv Tillu. Topics such as the Navy's nuclear submarines, "Young People and Respect", schools and the Cock House Competition were among the many to be discussed.

The second meeting of the year was entitled *Should Prince Harry be sent to war?* Taking Mr Stacey's idea, the meeting was meant to take a *Moral Maze* turn, with witnesses (Mr Davies and Mr

Mason) and panellists (Mr Stacey, Mrs Southworth and Jamie Scott) to answer questions. Despite the low turnout, Mr Davies succeeded in entertaining the audience with his radical views ("Put him on the Front Line!"). Parliamentary Society offers a great chance for pupils to get across their views, and I hope that the society continues to flourish in its current enjoyable and very worthwhile form. My thanks also go to Mrs Southworth, without whom the society would not continue. Roll on next year!

Adam Richardson





## ATHLETICS

This has been another outstanding year for KES Athletics, as highlighted by the Senior Team, who remained unbeaten for the entire season. They won all 7 matches and defeated 27 separate schools along the way, including Bromsgrove, Nottingham HS, Loughborough GS, RGS Worcester, Harrow and Highgate. Great things are expected of this team next year, as over half the members will be able to compete again for the same age group.

However, without the support and commitment of the teachers who raked, measured and timed at the track, giving up their Saturday mornings, Athletics fixtures would not have run to such a tight schedule and the team would not have reaped nearly as much success. In addition, the organisational prowess of the four team captains – Connor McGuirk (Minor Captain), Ed Davies (Junior Captain), Nyma Sharifi (Inter Captain) and Ajay Mohite (Senior Captain) are appreciated. Our thanks are extended to all of these teachers and team captains.

Special mentions must go, of course, to the entire Senior Team – James Allsopp, Eren Battaloglu, Patrick Campbell, Greg Divall, Dan Elphinston, Max Haig, Liam O'Brien, James Taft, Ci Yao, Chris Adamson, Emile Halpin, Greg Jackson, David Kennea, Alex Skouby (who won every 110m hurdles race *plus* 6 of 7 High Jumps), Guy Thomas, Jonathan Tipper and Matthew While. Also well done to every Minor, especially all rounder Jonathan Duckett, Tom Hubscher (most improved Junior), James Griffith (5<sup>th</sup> in the West Midlands Championships Inter 100m hurdles a year young), Oliver Mitchell (Inter all-rounder) and Ismail Akram (West Midlands Inter Triple Jump Champion and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the long jump).

*Greg Divall*

**"This has been another outstanding year for KES Athletics, as highlighted by the Senior Team, who remained unbeaten for the entire season. They won all 7 matches and defeated 27 separate schools along the way"**

	Matches	Schools Played	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Minors</b>	5	6	0	2	0	0
<b>Rems</b>	5	5	1	1	0	0
<b>Ums</b>	9	21	0	3	2	1
<b>Fourths</b>	3	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Inters</b>	6	22	0	3	3	0
<b>Seniors</b>	7	27	7	0	0	0



# BASKETBALL

**B**asketball at King Edward's does not attract the hordes of spectators that the players deserve. Even so, the sport thrived this year, from U14 level right through to U19 level.

The results sheet reads: 61 matches played, 45 won, 16 lost! At U19 level, under the captaincy of Jonathan Tipper, we reached the last sixteen in the England Schools' Cup and the semi-final of the Birmingham League. No mean feat for a team whose tallest player barely scraped 6'2" whilst some of our opponents fielded players of 6'4" or 6'5"! Thanks to the experience of Amar Haider and Jonathan

Tipper and the fresh enthusiasm of such as Eren Battaloglu, Ab Reddy and Ben Howell, we pulled out some impressive performances when needed.

Lower down the school, basketball attracted an equally enthusiastic group of players: the U16's reached the last 32 stage of the England Schools' Cup and the West Midland final. The U15 reached the last 8 of the England Schools' Cup and the finals of both the Birmingham League and the West Midlands Cup. However, the U14 were the only team to walk away with complete victory: they won the West Midlands Cup as well as reaching the last

16 stage of the England Schools' Cup.

It is fair to say that those on court know that they play with passion and enthusiasm due to the superb coaching that is available to them, and the commitment shown by them. For that reason it is necessary to thank Asad Kayani and Ranjan Chopra, two old-scholars who have invested numerous hours in their teams, as well as Mr Birch, who has put in an equal investment of hours with the U19!

*Danny Elphinston*

## U14

**W**e went into our first ever season inexperienced and under prepared, but our confidence grew and we began to look at ease on the basketball court during the course of the season.

We entered two competitions: the West Midlands Trophy, a regional knockout competition, and the England Schools Cup, a national competition. We tipped off with convincing wins against Willenhall in the former and against Barrs Hill in the latter. We went from strength to strength and learnt a lot from each game we played. In The England Schools Cup we earned a place among the last 32 schools in the country, but came up against Blue Coat from Liverpool, a strong and well-drilled side. We were without our coach, Dr Hayes, for this match, and without his inspirational team talks we lacked confidence and as a result, suffered tremendously. We went on to narrowly lose the game, so our national run was over; but we had learnt a lot from our first season on the national stage. This gave us a chance to focus solely on the West Midlands Competition. A win in the second round led us to the semi-finals, a tough game against Baverstock School for a place in the final. We managed to overcome this quick and skilful side 51 - 31, which led to a gripping final at Nechells against Aston Manor. In an extremely tight game where the lead swapped frequently, some calm free throw shooting in the last few seconds swung the game towards KES, resulting in a narrow 48 - 45 win.

Special mentions must go to key members of the squad who led us to becoming the West Midlands Champions; Ranjodh Sanghera's agile footwork in the paint, followed by some cool finishing, added vital points consistently. Will Watkinson's towering presence controlled the game at point guard. Gurpreet Kainth's power-house driving to the basket and his pinpoint shooting were key to the team's success, and John Tsopanis's skilful dribbling cut opposing teams apart. Well done to all the squad for their efforts and commitment throughout the season.

Thanks must also go to Dr Hayes, our coach, for his hard work, which led to our winning a trophy in our first season.

*Will Chesner*

## U19

**A** strong start to the season proved unsustainable and rapidly deteriorated, so that we did not actually win any competitions. However, we did manage to reach the semi-finals in both the Birmingham and West Midland leagues, and were robbed of a place in the last 16 of the England Schools' Cup. In this match, against Loughborough School, the score keepers were unable accurately to record the score, resulting in the match going into overtime, during which we lost by the narrowest of margins. The season was not a complete disaster, as performances by Ammar Haider, Jonathan Tipper and Amreet Kang were incredible. We must all thank Mr Birch for giving his time and effort to training the team and organising the matches.

*Eren Battaloglu*





# CRICKET

## KES v Old Edwardian's CC

Wednesday 25 April 2007  
At Eastern Road (40 Overs)

OEC	136 for 7
Iyer	2-20
Jones	2-22
Neale, D	2-26
KES	139 for 4
Christopher	50
Neale, P	27

KES Win

## KES v Shrewsbury School

Saturday 28 April 2007  
At Shrewsbury School (55 Overs)

SHREWSBURY	277 for 4
KES	82 all out
Christopher	21
Hussain	21

KES Loss

## KES v Old Swinford Hospital

Wednesday 2 May 2007  
At Eastern Road (40 Overs)

KES	260 for 5
Neale, D	70
Botha	59
Hussain	41*
Christopher	38
Neale, P	23
OLD SWINFORD H	60 all out
Neale, D	5-3
Jones	2-6

KES Win

## KES v RGS Worcester

Saturday 5 May 2007  
At RGS Worcester (60/52 Overs)

KES	145 all out
Neale, P	65*
RGS WORCESTER	149 for 3
Hussain	2-32

KES Loss

## KES v Millfield

Sunday 6 May 2007  
At Eastern Road (Twenty20)

KES	107 for 7
Botha	54
Neale, D	34
MILLFIELD	110 for 4
Grewel	2-13

KES Loss

## KES v Warwick School

Sunday 6 May 2007  
At Eastern Road (Twenty20)

WARWICK	144 all out
Hall	4-17
Neale, D	2-28
KES	
Heap	47
Christopher	39
Botha	31*

KES Win

## KES v Malvern College

Wednesday 9 May 2007  
At Malvern College

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v Solihull School

Saturday 12 May 2007  
At Eastern Road (60/52 Overs)

KES	82 all out
SOLIHULL	86 for 5

KES Loss

## KES v XL Club

Wednesday 16 May 2007  
At Eastern Road

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v Warwick School

Saturday 19 May 2007  
At Eastern Road (60/52 Overs)

KES	260 for 5
Neale, P	78*
Neale, D	64
Iyer	43
WARWICK	119 for 4
Hussain	2-11

KES Winning Draw

## KES v Wolverhampton GS

Saturday 9 June 2007  
At Eastern Road (50 Overs)

WOLVERHAMPTON	195 for 7
Neale, D	3-25
KES	141 all out
Neale, P	39
Grant	30

KES Loss

## KES v King's School Worcester

Saturday 16 June 2007  
At King's School Worcester

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v Trent College

Saturday 23 June 2007  
At Trent College (40 Overs)

KES	68 all out
TRENT	71 for 2

KES Loss

## KES v Repton School U15A

Wednesday 27 June 2007  
At Eastern Road (40 Overs)

REPTON	144 all out
Hussain	4-20
Saul	2-21
Neale, D	2-37
KES	140 all out
Saul	34
Neale, D	23

KES Loss

## KES v Hereford Cathedral School

Saturday 30 June 2007  
At Eastern Road

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v MCC

Wednesday 4 July 2007  
At Eastern Road

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v St Peter's College, Adelaide

Thursday 5 July 2007  
At Eastern Road (50 Overs)

ST PETER'S	189 all out
Shanghavi	4-31
Hussain	3-36
Jones	2-38
KES	8 for 0

Abandoned (rain)

## KES v Old Edwardian's Association

Saturday 7 July 2007  
At Eastern Road (40 Overs)

KES	165 for 8
Christopher	66
Hall	21*
Neale, D	21
OLD EDWARDIANS	68 all out
Saul	4-10
Neale, D	3-5
Hall	2-15

KES Win

## KES v Kestrels CC

Sunday 8 July 2007  
At Eastern Road (40 Overs)

KES	171 for 8
Botha	37
Arnold	33
Hussain	32
Khan	23
KESTRELS	9 for 1

Abandoned (rain)

## KES v Loughborough GS

Tuesday 10 July 2007  
At Eastern Road

Cancelled (rain)

## KES v Nottingham High School

Wednesday 11 July 2007  
At Nottingham (50 Overs)

NOTTINGHAM	187 all out
Shanghavi	4-21
KES	190 for 9
Hussain	44
Botha	40
Grewel	30
Gateley	26

KES Win

## KES v Chief Master's XI

Thursday 12 July 2007  
At Eastern Road (Declaration)

CHIEF MASTER'S XI	220 for 6
Hussain	2-28
KES	123 all out
Cornick	32

KES Loss





## 1<sup>st</sup> XI

**R**ain prevented the completion of eight games, which stopped the team developing any real momentum this year. However, thanks to good team spirit, inspired largely by Rob Hall and Hussnan Hussain, the side managed to end the season with a respectable 4 wins and 1 draw from a total of 11 completed matches.

One of these wins came against Old Swinford Hospital School, who were tipped to have a strong side this season. Captain Dan Neale (70) and Ed Botha (59), complemented brilliantly by a quickfire 41 not out from Hussain, left the team on 260 – 5 off their 40 overs. With a difficult chase on their hands, Old Swinford crumbled under the pressure applied by our early bowlers (Greg Jones took two wickets for six runs). Against a poor lower order for OSH, skipper Dan Neale selflessly brought himself on to bowl, his 'unplayable' slower balls picking up 5 wickets at the expense of just 3 runs. OSH were bowled all out for 60.

The season showed us a lot about individual characters, no game more so than the twenty20 game against sporting giants Millfield School on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, in which Ed Botha (54) stepped up with the bat and annihilated an England U19 bowler with two pulls for four, a performance which Ed plans to live off for the remainder of his cricketing career. With Millfield requiring 8 runs from the

final 2 overs and their big gun players already dismissed, we knew that an early cup upset was possible. Having started as underdogs, to prove ourselves as competitors was a great achievement in itself, and we were determined to finish the job and clinch victory. However, with wickets in hand and some good fortune, the 'internationally renowned sporting school' stole victory from us, though we remain magnanimous in defeat!

Throughout the season however, we struggled as a side to build partnerships, and our often below-par batting performances were down to careless individual mistakes more than a lack of ability. Dan Christopher battled out some gritty performances in tough situations at the top of the order, such as the game against Shrewsbury School, but like most of our batsman, he struggled to hit the fine form that he is capable of, and only showed glimpses of his potential.

Big gun all-rounder Kieran Iyer was forced to fulfil the role of fielding coach this year, due to a back injury, but next season his wickets and runs should be integral to the team's success.

Two spinners, Saul and Shanghavi, could prove to be a vital partnership: Nitin's consistent line and length will build pressure, whilst Amar picks up wickets with full-tosses and long hops, after bowling Shane-Warne-style 'jaffers' that end in dot balls to confused and embarrassed batsmen.

The forever smiling Greg Jones

continues to enjoy bowling uphill and into the wind with the new ball, and next year, with stronger westerly winds forecast to be blowing across Eastern Road, Greg can look to build on his first full season success of 12 wickets.

The long term future of KES cricket looks promising, with the young blond sensation Jack Cornick pushing for a regular First Eleven place, and with Anish Mehay adding to the list of notorious 1<sup>st</sup> XI beef cakes (Ed Botha, Pavan Grewall, Simon Gateley and of course Phil Neale), the testosterone-fuelled jocular antics look set to continue. With such a high number of talented players, competition for places next year will remain high, as it was this year.

This year did however, mark the end of an era that has seen the coming and going of some of the greatest KES sides and individual players in the school's history. Mr Martin Stead announced his retirement as King Edward's School's Master in Charge of Cricket, at a moving after-match buffet with the teachers. However, with the end of every era comes the start of a new one: we learned, with a revived sense of enthusiasm and excitement, that Mr Lawson Roll is set to use his cricketing experience and Friday afternoon Leadership skills to develop King Edward's School cricket to an even higher level.

*Phil Neale*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

**A**gainst Shrewsbury, Dan Lavander's first fifty of the season came with typical swagger (he made 74 and 57 in later matches); Pavan Grewal's at-the-death bowling was fantastic and Mohammed Saqib's fielding sublime. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI began to flex their huge jock-ular muscle, and Old Swinford were dispatched with relentless efficiency. KES scored a massive 249 off 35 overs with Grewal (65) again starring, aided by a more modest 64 from the skipper, Ben Heap, who was also as reliable as ever behind the stumps. Victories against RGS Worcester, Solihull, Warwick and Wolverhampton ensued, before wet weather got the better of the final games.

The key to our victories this season was our ability to take very early wickets, and our three-pronged attack did so with aplomb: Amaad Choudhry, quicker and scarier than Speedy Gonzales on testosterone, ripped through the openers; Omar Shaikh, accurate as ever, frustrated the middle order; Adhuv Prinja, hair band included, bedazzled and perplexed. The spin of Amar Shanghavi was tantalizing, and although he was later dropped to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, his contribution was fantastic, finishing, along with Choudhry, with 12 wickets. Against Wolverhampton he succeeded in bowling four consecutive maiden overs. But valuable contributions were made throughout the team. Will Arnold, stand-in skipper for Ben Heap after he was demoted to the depressingly awful 1<sup>st</sup>

XI, batted solidly at the top of the order and led on the field with outstanding fielding performances. Joe "Text Book" Russell was similarly dependable and, I believe, at one time hit the ball in the air. Roly Grant batted steadily in difficult circumstances: against Warwick his 34\* was key. The consistent Zaheed Khan was great at number three, also making a 50, and generally digging us out of a hole when needed.

2<sup>nd</sup> XI cricket was a carnival: there was great cricket, a barbecue, drink and most importantly, a winning team. Special praise must go to KDP and Mr Cross, who still finds time to keep up with the latest fashion trends whilst umpiring.

*Mohammed Saqib*



## AVERAGES 2007

**Played 13 Won 4 Lost 6 Drawn 1 Abandoned 2 Cancelled 6**

### BATTING (Qualification - 100 runs)

Names	Total Runs	Innings	Most in Innings	Times Not Out	Average
DM Neale *	250	12	70	0	20.8
PD Neale †	235	10	78	2	29.4
DL Christopher	203	10	66	1	22.6
ER Botha	174	12	59	0	14.5
H Hussain	169	9	44	1	21.1

### Also Played

PS Grewel	86	7	30	4	28.7
SC Gateley †	82	7	26	1	13.7
KJ Iyer	76	5	43	2	25.3
RD Hall	64	9	14	2	9.1
RDF Grant	51	6	30	1	10.2
WD Arnold	34	2	33	1	34.0
GO Jones	34	7	14	2	6.8
JPP Cornick	32	2	32	0	16.0
ZA Khan	28	3	23	0	9.3
BW Heap	28	5	11	1	7.0
AS Shanghavi	22	3	14	1	11.0
NK Saul	38	4	4	0	2.0
M Saqib	4	1	4	0	4.0
HK Ismail	2	1	2	0	2.0
DB Lavander	0	1	0	0	0.0
A Mehay	0	1	0	0	0.0

### BOWLING (Qualification - 10 wickets)

Names	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Total Wickets	Best	Average
DM Neale *	60	7	204	15	5-3	13.6
GO Jones	90	13	281	12	2-6	23.4
H Hussain	76	11	341	12	4-20	28.4

### Also Bowled

AS Shanghavi	32	3	130	9	4-31	14.4
NK Saul	64	13	218	8	4-10	27.3
RD Hall	60	4	224	8	2-15	28.0
KJ Iyer	23	2	80	4	2-20	20.0
ER Botha	10	2	26	2	1-5	13.0
HK Ismail	11	0	40	1	1-40	40.0
A Mehay	9	0	50	1	1-18	50.0
PS Grewel	22	1	123	1	1-44	123.0

### CATCHES

11 – DM Neale \*  
 5 – PD Neale †  
 4 – RDF Grant  
 3 – DL Christopher  
 2 – ER Botha, SC Gateley, AS Shanghavi  
 1 – WD Arnold, JPP Cornick, RD Hall, GO Jones, NK Saul

### STUMPINGS

10 – PD Neale



### 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI found itself again playing stretches of sublime cricket, interrupted by abject lapses. Lack of continuity was a problem: over 20 players appeared in the course of just five games, although a core emerged that helped to spur the Thirds to their two victories.

The season started brightly at Shrewsbury, despite a pitch that rather resembled a cart track and provided an interesting wicket. However, the fallibilities of the pitch were overcome in a game that saw over 400 runs scored: the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI fell 4 runs short of their target despite excellent batting performances from Roly Grant and Rowan Khanna. We followed this disappointment with consecutive victories over Old Swinford and RGS Worcester. The star batsman in both games was Matt Sedgwick, who managed to score 99 runs in just two innings. Kudos also go to Anil Choudhry, who took 6 wickets, all bowled against Old Swinford. For the next two games, against Warwick and Solihull, we fielded only ten players and the results reflected that, leaving the team having won two



but lost three. Unfortunately what should have been our last game of the season, the away trip to Trent, was abandoned on the Friday night because of the awful weather.

However, despite its losing record, the third team had a relatively successful season, with several excellent individual performances and a number of promotions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. The new captain Richard Johnstone tried to marshal the

team well, though his use of spin on early season wickets might be seen as questionable. Many thanks must go to Mr Evans for giving up his Saturdays, and for the hours he spent attempting to put together a team: I'm sure he'll continue to do so next year.

*Richard Johnstone*

### Under 15 XI

This year's Under 15 cricket season saw the arrival of three new players, Alistar McMahon, Alastair Reeves and Nick Jamieson, from Scotch College in Melbourne, Australia, on a cricket exchange trip.

The season got under way with a tough away fixture against a strong Shrewsbury team. Having been put in to bat, we only scored a meagre 135, Nick Jamieson making 33. With such a low score to defend, our bowlers had a hard task ahead of them and we ended up losing by 6 wickets.

Our next match was away again, this time against RGS Worcester, a side we usually beat. Batting first once more, Nick Jamieson got us off to a solid start with 61 and Anish Mehay made 50 not-out, batting at number 5, leaving the team on a final score of 207 for 6. With a more comfortable score to defend this time, our bowlers finished the job off, cleaning up the Worcester attack for just 145. The spinning combination of Haris Ismail and Sam Hobbs shared five wickets between them.

Our first home game was a cup match against a very weak Bishop Challenor side; the game had to be played inside

the Sports Hall as the weather was so bad. We comfortably beat them, having bowled their side out for 34.

The Australians' penultimate game in England was against a slightly weakened Solihull team: Alistar McMahon shone by scoring an unbeaten century. A solid batting performance allowed the opening bowling combination of Mehay and Reeves to rip into the Solihull batting line-up, sharing 7 wickets between them. Anish finished up with figures of 5 overs, 2 maidens and 3 wickets, for just 2 runs. A very good team performance all round and a solid victory.

A rainy game against Warwick produced a thrilling finale for the Aussies. Our innings was reduced to 22 overs, and we headed in for an early tea with 127 for 4. This meant that our bowlers had another tough job ahead of them and it ended up with Warwick needing 3 to win off the last ball, with Sam Hobbs bowling. Warwick's star batsman attempted an audacious 'slog-sweep' which was heading for six, only for Rohan Prakash to pluck the ball out of the air with a great catch. This was an exhilarating send-off for the Australians, who had helped our team enormously.

Against Wolverhampton Grammar School, a side that thrashed us last

year, we managed an excellent batting performance, with Haris Ismail making an unbeaten 109 and Anish Mehay smashing a quick-fire 78 to finish our innings on 248 for 2. With such a large total to defend, complacency crept into our bowling performance towards the end, and we were only saved by the accurate bowling of Safran Mahmood.

A Cup game followed against Aston Manor, and we were on the wrong end of a shock defeat. Having been set a target of 137 off 20 overs, some poor batting let us down, finishing on 128 for 5 from our allotted overs. Pavan Deu battled through injury but eventually retired hurt on 39.

We finished off the season with another poor performance against Malvern, in which poor batting effectively lost us the game. They finished on just 90 runs from 25 overs, but we were bowled out for 63 runs. The fact that our top scorer was the number 11 batsman showed what a pitiable show it had been.

All in all, I think that our season was relatively good, but we were greatly helped by the three Australians and some generally good bowling.

*Haris Ismail*



## Under 14 A XI

Even though the season was curtailed by rain, the Under 14 A Team still did very well to remain undefeated in Saturday fixtures. A disappointing batting performance led to an early exit in the second round of the Cup competition, but the team learnt from their mistakes to gain some excellent victories.

Against RGS Worcester, Jack Cornick scored 94 not out and was well supported by Matt Richardson to set a demanding total of over 200 runs. Tight bowling at the end of the match by Will Chesner and Ollie Dixon helped us win by 2 runs. Dixon was the best bowler of the season and developed both his pace and accuracy. Kieran O'Brien, Wrick Ghosh and Aaron George ably supported him, the latter

also performing well as an opening batsman.

The victory over Warwick was another excellent performance. Good bowling, especially by Cornick and Ben Harkcom, and some fine wicket keeping by Hugo Clay restricted the opposition to 115 from their 30 overs. In reply, KES were struggling at 12 for 4, at which point the game looked out of reach. However, Chesner and William Watkinson first gave the innings stability, and then Gaurav Budhwar played some good attacking shots to lead the side to victory.

## Under 12 XI

The under 12's have made a promising start to their cricket careers at KES, only losing one game, to Warwick. Unfortunately, half of the

season was destroyed by rain.

Auyon Chakrabarti was the captain and led from the front with an average of over 70. There were also many useful contributions from the rest of the team, which included Ed Burns, Max Galla, Jaspal Jheeta, Ravi Deu, Aki Mulay, Ben Galyas, Sam Neale, Suhail Choudhry, Harry Cowley, Michael Farrow and Naveen Kumaratne. There was Sam Neale's fantastic fielding at short cover. Ravi Deu took 6 wickets in one match, getting 4 of them in a row. Ed Burns and Jaspal Jheeta opened the bowling brilliantly and everyone else bowled well, including some great keeping from Max Galla.

*Auyon Chakrabarti*

## Under 13 XI

**Played 11 Won 9 Lost 2**

It is remarkable that, in the wettest summer in recent memory, this team managed to play as many as 11 matches. Only the King's Worcester and Hereford Cathedral School matches were lost completely, although the final of the Warwickshire County Cup competition was never played. This has more to do with lack of organisation at the Warwickshire Cricket Board than with the weather, and is a great disappointment as KES had a good chance of winning the competition.

The season started on a sunny day in April with a disappointing loss to Worcestershire under 12s. Worcestershire posted a score of 136 for 7. In reply KES did not get off to a very good start, losing early wickets before being bowled out for 105. We were without Girish Murali for this match and lacked variety in our bowling attack. The next few regular school fixtures were all won; RGS Worcester failed in their valiant attempt to pass our score of 193-8, falling 11 runs short. Solihull were easily disposed of by over 100 runs and Warwick's score of 59-9 in a 20 over match was passed with 8 balls to spare, thanks to some excellent late hitting by Rob Wigley. Against Wolverhampton we scored 245 for three in 35 overs with Nathan Roberts scoring 82 and Aniket Sonsale 89 not out; these two put on a partnership of 94 runs. Wolverhampton were then rolled over for 34. The

Under 13 match was one of only two matches played against Trent; perhaps it would have been better if it had not been played, as this was the worst performance of the season and our second defeat.

The early matches in the County Cup were won easily. One was played inside because of the weather. Notable features included two hat-tricks, one by Rob Wigley against King's Heath and the other by Girish Murali against Moseley. The semi-final was altogether a more difficult affair. We sacrificed home advantage to get the match played but travelled to Solihull confident that we had beaten them comfortably earlier in the season. KES batted first, scoring 133-3 in 20 overs, so all was going according to plan. However, the Solihull opening pair batted out of their skins and after 14 overs we were staring defeat in the face. Fortunately, one wicket brought several and Solihull collapsed to 116 all out.

The team was ably led by Nathan Roberts. He set generally sensible fields, knew when to attack and when to defend and changed the bowling accordingly. He batted well, coming second in the averages, and was often the rock around whom an innings was built. The outstanding batsman was Aniket Sonsale, in his first year in the school. He averaged over 50 and scored five fifties. He hit the ball very hard and a long way; his innings against Wolverhampton and one shot against Trent will live in the memory of those

who saw them for some time. He can also bowl, but was not used a great deal in order to give others a chance. Rob Wigley and Sam White could also hit the ball hard and batted well at times. Jamie Ward and Will Bowen were more solid and Will especially could be relied upon to contribute runs. Jamie saved his best for the semi-final against Solihull.

All of the bowlers produced some good spells and generally bowled accurately. At times, against the best batsmen, the bowling lacked penetration and variety. Most were medium paced (or faster) seam-up bowlers. Only Girish Murali offered variety and frequently bamboozled the opposition. Sam White was an effective opening bowler ably supported by Andrew Macarthur. Rob Wigley could also generate pace and ended as the leading wicket-taker together with Sam. George Wilson also contributed well. Harman Khangure was a good, unobtrusive wicket-keeper who also contributed with the bat. The fielding was always keen and good with several run-outs, especially against Warwick, and catches were usually held. Bruno Richards, who had a disappointing season with the bat, was one of the better fielders.

A successful season, then, for a nice group of boys who enjoyed their cricket and played in the right spirit and with determination. It is just a shame that it was not capped with some silverware.

*TM & Nathan Roberts*



# CROSS COUNTRY

This has been another year of mixed success, with some good results by strong teams at the lower end of the School being offset by another disappointing year for the Seniors. The event of the year was the hosting by KES of the first round of the Schools' Cup competition at Junior and Intermediate level. It is a condition of entering the competition that a school is prepared to host a first round match if asked, but this was the first time KES had been called on to do it. Ten visiting schools and around 150 runners made for a lot of preparation and a crowded South Field. RTB's Div Maths set found themselves called on to officiate, and acquitted themselves admirably even though the weather was miserable on the day. Despite the rain, the event went off according to plan and was a great success. The home teams ran well, and Dan Sutton

won the Intermediate race, with his team coming second. The strong Junior team won their age group in convincing fashion, with new Shell Harry Cowley coming an impressive fourth. Both teams therefore won through to the Regional round held in Warrington. There Ryan Millar and Andrew MacArthur had good runs, but overall the competition was too strong and the national final eluded them for another year.

the year with insufficient numbers in the squad. Even so, captain Liam O'Brien had some good results, and teamed up with Greg Divall to come third in the Pairs Race. A low point was a race at a school which shall remain nameless, during which stones were thrown at the competitors by dissident youths from beyond the school fence!

RTB



Andrew McArthur, George Adams, Nick Gateley, Harry Cowley, Ryan Miller & Tim Griffith

# FIVES

King Edward's is somewhat isolated in Fives terms, since the nearest school which plays the sport is just down the road in Uppingham! However, even though we are in a Fives wilderness, the school played six matches in the season, and in all the matches multiple year groups were represented. We won four and lost two.

We also entered a number of tournaments throughout the year. The first of these was a friendly affair in October, to which Old Edwardians came and were partnered with current KES Fives players: this was enjoyed by all who took part. Next up was a three-way tournament played against Berkhamsted and Shrewsbury Schools; a number of the school pairs managed to beat their

Berkhamsted counterparts, but when it came to the tougher Shrewsbury pairs, it became more difficult! Finally, the annual end-of-season Schools Championships, this year at Highgate School, arrived with all the KES pairs raring to go. We were well represented: a number of the U14 pairs put in very promising performances, notably the first pair of Hook and Barnes, who reached the last 16 stage, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair of Molnar and McDonnell, who reached the final of plate A, where they unfortunately lost 12-4 to the Aldenham 3<sup>rd</sup> pair.

The Junior tournament at Harrow also brought success for KES players this year. In this tournament, players are paired with players from different schools. Tom Hook was in the pair that won the whole

competition. He achieved one of the four highest scores after six rounds of Fives, and so qualified for the final, where he and his partner won a hard fought game 15-8.

In the Seniors, both members of the KES Senior 1<sup>st</sup> pair, Tom McDonnell and Ci Yao, won half colours after a good year of Fives. In the coming year, Fives looks like it will be strong again, with a similar number of tournaments scheduled. On a final note, we bid goodbye to our coach of three years, David Goldschmidt. He goes into the future with our best wishes.

Tom McDonnell



## GOLF

The annual match against the Old Edwardians was held at Harborne Golf Club for the second consecutive year, and, as happened last year, KES came out on top. The team,

consisting of Lionel Virdee, Vishnu Aggarwal, Richard Johnstone, Michael Skerritt, Alastair Mason and Messrs Claughton, Roden, Roll, Tinley and Everest, displayed their golfing talents, or at times lack of same, to clinch victory despite the Old Eds' gallant efforts. All involved had an enjoyable afternoon: thanks go to MR who organised the

event, and also to Harborne Golf Club for hosting the match - the course was in fine condition, with greens as true as a Ken Brown master-class... well, almost. Let's hope next year's team can emulate this year's success.

*Lionel Virdee*

## TENNIS

### 1<sup>st</sup> team

Tennis has always been seen at KES as a minor sport. However, unlike Tim Henman, tennis here has not been on a downhill spiral, instead going from strength to strength. After the void left by Rohan Chopra, captain in the 2006-07 season, two newcomers to first team tennis stepped in, George Anfilogoff and the effervescent Viraj Patel. Both performed admirably, even managing to come from 5-1 down in the last set to win the match 7-5 against King Edward's Five Ways. The first pair, Chris Morton and Ben Spannuth, capped a solid season in which the Senior teams played four and won three, only losing to a strong Repton team. While it was not the greatest season in KES Tennis history, the picture looks likely to improve in the future, with probably one of the strongest first teams in a long time next year, as well as a number of younger players who have showed lots of promise. Again, the team would like to thank Mr Tinley for his commitment and passion towards the game and the team as a whole.

*Ben Spannuth*

### Junior

Team	Played	Won	Lost
UVI VI	5	3	2
U13 VI	5	2	3

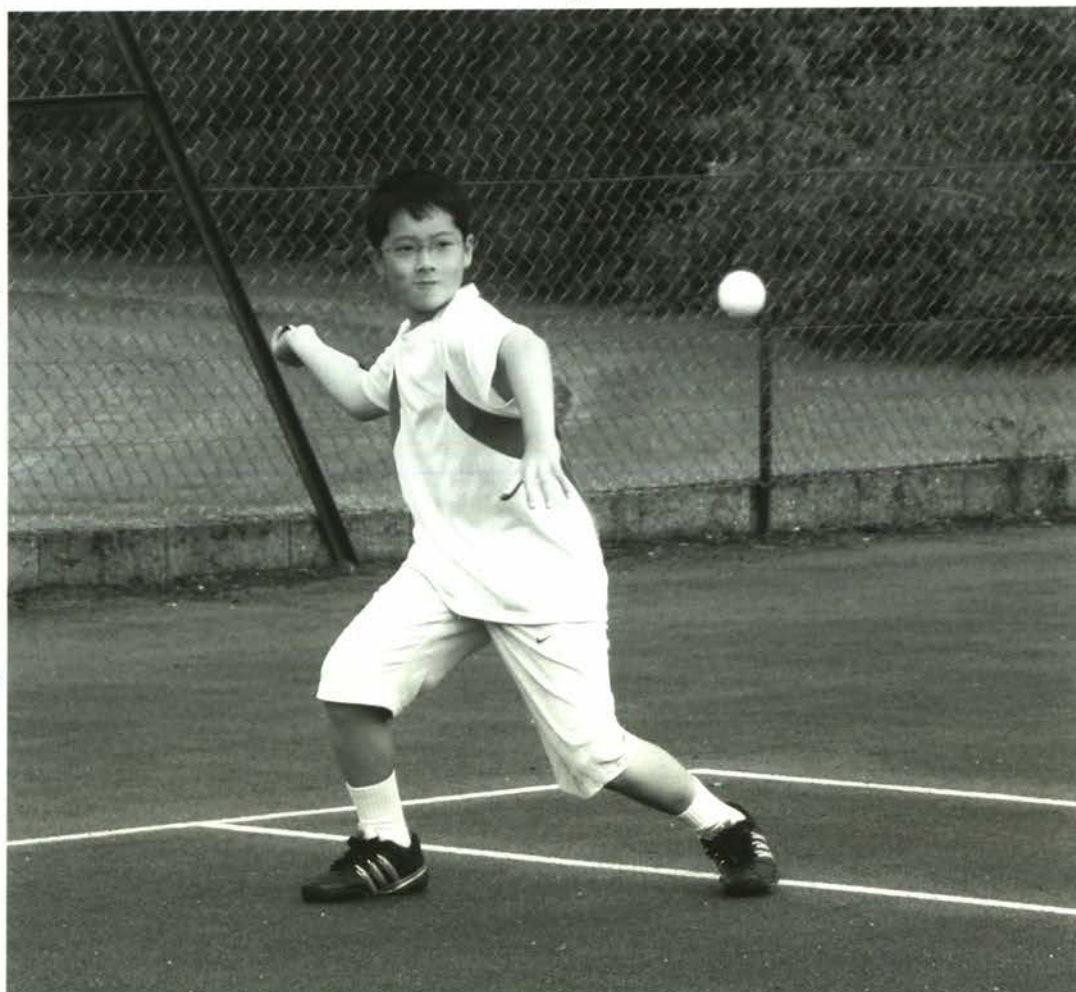
The Junior teams fought hard but were both eliminated from their groups in the Nestlé Tennis Championships. I was very impressed with the progress of the U15 first pair, James Wilkie and Andrew Philpott. However, the player of the season was undoubtedly Mikey East. Nick Watson also made a valuable contribution to the team. In the U13 age group, Bruno Richards played with enthusiasm and commitment; in addition Meemo Ismail and Matthew Till also showed particular promise.

*SJT*

### Senior

Team	Played	Won	Lost
1 <sup>st</sup> VI	4	3	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> VI	2	0	2

The 1<sup>st</sup> VI had a very impressive season, only losing one fixture to a very strong Repton team. Chris Morton and Ben Spannuth combined majestically at first pair, winning all but two of the sets that were played in total. The undoubted highlight of the season was the comeback by David Thomas and Viraj Patel, at third pair against Malvern's 1<sup>st</sup> pair, from 5-1 down to win 7-5. This turned a tight match in our favour.





Despite a rather slow start, which was understandable as we had lost a total of 9 starting players from last year's 1<sup>st</sup> XI, this has been a good season, with some good results against worthy opponents. We started with the annual Buttle Tournament but, despite getting through to the Final last season, this year we did not make it through the group stages. This bad form continued with a heavy 5-0 loss to Warwick. But after this rather sluggish start we built up some momentum, which included significant wins against teams such as Camp Hill and Lawrence Sheriff. We went on to beat Camp Hill a further two times during the season.

Once again, the KES 1<sup>st</sup> XI has been unable to beat one of the best teams in the region, Solihull School: despite our best efforts, we were unable to score against Solihull. The high of the season was an 8-0 victory over RGS Worcester, with an outstanding performance from the whole team. This game gave Jack Davenport yet another clean sheet, contributing to a total of seven throughout the season.

Special mention must also go to Ajay Mohite and Matt Sedgwick, who have supported Jack in achieving this number of clean sheets, and to Andrew Audley, a key member of the defence, who has played in every position in the back four. Our midfield has been dominated by the pace of David Benhamou and the stick skills of Jangir Sidhu, who have been complemented by the all-round skill of Shrawan Patel. Andrew Halton joined the team this year and, despite a shaky start in the first few games, has developed into a key player in the midfield. Our other Fifth former, Rowan Khanna, has also developed hugely in the season, and has played in a majority of positions on the pitch. Our front line has been good and provided us with a number of our 38 goals from the season, with key performances from Nick Bradish, Arran Khangure and Will Allen.

In the Warwickshire Schools Cup we were unfortunately knocked out by Bishop Veasey: despite going 1-0 and then 2-1 up, we conceded a goal in the last minutes of the game which forced it into extra time. Here the effort we had put into regular time began to show in our legs, and we conceded another goal to lose in extra time.

It has been very enjoyable to be a part of this team, and to watch the development of all the players in the team. Thanks to great determination and effort from all the players, we recovered from a poor start and managed some extremely good results against strong opposition.

*Simon Clapham*





After a struggling start to the season, the quality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI came shining through when we won our last nine games in a row. We were fortunate enough to have many experienced senior players in our squad, which, combined with the enthusiasm and hard work of the younger players, proved too strong a mix for many of our opponents.

Despite a losing start against one of our biggest rivals, Warwick, we were able to build on the battling performance of our players and thus manage to win our next three games, the highlight being the 4-0 thrashing of Aston 1<sup>st</sup> XI. However, the next three games were disappointing: we lost the rematch against the Aston side quite convincingly, and this 5 - 3 defeat was followed by further frustration as we also lost to both Solihull and Queen Mary's.

At this point Daniel Neale, injured for the beginning of the season, returned to the team. His efforts, and those of the likes of Max Haywood, Dan Christopher and Will Allen, saw the goals start to tally up. Our winning streak began with a battling performance, just before Christmas, against a very strong Warwick team. This time though, owing to a rare goal from left back Philip Neale, we came out victorious with a 2-0 win.

From this moment on we scored no less than five goals in every game till the end of the season, putting our 1<sup>st</sup> team compatriots to shame. Along with the great form of the strikers, solid defensive work from Karan Modi and some brilliant all round play from Jamie Cutler saw us concede just three goals in the last nine games. One of our strongest wins came against an always talented Loughborough School: thanks to a hat-trick from Max Haywood we won 7-2. Daniel Neale also managed a hat-trick in the next game. Numerous convincing victories followed, none more striking than the 8-0 thrashing of Bablake School on an icy day in February.

The season ended with a 4-0 win over King Henry's. This was a special game in which the four Sixths, Daniel Neale, James Burt, Andrew Psyllides and Pascal French, who were playing their last ever hockey game for KES, all scored. Many of the original 2<sup>nd</sup> XI made the transition to the 1<sup>st</sup> team, such as Vivek Shah and Jangir Sidhu, who should thus also be recognised for their contributions this year. Owing to the attacking style of our play for much of the season, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team proved the most successful of all the KES hockey teams. We scored an amazing 66 goals and, having played 16 games, won 12 of them, and lost just 4. I'd finally like to thank Mr Roll for his expert advice and coaching throughout the season, and congratulate the team on a triumphant season.

Daniel Neale





### 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI did much better than last season, as we only lost 3 games out of the 15 we played. The ultimate reason for our improvement was Mr Tinley's coaching, which inspired and motivated the team. In addition, the influx of newcomers such as Ben Freer and Greg Jones aided our performance. During this year a constant stream of players left or entered the side, yet despite this instability we were able to remain unified and communicate well with each other on the pitch, whatever the situation.

We hope to improve even further and achieve even greater results next season: a priority is to find a good player to occupy the right back position, which currently appears to be our greatest weakness. We would also like to see a greater number of our players progressing into the 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

*Amit Rajput*



### 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> XI

"A game of two halves" is a cliché which often drives football fans crazy. However, it admirably describes the season that the 4<sup>th</sup> XI came through this year. Perhaps the change of fortune was brought about through a change in coaching staff, as Mr Melvill rode in midway through the season, and helped the team to win three of their last four games.

After a tough loss to Solihull in the first game of the season, the 4<sup>th</sup> XI managed a creditable draw against the KE Five Ways 2<sup>nd</sup> team, thus boosting confidence in the camp. A fine defensive display and some cool finishing saw the underdogs twice come back from a goal down. However, this was a false dawn: the team was heavily beaten in the next two games, by

a strong team from Queen Mary's Walsall and in the rematch against Five Ways 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. At this point our luck changed and we began to climb again.

Wins against the old enemies Solihull and Warwick at home saw the 4<sup>th</sup> XI growing in ability and confidence. The crowning glory of the season came away to Wrekin School: we won 2-1, despite fielding three players who had just finished a full game for the Thirds beforehand although originally picked for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI. We managed a virtuoso performance: the only shots on goal came in the last few minutes, with victory already assured. Goals from old timers Richard Edwards and Richard Johnstone saw the team through in their most composed performance of the season.

Overall the season was a success for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI, featuring strong development

of younger players such as Ben Madden and Gautham Sriram, who promise much for the next few years. We also saw the promotion of three players to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI regulars by the end of the season. Mohammad Saqib, Tom Amarnani and Richard Johnstone made that jump and all helped both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XI's to successful seasons. Although we judge success by promotions and victories, some of the biggest contributions came from the heart and soul of the team: the electric forward line of Adhuv Prinja and Jamie Cottam-Allen built an almost telepathic relationship up front and led the team forwards with guile, determination and the odd stroke of genius.

*Richard Johnstone*

### U 15 A XI

This year has been a mixed bag of disappointment and vast improvement for the team. We started the year a little rusty from our long summer break, and were thrown in at the deep end with a difficult first match against Solihull. The team played well in a closely fought match but unfortunately came away with a 3-4 defeat.

Our third match of the season was against Nunnery Wood. We had played

them twice last year and knew only too well what a strong side they were: despite battling hard, we came away with a disappointing result of 1-5. But as the season progressed we found our feet and, with a little help from Mr Lye's training sessions and tips and some vital match practice, things took a turn for the better. We beat Queen Mary's, Bishop Vesey and Uppingham quite substantially.

Then as the season's end was drawing closer we came up again against a familiar rival, Nunnery Wood. We had

improved vastly since our last encounter and were eager to show them what we were made of. We started the game ready and raring to go, but early on a fatal error from defence cost us a goal and Nunnery Wood took an early lead. After that we bucked up our ideas, played well as a unit and held them until half time thanks to some great saves from Adam Lax. After a few inspiring words from Mr Lye and an unexpected appearance from the Chief Master we were determined to fight back, and this showed, with a great performance from the whole side



in the second half. We were unlucky not to score despite some extremely close misses from Gareth Davis and Rohit Sunkaraneni, and came away with an unlucky but much improved result of 0-1.

At the end of the season the results were: Won 8, Drew 3 and Lost 7, a much better performance than last year's. On behalf of the side I would like to thank Mr Lye for all the time, help, effort and encouragement that he has given the side this season. I think this year has not only been something to be proud of, but also something that the whole squad enjoyed: it will set us up for whatever teams we play in next year.

*Matt Poole*



## U15 B XI

**T**he U15 B XI made very good progress this year. We began by practising simple skills such as passing, shooting and defending. Soon enough, though, the training became more challenging. We practised different tactics and movements, as well as offensive skills in front of the goal. Over time, our performance began to improve.

We eventually got to test out the skills we had learnt in our first match of the year, which was against Solihull school. We had very high expectations. The game started off smoothly, and we managed to get a lead in the opening minutes. However, after we had scored our opponents started playing far better; yet we managed to keep the score at 1-0. This was the perfect start to the year: winning our first game gave us plenty of confidence.

The next match, we faced a harder opponent: Loughborough School. At the end of the first half we were two goals down due to our poor movement and passing. However, in the second half we pulled ourselves together, created many opportunities and managed to score a goal.

The final two matches were both against Bishop

Vesey Grammar School. The first time we played, we beat them with ease. Due to high quality passing, running with the ball and shooting, we were four goals up at the end of the first half. Equally important was the defence, which was strong throughout the first half and hardly gave the opponent any chance to score. In the second half, the opposition tried much harder and eventually managed to score one goal. The second match against Bishop Vesey had a rather different outcome. The Vesey team had many new faces, a lot of whom were far better hockey players. Our team battled long

and hard to score. The passing in the centre of the pitch was good, but it was the quality of play in front of the goal that let us down. Our defence was strong throughout the game, but at some points the opponent nearly scored. The match ended in a disappointing 0-0 draw.

Overall, the U15 'B' team has had a relatively successful year, with the whole team improving in skills and, most importantly, enjoying themselves!

*William Jagesar*







## U14 A XI

Imagine: you pick up a hockey stick for the first time and, after the bare minimum of training, you are sent out onto a pitch to endure the wrath of Warwick School U14 Hockey XI. A nightmare of 5-0 tells the story, plain and simple. We didn't even have a sniff of a chance. Could we really cope with a season's worth of this? The rest of 2006 came and went quickly, with seven matches and seven losses in total. We conceded 24 goals in such a short period of time, including another 5-0 loss to Warwick! Such a poor goalkeeper, you may say? On the contrary, Thomas Hook proved excellent in goal, a mini Mr Lye in the making. The scores against us would have been immensely larger were it not for this keeping phenomenon. We were hoping that 2007 would prove a better year; and with the addition

of Amar Sodha to our squad we progressed from strength to strength. We had a second run-in with Nunnery Wood, to whom we had previously lost 2-0 owing to the overwhelming presence of a seemingly twenty-year-old man running in their midfield. This time the score was a much more creditable 2-2, with goals from Tom Hubscher and Sam Taylor. Our two next games also ended 2-2, giving us three consecutive draws. We now faced Warwick for the third and final time. Could we break down their vigorous attacks and solid defending? The final score line was 3-1 to Warwick. Even though we had lost, it felt like a morale victory that we held the mighty Warwick to an (almost) even game. Special mentions should go to Tom Hubscher, Alan Kent and Josh Wearing, who all played well during the Warwick game, continuing their consistent performances.

Two more defeats in our next games made us even more determined to turn the tables in our last fixture of the season, against Camp Hill. The match commenced directly after House Cross-Country, so we were tired from the word "go", but we took the lead part-way through the match, believing our first victory was in hand. But with two minutes left it all went wrong. We conceded a goal, leaving the score at 1-1 with KES striving to win in the last minute. Ten seconds are on the clock as Adam Forrest finds himself just inside the area with a bit of room. A sweet strike into the far corner, past the despairing goalkeeper, causes jubilation and a fairy-tale ending. A goal in the final minute of the final game for the heroic captain; shame he couldn't find the net in the previous games.

Adam Forrest





# RUGBY

## KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL RUGBY CLUB 2006 - 2007 SEASON

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
<b>1<sup>st</sup> XV</b>	17	6	10	1	210	246
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XV</b>	15	6	9	0	210	227
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> XV</b>	11	7	3	1	153	201
<b>U16 A XV</b>	13	4	9	0	133	243
<b>U15 A XV</b>	17	8	9	0	266	432
<b>U15 B XV</b>	10	8	2	0	316	126
<b>U14 A XV</b>	16	13	3	0	417	137
<b>U14 B XV</b>	13	7	5	1	301	239
<b>U13 A XV</b>	14	11	1	2	412	91
<b>U13 B XV</b>	13	13	0	0	418	61
<b>U13 C XV</b>	5	4	1	0	127	27
<b>U13 D XV</b>	5	3	2	0	163	74
<b>U12 A XV</b>	11	9	2	0	226	59
<b>U12 B XV</b>	11	6	5	0	177	145
<b>U12 C XV</b>	9	3	4	2	133	145
<b>U12 D XV</b>	8	6	2	0	154	64
<b>U12 E XV</b>	3	0	2	1	15	76
<b>U12 F XV</b>	2	1	1	0	29	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	193	115	70	8	3879	2642

### Team Honours

<b>1<sup>st</sup> XV</b>	Round 4 of Daily Mail Vase
<b>U16 XV</b>	North Midlands Plate Winners
<b>U15A XV</b>	Runners up Greater Birmingham Cup
<b>U14A XV</b>	Winners Greater Birmingham Cup
<b>U13A XV</b>	Winners Greater Birmingham Cup
<b>U12AXV</b>	Winners Greater Birmingham Cup

### Individual Representative Honours

#### Under 18

**Greater Birmingham selection**  
E Battaloglu, P Delamere, M Haig, D Lavander

**North Midlands selection**  
D Lavander

#### Under 16

**Greater Birmingham selection**  
J Ready

#### Under 14

**Greater Birmingham selection**  
E Davis, M Sandher, W Watkinson, S Cousins

## KES Rugby Club Individual Player Awards

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Player of the Year**  
Guy Thomas

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Most Improved Player**  
Ben Heap

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Player of the Year**  
Ian Thebridge

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Most Improved Player**  
Izu Chukwulobelu

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Player of the Year**  
Luke Tisdale

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Most Improved Player**  
Tom McDonnell

**Clubman of the Year**  
Peter Delamere

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Players Ties awarded to:**  
Jim Hollyhead, Guy Thomas, Max Haig, Dan Lavander, Will Arnold

**Full Colours awarded to:**  
Jim Hollyhead, Guy Thomas, Max Haig, Dan Lavander, Will Arnold, Eren Battaloglu, David Kennea, Max Dowd

**Half Colours awarded to:**  
Greg Jackson, Stuart Flaherty, Ben Heap, Peter Delamere, Will Bridges, Joe Russell, Nathan Kerr, Amreet Kang, Victor Joannou, Mike Jones, Ian Thebridge, Phil Khalil-Marzouk, Laurence Vickers, Michael Clegg, Ashfaq Azim, Nick Frost, Francis Gardner-Trejo, Chris Adamson, Jim Bowater, Arvin Mahanta, George Anfilogoff



## 1<sup>st</sup> XV

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV this year took on a different aspect. Gone were the superstars and large front rows, and in were a new breed of KES players; players who did not possess a huge amount of skill, but were willing to give 110% in both training and matches and who deserved a lot more than we gained from this season.

We began the season off the back of a promising pre-season tour to Monmouth, in which a lot of the new players had shown that they had the ability to hold their own in the team. But RGS were a very good side with a commanding scrum half who dictated play, meaning that we didn't gain much possession of the ball. Following this defeat, huge efforts were put into the drills and exercises on the training ground, highlighting each player's willingness to learn. The enthusiasm shown by the troops nearly paid off in the next game, against King's Worcester, where the teams were deadlocked at 0-0 throughout the entire game with both sides playing some lovely rugby. However, at the stroke of time, a penalty kick was slotted over the posts to give King's the victory. Yet the team regrouped and were out in force the next Monday for a hard session with Alex Zarifi, where ball skills were refined and developed, as certain weaknesses in the handling department were hampering our game.

The training and valour finally paid dividends when we played King Henry's Coventry. Despite a misplaced "stamp" from Eren Battaloglu which earned him ten minutes in the sin bin, the team remained composed and went on to win 32-17. The backs had a superb day, with Kennea getting his name on the scoreboard twice and Haig and Kang once each.

With a win under our belts we began to play with more confidence. Team spirit was high and Mr James and Mr Roden were both actually smiling. The next game saw us play Camp Hill School, where Dan Lavander came into his own and scored three tries, proving himself man-of-the-match. Dan's three tries were fortified by two more from Greg Jackson to secure a 30-5 win. The winning didn't stop at Camp Hill: with a crucial Daily Mail Cup game in the coming weeks we needed to make sure that we didn't become complacent or underestimate the opponents. Training felt good and the players were looking sharp and conditioned; we breezed past Queen Mary's School 34-0 with a great

individual effort from Joe Russell on his 1<sup>st</sup> XV debut to score a lovely try.

What we faced next can easily be described as a team of rampant machines, in the form of Warwick. Although Warwick have been strong in the past, their Head Master's focus on fielding the top team in the country has really shown in their rugby players and playing. Each player was over six feet tall and all except the scrum half were easily in excess of fourteen stone. Our players' fear soon dissipated once on the field: warming up before the game was sharp and quick with no dropped balls, and the team talk roused the final stragglers who were struggling for motivation. The whistle blew and KES turned into a wall of unwavering tackles and aggressive rucking on a level that neither Mr James nor Mr Roden could have expected. Despite the majority of possession being held by Warwick, KES put on a defensive show that the All Blacks would have been proud of. Players showed a total disregard for personal safety, throwing themselves at any loose ball and jumping with every effort at high balls. I couldn't fault anyone in what was arguably our best game all season. Losing by 26-7 was a very commendable score, given that Warwick were an outstanding team who went on to win the Daily Mail Cup.

The second half of the season saw us play some very tough fixtures including those against Adams' Grammar, Warwick, Solihull and Bromsgrove. The match against Bromsgrove is always a hotly anticipated fixture and attracts huge crowds expecting a great day's rugby, who are never let down. This year though, the story wasn't as glitzy as the Warwick match: the KES boys seemed to be outplayed by the Bromsgrove men. It appeared that Bromsgrove were able to capitalise on our slow start and never look back. We eventually gained our footing, but too late as Bromsgrove kept piling on the pressure and scoring tries though our tired defence.

A season primarily composed of lost matches should not detract from the fact that we improved markedly as the season progressed. I think I speak for everyone when I say that we started the season as a poor side but ended as a good one. Amendments were made to players and positions and, at the close of the season, we had a good side capable of beating all the local teams. The effort and commitment shown this season by the whole squad has been excellent, with not one player missing more than one training session, and everyone at the sessions giving everything to the

drills and therefore getting the most out of the training. The season, for me, has been nothing but enjoyable and I have loved every minute as First XV captain. I would like to thank Mr James and Mr Roden for persevering with the team through a long and difficult season, and I wish them every success with next year's First Team. Special mention must go to Guy Thomas, for winning "Player of the Year" despite playing with five broken fingers and a broken thumb, and to Dan Lavander who also had a very good season but missed some crucial games where I think he could have made a big difference to the score line. We mustn't forget the efforts of Peter Delamere, who managed to turn up to every training session drunk but sobered up for the games at the weekend and picked up "Clubman of the Year".

*Jim Hollyhead*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

A fine season this year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, marred only by the fact that we failed to win more games than we lost. The season has been incredibly enjoyable, with the team putting in memorable performances such as the mauling of Bablake that nonetheless somehow resulted in a 0-7 defeat. Our best performance of the season came in the biggest game, against a massive Bromsgrove side, which resulted in a 6-20 home defeat despite the score being 6-10 for the bulk of the game. The team have, however, shown true grit and determination in never giving up.

As ever, the First XV had to raid our ranks at the start of the season, resulting in the loss of Kang, Russell and Kiff, names that were officially banned in the dressing room for most of the season. Despite their stealing our players, we can hold our heads high in the knowledge that we were by far the better side: the Firsts, despite their super serious approach, could not come close to the bond that we felt among ourselves in the second team. I would like to give special mention to Phil Marzouk, the line-out king and vice captain, for his contribution to decision making. Ian Thebridge, who is not a man of many words but could always be counted on to put in crucial tackles, earned himself the "Player of the Season" award. Finally Ben Howell, the final back row representative of the side, was little short of outstanding this year, giving himself a solid platform to push forward



from next year.

Mr Phillips, as always, was the mastermind and architect of all our successes, providing the expert coaching and spiritual guidance that many young males yearn for. I want to say "thank you" to him for another season in which he has helped the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV to succeed beyond the narrow boundaries of expectation.

Thank you, guys, for a great season, and thanks for making my final year of rugby at KES a memorable and enjoyable one. I wish you all luck in your future as next year's 1<sup>st</sup> XV, although I will probably always be of the opinion that the Seconds are better than the Firsts!

Mike Jones

### 3rd XV

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006 a new rugby phenomenon was created, and for once it didn't originate in the Southern Hemisphere. For once there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> XV able to compete against 2<sup>nd</sup> XVs and to dominate other 3<sup>rd</sup> XVs who foolishly came across their path.

It started with an away match against RGS Worcester, in which desert-like temperatures tested the fitness levels of the 3rds more than the opposition did. We powered to a comprehensive victory and, whilst we let in a consolation try for RGS, we still ended on a high when Chris Adamson managed to charge the kick in front of the posts. After two defeats on the bounce the 3rds moved on towards what should have been another hard match against Solihull School. There was no need for extra motivation in this match, since Solihull School and KES have a traditionally strong rivalry. On top of this, the Sixth formers had grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat with a last gasp try the year before, and wanted to repeat the feat.

It wasn't looking good for the 3rds by the last five minutes of a predictably ill-tempered match. Luke Tisdale had sneaked a try to reduce the deficit to 12-7 but with time running out the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV needed a saviour, a man to step up to plate and wipe the grin off the smug

Solihull faces. That man was Michael Skerritt, majestically rampaging down the right wing before crashing through a fullback and a winger to plunge over in the corner and send the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV into delirium. Unfortunately the kick from the touchline was missed, but it mattered not. Solihull hadn't won, and from then on we were to be known as the Elite XV to mark the occasion. Surely the game of the season, we thought, as we celebrated. Oh how wrong we were.

Next came Bromsgrove, a school that is compelled to pay rugby players to play for it. They take a big interest in their rugby, and no doubt have several intense training seasons per week. Perhaps they should have had a few more before that day in October. In typical 3<sup>rd</sup> XV fashion, we persevered and definitely got our rewards for our efforts. We went a penalty up even

punishable, or know what "excessive stamping" meant. Frankly, it was *their* fault that they never really broke down our defence, which was solid throughout the game, and promptly threw away yet more territory by persistent backchat. Finally it was over: Mr Cloughton blew for full time and we began to celebrate a famous victory!

The rest of the season was an anticlimax but there were a few memorable moments. The match against Nottingham was an easy victory, the highlight being Husnan Hussain's wonder try in the dying moments. Somehow catching the ball behind his back, Husnan proceeded to dart to the line without either dropping the ball or being tackled before managing a try. We also triumphed over QMGS 2<sup>nd</sup> XV with a solid defensive performance and two

gifted interception tries thanks to the QMGS outside centre, and scored a win over Wolverhampton Grammar's 1<sup>st</sup> XV. The Elites maintained an unbeaten record right up to the last game against a well-drilled Shrewsbury; they should look back on that season with pride.

The Elite XV in full were,

in the Forwards: Dan King, Michael Clegg, Lawrence Vickers, Asfaq Azim, Tom McDonell, Prashant Desai, Jim Bowater, Ryota Nishikawa, Francis Gardner-Trejo; captain, Tim Frost, Ali Pardoe and Gurpreet Johal. In the Backs were: Jonathon Fox, Luke Tisdale, Pavan Grewal, Michael Skerritt, Chris Adamson, Andrew Cowan, Tom Campbell, Paul Delamere, Arvin Mahanta, Husnan Hussain, James Allsopp. The Players' player of the year was Jonathon Fox, whereas Mr Evans' player of the year was Luke Tisdale. Our most improved player was Tom McDonnell. Finally, the most thanks must go to Mr Evans for coaching us throughout the year, for refereeing our games, for travelling to remote away games and for helping us progress to the team that we finished as: the Elite XV.

Andrew Cowan



before Pavan Grewal latched onto a cross-field kick from Tisdale to put the 3rds 10-0 up. Another penalty from Tisdale meant that we were now 13 points ahead and we began to believe we could do the unthinkable. Then the game turned, in several ways.

Bromsgrove equalized and our inspirational mentor and coach Mr Evans was caught by one flailing arm of our captain, Francis Gardner-Trejo, and had to go to hospital. Our assistant manager, Mr Andronov, appeared to take charge and gave a motivating team talk which included the lines "if the referee doesn't see it, then it's OK". Luckily for us, the referee appeared to be the Chief. Some say he just wanted to see a Senior KES team beat Bromsgrove for once; others think his refereeing was fair, correctly disallowing a Bromsgrove try for offside, for example. It wasn't our fault that Bromsgrove players didn't think backchatting to a referee was



## U16 XV

**W**as the Autumn Term a failure? The eight games played, seven of them lost, were disappointing in many respects. There were, however, difficulties to be overcome. As is the case for every U16 team, key players (Simon Gateley, Nathan Kerr) were taken by the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, but another (Sam Scott) was lost to injury for much of the season. We lost the matches, but there were many tight scorelines (Nottingham 12-14; Bromsgrove 0-3), and even tighter games. Despite little reward this term, each player was putting more and more effort into training and matches. We showed fiery team spirit and determination, played some good rugby, scored some good team tries (in particular two against a strong Solihull side), and looked to have the potential to win some games.

Having had a term to experiment with team configuration, player selection, pre-match routines and motivation of various styles and sound-levels, our team started to find its feet in the Spring Term. Thanks to the return of lost players, we beat Shrewsbury. We had already been knocked out of the North Midlands Cup, a close game lost 29-25 to Fairfax, but we strung together a series of mid-week wins in the Plate Competition, beating Church Stretton and Lady Hawkins. After several delays, the final would be our last game of the season, and the school's last chance at silverware that season. The match was against Adams' Grammar, to whom we had lost in the Autumn Term. We were confident, however, with our team at full

strength, and won fairly comfortably in the end.

In short, a mixed season. We had the worst scoring record of any KE rugby team this season, but on the other hand the North Midlands Plate was one of the few competitions won by any KE team this year.

*Ben Walpole*

## U12 A XV

**W**e went into the year as an inexperienced Shell team hoping for a successful first season. As a team, I think we achieved that. Our first match was against Nottingham High School, and a 12-10 victory was an encouraging start to the season. We then strung together a number of good performances against Fairfax (22-0), Adams' Grammar School (15-0) and, most impressive, Solihull School (42-5).

Our confidence and ability as a team grew, and we went into the match against Warwick School with high expectations. Unfortunately, we lost 17-0; it was a hard fought game, though the score doesn't suggest it. Warwick's tries came from the few mistakes which occurred in our defence. Overall we thought that it was a good performance but we needed to improve if we were to beat them when we played them again, at Warwick School. We went back to winning ways, beating Camp Hill 20-0, Bishop of Hereford 21-5, Aston 27-7, and thrashing KE Stratford 30-0. We went to Warwick having much improved since our previous encounter, and it showed. We still lost, which was a bitter

disappointment, but by a narrower margin of 15-10.

We later won the Greater Birmingham Tournament, beating Five Ways, Bishop Vesey and Aston 17-10 in the final. We finished the season on a high but there is still a lot to improve on before next season. Well done, lads, and let's keep it up!

*Nik Cooke*

## U12 B XV

**A**fter a losing start against Warwick and Nottingham, the U12 Bs hit a winning streak which lasted for five out of their next six matches. Despite numerous personnel changes as the Shells settled down to their first experience of KES rugby, the U12 B's played with determination and spirit throughout the season. Convincing wins over Adams, Camp Hill, Hereford and Aston displayed the potential this team possesses for the future. Special mention must go to Sam Neale, Ben Phillips and Nathan Tomlinson for their tireless efforts for the team throughout the season. Best of luck to the B team players who moved up to the A team. Finishing with six wins out of eleven and a points difference of +32, the season ended with a hard fought victory over Solihull. Well played, all!

*DMW*





# WATER POLO

2007 saw Water Polo become the school's most successful sport, with outstanding achievements taking place in The English Schools National Championships throughout our age spectrum.

The Under 14's claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, managing to defeat King's School Grantham 4-0, with credit going to young starlets Morgan Hirsh and James Cull, whose KES Water Polo careers look extremely optimistic.

The Under 16's embraced a 2<sup>nd</sup> place, defeating some very tough Water Polo schools including King's Grantham 7-0 and Bolton School 6-2, which is a remarkable achievement for such a young side.

However the U18's, after being narrowly defeated in the Warwickshire Cup by Solihull, came back with a vengeance to qualify for the finals of the National Championships. Up against a strong Charterhouse team, including national Swimming champions, the outcome looked certain. Regardless of this, the mighty King Edward's battled hard and cruised to an 11-4 victory, and were crowned National Champions.

Having even one age group qualifying for the final rounds of the prestigious National Championships is a tremendous achievement. To manage three sides, is extraordinary. Many thanks must go to coaches Mr Pitt and Hayley Bettinson, who together have undoubtedly enabled these great successes to take place. And congratulations must go to Will Divall and Alex Bion, who have been selected for the Great Britain Water Polo training squad.

To strengthen this achievement, the youthfulness of the current U18 side must be acknowledged. Considering that the current U18 side remains unchanged for the next academic year, we can only go from strength to strength.

*Jack Donelan*

## U16's

Two years ago, competing in our last National Finals, as U14's, we came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our objective this year was to better that achievement and win. The qualifying stages went well and we got to the National Semi Finals without much trouble.

In this tournament we qualified for the finals with good wins against Bolton School and City of London. From these performances we knew we had to train hard for finals day, considering we were entering it seeded third. We were



With less than a minute to go Simon Gateley took an optimistic shot from inside his own half which grasped victory in the dying seconds of the game. A special mention should be made of James Cull, whose countless turnovers kept us in the game.

This win took us to the national final, uncharted territory for all of us. Our opponents were Manchester Grammar School. We knew we were the underdogs for this game, considering that they have a team almost full of Great Britain players (compared to our two) and the fact that they train together for 12 hours a week compared to our measly one and half! Considering this I believe we gave a fair account of ourselves, eventually losing



certainly put through our paces by Mr Pitt. This even included swimming sessions at dawn for boys willing to lose the sleep. Mr Pitt wasn't so keen, but he did more than he was asked.

We were drawn against Trinity School, Croydon who are a strong team with a number of Great Britain and regional players. They were also the team which beat us in the semi final two years ago, so we knew it was going to be a tense game. Our expectations of a difficult match quickly became reality. At full time it was 9-9 with nothing to choose between the teams. In extra time two quick goals from Dan King swung the momentum in our favour but they returned with two goals of their own in quick succession.

13-7.

We have had an enjoyable year, with success along the way. This wouldn't have happened without the help and support of Hayley, even with a bad back, or of Mr Pitt's vociferous pool side encouragement. I would like to thank them for all the time and effort they put in this year.

*Simon Gateley*



## Under 14s

**T**he Upper Middle Year was a vital year for Water Polo as it gave our squad a chance to make a good impression on the national circuit in the National Championships.

We started the year well, qualifying at Manchester. The whole team played well there, although we were a little rusty.

After qualifying, we trained hard in preparation for the finals. When the tournament started, it was a huge disappointment for the team when, after only a few matches, we knew it was not going to be our day. With the top scorers not finding the net, or any space, it was up to the defence in most matches. Matt Richardson ended up as Man of the Tournament.

In all it was a let down for a team with such promise, but what must not be forgotten is that a third place finish in the National Championships is a huge achievement. The team is full of talent, with the speed of James Cull, the skills of Morgan Hirsch, the goalkeeping ability of John Tsopanis, the strength of Stan Cousins..... the list goes on and on. The Under 14s may have been disappointed with a third place finish but this will hopefully just drive us on to greater success in the future.

*James Cull*

## Under 13s

**T**his year's Under 13 Water Polo season started reasonably well, with a third place medal gained at the National President's Shield Tournament in Bolton. It was generally a good performance, with good swimming by all of the best players. We lost in the semi-final to a very strong Cheltenham team but the highlights were the good marking by Andrew Macarthur and Nick Gateley and an excellent debut performance by Jonathan Mahon in goal.

Another tournament in November saw KES enter two teams against Monmouth, Warwick and Bedford Modern School. Ed Burns, in one of his first games, was outstanding in defence and there were also good performances from Ben Watson, Sam Polding,

George Wilson and Nathan Roberts. All opposition was beaten by both teams and some outstanding Water Polo was played.

The highlight of the year came against Boldmere. KES lost by 10 goals to this team at the start of the year but managed a 7-7 draw in the Summer Term. It was gratifying to hold them to a draw, although we did play well enough to deserve a win. This game summed up the whole season, with Sam Polding having to save too many shots at the start, but improvements in both attack and defence were seen and Nick Gateley, George Wilson and Andrew Macarthur all started to shine. This game also saw the emergence of some new stars with Sharnko Chaudhuri playing well in only his first game.

On the whole it was a good year with some excellent results and promise for the future.

*Jonathan Mahon*

## Under 12s

**I**t has been a great season for the Under 12 Water Polo team despite hardly any of them having played Water Polo before they came to KES.

There have been many great moments, including: coming third in the Bedford Tournament; beating the SB Sharks Under 14s; and even beating the Remove team during training, when Harry Cowley's dynamic swimming tore the opposition apart.

Great individual achievements include a stunning seven-goal spree against SB Sharks including goals from halfway by Laured Kalari and Ed Burns. And Callum Crombie's efforts against Bedford cannot be forgotten, especially not his "funny face" tactic successfully putting off their penalty taker.

Thanks go to everyone who played this year, and especially to Connor McGuirk, who volunteered to play in goal for most matches. Finally, huge thanks go to both coaches, Hayley Bettinson and Mr Pitt, for giving us the opportunity to play Water Polo for the school. Oh, and also a big thank you to our many supporters!

*Ed Burns, Laured Kalari and Harry Cowley*



WAR IS HELL

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.  
- Bertrand Russell

War is a day of harvest for the devil. - William

In war, truth is the first casualty. - Aeschylus

War is fear cloaked in courage

