

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
CHRONICLE
2012

CHRONICLE 2012

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF
KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

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CHRONICLE 2012

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

A blue-tinted photograph of several hands making 'L' hand gestures, commonly used for sign language. The hands are arranged in a cluster, with some pointing upwards and others downwards. The word 'HELLOS' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center-right of the image.

HELLOS

MERCEDES ROMON-ALONSO ENGLISH

Chronicle: Why did you want to teach literature?

Dr Romon-Alonso: My early interest in literature was ignited by my wonderful grandfather, who was a great story teller. I began reading in Spanish from an early age, reading my brother's comics. He was my literary adviser! Then I developed an interest in novels that contained a mixture of history and romance. As I was interested in history at the time, I thought I would become an historian. When I was 17, I began to make decisions about universities and after deciding to do a degree in English Literature, my love affair began. We did a lot of literary criticism, starting with the Romantics, and after that I came to Britain to do an exchange course. I really enjoyed how lessons were taught, and the tutorial system reinforced my serious interest in English literature. I went on to do a Masters degree and PhD on an American writer, Hilda Doolittle. I could not live without literature: it is a part of me. That is something I would like my students to acquire, an understanding that the experience of literature can give you something as a person.

What do you think of KES?

I live in Birmingham but I had never seen KES till the day of my interview. Being passionate about architecture, the first thing I liked was the building, with its big heavy doors, stairs, paintings and high ceilings. I found it really beautiful: especially the Chapel, a rather charming building. The marriage of architecture and history was enough to say "yes." When I taught a group of Shells as part of my selection procedure, I saw that the boys were lovely: very responsive, incredibly well behaved and polite. What I felt that day has been confirmed later on in terms of how students learn and respond. Finally, I met my colleagues and I felt that everyone was most welcoming, caring, always cheerful and helpful. That kindness is a rare quality to find in school these days. Out of the four virtues, kindness is most important to me: that is what I found here, and as you can imagine, I am rather pleased that I was given a job.

Do you have any plans for the future?

We are not masters of our future, even though we would like to think so! So, I try not to plan too far ahead. I would like to be here in KES in five years' time; that would be great.



FAVOURITES:

Leisure Activity:

Long walks in the countryside, visiting old churches, small villages and market towns, old castles and country homes. Also, I enjoy watching films.

Films:

Ran by Akira Kurosawa; *The Seventh Seal* by Ingmar Bergman; *Modern Times* by Chaplin; *Blade Runner*; *Hannah and her Sisters* by Woody Allen

Book:

I like different books for different reasons. The work of Juan Ramon Jimenez and particularly Benito Pérez Galdós are favourites. In terms of English literature, I have always been very fond of Virginia Woolf and the book of hers that had the greatest impact on me was *The Waves*. I love poetry as well. I know this is a cliché, but I love Shakespeare's sonnets and the poetry of John Donne.

CATERINA ARICO

CHEMISTRY

Chronicle: Could you tell us about what you did before you came to KES?

Dr Arico: After school, I did a degree in Chemistry in Messina, in Italy. Then, I came to the UK to do a PhD in Organic Chemistry, my favourite branch of the subject, at the University of Birmingham. I stayed on for another two years as a Post-Doctoral Researcher, working in a different research group but within the same field of chemistry. Then I thought I needed to get a job! Usually you would become a lecturer or go into industry, but neither of those options interested me so I decided to go into teaching.

Did your own time at school influence your decision?

Not really; I hated chemistry at school. But I enjoyed it a lot at University, where people were more mature: the main reason I disliked school was peer pressure. I loved studying and had some great teachers.

What made you choose chemistry as a degree subject?

At school I enjoyed studying lots of subjects, particularly literature and languages; I felt no special 'bond' with Chemistry, probably due to the way it was taught, with a lack of practicals. When it came

to university I decided I wanted to do something scientific: I chose Chemistry thinking that if it didn't work out I could transfer to another subject. However, I fell in love with it and have been happy with my choice since. Lecturers at university would explain the chemical concepts logically and I didn't have to wait for the 'closer to the truth' version the following year, like at school.

Were you drawn in by the exciting reactions?

Explosions are fun but discovering how things work is what drew me to Chemistry.

What do you do in your free time?

I am interested in lots of things, though not sport. I have so many interests, from building model boats to medieval architecture, from ancient Greek history to reading European classics, that I cannot pursue any of them properly. My HMS Victory has been waiting for her masts for a long time!

Have you ever been in any chemistry-related accidents?

Nothing too serious, but I broke lots of glassware at university.

What are your first impressions of KES?

Having previously worked at a comprehensive, I noticed how welcoming and pleasant the students are here.

Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?

I will still be teaching, unless I win the lottery! I have never previously made long term plans that I have been able to stick to, so I have not really thought about where I will be in ten years' time.

FAVOURITES

Film:

Master and Commander

TV Show:

Father Ted, Alan Partridge & The Big Bang Theory.

Books:

Treasure Island, The Case of Charles Dexter Ward, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym, L'Assommoir, Notre-Dame de Paris and The Karamazov Brothers.

Food:

Italian, I'm afraid: but I do like Mexican food.

Element:

As an Organic Chemistry enthusiast, it has to be Carbon!



FLORA LEE

MODERN LANGUAGES



6

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

Miss Lee: I lived in Barcelona for several years after graduating. To start with I taught English, and then I worked for a wine company before joining a translation agency.

What inspired you to go into teaching?

I think I'd always known I would ultimately be a teacher; I just needed to experience a bit of the world first. In Spain I had mainly taught in businesses and, because students came and went, I didn't really get to know them or see them progress. There were none of the extra-curricular things that make teaching in a school such fun. When the Spanish economy started to look shaky, I decided it was the moment to come home and do my teacher training.

So far, what are your thoughts about KES itself?

Many moons ago I was in Senior Productions in Big School and I am delighted that the comforting smell of varnished wood remains there. Beyond nostalgia, I enjoy the convivial atmosphere at KES and the busyness and variety of the school day. Above all, I appreciate the boys and their talents and humour, none more so than the magnificent Vardy Removes. Mark my words, Vardy will win the Cock House Trophy, and sooner than you think. You heard it here first.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I will be an awesome tennis player and will wipe Mr Tinley off the court.

FAVOURITES

Sport:

I swim and run and am trying to get my tennis up to scratch. I follow various sports and am a Villa fan, for my sins. However, I used to go fairly regularly to the Nou Camp, which I reckon makes me a bona fide, non-glory-hunting Barça fan.

Music:

In terms of music, I go through phases. I might have an XX phase or a Lana del Rey phase or an Arcade Fire phase but, to be honest, the Dolly Parton phase comes around far too often for me to have any musical street cred.

Book:

Great Expectations.

Film:

It's hard to choose a favourite film but I can watch *Le Grand Bleu* over and over.

TV Show:

As for TV, I dip in and out of *Coronation Street* and thought *The Wire* and *Mad Men* were brilliant. I am now watching *The West Wing*, about 10 years after everyone else.

Food:

I will eat almost any food but I particularly love sushi.

GOPAL RAO

PHYSICS

Chronicle: Can you tell us about life in your time away from KES?

Mr Rao: After leaving KES in 2004, having studied Maths, Further Maths and Physics at “A” Level, I took a gap year, which I spent working at a Birmingham engineering company. I went to study engineering at university, moving from civil engineering to manufacturing, which is about design, manufacture and factories. This really interested me. I found I enjoyed teaching so I joined TeachFirst, a charity which puts graduates into challenging schools. I enjoyed teaching maths in East Birmingham and came here afterwards.

What's it like on the other side of the desk?

In many ways it's as you would imagine, but the Common Room is more fraught. You notice on both sides that teachers know you as an individual. Conversations among teachers are about specific children instead of forms: it's not surprising, perhaps, but the teachers know and care about the boys to a degree which is stunning. I'm trying to know the kids nearly as well as them but I'm not quite there yet!

Is there anything you would change at KES?

I think it's worked well for 500 years; why change it? More seriously, the dynamic between Sixth Formers and teachers is something that has already changed for the better, in the direction, quite rightly, of collaborating with instead of driving kids.

What has been most challenging as a teacher?

Discovering how hard students should be pushed and identifying the line between what they do and do not know is difficult for 25 lower school children.

How do you spend time outside school?

I have started a social enterprise called TarGetMore as, during my time in East Birmingham, I found bright kids going on to do post-16 qualifications which didn't set them up for professional jobs, as they hadn't received parental, teacher or old boy input. I try to supply these kids with information. Through networking and KES's help, we've found work experience for 25 children at Heartlands Hospital, which was not easy! I think it's fair that disadvantaged people be put in touch with others who can help them.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I would be over the moon to have an MBA and work for a TarGetMore the size of TeachFirst, a huge employer aiding social mobility, showing it doesn't matter where you start but it matters where you end.

FAVOURITES

Books:

I'm borderline illiterate but I enjoyed *The Three Musketeers*' film-like 'swashbuckling'. I really hated the end of *Life of Pi*!

Films:

Back to the *Future Part I*, the greatest film of all time, except for maybe *American Beauty*.

TV Shows:

Not *The Big Bang Theory* as I hate it! My favourite is *The Thick of It*, which you shouldn't watch if you are under 18 or on a school night, because you'll find yourself swearing the next day!

Sport:

Mixed Lacrosse, which I played at university. It has none of the skill that it should have, but all of the violence, so it's quite good fun!

Food:

Mum's or Wife's cooking depending on who's reading this!

Song:

Mr Brightside by The Killers.

Structure:

The Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, or the Shard.



SUSANA REYES

MODERN LANGUAGES

Chronicle: Would you be able to tell us a bit about your time before coming to KES?

Miss Reyes: I was born in Switzerland, where I went to a bilingual school and then to university. At the University of Neuchâtel, I studied Philology and English and Spanish literature. After that I had the opportunity to come to Birmingham, where I have been living happily for five years. I've taught in many different schools and have always had a passion for languages. I'm quite an international person: I'm from a Chilean background, was born and raised in Switzerland and can speak eight languages (English, Mandarin, Swedish, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and a little bit of Italian).

Why did you move to England?

I moved here to work as a foreign language assistant and to promote languages throughout the West Midlands. I have been involved in different projects run by the British Council and Aston University, organizing Modern Foreign Language days and attempting to encourage the teaching of MFL in schools.

What was your first impression of KES?

I love the buildings, the history of the school, the curriculum for languages and, of course, the uniform. The students' behaviour is also quite good. I especially love the fact that the boys are dedicated and so keen to learn. The old myth that boys are not good at languages is false: here, they show amazing linguistic talent, which it's great to have the opportunity to stretch.

Do you think more people need to learn languages?

Absolutely; it is a great experience. However, the crucial thing is not just vocabulary and grammar but learning about different cultures, and being aware that the French world isn't just France and Paris, but Francophone Africa and Quebec, the Spanish world not just Spain and Madrid but most of Latin America. The world is much wider than we would like to think it is!



What do you think of the IB?

I love the IB. I did it when I was younger, but I took 14 subjects (a sigh from the interviewer) over three years including philosophy, all three sciences and four languages.

Could you tell Chronicle a bit about your hobbies?

Well, I love dancing (especially the Salsa), cooking and going on holiday.

Do you have any plans for the future?

Professionally I hope to stay at KES and get better at what I am doing. Socially, I would like to travel. This summer I am going to South America to go on the Inca Trail (so Machu Picchu, Easter Island etc...) to which I am looking forward.

FAVOURITES

Food:

Anything spicy; and Latin American food, which I love to prepare.

Film:

The Goonies or *Jurassic Park I*.

Book:

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez or all the series of Luis Sepúlveda.

Language:

I love to listen to Swedish, and would love to improve my Chinese!

Music:

Queens of the Stone Age, mambo music, rockabilly (such as Elvis Presley) or electronic music. Just as long as it isn't boring!

ANTOINE ABLINE

FRENCH

Chronicle : Pourriez-vous parler moi un peu de vous?

M. Abline : Je m'appelle Antoine et j'ai 28 ans. J'habite dans un village près de Nantes.

Qu'est-ce que vous aimez dans les langues?

L'aspect qui m'intéresse le plus dans les langues est l'oral. J'aime beaucoup voyager et rencontrer des personnes pendant mes voyages. Pour moi, l'apprentissage d'une langue offre de nombreuses opportunités. Pas seulement professionnelles, elles permettent également d'avoir accès à des peuples, des cultures, des savoirs.

Qu'est-ce que vous aimez faire pendant votre temps libre?

Lorsque j'ai du temps libre, j'aime bien lire, jouer de la guitare, regarder des films, aller voir mes amis, écouter de la musique ou encore cuisiner.

Parlez-moi de ce que vous avez fait avant de venir à KES?

Avant de venir à KES, j'étais professeur d'histoire géographie dans un lycée à Nantes et avant cela, j'étais étudiant à l'université d'Angers.

Quelles ont été vos premières impressions de KES?

J'ai été étonné par la taille et les équipements mis à disposition des élèves. C'était la première fois que je voyais un lycée aussi important. J'ai été aussi amusé par le fait que tous les élèves portent un uniforme scolaire. Nous n'avons pas ça en France. Aussi, quelques heures après mon arrivée à KES j'ai été très surpris car ma première visite a eu lieu un vendredi après-midi et en faisant le tour du lycée, j'ai croisé vraiment beaucoup d'étudiants habillés en militaire. Je me suis dit « Mais que se passe-t-il ? C'est la guerre ? » C'était très étrange pour moi.

Et de la ville de Birmingham?

Je pensais vraiment que la deuxième ville d'Angleterre aurait beaucoup plus de monuments historiques. J'ai trouvé que l'architecture de Birmingham était très récente et qu'il y avait vraiment beaucoup de magasins. Cependant, en me promenant, j'ai découvert quelques lieux sympatiques comme par exemple les canaux que j'aime beaucoup.

Quels sont vos projets d'avenir? Allez-vous rester en Angleterre?

J'ai décidé de rester une année supplémentaire à KES car je m'y plais bien. Ensuite, je n'ai pas encore décidé. J'aimerais aller dans un autre pays. J'hésite entre le Japon, la Chine, les Etats-Unis et le Canada qui sont des pays que j'aimerais découvrir, ou encore la Roumanie et l'Italie qui sont deux pays que j'aime vraiment beaucoup.



FAVORIS

Film:

Le Seigneur des Anneaux et *Moulin Rouge*.

Chanson:

Rive gauche par Alain Souchon.

Livre:

Un roman français de Frédérique Beigbeder.

Sport:

Natation.

Nourriture:

Lapin à la moutarde.

Passe-temps:

Guitare.

SAMUEL BARRERA ACOSTA

SPANISH

Chronicle: ¿Qué hacías antes de venir a King Edward's?

Sr Barrera Acosta: Antes de llegar a King Edward's estaba en Barcelona terminando mis estudios en la universidad. Soy licenciado en Traducción e Interpretación por la Universidad de Granada. Allí fue donde empecé a estudiar la carrera, después de tres años en Granada, me fui a vivir a Rusia durante un año como estudiante de intercambio, ya que mi especialidad aparte del inglés también es el ruso. Después de Rusia volví a España y gracias a otro programa de movilidad pude vivir en Barcelona donde termine mi carrera.

El ambiente en el colegio...

...es bastante agradable. Lo que más me gusta del colegio es ver que los estudiantes de King Edward's se involucran bastante en muchas actividades que se llevan a cabo en el colegio. Sin embargo, lo que menos me gusta es que los estudiantes no me avisen de que no puedan venir a las sesiones de conversación que tenemos acordadas y me dejan plantando esperándolos.

Primeras impresiones ¿cuáles son?

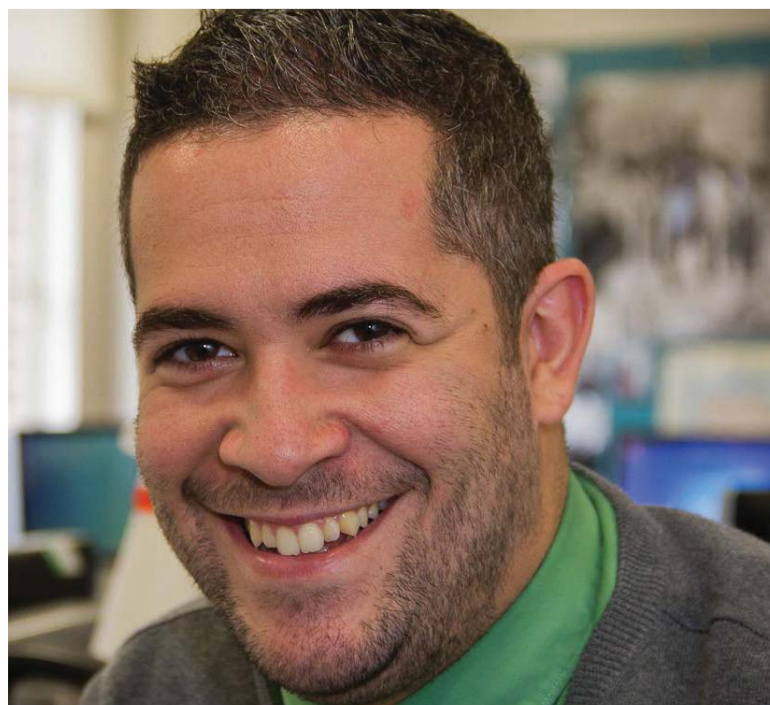
Yo llegué a King Edward's hace dos años y todavía recuerdo que lo que más llamó mi atención, aparte de la arquitectura de los edificios del colegio, fue el descubrir que este colegio tenía ese sistema de casas que no es para nada común en España.

¿Y sobre Inglaterra?

Antes de venir a vivir en Inglaterra en septiembre del año 2010 ya había estado en este país anteriormente, tres veces para ser exactos, haciendo cursos de inglés de cuatro semanas de duración en diferentes veranos y ciudades de Inglaterra.

Planes para el futuro ¿Vas a quedarte en Inglaterra?

No tengo pensado volver a España en el futuro próximo. Siempre he sido una persona a la que le ha gustado mucho viajar y conocer diferentes culturas. Por el momento, quiero seguir viviendo en Inglaterra para poder seguir formándome en todo lo que me sea posible: tanto como profesor, así como con la lengua inglesa. Sin embargo, a largo plazo, como por ejemplo



dentro de 9 o 10 años, me encantaría poder pasar una temporada en algún país lejano y exótico como China, Japón, Australia o Nueva Zelanda.

FAVORITOS

Pasatiempos:

En general me encanta el cine y la lectura. Pero también me gusta mucho pasar parte de mi tiempo libre con mis amigos, así como navegar por internet, ya que me parece fascinante la enorme cantidad de información sumamente interesante y variada que se puede encontrar en la red. Siempre que puedo, intento visitar a alguno de mis amigos que tengo en países extranjeros.

Película:

Es difícil para mí elegir una sola película, algunas de mis películas favoritas son: *V for Vendetta* y *The Hours* o *Amélie*.

Canción:

La versión de Placebo de *Running Up That Hill*.

Libro:

The Handmaid's Tale de Margaret Atwood.

Deporte:

Volleyball.

SAMUEL SFERRUZZA

FRENCH

Chronicle: Parlez-moi un peu de vous

M. Sferruzza: Je suis né à Aix-en-Provence, mais j'ai vécu mon enfance en Normandie. J'ai passé mon Bac dans un petit lycée de campagne, puis j'ai fait des études d'anglais à l'Université de Caen, tout en travaillant comme serveur l'été ou comme assistant d'éducation pendant l'année.

Qu'est-ce que vous aimez dans les langues?

Pour moi, une langue est avant tout un outil de communication pour parler avec les autres. Je suis aussi très sensible à la musique d'une langue, à la façon dont elle sonne.

Qu'est-ce que vous aimez faire pendant votre temps libre?

J'aime rencontrer des gens, jouer de la musique avec mes amis et me promener dans la nature.

Qu'est-ce que vous avez fait avant de venir à KES?

J'ai fait des études d'anglais, et aussi quelques saisons en tant que serveur.

Qu'est-ce que vous pensez de KES?

Je m'attendais à l'excellence, mais c'est encore mieux que ce que je m'imaginais ! Je suis très heureux de travailler ici (d'où ma deuxième année).

Et de la ville de Birmingham?

J'aime beaucoup la ville, même si j'essaie d'éviter le centre. Certains quartiers me plaisent bien, et les Brummies sont plus que sympathiques.

Quels sont vos projets d'avenir?

Je n'en ai pas (encore) à long terme, pour l'instant, je prévois ma vie d'un an sur l'autre.

Allez-vous rester en Angleterre?

Non, je pense aller voir ailleurs si j'y suis. Peut-être dans l'hémisphère sud...

FAVORIS

Film:

J'hésite entre *Le Grand Détournement* et *The Fall* de Tarsem Singh (...et encore 20 autres : pourquoi seulement UN film ?)

Série:

X-Files et les comédies d'animation américaines.

Chanson:

N'importe laquelle de Tom Waits, peut-être *Invitation to the Blues*.

Livre:

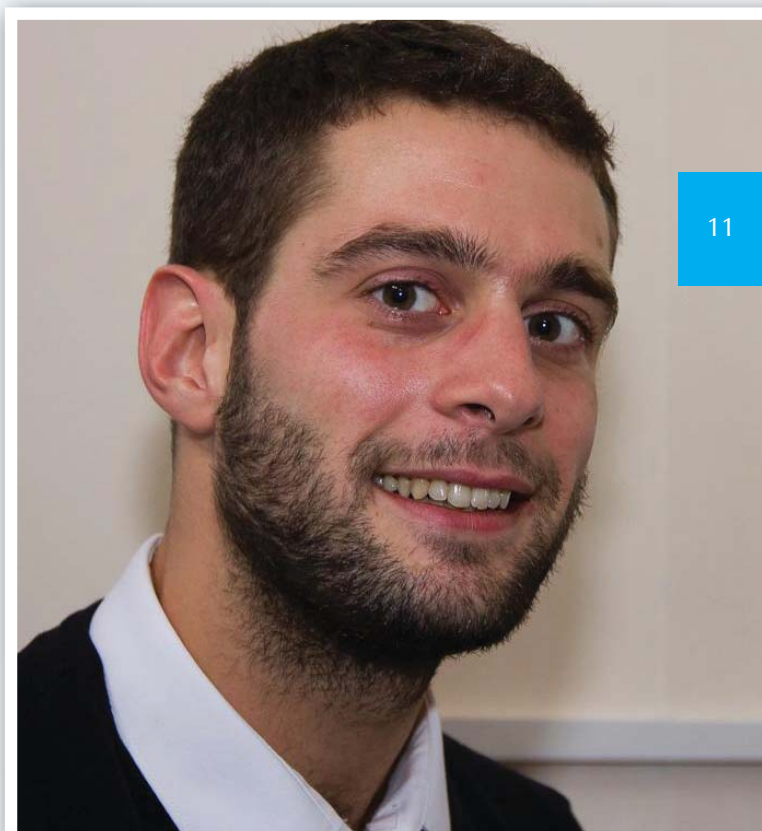
La Horde du Contrevent, d'A. Damasio.

Sport:

Volleyball, Randonnée

Plat préféré:

Les lasagnes de mon père, mais je suis très gourmand...





GOODBYES

ANNELIESE HAVEL

MODERN LANGUAGES

Anneliese came to KES in the summer of 2008, wanting to get some experience of working in a school. I'd already looked after a number of students on placements by then, but she was head and shoulders above the rest from day one; we knew immediately that we had to try and keep her. As luck would have it, a job opportunity opened up less than a year later: maternity cover for Julia Helm as a teacher of French and German. Happily, job opportunities for Anneliese continued to open up after that and I'm not exaggerating when I say that the Department couldn't have managed without her. She took over as our lead German teacher when both Jessica Amann and Julia were on leave, and stepped into numerous other roles at the same time and with little notice: running and organising trips, setting and marking exams... the full list is a very long one.

She is incredibly organised and efficient, always reliable and a real team player. The fact that the numbers studying German have increased in the last two or three years is due in no small part to her. I know that she is going off to finish her degree, but I do hope that one day she will consider a return to teaching, as she is just so good at it.

An important facet of her work has been the relationships she has established with staff and pupils. She really cares about the boys and they value her as a great teacher. She has been a well-liked member of the Common Room: she is helpful beyond the call of duty, friendly to everyone and has a great sense of humour and cheerfulness about her. Not only are we losing an excellent colleague but, more importantly, a much valued friend; we will miss her terribly.

CMLD



MARC EDWARDS & NATASHA "MO" HUNT

PE AND GAMES

Marc and Natasha came to KES in 2010 with a view to filling the vacant PE Assistant posts that had previously been occupied by Paul Gleghorne and Jamie Taylor, two hard acts to follow. The job specification stated that successful applicants would need to be lead coaches in Games sessions, run school teams and fully immerse themselves in KES school life. Such was the enthusiasm and quality of coaching shown by both Marc and Natasha that we couldn't let them leave at the end of the year; instead, we managed to persuade them to stay for an extra year to pursue what was obviously their vocation and join the Graduate Teaching Programme.

So this year they have combined their teaching and coaching commitments at KES with studying for their teaching qualifications and job hunting. Marc has been on the Senior Hockey tour to South Africa and helped coach the U13s through to the National Finals; Mo

has run the U13 A Rugby Team and coordinated our involvement in the National Biathlon Championships, the finals of which were held at Crystal Palace.

Somehow they have also found the time to pursue their own sporting ambitions. This has been no small matter, as both are serious sportsmen. This year Marc has played for the England "A" team against the full test teams of Scotland, Ireland and Wales, not to mention winning the GB Super League as the Captain of the Pennine Pumas, the North of England select team. Natasha has played in two successful tests against New Zealand and in the Six Nations Grand Slam. She was also part of the London 7s victory at Twickenham and, most recently, the European 7s Championship victory in Moscow.

Such sporting excellence has been an inspiration to our boys and helped develop rugby and hockey at KES. We are exceptionally grateful for all that they have done and wish them all the very best as they move on to accept their first full time teaching posts at Windsor High School (Marc) and Sir Graham Balfour School (Natasha).

CAPJ

STUART BIRCH

PE, GAMES, DEVELOPMENT, ENGLISH

Like all schools, KES profits immeasurably from the youthful energy and creativity of many teachers whose time in the Common Room amounts to a handful of years spent learning their trade and trying out their ideas before they move on in pursuit of promotion or experience. Then there are the long-term men (and women) who invest a whole career, or the majority of one, in King Edward's. They are the staff known to generation after generation of boys, the repositories of the school's memory and traditions, the guardians of continuity and the canny scrutineers of innovation. They have a special place in the affection and regard of everyone who loves this school. Such a one par excellence is Stuart Birch, retiring after 42 years of service to KES.

Stuart's first encounter with the school was in December of 1968, when he came to watch his younger brother Peter play rugby for the U13 A team: he recalls noting that the master in charge, Bill Buttle, never left his shooting-stick at the halfway mark, and thinking "This is the school for me!". His first, temporary, teaching post was in 1970-71, but he became a full-time member of the PE Department in 1973 ; he was promoted to the position of Director of PE and Games in 1987 and held it until 2008; in addition, from 1994 until 2008 he was the school's first Development Director, a role which in that period was principally concerned with the letting of school facilities during weekends, holidays and evenings. He also taught English to a Shell set each year for more than three decades.

It is school sport that owes the greatest debt to Stuart: specifically, rugby, athletics and basketball. A truly enormous number of boys will remember his tireless coaching, exhortation, support and encouragement in all three sports. The successes chalked up over the years have been extremely numerous, as have the teams which he has run.

He was Master i/c of Under 16 rugby for 24 years, culminating in 2004 with an unbeaten team that won all its competitions, including the national Schools and All England events. He ran athletics for 35 years, elevating it from an Easter Term activity with few inter-school fixtures to a sport with a fixture every Saturday (and several weekdays) in the Summer Term. KES produced a number of international athletes during those years. In the summer of 2000, KES won every fixture in every age group in which they participated.



But the sport with which he has been most firmly associated here may well be his beloved basketball. He introduced the game to KES in 1970, and ran it for 36 years. Successes were again numerous, including countless Birmingham and West Midlands championships at various age groups, and KES teams played in 8 England Schools finals. In 1986, the under 19's won the national final while both the under 15's and the under 16's were semi-finalists. A most memorable moment occurred when the KES under 19 team played and beat the Birmingham Bullets under 19 National League team in the first game of basketball played at the NIA. Four of the school's England Schools players went on to play in National League teams at adult level, and one, Chris Grimley, played for UCLA before taking up a professional career in San Diego. Stuart not only taught his teams to play basketball, he taught them to love it too.

He is rightly proud of other achievements at KES. He was Head of Jeune, and likes to point out that they never finished below 2nd in the Cock House table during his tenure. He takes great pride in the fact that, as Development Director, he and Martine O'Neill generated from 1996 onwards an annual turnover in excess of £100,000 from the hiring out of the Pool, the Sports Hall, Big School and other school facilities. He was Head of a happy and stable PE department for 21 years, during which all Inspections were passed with flying colours. And he hugely enjoyed teaching English to Shell boys, a welcome change from the hours out of doors or in the Sports Hall.

Stuart is inclined to be self-effacing about his English teaching, describing himself as "old-fashioned". But his charges always did well in the end-of-year exams, and many boys have taken away lively memories from his classroom: his comical spelling mnemonics, perhaps, or his custom of requiring boys who had underperformed or made silly mistakes to do press-ups. He was, as everywhere else in his professional life, unfailingly good humoured and encouraging, and his popularity among Shell pupils was great.

As befits someone so committed to his career, Stuart's major extracurricular interests have had associations with sport. He was a fine long distance runner: he finished 8 marathons with the fantastic best time of 2hrs 74mins 57secs! When he had had his fill of this endurance event he turned to long distance cycling. In 1995, following the death of Nick Holliday, Stuart cycled (along with Ian Connor, Bradley Spencer and Keith Phillips) from Meriden to the Wash - a distance of 103 miles - to raise money for the Nick Holliday Memorial Fund. They raised over £1000, and Stuart and Keith have continued doing this every year since. They also went through a phase of cycling on Saturdays to KES rugby away matches, including

those very local fixtures at Uppingham, Denstone and Loughborough. Then, after he had moved to live south of Stratford (32 miles away) he saw that as the perfect distance to cycle to and from work. And then there is speed... he has a passion for fast cars. He has owned 42 cars in 42 years, including high "spec" Subarus, Porsches and Lotuses.

He was always an early man to school: whenever you arrived, his bike (or high specification racing car) would be already parked by his office. Every day finished at 6pm after a practice, except for Fridays when he would often return at 9pm from a delightful inner-city sports centre, having taken another incredibly successful basketball team on an away match. It would be hard to find many who have worked more hours for KES, or to whom the school owes a greater debt. Even now, his retirement is not total, as he will continue to help with athletics and rugby: but his wife will see a little more of him, and we all hope that he will enjoy the (relatively) slower pace.

LMR & TFPH



A group of approximately 15 people, including men, women, and children, are posed in front of a large, rustic wooden structure that resembles a Viking longship or a medieval building. They are dressed in historical or medieval-style clothing, such as tunics, dresses, and head coverings. The entire image is overlaid with a solid blue color. The word "FEATURES" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

FEATURES

LEARNING TO READ

They squiggled and criss-crossed:
sometimes stood straight like a soldier,
sometimes lazily stretched on a sunbed.
They hurt my eyes and muddled my head.

She said, "Sit down and look!"

She said, "Listen to the sounds."

I sat and looked;

I sat and listened;

She said, "Copy it out," and I did.

Then she gave me more, but harder.

They were all jumbled up. Messed up.

She said, "Read."

"Cuh,"... "ah,"... "Tuh,"...

"What does that make?" she asked.

"Cat," I replied.

Then she smiled.

James Bell, Remove L

THE SIR PAUL AND LADY RUDDOCK PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The Chief would have me quote Herodotus, and so I shall: "All men's gains are the fruit of venturing". As pretentious as this may seem from someone who doesn't even study Classics, it is apt: the new Performing Arts Centre (PAC) is a venture of Herculean proportions for a mere secondary school in England's second city. At the time of writing, it is in the final "making good" stages of its construction, and has already hosted several concerts, one of which officially opened the building: on Friday 27th April 2012, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, the Education Secretary, opened the Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.



Firstly, the raw statistics are impressive. Costing a total of £11m, the auditorium seats between 400 and 500 and is of a professional standard in terms of acoustics and equipment; the drama studio seats 120 and has flexible seating; there are 12 sizeable practice rooms and two Mac suites (already nick-named 'Big Mac' and 'Little Mac'); there is a dedicated orchestral practice room upstairs, the Osbourn Room; there is a recording studio, a workshop, a library, a dance studio and much more besides: the building even has Facebook and Twitter. The key to the technical side is that the building as a whole is both incredibly flexible and 'future-proof', as the technology built into it is of a very high standard: many of the systems would not be unfamiliar to the BBC. This means that we not only have an incredible PAC now, but will still have an up-to-scratch PAC in decades to come.

If one were not a musician or a thespian, one might ask "why build it?": £11m is, after all, a huge investment for a school. Perhaps the main reason is standards. KES and KEHS together field a number of exceptional ensembles and casts for which the school has not, for a long while, been properly equipped. The old Music School served its purpose, but it did not have the size or the specification to allow much to be performed there other than solo or chamber music (and the Shells' Latin Play). The new auditorium allows Symphony Orchestra, Choral Society and all the rest to perform on-site, while the drama studio saves cast and crew from temporarily converting Big School into a theatre. Now, each of the Performing Arts at KES and KEHS has its own specifically designed space within which it can operate. Another reason for the project was opportunity: it has been a pipe-dream of both schools, especially Miss Evans, for a long time, and opportunities to put a vision like this into practice do not come around as often as one would like. In this sense, the building is a testament to the passion the two schools have to improve themselves and their facilities, and to the Heads of both schools for taking the leap.



While they were not reasons for its construction, there have been several pleasant side effects of the building's situation. Chantry Court, previously a sullen square of grass hosting the bike-sheds under the shadow of the old Music School, is now an open green space hosting a rather more attractive spectacle, a miniature Greek theatre (the new venue for that most prestigious of all school events, the Shells' Latin Play). A prospect of the eastern face of Big School and its main door is now visible from the PAC auditorium which has not been visible for half a century; and, on a very basic level, the PAC is really very attractive, and sits very nicely next to the main school building.

Returning to Herodotus, the 'gains' the PAC has brought to the two schools are really a result of our 'venturing', and it is a risk of sorts that has paid off

well. There are several factors in the success of the project that should be recorded here: first to thank are the people responsible for the construction itself, the Shaylor Group, who delivered the building on schedule for the Opening Concerts. Next are the Music and Drama staff at both schools, who work so hard to produce concerts and productions which make such a building worthwhile. As mentioned above, the Chief Master and Miss Evans both deserve thanks for their determination to make such a project a reality, and, of course, we are in debt to Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock for their fantastic generosity towards our school and its quest for excellence.

Ben Phillips



LEADERSHIP: FOURTHS

The Fourth year is the first opportunity you have to join Leadership. As a Friday afternoon activity, its main objective is to remain stimulating and entertaining yet at the same time cultivate certain qualities and skills which will help students in later life: principally, delegation, communication and, most importantly, confidence. Our Sixth form “teachers” devised activities to stimulate the learning of these necessary skills.

Every week we were split up into groups, so that we were not with the same people too often. Not only could this create or strengthen friendships, but it simulated life, when you don’t always work with the people that you would like to.

Activities ranged from working on tasks in school to experiencing and completing tasks in environments outside school: for example we were sent to Birmingham University to question students about ideas for a new “app.” Delegation was a part of the task set; part of the group needed to plan the app, whilst the others devised the survey questionnaire. For some, asking students about the proposed app was straightforward, but for some it was an uncomfortable experience, an opportunity to build their confidence.

Occasionally projects lasted for longer than a week. Once we were set was to buy goods which were then to be sold to the rest of the school. We ventured out to Kings Heath, where we attempted to buy products that could be sold for a profit during the next week. A shopping strategy was needed: you would want to buy as much as possible as cheaply as possible. We needed to split the team up so that more could be done in the limited amount of time allocated. Clear communication was vital. In the following week we attempted to sell what we had bought during the allocated lunch times and breaks.

The Leadership awards provided an opportunity to reflect upon the year and reward people who have stood out from the crowd. “Most Valued Player” went to George Bandy; the Edge Festival award for our year went to Alex Georgevic, and finally the “Most Improved” award went to Harrison Shaylor.

On behalf of the year, I would like to thank the Sixth form for running the afternoons week after week.

Alex Georgevic



FEATURES

LEADERSHIP: FIFTHS

This year’s Friday afternoons were full of highs and lows as we were challenged by various demanding tasks. No longer were we Fourths, supported and assisted by the Sixths formers; instead, we very quickly found that the focus of this year was on learning to become more independent, confident and assured in our decision-making.

This became staggeringly clear early on in the year, when we embarked upon a weekend residential which pushed us to our physical and mental limits. This was an exciting taste of things to come. Week in week out, our team of Sixth formers meticulously planned a wide range of activities: there were “Apprentice” style activities in which the importance of assigning roles and time management were essential, while other challenges involved petitioning the general public, so that skills such as speaking on the spot in a persuasive but polite manner were fundamental. As the year went on the importance of planning and delegation became more apparent, as we were faced with more prolonged projects that required organization and team work.

The pinnacle and acid test of our skills came during the weeks leading up to the EDGE festival, when we worked and planned alongside those who had been teaching us. Coming up with original ideas that would captivate children of different ages proved to be very difficult. However, our continuous hard work and detailed planning meant that we ended the year on a real high. It was a year in which memories were made and skills gained; where the shy became more confident; and where each and every one of us discovered something about himself.

Tamir Ahmed Choudhry

LEADERSHIP: FIFTHS WEEKEND

On the 23rd September, a group of Fifth formers spent a weekend at the Taste for Adventure Centre in Credenhill. Our first major challenge was an assault course which had to be completed without touching the ground. When we reached the tunnel section, we were told that, inside the tunnel, we'd have to reverse our order. Needless to say, there were many groans at the thought of this, but we entered the tunnel and there was a lot of shuffling as those who had been foolish enough to venture in first got squashed against the walls. We got through to the finish line with a final time of 43 minutes.

Next up was a Jacob's ladder and climbing wall. Having been divided into two teams of eight, we split again into fours to attempt the Jacob's Ladder. The first group reached the top in the allocated time. The second group got to the penultimate rung. Then we moved on to the climbing walls: we all successfully climbed both walls. Ringing the bell at the top of each wall was very satisfying!

Following dinner, we put on our thickest jumpers and headed out for survival training with Brummie Stokes. As the sun set we learnt how to tell compass directions by the sun, and the four essential things humans need to survive: shelter, fire, water and food. We were shown how to build a shelter and make a fire, then left to our initiative to try to build our own shelters and our own fires. As the sky darkened, Brummie told us tales of his time in the SAS and climbing Mount Everest, and by the time we arrived back at the Centre, it was pitch black.

The next morning at 6.45 we were rudely awoken by Miss Leivers and Mr Roll. Sleep-deprived but excited, we embarked on a day's journey involving hill walking, cycling and canoeing. We walked pretty directly to the point where we collected our bikes, thanks to our good map-reading skills. The next part of our journey involved mountain biking through a forest to a canal, where there was a competition between teams to cross the canal first: the losers had to carry the canoes back to the buses. As my team won, I was able to watch the other team struggle with the canoes!

We arrived back at school tired, but in very good spirits, having acquired a Taste for Adventure!

Felix Smith



DIVISIONS LEADERSHIP

The Divisions year in Leadership is when you stop learning how to lead and start leading and teaching, under the expert guidance of Ted, Girish and the menacing figure of Mr Spencer. Over the year we learnt the essentials of how to prepare & run a good afternoon, and built up personal skills such as self confidence & public speaking. We were given the opportunity to run our own afternoons: these ranged from the sublime to the painful, but all helped us on our journey towards running the option. We received various master classes from members of the Sixth form on planning activities and delivering a good introduction; other sessions focussed on creativity and classroom management. We learned a lot.

Highlights of the year included the Christmas week, full of festive food, decorations, music & mini-games (decorating mince pies) and plenty of off-key singing. We also enjoyed Mr Roll's rocket afternoon, a perfect case study of how to run a successful and enjoyable afternoon. Another memorable week was our very first, when we were encouraged to analyse our own strengths and weaknesses on camera.

As the year reached its conclusion, thoughts began to wander to next year, when we would be leading this glorious option. The prestigious annual awards ceremony came, at which the titles of "most improved" went to Tom Horton and "most valuable person" to Jonny Duckett. It was later announced that Sam Georgevic would lead the option next year; we wish him every success.



DIVISIONS LEADERSHIP: RESIDENTIAL, MARCH 2012

Two minibuses full of twenty four city boys and six Leadership teachers. Our aim for the weekend: to create a harmonious and efficient group of leaders, ready to take over the reins of the mighty stallion that is KES Leadership, by plunging us into... the countryside!

As the KES fleet entered Herefordshire, the mood on my bus was a mixture of excitement and apprehension for what was to come. Rumours (which we were all hoping were unfounded) of a 10km run had been spreading during the week before, and certain members of the group were shuddering in their seats. In fact, the small orienteering course that was actually waiting for us on Friday afternoon, to whet our appetites, proved a welcome relief from our anxiety.

But the weekend was certainly not short of challenges. Directions have never been my strong point and when it came to orienteering alone across 25km I was not at my best. Asking locals for directions was something I had originally told myself I wouldn't do, but in the end the pressure of grazing sheep intently watching my every move got to me and I asked the nearest farmer which way I was to go to get back to our base: a village hall. Having received his detailed instruction to "go through the next gate and keep to the far side" I felt confident again and, as a result, all the more embarrassed when I returned to him twenty five minutes later saying I had lost my way and could he "summarize" the route again.

However, my troubles will seem miniscule in comparison to those of Jun Hoe Ahn, who without a doubt had the toughest time of all of us. Jun depends utterly on his spectacles: so, when he capsized in his canoe and they plummeted to the bottom of the river, he was not best pleased. This happened at noon on Saturday, so the poor fellow had to persevere for an entire day and a half without his sight. The weekend was supposed to be one of spontaneity, but this unfortunate incident perhaps took it a step too far for Jun!

So, was the trip successful? Are we a more harmonious group than before? We'll have to wait until next year to find out for sure, but it's clear that the trip provided an excellent bonding experience for the group. We've learnt what makes each of us tick, who works best with whom in various situations, who is best suited to certain activities, and even who should be prevented at all costs from singing on the minibus! I think I speak for everyone involved in

giving a huge thanks to LMR, BMS, Ed, Ihsaan and of course Ted and Girish for giving up their time to provide this opportunity for us.

Rob Ralston

COT FUND

Cot Fund is going from strength to strength, with boys and staff working in harmony (usually) to think of ways to raise money and have fun. The range of humanitarian charities supported keeps growing, and includes not just well-known names but many smaller charities making a difference to people's lives locally, nationally and internationally.

Autumn Term

In the Autumn Term our chosen charities were: Holly Trust (bowel cancer), Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, and Smile Train (cleft palate).

Non-uniform days raised £1,500, and the annual Christmas Fair saw Big School transformed into a wonderland of stalls including the ever-popular "Whack-a-Rem", tombolas, Santa's Grotto (complete with lovely elves from KEHS), and lots of food. In just one lunchtime over £1,000 was raised!

Ben Fernando (ably supported by Anish Kundu) created and sold hundreds of lovely calendars to raise money for LUCIA. This charity is very near to our hearts at KES, as it was founded by the wife of a member of KES staff. The calendar made over £700, and helped to raise awareness of LUCIA's work supporting communities in towns and villages in Ethiopia.

Spring Term

In the Spring Term our chosen charities were: St Basil's (homelessness), Juvenile Diabetes Research, and Breadline Africa.

A group of sporty Senior boys organised a football tournament and raised £300 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Each year a group of Divisions and Sixths works with BCH to raise funds and improve the lives of the patients.

Two Non-Uniform days raised £600 each, and House Shout, a musical and visual treat, raised £500. The sale of Valentine's cards to romantic KES pupils raised £200.

More intellectual pursuits weren't neglected, with the annual Readathon raising £2,870. In addition the Schools Challenge team took on a hand-picked staff team in a Titanic intellectual tussle, and the staff (luckily) emerged victors. £50 was raised for Cot Fund.

And Mr Witcombe dreamed up another scheme to break a world record. One sunny day the entire school decamped to South Field and played conkers. KES broke the world record for the largest number of people playing conkers at once, and raised £650 for Cot Fund.



With the annual Edge Festival (run by KES Leadership) helping to swell the total, over £4,000 was raised this term.

Summer Term

Charities supported this term were: Sandwell Young Carers, Samaritans, and Against Malaria Foundation.

The weather was against us, but in spite of almost constant rain pupils and staff undertook a sponsored run to the North Pole (4,170km) around South Field. Despite looking more like a sponsored swim at times, this was a fantastic success, and it contributed greatly to the enormous sum of £8,000 raised this year for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The infamous Fernando wristbands contributed towards the fantastic total of £5,000 raised this year for LUCIA. In a tensely-fought Question of Sport quiz, the staff team vanquished the pupils and helped raise £40 for Cot Fund.

This year KES pupils have raised an awe-inspiring **£22,000** for charity. As usual, we have had great fun doing it – congratulations to everyone involved!

JLA

KES OUTREACH

Boys come to KES from over a hundred primary schools. This must be one of the most diverse intakes of any secondary school in the country, and sets us a real challenge. How can we, as a school, find ways of establishing close partnerships with those schools that go beyond a Christmas card, the sharing of school reports and the occasional cucumber sandwich with the Chief Master?

To this end, the Outreach programme has been set up, and, in 2011-12, developed programmes involving over 2,000 children from 39 schools. The goal is to fulfil our charitable mission by defining and developing ways of challenging and extending the brightest young people in the city, and giving them access to opportunities for learning that they might not otherwise have had.

We've done a lot of things in this first year. Mr Davies has taken his trusty Saxon longsword out to Kings Heath and Woodview primary schools weekly.



Mr Corns has taken on the role of Ambassador for Ancient Greece and Rome, taking out a roadshow on the Olympics, Pompeii and the Latin language to numerous schools. Mr Johnson and Hayley Bettinson have organised a swimming gala for primary schools. Ms Hunt created an Olympics-themed multisports Games, along with our trusty post-IB sixth formers, for primary schools to enjoy at Eastern Road. Mrs Herbert produced a special performance of *Into the Woods* for primary schools, which saw 200





excited little people waved out of the building by a Prince, a Princess and a Wolf. Mrs Allen organised a monumental author visit with Caroline Lawrence, which saw over 20 schools packed into Big School to do some proper reading. And this is just to name a few...

There's a lot more to do. There are 320 primary schools in Birmingham alone to work with! Plans are afoot for 2012-13 to work with over 7,000 children from across the city. It's an important part of what we do as a school to share some of the extraordinary things that go on in our classrooms with younger children across the city.

TJMA

LA DISPARITION DES LANGUES

Mesdames, Messieurs, bonjour! C'est un honneur pour moi d'être ici devant vous pour vous parler d'un problème qui me tient à cœur. La disparition des langues dans mon pays, le Gabon. Saviez-vous que sur les 52 langues parlées au Gabon aujourd'hui, la moitié aura disparu d'ici l'afin du XXIème siècle ? Vous avez les ressources pour arrêter cette disparition, vous avez le pouvoir d'arrêter cette disparition et j'espère qu'à la fin de mon discours vous aurez l'envie d'arrêter cette disparition. Moi, je vous dis qu'il n'est pas trop tard pour remédier cette situation, surtout avec votre soutien.

On voit les langues disparaître de plus en plus vite et c'est à cause de la mondialisation et de la fosse de générations. Bien que l'augmentation de l'usage de la technologie dans les pays en voie de développement et dans les endroits reculés ait de nombreux avantages sociaux et économiques, cette mondialisation influe

sur les modes de vie. L'anglais est la linge de la musique, des films et elle devient la langue des medias en général ! La future génération n'a pas envie d'apprendre des langues qu'ils jugent ringardes et c'est l'envie qu'il nous faille cibler. Cibler l'envie c'est-a-dire faire renaitre chez les jeunes le désir d'apprendre ces langes et leur montrer l'importance de leurs langues indigènes.

Et quelle est l'importance des langues indigènes, je vous entends demander ? Bon, le savoir des peuples indigènes pourrait nous être très utile car les peuples qui vivent en contact étroit avec la nature ont une connaissance approfondie de la flore, de la faune et de la géographie. D'où pensez-vous que vient la médecine moderne ? De la nature, il est possible qu'un remède pour le cancer existe déjà dans le savoir médical de certains peuples recules. Le problème est que la majorité de ces connaissances n'est pas consignée par écrit et si ces langues disparaissent, les connaissances seront irrémédiablement perdues. Un linguiste a dit : « Une langue qui disparaît, c'est comme une bombe qui tombe sur le Louvre », ce qui met en évidence que la perte de ces connaissances serait une catastrophe.

De plus, avec votre soutien, nous ne protégerons pas seulement la langue mais la culture et l'histoire aussi. Les langes représentent une façon de s'exprimer, de voir le monde et d'envisager la vie et l'avenir. Les langues portent une partie de la culture et de l'histoire : un sentiment d'identité nationale. Sans la culture, la prochaine génération n'aura pas la fierté nationale pourtant si importante aux gabonais.

Que ressentiriez-vous si vous ne pouviez pas communiquer avec vos propres grands-parents ? C'est une situation qu'affrontent beaucoup de jeunes au Gabon et dans d'autres pays en situation similaire.

Jared Bentsi-Enchill



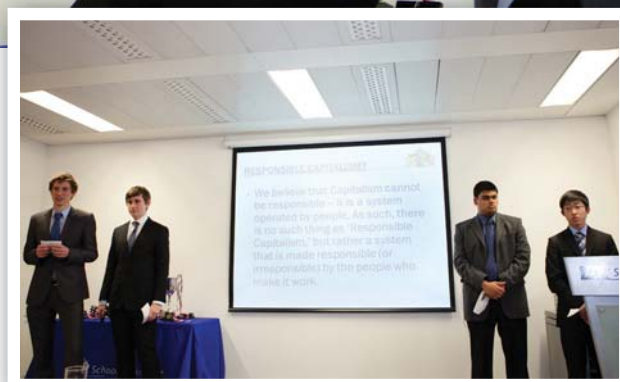
STUDENT INVESTOR 2011-12

The Institute of Financial Studies' annual Student Investor Competition involves teams of four Sixth formers competing in three stages across 7 months, the top prize being a trip to New York. This year Minsu Ko, Akshay John, Sam Arrand and I represented KES.

The first round involved using the IFS Student Investor website to invest a virtual £100,000 and generate as much profit as possible between late October and early February. During the practice round Akshay shone, seeing our stocks grow to around £110,000. Then the stocks were reset, Akshay took over again and pursued a long term strategy which put us in the top 10 for nearly two weeks. In the end we finished an impressive 49th out of roughly 10,000 teams in the first round, making the cut by being in the top 20 in our region.

The next round, the regional final, took the form of a competitive quiz testing economic and investment knowledge. Immediately after the February half-term we spoke to Mr Mason and the rest of the Economics department about how to approach this; Mr Mason told us we were the first KES team in 12 years to make the regionals. Mr Mason's advice was "Win"; Mr Coverdale handed out lots of books, and during the next month we learnt a lot about investment and investment regulation.

After lunch on the finals day, we were told that we were in the top 5 teams and this gave us confidence:



but we needed to be in the top 2 to reach the national Final. After the afternoon session it was announced that we had come 2nd.

Preparation for the final round was even more time consuming than for the regionals: we met up over the Easter Holidays to start planning our presentation on 'Responsible Capitalism'. The preparation and our rehearsal in front of the Economics Society were successful; then came judgement day: 24th April, 2012. We arrived late because of a tree on the line, but the morning session was delayed for our arrival. Came the presentations: a number of teams performed impressively and we were last on, which added to our nerves. We presented without any blips but in the end it was announced that, unfortunately, we hadn't made it into the top three...

We would like to thank Mr Mason for helping us prepare and Mr Coverdale for lending us his books; I'd like to thank Mr Smith specially for allowing me to miss part of the Geography Field Trip in order to compete.

Nathan Tomlinson

TARGET 2.0

This year's Target 2.0 team, consisting of Ed Matthews, Ifeanyi Chukwubelu, Ihsaan Faisal and Mundev Wouhra, had another successful time in this prestigious annual competition, run by the Bank of England. The competition asks pupils to assess the current state of the UK economy and present their views on what the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee should be doing with monetary policy: no mean feat given the current parlous state of the world.

The team felt that the Bank should be looking to extend their remit beyond interest rates and quantitative easing towards a broader definition of monetary policy. A move to price level targeting, rather than the current inflation targeting, was proposed to help to allay market and union fears of long term inflation whilst still allowing room for further stimulation to the economy in the short term. A second proposition, to implement a US style 'operation twist' to offset the likely impact of the switch to price level targeting on long term interest rates was also mooted. The key theme running through our presentation was the need to create options for future monetary stimulation to the economy given the uncertainty surrounding the Eurozone currently. The boys had been fortunate enough to visit a world expert on price level targeting at Wadham College, Oxford, as part of their preparations, quizzing him on the likely repercussions of their policy recommendations.

The boys performed exceptionally well in the first round of the competition, beating strong competition from Camp Hill Boys and Solihull amongst others, with the judges particularly noting their excellent performance under some very tough questioning. Unfortunately, the regional (Midlands) final was scheduled just days after their trial exams, so preparation time was scarce. But, of course, scarcity is what economists do best, so the boys worked tirelessly to prepare for this tougher test. In the end they managed a very creditable performance, but one of the judges just couldn't back such an imaginative scheme for monetary policy, and felt that it would be difficult for the Bank to maintain credibility whilst making policy so much more complicated. So the team were not successful in emulating the previous two years' teams in reaching the national final. However, they deserve much credit for working hard and at a very high level.

HMC

UMS' WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

This year's competition – the second – attracted some excellent entries in all five categories. In Plant Life, Dev Soni's image of the back-lit leaves of an acer proved a clear winner, full of warmth and colour; likewise, Henry Thompson's winning Bug Life entry was an obvious choice, being a clear, careful macro image of a spider in its web. Landscape received several creative entries (just like last year), but Mohammed Adnan's stood out as particularly thoughtful: a view across the reservoir, daringly including the blocks of flats in the distance, which used the rivets of a bench as lead-in lines and the sticks of a shrub as foreground interest.





A particularly popular category was Weird Wildlife, and of the several outstanding images in this category, Arjun Goswami's close-up shot of a decaying tree resembling the Giant's Causeway was judged the winner. Which leaves the Birds (or, more accurately this year, the 'Swan') category: among several beautiful swan shots, and an action picture showing a blue-tit in vertical take-off, was Nathen Chung's detailed, moody and creative image of a swan preening itself. It was not only a clear 'Birds' winner, but it was also judged 'shot of the competition', too.

The competition is open to pupils in their Upper Middle year at the school, and photographs are taken on Friday afternoons - in the school grounds, Winterbourne Botanic Garden, and Edgbaston Nature Reserve. All mentioned images can be viewed at tinyurl.com/keswildlife (as well as those from the 2011 competition), and an album of the 2012 portfolio is available to buy from school (details from Mr Corns).

DHC

CHALLENGE

As defending champions from last year's competition, the pressure was on us for a decent performance – and one certainly followed.

In the first round, held at KES in November, the A team of Yanbo Yin, Patrick Wernham, Andrew Macarthur and I went up against a number of different sides, beating all of them by a comfortable margin. This included beating the team from across the drive for the second time in succession, much to the satisfaction of the boys.

The second-round match was against the Perse School in Cambridge. Along with a free lunch, our prize for sacrificing the first day of our Easter holidays to Challenge was a convincing win, as well as a bit more tactical sophistication: Yanbo learnt not to repeat the wrong answer that the other team had just shouted out, and Andrew realised that saying the right answer just as the other team gave the wrong one wasn't particularly smart either.

The weekend before IB exams began (which, of course, was our excuse for a lapse in form) the national finals were held in Westminster. The opening round was no trouble at all; our opponents looking slightly shocked as the score passed 400-nil. But the second round, against Lancaster Grammar, was not such a success: not even the might of Nick Wyatt, son of the Mastermind finalist Mark Wyatt, was enough to avail against them. In fairness, the loss was only by one question, and the round lacked nothing in terms of controversy.

Ben Fernando



PARTICLE SCHOOL 2012

For three lucky KES boys, (Dominic Bealby-Wright, Nathan Tomlinson and Xuan Zhuang), the Summer Term of 2012 could not have ended on a higher note, as we embarked on an exciting expedition to CERN. This amazing opportunity to meet the current pioneers in particle physics, as well as visiting the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), was all thanks to Dr MacDonald, who arranged it with Prof Themis Bowcock (an Old Edwardian himself). We were invited to attend a series of lectures which allowed us to develop a better understanding of the subject.

Aided by Mr Rao and his half-decent French, we managed to find our way through central Geneva to the youth hostel. The next morning, under the brilliant sunshine, we walked around Geneva to the famous Jet d'Eau before taking the tram to CERN where we were greeted by Henry Brown, a PhD student from Liverpool University and our host.

We attended lectures on Quantum Mechanics, the Standard Model, and of course the world-renowned "God Particle" - the Higgs Boson. All of these theories and models revolve around one fundamental question, which is "What exactly is stuff made

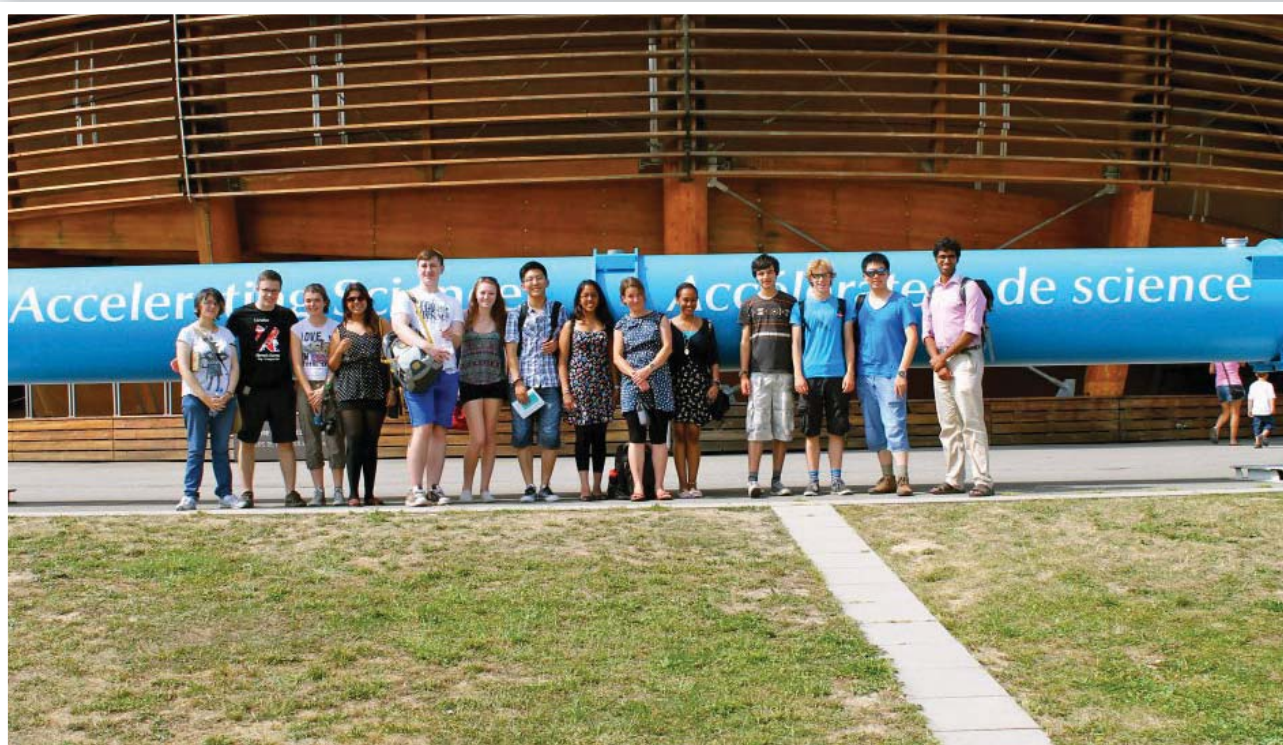
of?" Although a simple question, the sheer scale of experiments being done to answer it is astonishing.

A tour around CERN gave us an insight into the history of the place as well as what they are doing now or planning for the future. The Exhibition Centre covered the history of CERN, including the start of the web. Afterwards we went to the LHCb site, one of the seven detectors in CERN and the place where the Liverpool students do most of their work. Finally we finished with ATLAS, which seeks to extend our knowledge beyond the standard model. If the complexity of the science behind these machines doesn't surprise you, then the mammoth size of them will certainly take your breath away.

The trip was also about having fun. Thanks to lots of coffee, we were still full of energy by the night, when we went to pubs, bowling alleys or even swimming. The last evening before our departure was my highlight: we booked a table in a beautiful little restaurant just outside CERN with a fantastic view of the countryside and the sunset.

I would like to thank Dr MacDonald and Prof Bowcock for organising such an inspiring experience for us, and Mr Rao for accompanying us. I would strongly recommend this amazing trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go. For those interested in physics: you will truly understand why physics, although frustrating, is never boring. And for those who are not: you will start to appreciate how important the subject is, and you may even end up changing your mind.

Xuan Zhang



SALTERS FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY

In May this year Gabriel Wong, Jack Barron, Mohammed Khan and Howard Kordan were the lucky four Shells who were selected, due to their interest in Science, to be taken to the Salters Festival of Chemistry. This event was held in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry at Birmingham University.

The full day event was action packed and a great experience, full of whizzes and bangs as participants conducted their own investigations in true CSI style. The finale of the event was a Chemistry demonstration which Howard described as “truly magical” and which left the students wondering whether the lecturer was truly a Doctor of Chemistry or in fact an illusionist! Our foursome worked very well alongside students from other schools around Birmingham, most of whom were two years older than them.

HF

Howard Kordan and Mohammed Khan with their certificates from the Salters Festival of Chemistry.



LIVING HISTORY GROUP

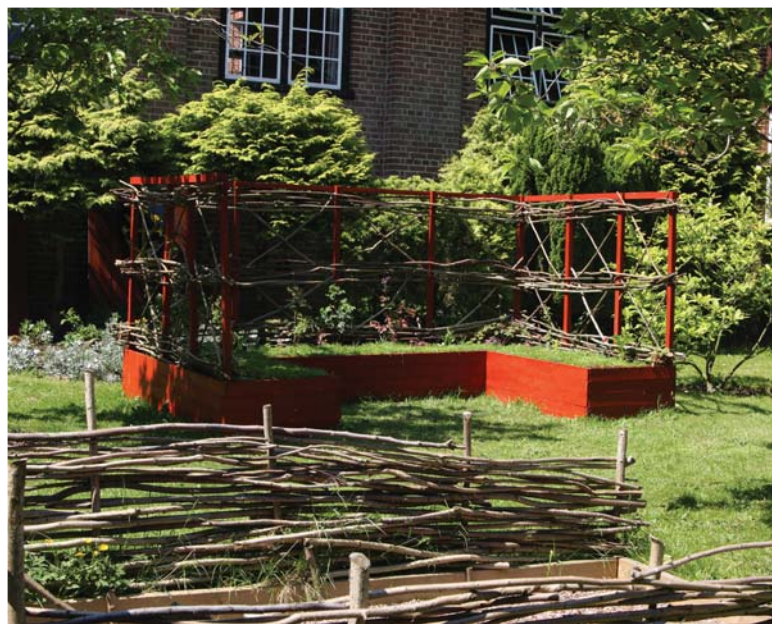
Wherever we go, members of the King Edward's Living History Group are haunted by questions: “Why are you dressed like that?”, “Are you real?” and the ever popular, “What is Living History?” This last is a question asked many a time but there are seldom two people who will answer the same. For some of us it is a great opportunity to learn unusual skills and meet new people; for others it's a chance to work in some of the most prestigious historical sites in the UK; but we also enjoy our visits to schools where we can teach the children about life in 1392 (and no, we don't own a time machine!).

Yes, we do “dress up” but it's in historically accurate clothing, not “costumes”. Sunburn isn't a problem, but we do suffer from wool rash; but that's a small price to pay when you get to work at some of the places that we do. This year rain seemed to follow us wherever we went, but fortunately there were always members of the public (and sometimes parents) who braved the weather and made the events, whether in castle, camp or court, worthwhile. Keen to handle and use the swords and spinning wheel and spices, people always seem thankful to avoid our highly



authentic food. No two pottages (our staple vegetable stew) are ever alike: colours have ranged from bright purple and black to canary yellow, much to everyone's amazement! Cooking disasters are rife and we've had to suffer salted scones on one occasion due to a mix up between the salt and sugar! Luckily there's always, providentially and miraculously, a fish-and-chip shop near every castle.

Camping, unfortunately for some, is a must. Again, torrents of rain and raging winds (not to mention snoring re-enactors!) are compensated for by our being able to stay in some of the most beautiful and atmospheric sites in Britain. Brushing your teeth and washing your hair in the secret clifftop garden of the Earl Marshall while watching the early morning mist clear from the Wye valley mixes the prosaic and the sublime. Cooking authentic recipes in a medieval





kitchen, using the same equipment and skills that would have been used in the same place by people not so different from ourselves but five hundred years before, can give a special thrill.

The journeys to and from venues can certainly be interesting, especially when we are dragging a two tonne trebuchet in a trailer behind a minibus full of strangely dressed children. Motorway service stations experience impromptu medieval fashion shows for free. Somehow we always manage, even when driving through the streets of London on our annual jaunt to the Tower with the aid of a GPS system which gives out at critical moments!

Living History is proving to be more and more popular. Our numbers have risen yet again this year, so we have nearly 40 current members. Although we've had fewer events this year because most of the group have been sitting exams, those that we have taken part in have been hugely successful. We have new venues as well as old ones to look forward to and new ways of mystifying the public. We may not actually have a Time Machine, even if our store room seems like one, but that does not stop us stepping back a few hundred years with one foot whilst leaving the other in 2012!



DANGER I NEED NOT KNOW

I see the mystery land,
I know I want to go;
Deep into dark sands,
Danger I need not know.

I venture deep inside;
I know I want to go;
Dark creatures seem to hide,
Danger I need not know.

Night falls with shooting stars;
I know I want to go;
Out to the universe,
Danger I need not know.

Danger I need not know.
Danger I need not know.

Omar Ismail, Remove L

A blue-tinted photograph of a man and a woman in dynamic poses. The man is in the foreground, looking intensely at the camera with his mouth slightly open, his hands reaching out. The woman is behind him, also in a dynamic pose, looking down. The word "PERFORMANCE" is overlaid in white capital letters.

PERFORMANCE

THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE OPENING CONCERT

O fortuna! Velut luna, statu variabilis.

The Performing Arts Centre stands in all of its glory today thanks to the generosity of Sir Paul and Lady Jill Ruddock, who donated astronomical sums of money to produce a concert hall with “the finest acoustic in Birmingham” (according to the unbiased opinion of none other than Mr Monks).

But the Music staff must have thought their luck was out when, as late as January 2012, the Sir Paul and Lady Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre was little more than a shell. Admittedly an impressive shell, but a shell nonetheless. The builders worked slavishly on it until the official opening, much to the annoyance of those sitting their Mock GCSE exams, as the noise was relentless. However, ‘luck’ in its changeable nature turned and good weather prevailed, allowing for a race to the finish line which culminated in the

most astounding concert that KES and KEHS have ever produced.

The Opening Concert began with a speech from the Education Secretary, the Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP. Once he had declared the Performing Arts Centre open, Martin Monks took to the podium. Choral Society has never sung better. Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* is now widely associated with ITV’s *X-Factor*; however, that night, it really did have ‘the X-Factor’. It was a flawless performance of a viscerally thrilling piece of music, and the audience were blown away, a fitting opening for the best concert hall in Birmingham. A special mention must go to the three soloists, Alice Halstead, Tom Lilburn





and Robert Anthony Gardiner (OE), who all sang beautifully. Both Alice and Tom will be sorely missed, for their contribution to KES and KEHS music has been phenomenal. They were two musical leaders who proved themselves as the best singers in their respective schools.

After the interval, Symphony Orchestra took to the stage. They played Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. It was sublime, and rightfully got a standing ovation. Symphony Orchestra rarely disappoints, but this performance was definitely one of their best. Peter Bridle has been at the school for twice as long as

many of us have been alive: coming towards the end of his historic career, it was wonderful to have such a performance on such a memorable day. When Rimsky-Korsakov wrote *Scheherazade* he was quoted as saying, "All I desired was that the hearer, if he liked my piece as symphonic music, should carry away the impression that it is beyond a doubt a narrative of some numerous and varied fairy-tale wonders." It was indeed, for all those involved, a fairy tale come true.

Nicholas Porter

SUMMER CONCERT

On 4th July, the magical opening festival of the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre was drawn to a spectacular close by KES Choir and Symphony Orchestra. The first half of the Summer Concert saw the Choir singing Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. This was performed with tremendous passion and beauty, especially from the four soloists, Oliver Reeve, Aloysius Lip, Nicholas Porter and Dominic Spencer Jolly, all the way through to the heavenly last chord, which disappeared imperceptibly into blissful silence. The piece also showcased the new digital organ in the Ruddock Hall, itself a stunning instrument fully adequate to the magnificent performing space.

The second half featured the Symphony Orchestra performing *Elgar's Cello Concerto* with Sophie Cheng as the soloist. For the orchestra to play one of the most formidable pieces in orchestral repertoire is one thing; but the truly inspiring playing of Sophie Cheng brought the hall to thunderous applause. The concert was concluded with Rossini's *La Boutique Fantastique*, which, with its charming dance-like movements, brought a truly memorable opening festival to a glorious close: a fitting tribute to all the hard work that had gone into making the opening of the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre so special.

Adam Phillips

PERFORMANCE



35



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The two Christmas concerts this year marked the end of an epoch; no longer would we be playing in Adrian Boulton Hall, but instead our surroundings changed for the much more upmarket grandeur of the new Performing Arts Centre. Despite this sad event, the schools' joint ventures into the musical world took on even greater heights this year, displaying the traditional gusto which accompanies this high point of the winter season.

Once again, the event was kicked off by the concert orchestra, this year with the lively Fiddle-Fiddle and the militaristic Farandole, the music showcasing Peter Bridle's traditional resistance to Christmas music. Unfortunately for him, the other groups didn't seem to share this feeling with Chamber Choir singing Jingle Bell Rock, Kes Choir with Ding Dong Merrily on High and Senior Swing Band with their rendition of Big Band Christmas II and also featuring Jack Moreton singing Mack the Knife, which, while not wholly Christmas-y, was a hit. On the second night, the Lower School Choir, Junior Swing Band and Choral society all followed in the same vein, with only Choral Society making a token effort towards propriety with O Magnum Mysterium. Of course Mr Bridle had his way in the end performing the Swan Lake suite on both nights with the Symphony Orchestra and neither Concert Band nor Wind Band played anything remotely festive.

And then of course there was this year's wildcard event. Miss Evans stunned us all with her unique rendition of Twelve days of Christmas, accompanied by a rather warm looking group of carollers. Then came the festive finale and it was indeed festive with Symphony Orchestra playing all the old favourites such as Sleigh Ride and White Christmas and then the combined cacophony of the Symphony Orchestra and the massed voices of anyone left on stage led the audience in the traditional We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Overall the musical talents of the two schools made this year's Christmas concerts an event to remember.

Patrick Wakelam

THE SENIOR PRODUCTION: *INTO THE WOODS*

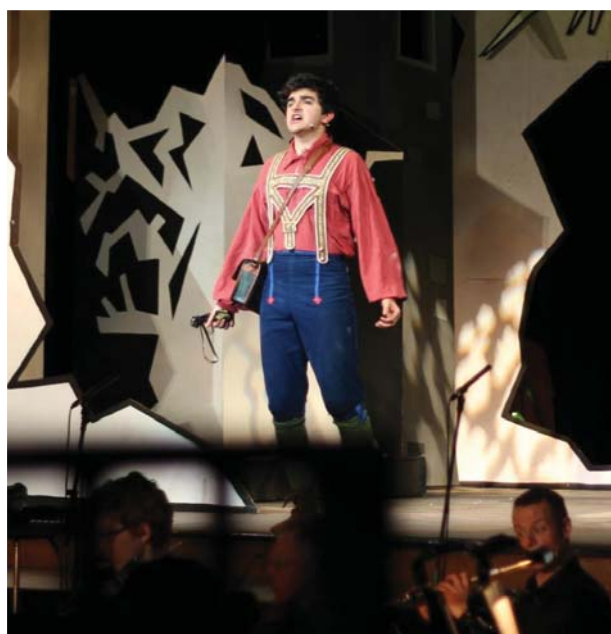
Six months ago, when the day came for auditions, neither I nor the majority of the cast-to-be had heard of Stephen Sondheim's sharp-witted adult fairy tale. However, this stunning production quickly won not only the hearts of the cast when the time came to rehearse, but also the hearts of the audience when the time came to perform.

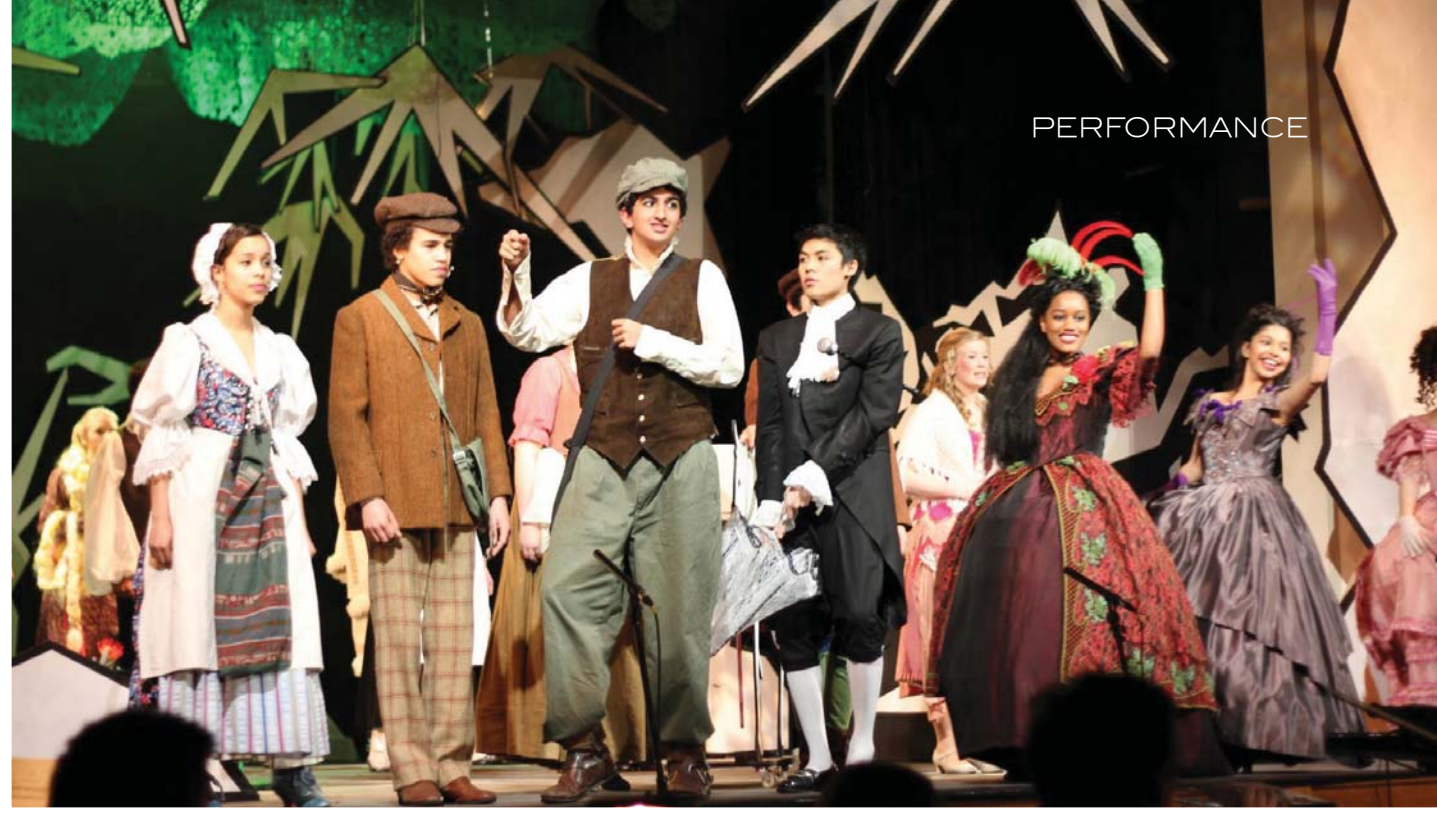
The production follows the adventures of a number of classic fairy tale characters, each of whom has a wish. Cinderella (Alice Halsted) wishes only to attend the King's festival; Jack (Oscar Denihan) wishes for his cow to produce some milk; Little Red Riding Hood (Symrhun Dosanjh) wishes for some bread to take to her grandmother; finally, to get his wish, a child, the Baker (Luke Doswell), must lift the curse of a witch (Harriet Harkcom). By means of a skilled interweaving of these plot strands, Sondheim develops themes such as greed, love and the child-parent relationship across a clever combination of humorous and beautifully poignant scenes.

However, it is not simply the quality of the script that helped to make this year's Senior Production such a success. Stage Crew played a vital role by making scenery and props and by organising the lighting and sound; much time and effort was contributed by the first rate orchestra; a tremendous amount of effort was contributed by Mrs Herbert as the creative director and Mr Evans as the musical director.

Once again KES/KEHS produced a wonderful show, enjoyable not only to those who came to watch it, but to the cast, crew and orchestra, who have taken away life-long memories from this experience.

Dominic Spencer Jolly





THE JUNIOR PRODUCTION: *13 MATHERING END*

2011 saw Mr Bartlett and Miss Proops tackle, for the second time, “devised theatre”, this time in the form of *13 Mathering End*. The aim of the directing duo was to offer a roughly hewn plot to a young cast, explore their ideas, and turn the result into a production in under a term. As always, ‘Proops-lett Productions’ sets its standards high.

From the start of the process the cast was divided into small groups, each with its own ‘episode’ to perform. All of these episodes were related to an overriding theme of the ways fear is used by society to deter children from doing certain things: playing with fire and sucking thumbs both featured. The directors left it to the cast to develop their episodes in the most terrifying (and often gory) ways possible, giving them an insight into the disturbing ideas that young teenagers can have!

A result of the devising process was that the company were really involved in creating the show from scratch, and that a genuine “ensemble” of equals was created. Although Aidan Richards deserves special mention as the new boy pitched into the middle of all the horror, everyone else was given their chance to shine (or bleed!) as well.

To accompany the intimidating array of chilling stories, Stage Crew faced the challenge of providing appropriate props and costumes for a nearly forty-strong cast. As well as eyeballs, tongues and thumbs that could all be violently removed from their owners, they also set about constructing a magnificent, foreboding set in Big School, modelled on a Victorian orphanage and equipped with enormous swinging, falling and lifting doors. They should be congratulated on rising to the considerable technical challenges involved.



Everyone who helped in creating *13 Mathering End* deserves praise, for it worked brilliantly as a piece of theatre, leaving its audience disturbed and curious. The young cast created tales which balanced terror with comedy and brute force with poignancy. Our greatest thanks go to Mr Bartlett and Miss Proops, not only for working so hard to get the production onto Big School stage, but also for showing that the new Performing Arts Centre will not be lacking talent in years to come.

Joshua Kimblin



SYNDICATE PRODUCTION 2012: 'FOOTLOOSE!'

If KES/KEHS pupils have learnt anything by the end of their school careers, it is how to pull it out of the bag at the last minute. This was a particularly useful skill to have learnt when taking on the Syndicate Production.

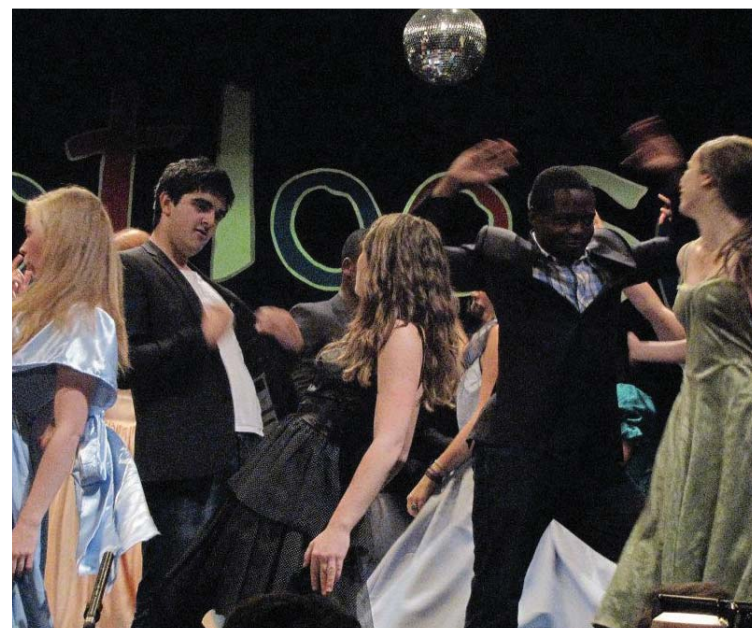
From 29th June to the 9th July, 100 Sixth Form pupils from both schools took on 'Footloose!', the all singing, all dancing musical adaptation of the '80s film by the same title. Blood, sweat and tears were shed by almost every member of the company and crew at some point during this grueling 11 day journey, however it was all worthwhile on the night of the performance when it was proven that dancing is certainly not a crime.

At its heart, Syndicate Production is an opportunity for pupils to step outside their comfort zone and do something new with their last few days at the school; whether you're a seasoned veteran of the drama department or a complete new comer, there are plenty of opportunities to get yourself involved.

If all goes according to plan, you only notice the performers on the stage, however like any production, Syndicate is so much more. In our team of almost 100 pupils, there was an even split between company and crew.

'Footloose' was a fantastic send off for the Class of 2012, and an experience I'm sure we will all look back on fondly when at university.

Tom Anderson



SYNDICATE CONCERT 2012

If you thought the Syndicate Play was put together in a rush at the end of the KES/KEHS Sixth Formers' last term, pity those who stepped forward to organise the Syndicate Concert. With not much more rehearsal time available than the breaks between *Footloose* rehearsals, the performers probably had more right than ever to be nervous about what might happen on stage.

There should, however, have been no need to worry: despite the fact that most pieces were being played through for probably only the second time and most of us were only just past the sight-reading stage, it wasn't all that bad. Furthermore, with a small audience and friendly atmosphere, the evening of Saturday 7th July proved to be a lot of fun.

The programme was varied, ranging from Tom Lilburn's performance of Handel's *Eternal Source of Light Divine* to a brilliantly funny KES barbershop group performing a medley of *Stand By Me* (Ben E King), *Beautiful Girls* (Sean Kingston) and *Every Breath You Take* (The Police). On the way through, a beautiful rendition by Alice Halstead and Delsa Ghorbani of *The Flower Duet* (*Sous le dôme épais*) from Delibes' opera *Lakmé*, part of the soundtrack from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana* (conducted by Jack Moreton) all featured. During the second half the audience also enjoyed *Congo Tango Palace* danced by James Claughton, Emily Russell and Nina Azadeh.

If I then mention the swing band, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, and Dan Turner's acoustic set, I can only hope I've not missed too much. The evening was an entertaining way for (most of) us to finish our KES/KEHS musical careers. Given all that we have gained through music at the schools, a good farewell was absolutely necessary.

Andrew Macarthur

THE SHELL CLASSICAL PLAY COMPETITION

On a warm afternoon in early July, the Shells packed into Big School for one of the school's stranger traditions: the Shell's Classical Play Competition. In honour of the London Olympics, each Shell form had been tasked with putting together a short play, based around the ancient Olympic Games, using characters from their Latin textbooks. In a closely contested competition Shell C prevailed, to claim the highly prestigious prize of Classical Play champions; some judges felt that, had Shell B not run over their allotted time by almost 100%, they could have clinched the top spot. However, in the heat of battle Shell C remained strong, with a particularly noteworthy performance from Tom Mills portraying Grumio, which earned him acclaim as Best Actor. The other Best Actor prize went to the stand-out performer from Shell B, Ben Cudworth, who hosted the games in their play.

Further prizes were awarded at the end of the afternoon, including Best Music, which went to Rohan Kaya in Shell B for his amazing interludes on the piano during his class's performance. It was perhaps this that helped Shell B to pip Shell M to 2nd place, because Shell M had the best actual script of the afternoon, courtesy of Felix Kai, who had managed to put together an entertaining script which left many of the judges in fits of laughter. Perhaps the most varied aspect of the plays across the different classes was the costumes. They ranged from adaptations of school uniform to fully dressed up gladiators and officials wearing togas. Overall, it was a tough choice for us to award only one Best Costume prize, but we decided upon Felix Abbott Black (Shell J) whose lion costume was really quite incredible. The final prize awarded was for the use of IT in each play. This one was an obvious choice for us: Shell P managed to put together a backdrop which comprised MarioKart videos, clips from *The Matrix* and much more. It was amazing IT work, put together by Angus Forshaw and Akil Khalid.

All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for the judges and I think it's safe to say that all the Shells involved had a great time too: preparing and performing, as well as seeing what the other classes had come up with.

Ben Taylor

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM... OR NIGHTMARE

On Friday, 29th June a group of former actors and crew from both KES and KEHS met with a certain amount of apprehension in the new Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. For some it was the first time they had returned to the school since leaving in 1955.

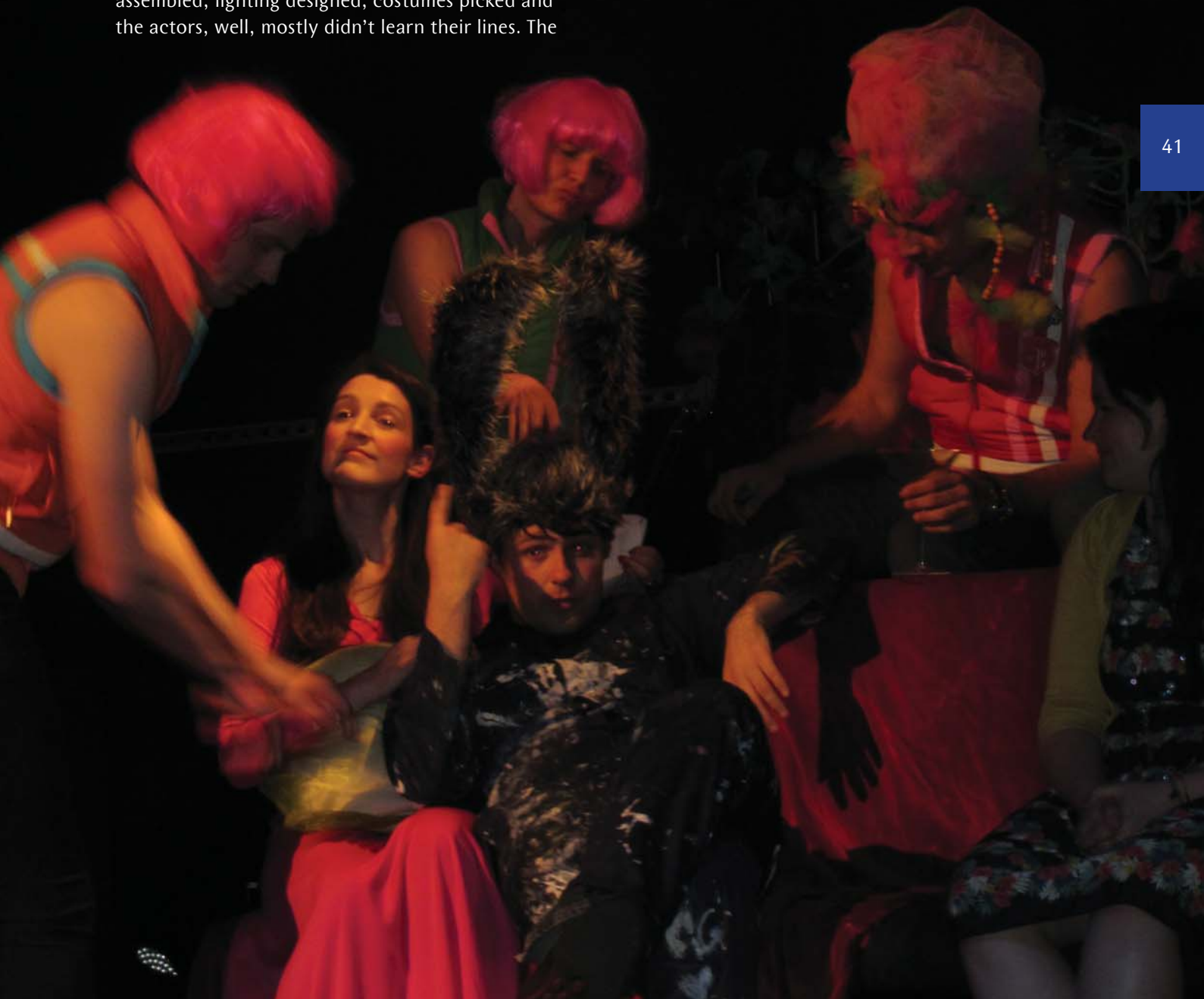
After being introduced to each other under the capable direction of the Drama Department and given a condensed script of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* the OEs were left to 'get on with it'! After a worrying minute of silence one brave voice spoke up, jobs were then divided between the cast and crew and the ideas started to roll.

The Saturday was a busy day for all with the clock ticking towards the performance time. The set was assembled, lighting designed, costumes picked and the actors, well, mostly didn't learn their lines. The

audience began to arrive late afternoon and were greeted by a drinks reception before moving into the auditorium with the participants to watch an emotive video made by the Weaver brothers depicting the Drama Department's memories of their time at the schools. All then gathered together for a hog roast and archive exhibition of previous drama productions before the play began.

The version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that was produced was not one that you would recognise from the stage of the RSC! A few characters improvised Shakespeare in cockney, effectively making the story up, the fairies were fluorescent 90's ravers, and the mechanicals were brilliantly bad. Both audience and participants thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which had many comedy highlights, and it rounded off what had been a fantastic weekend for all involved.

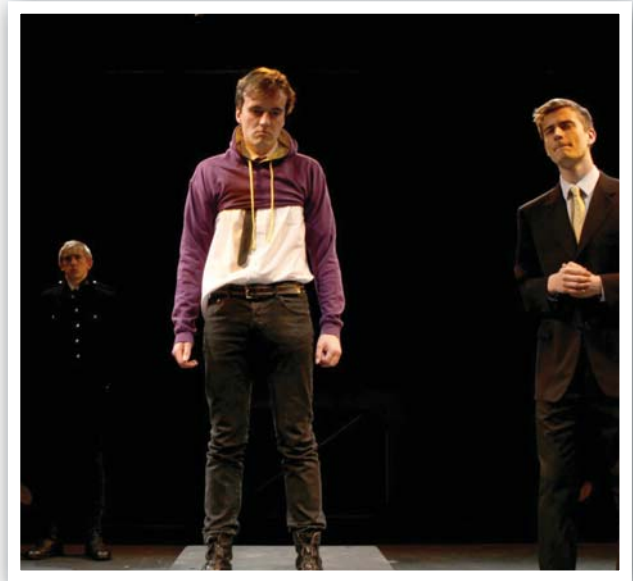
Danielle Spittle



A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

‘With trepidation’ would perhaps best describe how I felt the company approached our recent production of Anthony Burgess’ *A Clockwork Orange*.

The task was a daunting one – ten days of in-school rehearsal time, with a two-night run on the following Friday and Saturday. Most of the company was made up of non-actors, or those with very little experience, however, we lesser mortals were spurred ever onward by the tireless efforts of our own Mr Bartlett, whose ever-increasingly vociferous instructions saved us from what might otherwise have been a theatrical disaster.



A Clockwork Orange is a gritty story that deals with several issues we in the company, as school leavers, all face. Not just issues of tricky morality, but of growing up and entering the wider world. Most often hammering its message home with shocking scenes (and here another big thank you to the wonderful fight choreographer, Mr Davies), this play was a delight to finish off the year with; working with a brilliant director, a fantastic company, and a highly talented lead actor in Ed Ratcliff. The experience was, in the language of the play, ‘real horrorshow’.

Ben Dawes





CCF

CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S OVERVIEW

Another year, another *Chronicle*, another overview... Much stays the same: it is, as ever, just after Expeditions Weekend and close to the deadline as I write, and I have just returned from another weekend in the great tradition of CCF adventurous activities that build teamwork and enterprise in the cadets. But there is change too. That weekend was a new venture, the first time that the Royal Naval section has spent its weekend coasteering and surfing in Pembrokeshire. And the first time the Chief Master has driven for four hours just to visit us and spend his afternoon on a sunny beach taking photographs of surfers. He wants to come with us for the whole weekend next time, and bring his wetsuit, and that is a powerful endorsement!

There have been, as ever, particularly memorable points in the year. The shuttle flights of Puma helicopters taking the RAF Section to RAF Benson in March: not easy to arrange these days, but it helps when the Station Commander is an Old Edwardian. The shivering scuba divers emerging from an unseasonably cold Dosthill Quarry as newly qualified divers, and the reward of hot sun and warm water in Gozo a few weeks later. And the smaller moments: the cadet who makes it over a ten-foot wall after a struggle, or achieves his first shooting badge after working on his marksmanship; and the new NCO who finds that planning really is the key to success as an activity for cadets goes well. All of these add to the rounded experience that is the CCF.

Undoubtedly the most significant event of the year, and the moment of greatest change, was the Annual Inspection. Memorable in the wrong way for the weather, which was appalling, and led to the cancellation of all events on the field; but memorable in the right way for the way cadets and staff adapted

at short notice to produce a seamless display of events which impressed all concerned. It was memorable above all for the key people. It was the last AGI for Major Trevor Collins, who has been an institution in KES CCF for many years. Trevor spent 22 years in the Royal Engineers, qualifying through the All Arms Commando Course as a Commando Sapper, and taking a leading role – for which he was decorated – in advanced mine clearance operations during the Falklands War. He spent even longer than 22 years as a CCF officer, giving the Army Section and the Joint Cadre the benefit of his huge experience, and dedicating himself to ensuring that cadets at KES had as challenging and exciting and stimulating a time as regulations would (just about) permit. Generations of cadets have abiding memories of Trevor, and the many stories about him certainly qualify him for the description 'legendary'. This is probably not the place for them, nor for any mention of spoons... Trevor was presented with an Officer-of-the-Watch telescope, in recognition of the uncanny way in which he seemed to keep his eye on everything that happened in the CCF. For Trevor, though, the most important thing about his final AGI was the fact that the three senior Inspecting Officers were all old cadets of his. The senior Inspecting Officer was Colonel Oliver Lee OBE, Royal Marines, accompanied by Lt Col Andy Thomson of the Royal Artillery and Major Jim Donovan of the Army Air Corps: all Old Edwardians and all former NCOs in Trevor's Army Section.

Much more could be said, but there is a word limit. Suffice it to say that Trevor is irreplaceable. He has been a huge support to the teacher-officers of the CCF, and to me personally in his role as second-in-command. He will be greatly missed. My thanks to him, and to everyone who gives so much time, effort, and commitment to making the CCF what it is, from Section Commanders through uniformed staff and civilian instructors to the people who deserve the final mention: the cadets themselves.

DHR



DIVING EXPEDITIONS TO GOZO



The Gozo diving trips that I have been on over the last few years have been truly memorable. Aside from waking up at four o'clock in the morning to get to the airport, they have been incredibly enjoyable. Considering the increasing popularity of the previous trips, I wasn't surprised to learn that two trips were taking place again this year and I have no doubt that ours was the better of the two!

I believe this because I cannot see how the other trip could have been better than ours, which was without doubt one of the best experiences I have ever had, and a brilliant way to finish my KES career! We enjoyed spectacularly clear waters, fantastic deep dives down to 30 metres and, of course, a truck load of banter.

Special thanks go out to the staff who have made these trips so memorable: Miss Leaver, Doc Follows, Mrs Raynor and especially Rev. Raynor for organising everything and being lenient on our watersheds! To those boys in the CCF who are reading this, I strongly urge you to go to Gozo. The people you meet, and those whom you already know, will forever share the times that you have, and you may even realise that teachers are people too...

Ed Ratcliff

The "other trip" responds:

Take seven newly qualified divers, one cadet with a Master Scuba Diver rating, and three assorted staff to Gozo, and what do you get? Answer: sun, sea, and a lot of fun underwater. It wasn't always easy; there were lessons to learn about diving, like how to put your kit together in less than three hours and which feet to put your boots on; and about living, like the importance of keeping your hair under control, washing up your own crocks, and being in the right place at the right time.

But these lessons get learned, and there was also underwater navigation, buoyancy control (basically standing on your head on the bottom and hoping for the best), creature-spotting, a deep dive to a Titanic-like wreck (OK, maybe not quite, but it was spectacular) and much more during four full days of diving. Not to mention the legendary meals at Smiley's bar and the evening wanders around the hotspot that is Marsalforn. Many thanks to the instructors at Scuba Pursuits who got us ready to go; to Duncan, Jason, and the dive team at Gozo Aquasports; and to Miss Jordan, Miss Leaver, and Rev. Raynor who arranged it all and put up with us on the trip.





Left to right:
Andy Thomson, Trevor Collins, Oliver Lee, Jim Donovan

TREVOR COLLINS AND AGI

The Annual Inspection on 4th May 2012 was remarkable in more ways than one – including the unseasonal weather and the unprecedented closure of waterlogged pitches, saving the residents of Edgbaston from the usual display of smoke and blank firing. More importantly though, for the presence of certain people.

It was the last AGI for Major Trevor Collins, who is finally hanging up his uniform after 22 years in the regular Army and slightly more years even than that guiding and mentoring cadets at KES. Among the most distinguished of his ex-cadets is Colonel Oliver Lee OBE, Royal Marines, who was Principal Reviewing Officer at the AGI, ably backed up by two near contemporaries, Lt Col Andy Thomson and Major Jim Donovan. The latter two were in Trevor Collins' first NCO team, and one of their cadets was Oliver Lee. This reunion was a source of great satisfaction to all concerned, and the picture of the four together should serve as a reminder that size doesn't matter! Both Col Lee and Sqn Ldr Raynor, the current Contingent Commander, paid tribute to Trevor's many years of unstinting service to his cadets, and of generous support to the teacher-officers of the CCF. The cadets, as ever, put on a glorious show of a range of activities, and Trevor was presented with a brass



Colonel Lee takes the salute from WO Tim Woolley, Parade Commander, PO Jon Mahon, and the Royal Naval Cadre.



Presentation to Trevor Collins by Duncan Raynor

Officer of the Watch telescope in recognition of his talent for keeping an eagle eye on everything that goes on. He will be greatly missed, and generations of KES cadets owe much to his enthusiasm, his good humour, and his determination to give cadets the best possible experience during their time in the CCF.

DHR

CCAT SKIING

Before going on this course, I had never been skiing before. Understandably, I was a bit worried considering I had signed myself up for a military cadet skiing course in Bavaria!

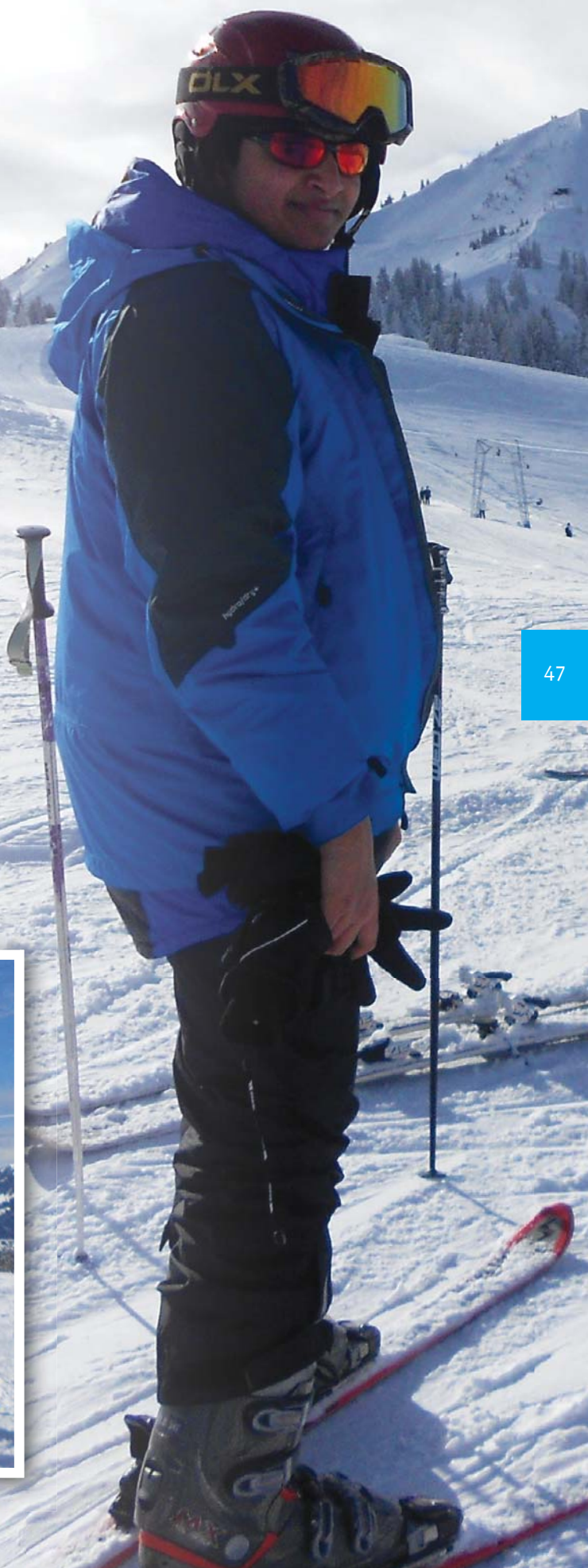
My fears were unfounded as immediately after I boarded the coach to Bavaria I encountered a very friendly atmosphere. On arriving in Bavaria we were staying in a small chalet which was once part of the accommodation for the army skiing cadre. It was surprisingly comfortable given the fact that it was designed for the army.

The first day of skiing was the hardest. Many of us who had not skied before were falling over endlessly. It was incredibly difficult to continue believing that we couldn't move our skis, let alone go on to a slope filled with others. The instructors reassured us that it would be a lot better by the second day.

By the end of the second day I was already doing blue runs. On the third day we encountered blizzard conditions on the slopes, the ice would sting any exposed skin. However by the fourth day we were going down red runs with relative ease. By the fifth day I was sad to see the end of my time in Bavaria. From never skiing before to skiing with relative proficiency in the space of five days was one of the most exciting experiences I had ever had.

I would recommend this course to anyone who is in the CCF. I met loads of new friends, learned an extremely useful skill and had a brilliant time as well!

Yash Bajoria



FIRST AID COURSE

I found that going on the First Aid course at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth was a welcome break from school work while still learning something important: I was practising CPR on practice dummies, learning how to bandage various types of cuts and learning what to do if someone is going into shock.

It's not all learning too: there are so many different new people on these courses that you are never bored. Also, every evening we got to play sports and this is one way of having fun and spending time with new friends. Yet, undoubtedly the best part of the course is the course itself. First aid was taught engagingly with most of it being very practical and interactive. We worked in groups to learn about how to deal with certain casualties and I found that the highlight of the week was finally putting on scenarios for other groups to practise their newly learned skills. These scenarios required some "casualty simulation" (or "cas-sim" for short). This was very enjoyable since we firstly had to look up how a casualty should act in specific scenarios and then we effectively had to make up wounds from salt dough and fake blood. This inevitably was a messy task and resulted in a lot of laughing all round. I ended up with a huge cut in my forearm which someone inventively put pieces of transparent plastic in to imitate broken glass.

It was a very rewarding course since I learned some useful, and I believe essential, life skills. In fact I helped a man, a few weeks later, on a pavement suffering from a moderate allergic (nut) response and I stayed with him until an ambulance arrived. It was fortunate that I had learned how to handle that type of situation and that an ambulance was already nearby. It was a very gratifying experience and I owe it to CCF, since if I had not learned first aid, I wouldn't have known what to do. CCF camps and courses are always fun and the best thing is that you can also obtain a recognised qualification. They are definitely worthwhile.

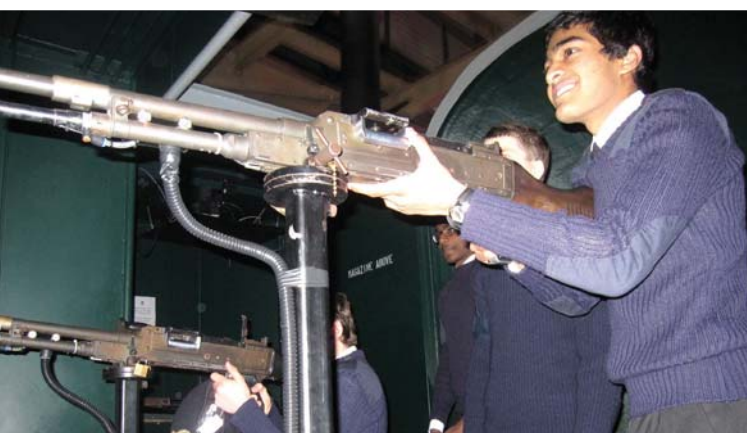
Keerthi Kshatrya



MARCH EXPEDITIONS WEEKEND

As ever with CCF expeditions weekend the departing coach was full of anticipation at the prospect of a weekend on board HMS Bristol, an inactive warship situated in Portsmouth. An exciting and dynamic array of activities stretched out ahead of us including orienteering and, of course, navy football. Walking onto the deck of a destroyer, even if it is decommissioned, is always a thrill and descending into the bowels through twisty corridors and tricky stair hatches really brought to life the navy experience. Then we took part in a series of team tasks such as charades and jigsaw solving that were headed by the NCOs and which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The following morning we headed out to begin the main day of activities which commenced with a tour around Nelson's flagship HMS Victory. After this came an orienteering afternoon in the New Forest, when we needed to plan a route which would enable us to answer the most questions within the time we had. Tired and mud-splattered we headed back to our temporary home for a much needed meal. One of the highlights of the weekend was next; as it poured with rain we all rushed out onto the football pitches with unnatural enthusiasm for the now-traditional RN many-a-side competition. Three games and several dubious refereeing decisions later we trudged back inside still arguing over the final results. As we headed home having frantically packed up for numerous locker inspections we stopped off briefly at Action Stations, an interactive museum which demonstrates various aspects of the Navy's operational duties and devices – the climbing wall and helicopter simulator were the biggest hits. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was completed and we all headed back to school content if not wide awake; this was only achievable due to the hard work of the staff and the NCOs, for whom this was the last expedition. Thank you very much for everything.





POWERBOATING

During the Easter holiday, Will Jones and the two of us went on a five day power boating course to the naval base HMS Raleigh in Plymouth. After a train and a replacement bus service, we arrived there, not knowing any other cadet, but after spending five nights in a dormitory with them, we knew everyone quite well.

The course consisted of learning the basics of power boating, with the aim to leave at the end with an RYA level 2 certificate, granting us permission to take command of power boats without supervision. Over the five days we learnt a number of manoeuvres, followed by an assessment to see if we were sea-worthy. The manoeuvres which we practiced included pulling up alongside and pulling away from a pontoon, confined turns, man overboard, picking up a buoy, tying to it and anchoring up, all on three different boats: a Cheverton Champ, a VT Halmatic and a RIB. On the third night we went out on a night expedition in a 10ft ferry boat. Throughout the night we went out in pairs on RIBs to speed around the mouth of the river at its emptiest. The aim of this night exercise was to use the navigation skills we'd been taught to find our way around the river using buoy lights and sector lights. The course wasn't only boating, though. We took part in various activities which were planned for us, such as swimming, where an array of impressive stunts off the top diving board took place, volleyball and a peculiar game called Swedish longball, all being competitive. The experience of taking part in a course at a naval base almost on your own was thoroughly enjoyable and an experience which I would recommend to any cadet in the Navy CCF.

Andrew Dillon and Matt Litwinowicz

RNAS FLYING COURSE

A few months ago, some of my fellow navy cadets and I went to RNAS Yeovilton, in Somerset, for a thrilling flying course. Luckily the weather was great and on arrival, we were fitted with our kits and then received a safety briefing from one of our instructors - the fact that we had to learn how to use a parachute was quite unsettling! What we did on the Grob tutor aircraft was up to us mostly, depending on how comfortable we were while flying, and I was very excited about doing the aerobatics.

Before flying each of us were fitted with helmets, parachutes and sun glasses, although a couple of us brought some aviators (ha). We each flew for around 45-50 minutes - which is double what the RAF get. After thorough safety inspections we took off and learn basic manoeuvres such as pitching, yawing and banking and were given control of the plane to try them out, and that feeling of total freedom was incredible in itself. We were then taught how to do the loop, barrel roll and, for some lucky people, the stall turn. Again we were given control and allowed to do these manoeuvres as we liked, which was exhilarating and quite scary as we experienced up to 4.1 G and down to -1.2 G. While waiting for our turns we went to see the marines and got a chance to look at some of the gear they used in their very varied operations. We got the chance to speak to one of the marine mechanics and we also saw a huge and awe inspiring Sea King helicopter. We also went to see the Navy Fleet Air Arm hanger to see some legendary aircrafts that were crucial in the winning of both World Wars. We saw planes such as the Swordfish and the Sea Fury (the fastest piston engine plane ever as well as the only piston engine plane to shoot down a jet plane). These planes were truly magnificent and a good way to round off the amazing day.

Vikram Thakur



SAFETY BOAT COURSE

This course was certainly the most unusual course I have been on. I was one of just two cadets on the course staying on HMS Bristol, which was otherwise totally vacant. This allowed us to do away with some of the usual Navy formality which led to a much more relaxed environment, allowing us to focus completely on the power boating.

As it was such a small group, I was able to gain a lot of experience in the driver's seat and polish up on my general boat handling, despite one of the RIBs getting damaged and placed out of action on day one. The course consisted largely of different types of rescues, with a mixture of theory and practice, of dinghies, canoes and windsurfers, and I was able to boast my limited sailing skills by running aground in a dinghy in order to simulate a rescue situation. Even though the course was cut short a few days due to administrative problems, I feel that it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience, and I look forward to putting my new qualification to good use on a Friday afternoon at Edgbaston reservoir.

LS Browning



the rain providing an extra impetus. The afternoon consisted of airsoft: an activity similar to paintballing, only with small BB pellets as ammo, and the guns being far more realistic. Under the guidance of former Marines and members of the Army, we learnt patrolling manoeuvres, both offensive and defensive, culminating in a group-wide exercise.

We returned to base camp, and after some more 'scran' (the alternative to food on expeditions), we were given the initial brief for our night exercise. As soon as it was dark, we were led into a forest; our hands on the shoulders of the person in front of us the only guidance. Only when we had reached our base for the exercise, a campfire, were we given a real idea of what to expect; the task was to split off into groups and make contact with an enemy 'agent' who wanted to share information. The assignment was further complicated by the launch of flares every so often, forcing us to 'hit the ground'. An hour later, we returned decidedly damper, and even more grateful for our sleeping bags.

We were given a relative lie-in on the Sunday morning, but still woke up to do more physical training. We packed up our kit, said goodbye to our instructors, and headed back to Birmingham. It wasn't what we expected of our first expeditions weekend, but I know I'm not alone in wanting to do the same again next year.

SEPTEMBER EXPEDITION

Having been told we were going to the Plymouth area, and having just joined the Naval section, it was a little surprising not to be anywhere near the sea for our first expeditions. When we met our hosts for the weekend in a car park and were ordered to do shuttle runs, it looked like it would be precisely the kind of expeditions we had hoped to avoid! However, when we settled down that evening our apprehension soon turned to excitement.

We were woken at 6 o'clock on the Saturday morning to the sound of flashbang grenades and loud shouts telling us we had 20 seconds to get out of our tents. We were soon off on a morning run, most of us largely motivated by the thought of breakfast afterwards. When the ration packs had been given out, and breakfast (some arrangement of baked beans) consumed, we were divided into two groups for the day's activities. I spent the morning learning campcraft, ranging from simple fire-starting to skinning and preparing a rabbit for cooking. It concluded with a shelter-building competition, with

A YEAR AS A NEW RAF CADET

Just three weeks into the year and armed with only DPMs uniform and a basic grasp of RAF drill, all 36 of us were confronted with a daunting prospect: the Autumn Expedition at RAF Swynnerton. There, we were launched straight into a weekend full of thoroughly enjoyable and educational activities, which allowed us to develop the vital skills that we would need as RAF cadets. These activities included several leadership tasks, an assault course, ‘Battlestorm’ laser-combat, two night exercises and much more! By the year’s second expedition, this time to RAF Benson, a fully working RAF base, our marching would have to be impeccable. However, this expedition allowed us to have a fascinating look at the RAF on a much closer level.

The enjoyment did not stop when we returned to school after the expedition. We would all eagerly await every Friday afternoon, where we would be greeted by a wealth of activities that had been carefully planned by our NCOs and Officers. For example: firing the No. 8 rifle on the school’s range; weapons training with the L98A2 rifle; ‘camouflage and concealment’; a high ropes course and kayaking at Upton Warren; and a waterskiing afternoon. Many opportunities to fly in a Grob Tutor at RAF Cosford were also offered to us on Mondays. This was wonderful, as many of us had never even flown in a light aircraft before, let alone being in control of the aircraft or performing complicated aerobatics where we reached three or four Gs!

Despite all of the amazing opportunities that we were offered throughout the year, the highlight was undoubtedly the RAF Summer Camp, a week-long visit to RAF St Mawgan, where thirteen KES cadets and three cadets from Kingham Hill School in Oxford partook in many CCF and non-CCF based activities. For instance: weapons training; shooting on both a live range and a DCCT training simulator; a gruelling yet rewarding day of combat simulation with blank firing L98A2s; as well as many unconventional RAF activities such as go-karting, a coastal walk where we were blessed with wonderful weather, and coasteering.

Summer Camp was a truly amazing way to finish off a great first year as an RAF cadet. This was all possible due to the dedication and organisation of all of our first-class NCOs and Officers, all of whom we are very fortunate to have, especially Flt Lt Evans. They give up much of their time, not only during Friday

afternoons but also during weekends and entire weeks during holiday time, running expeditions and trips for us to enjoy. I am very glad that I chose the RAF as my Friday afternoon activity, and will undoubtedly continue being a proud member of the KES RAF section for many years.

Xiaofan Zhang



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AIR CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE

On Saturday the 28th of July, we set out for RAF Cranwell, to take part in the Air Cadet Leadership Course. The train journey there was spent in suspense: we were both absolutely terrified of what was to come. However, Aditya came to the conclusion that the course couldn’t be half as tough as it had been described...

Within an hour of arriving he had already been shouted at for getting an officer’s rank wrong, and for calling him “sir” rather than “sergeant”. After a couple of attempts we managed to collect our kit and settle into our accommodation. The first challenge of the day was trying to march perfectly for the instructors, who wouldn’t accept anything but the best. We began to get to know the people in our flights: every single cadet was fantastic and we knew that there would be plenty of banter throughout the week.

The alarm went off at 0530 hours the next morning: in half an hour, we had to be up and ready to run 1.5 miles. Although that doesn’t sound very far, we can

assure you that at 0600 hours it is not an easy feat! After the run we were sent to breakfast and told to eat plenty since we would be going on a 25 km hike near the base. Most of us were under the impression that it would be a leisurely hike, taking the rest of the day; however, we soon found out that we'd be power walking the whole way!

The main part of the course, Command tasks, involved being given a situation, a mission, limitations and resources, and then being briefed by the designated leader on what to do. The leader comes up with a plan which the team then carry out. The scenarios that were presented to us were very interesting, and it seems that some of them were impossible to actually complete, but served their purpose in assessing our ability to lead a team. One favourite task gave us as a mission to put out a fire by lowering a barrel of water into a small opening. We had to build a tripod and use it as a pivot in order to move the barrel across a space and into the opening. This proved extremely difficult: in the end the whole team was holding on to one end of the log, hoping that physics wouldn't apply for once!

We all felt very proud to receive the ACLC badge as we marched out before the College Hall Officers Mess in front of our parents and the course officers. The words of Squadron Leader McCran, who had led the week, were echoing around Aaron's head – "It's not over, till it's over" – his mantra embodying the importance of maintaining standards, integrity and perseverance.

We both found the course very valuable in terms of developing confidence, discipline, leadership and teamwork skills. Furthermore, these lessons will contribute to the RAF section at KES; in our final year as NCOs, we will be entrusted with organising and running activities and teaching for the younger cadets. We thank Flt Lt Evans for encouraging the two of us to take on the challenge of the course as it was worthwhile in every respect.

Aaron Hundle and Aditya Kale

RAF GLIDING SCHOLARSHIP

It certainly isn't your typical week in the summer, to stay on an RAF base and learn to fly. This is what I, and three other RAF cadets, had the amazing opportunity of doing.

Each day would begin with a short briefing on what we would be taught that day, and after that the flying would begin. The first part of the course was dedicated to becoming familiar with how to handle the aircraft correctly and effectively. Once we were comfortable with maneuvering the aircraft, the next big step was the flying of circuits. These short flights required intense concentration and sound judgment, as you had to make sure that you did everything correctly and at the right time. Once I had perfected all the parts of a circuit, there was a great sense of achievement.





Eventually, it got to the point where your instructor would be simply watching you in almost complete silence. Initially, this was slightly disconcerting, but it soon became a sign of their confidence in your ability to fly without their input. It was in these moments where the true satisfaction of flying became real.

After some check flights, I was eventually allowed to fly a solo circuit. Although I had practiced for it many times, nothing could quite prepare me for the exhilaration of flying on my own. It was a truly unforgettable experience, and drew what had been one of the most enjoyable weeks of my life to a thoroughly rewarding close.

It was a privilege to be trained by some of the most supportive and friendly instructors I could have hoped for, as well as making some really good friends. The week provided me with an invaluable experience, as it turned a dream of learning to fly into reality.

Rahul Bagchi and Rohan Jain successfully completed their courses, earning their Blue Wings. Joe Carter and Adam Phillips both flew a solo circuit, earning their Silver Wings. Whether as a stepping stone to further flight training, or just a one-off amazing experience, Gliding Scholarships provide a superb first glimpse of flight training, and therefore I would thoroughly recommend applying for one to anyone in the RAF section.

Adam Phillips



RAF PARACHUTING

Waking up at 0630 during the summer holidays is never easy, especially when you've opted to jump out of a plane at 3500ft, with nothing but a parachute. Seems daunting... because it is! But I suggest all cadets who have the opportunity to go, should do so. It's a once in a lifetime experience!

On Thursday 30th August we travelled to a parachuting school, where we learnt about the techniques of jumping. This included instruction on how to arch your back correctly when falling, how to exit the plane correctly and how to land in an emergency. We also had a crash course on emergency procedures which, I must admit, did knock our confidence; however, we pressed on and finally sat a minor exam which we all passed. Having obtained our licences to jump we returned to KES to rest, but returned the next day for the serious business.

I recall my heart pounding inside my chest as I arrived back at the parachuting base; we went straight into some training to refresh our brains, then geared up and prepped for the day's jump. When we were asked to fill in the final details it became more real to me; however, I kept my cool and foolishly signed the form at the top. Doing so I had opted to be the first jumper, which I have to admit, for someone who has never been a good passenger on an aeroplane, was quite unwise. But we all boarded the plane and it took off. 3500ft into the air, I shuffled to the exit and carried out my basic plane exit strategy and made a jump for it! Freefalling for 5 seconds without any aid is scary but you get one hell of an adrenaline rush! The feeling is similar to when we feel as though we're falling in our dreams, only this is so much more real, and you can't wake up. When the parachute deployed I carried out my checks, and then enjoyed myself.

Approaching landing, we flare the parachute to slow down and land correctly on the landing site. I managed to carry out the procedure correctly. Unfortunately Mr Evans did not, and broke his leg quite badly. But the mood was lifted when the ambulance arrived and drugged him on morphine and gas to help relieve the pain. After the crisis, with Mr Evans on his way to hospital, the remaining cadets and Mr Johnson went back into the air and jumped again. We went through all the same emotions and procedures again, to find ourselves still craving more.

It was an experience I'll always remember, and hope to try it again soon in the near future! Get well soon, Mr Evans!

Kashif Ali



Warrant Officer Chaudhuri with OE Lee

A SENIOR RAF CADET'S PARTING WORDS...

As I flick through past *Chronicles*, glittering with the pictures of all things KES, it strikes me that of all the things I've done during my time here, few have racked up quite as many memorable experiences as my involvement in the RAF section. Amidst waves of nostalgia, I've realised how grateful I am to the section: for the places I've been to, for the sheer variety that has been offered to me, and for the identity that the CCF has given me as the lead SNCO of the RAF in my final year. Little wonder these have been the best four years of my school career.

In the four years we have been in the section, we've managed to fill out our DPMs, worn out our parade shoes and had the timeless mantra "if you're on time, you're late" burned into minds. We've travelled the country, mainly by coach but occasionally by Chinook or Puma helicopters. We've flown in planes and gliders; been rock-climbing, kayaking, water-skiing, indoor skydiving; we've learnt how to shoot, how to drill, and most importantly, how to iron razor sharp creases down the middle of our trousers.

Yet this snapshot of Friday afternoons is only a small part of the whole RAF package. Our time in the RAF would not be what it is without Expeds. There are few

comforts in life more luxurious than the mushroom pâté and "Styrofoam-in-syrup" in the gourmet ration packs, or the finest bedding that nature has to offer under those wonderful bashers. But our Expeds were never just about living the easy life in a forest; they've provided some of the most hilarious memories of our years as Cadets in the Middle School. Been woken up by a flash bang in a stable? Check. Ambushed by members of the *real* Territorial Army during a night-ex? Check. And few will forget the great Glow Stick War of '08. Admittedly, the Cadre year presented some more challenges, as our leadership skills were really tested to the max, but I've been blessed with having really engaging flights so I can count myself lucky.



However, it is this final year that will be the most memorable for me: we were deemed responsible enough to lead the section as NCOs. The September Expeds of 2011 was possibly the most strenuous weekend for me in terms of organisation, and dealing with a flurry of last minute changes to the much hyped “Capture-the-Flag” night-ex. Yet there have been few moments quite as satisfying as being told by the younger cadets that in fact “they had a really fantastic time” and knowing that I had a part to play in that. Other highlights that I can think of that could quite rival that would be finally being able to hold the Intersection trophy high as undisputed victors, coming (joint) third in the RAF National Competition after two successive years of finishing sixth, or maybe leading the cadre year at the front of the parade for this year’s AGI dressed in the prestigious Number 1 uniform. It’s been a wonderful final year, and I could not be more proud.

However, above all, it is the people with whom I have shared these experiences that have made the section so great. The camaraderie in the section has been second to none and has cemented friendships not only within my own year but with those in the years above and below. But it is the staff of the RAF section, without whom none of these things could have happened, that I would most like to thank. Truly willing to ‘go beyond the call of duty’, it is their work and supervision that has made it such a fantastic four years. So to all of you, thank you. And to those who are fortunate enough to still be in the section, I hope that when you too leave the school, you’ll be able to look back and realise what a fantastic decision you made to join the RAF all the way back in the UMs.

WO Shankho Chaudhuri



RAF SUMMER CAMP REPORT

RAF St Mawgan, venue for this year’s Summer camp, was a base for reconnaissance missions in the 50s, flying Avro Lancaster and Shackleton aircraft. Somewhat quieter now, it is home to, amongst other training schools, the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Extraction (SERE) Training Organisation, playing a tri-service training role in ways that our Sgt Ray Cooper informed us were classified. So we should ignore anything that sounded like screaming during the night.

We were split into two teams, A and B flights, and the week was jam-packed with military activities, including shooting on an electronic range in preparation for Tuesday, when we got on the real range to earn those sought after shooting badges. This served as a great way to get used to using the rifles for Wednesday, where we took on four separate missions around the base, patrolling the areas, advancing through the mud in proper organisation, infiltrating and seizing territory and saving lost Generals, while, of course, firing hundreds of blank rounds at the enemy.

When we weren’t shooting at things we did other things in the Cornwall area, such as a 13km stroll along the Cornwall coast on our first day, during which A flight somehow managed to overtake B flight without realising it, despite their leaving ten minutes ahead. There were also sports in the base’s gym, where B flight took a narrow victory, and a low ropes course that called for mental and physical strength along with teamwork. We then had to clean ourselves up for a camp visit to a naval base to see HMS Courageous, a decommissioned cold war nuclear submarine, the last of the Valiant Class, which had been refitted as a museum. This was followed by the most necessary of all RAF missions... crazy golf.

We made the most of the last day with a morning of coasteering; a tiresome walk and climb along the rocky coastline. The occasional 20ft drop did not fail to provide amusement. After finishing and fighting off our wetsuits we made our way back to the base to clean ourselves up and complete the last minute preparations for the last and most intense competition: Drill. Days of ironing and vigorous polishing finally paid off in a marked Inspection, followed by a drill display that both flights had practiced very hard. Both sides marched valiantly but A flight managed to clinch it with a slightly riskier routine.

From clean pressed blue trousers and shining shoes to shorts and sand, we headed off to the beach for a game of softball, a barbecue, and the final presentations. Prizes were presented, speeches given, and by setting sun it was announced that by narrow margin, the glorious A flight had managed to take the victory. There were, however, no losers on that week.

Rohan Jain



PICTURES



4th Elliot Parkes



UM Karan Gangurde (left) Adam Wine (right)



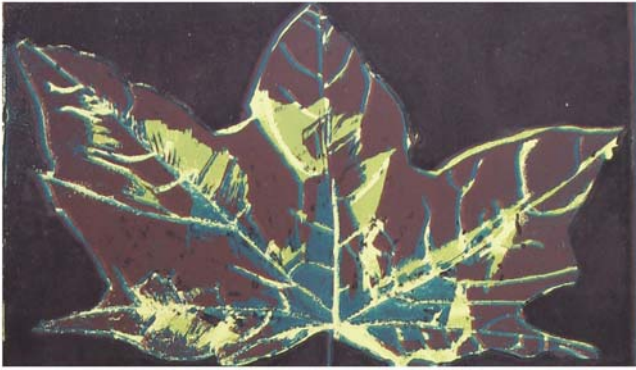
Shell George Laight



Shell James Draper



Rem Eugene Toso



Shell Felix Abbott Black



5th Tom Haynes



Shell William Harris (left) Reuben Elphinston (centre) Felix Abbott Black (right)



Hugh Parker (top left) Abbas Iqbal (top right) Fady Salama (bottom left) Richard Chapman (bottom right)



4th Euan Argyle



6th Alexander Roberts

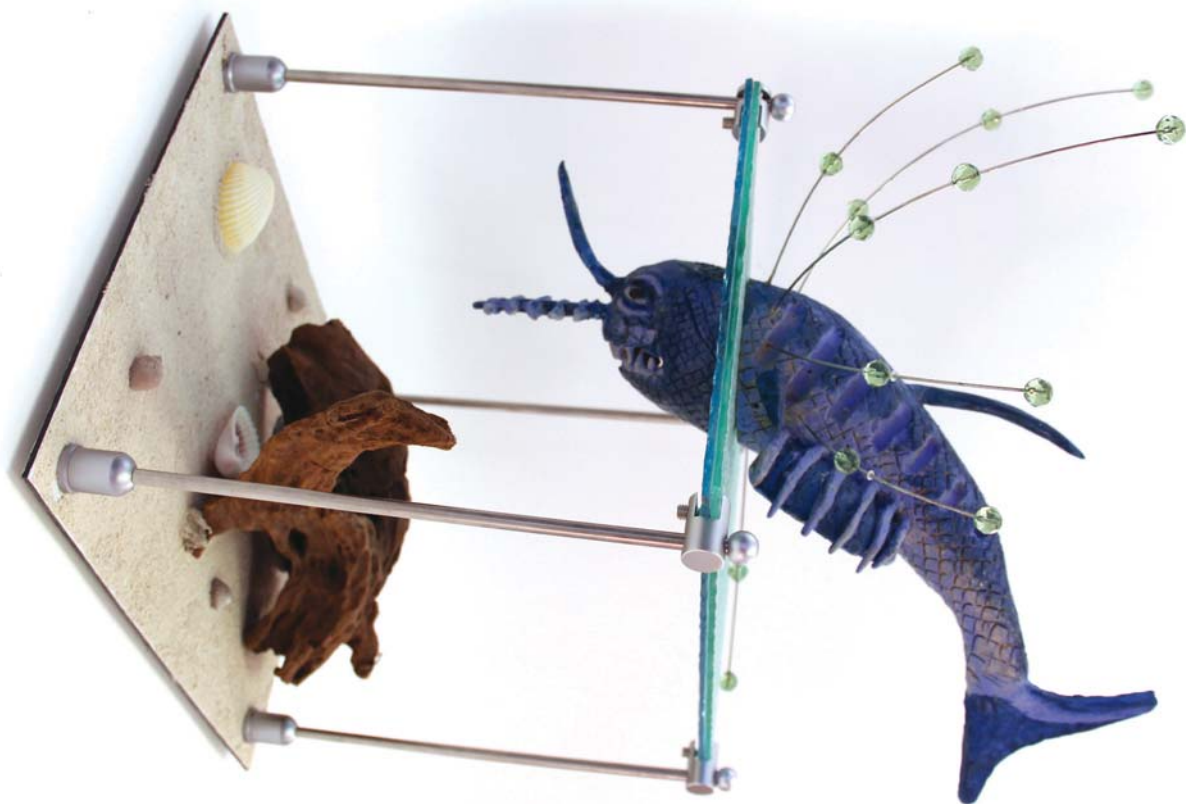


UM Mohammed Arman



5th Simon Kent





REM Oliver Morgan



5th Rohan Jain



Rem Tajinder Sohal



6th Ted Smith



5th Aslan Lewis



5th Jack Schofield



UM Roodi Gent



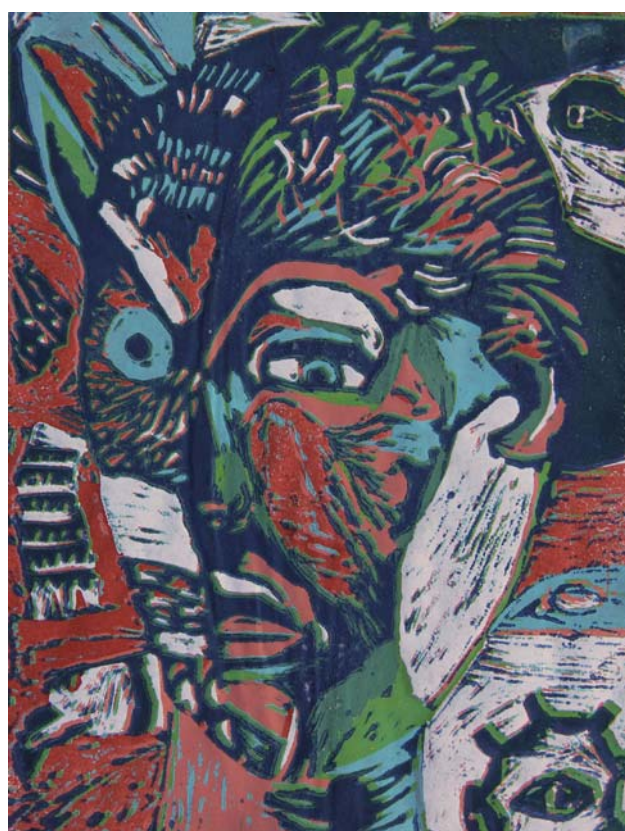
UM Conrad Yap



REM Timothy Jones



UM Jacob Rees



UM Guglielmo Vecchio



UM Alex Woolley



REM Hasib Ahmad



Rem Tajinder Sohal (top left) William Solari (top right) Josh Sagoo (bottom left) Gabriel Yoong (bottom right)



5th Amar Sall



5th Simon Kent

A blue-tinted photograph of ancient Greek ruins. In the foreground, a large, fluted column stands on a rocky base. In the background, a temple with a pediment and columns is visible, surrounded by other ruins and a line of trees on a hillside. The sky is a deep blue.

TRIPS

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like to see more of the photos from trips that the school organises, please visit: www.kes.org.uk/gallery. There are also videos from the Ardèche Trip and Cycle Tour in the Low Countries.

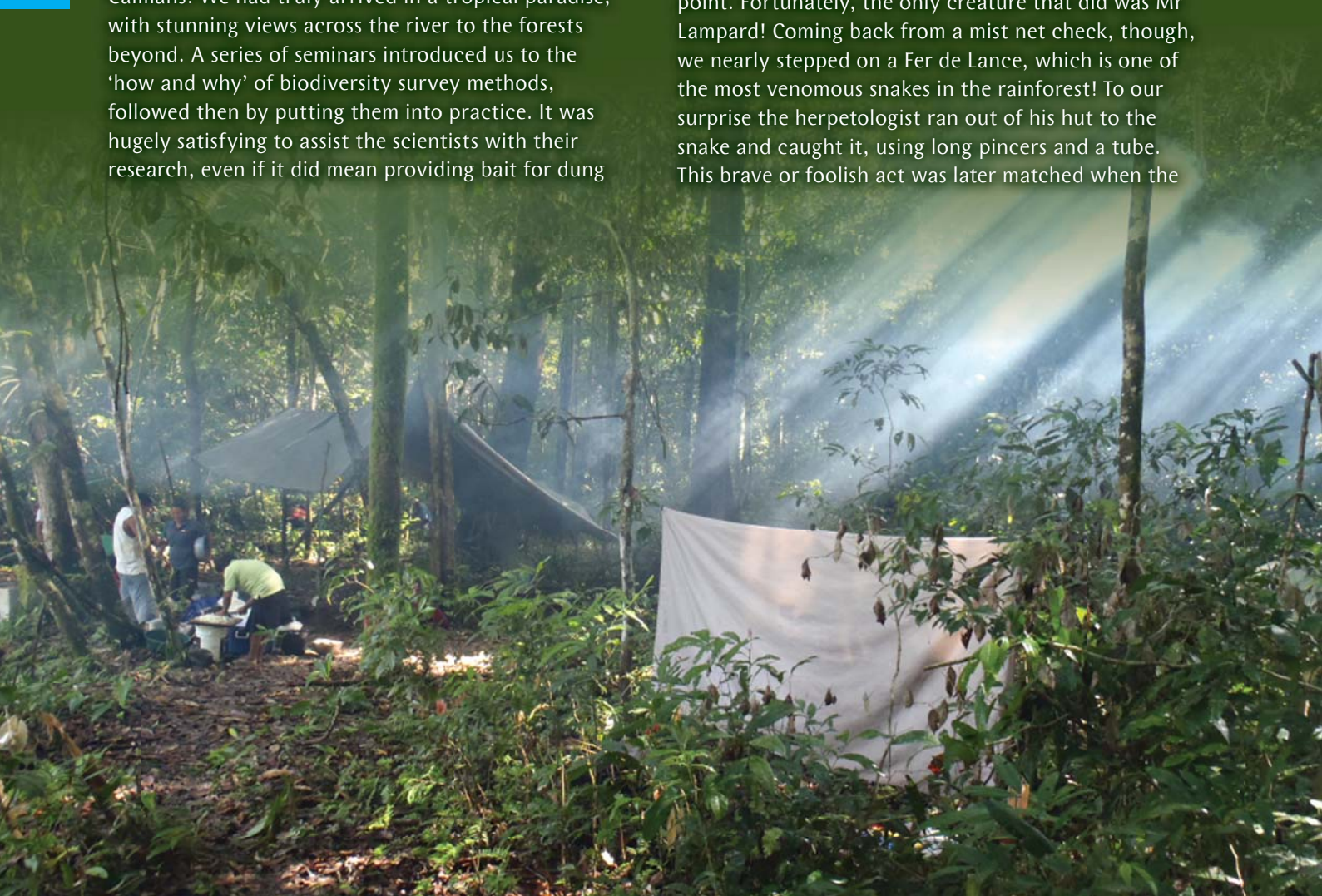
THE GUYANA EXPEDITION

Turtle Mountain was our base, where the forest canopy stretched as far as the eye could see to the mountains and beyond, interrupted only by the river meandering its way through the dense foliage. After our plane landed, we had journeyed for ten hours on a dirt track, the only road across the country to the border with Brazil. It was remarkable how the driver manoeuvred the minibus over the potholes and still maintained a speed of 80km/h even with the bus sliding all over the place: it was more like a rollercoaster ride!

On arriving at the Iwokrama International Tropical Forest Research Centre we were introduced to the scientists with whom we would be working, then shown to our accommodation: small bunkhouses based just above the floodplain of the Essequibo River, the largest river in Guyana and home to Black Caimans! We had truly arrived in a tropical paradise, with stunning views across the river to the forests beyond. A series of seminars introduced us to the 'how and why' of biodiversity survey methods, followed then by putting them into practice. It was hugely satisfying to assist the scientists with their research, even if it did mean providing bait for dung

beetles (creatures which only eat one thing, as the name suggests). After a few days of living in luxury, sleeping in beds in the bunkhouse, we moved on to the next camp, at Turtle Mountain, where we were to sleep in hammocks inside shelters. Swinging to sleep in a hammock was an amazing experience, though painful for some who woke up abruptly on the floor quite dazed! You have to be vigilant when setting up a hammock: on one occasion, while I was tying up the ropes, a huge tarantula crawled past about six inches away from my hand.

Our first task was setting up the mist nets, which proved extremely exhausting! These nets are used to catch birds in the day and bats at night. The vast array of birds that we were able to see was fantastic, and at one point we even managed to feed a hummingbird some sugar water. The night treks with the invertebrate and reptile scientists were thrilling, though at the same time there was always that worry that something could jump out at us at any point. Fortunately, the only creature that did was Mr Lampard! Coming back from a mist net check, though, we nearly stepped on a Fer de Lance, which is one of the most venomous snakes in the rainforest! To our surprise the herpetologist ran out of his hut to the snake and caught it, using long pincers and a tube. This brave or foolish act was later matched when the



same scientist wrestled and restrained a live caiman: afterwards the beast was passed round for the group to hold, with everyone taking care to avoid the jaws!

The second week of the trip was spent on the river, where we met some of the locals from a village called Surama. They were extremely helpful and taught us survival skills such as constructing forest camps, fishing and using bows and arrows. We spent the next week travelling up the Burro Burro River in narrow, open boats to conduct a river survey. On the first day the boat with all our luggage sank! Thankfully, we recovered all our belongings, although everything was soaked, leaving only a couple of smug boys with bone dry kit. We weren't allowed to swim in the river; once we discovered an 8ft long anaconda sunning itself on the river bank, with a body thicker than a man's thigh. Rainforests are so called for a reason and the heavens certainly opened upon us, with pebble sized droplets relentlessly hammering our campsite. This didn't sap our spirits, however, and we cheered everyone up with a good old game of cricket. At first we were playing with a log and tennis ball, but soon a bat had been made for us out of a plank of wood by a chainsaw-wielding local by the name of Jonny.

However, this was not the end of our adventures. Due to serious civil unrest on the only road back to Georgetown, an emergency evacuation was ordered by the British High Commission and we had to fly out of the rainforest on a postal plane. To take us all, two planes were needed. Once loaded with all our equipment, the plane looked as if it wasn't going to take off again; but to everyone's great relief we managed to take to the air before the end of the grass strip runway and rose clear of the forest! To add to our concerns, ten minutes into the flight the pilot made sure that all the doors and windows were closed, then proceeded to load a magazine with bullets. We weren't sure whether this was the standard protocol in Guyana and just kept quiet in fear!

This expedition allowed us to meet new interesting people and experience life in the rainforest. All of us thoroughly enjoyed this expedition and I can speak for all of my friends when I say a heartfelt thanks to Mr Porter and Ms Ferguson, who led the second expedition, and to Mr Lampard and Mr Corns, who led the first, for having the vision and dedication to make this expedition possible. Enormous thanks also to Jake Bicknell and all the staff from Opwall, to the wardens from Iwokrama National Park and to the villagers and boatmen of Surama for innumerable memorable experiences.

Aditya Kale & David Foster.



2012 CYCLE TOUR OF THE LOW COUNTRIES

Fifty KES boys and twenty parents embarked on a 350 mile tour of roads across France, Belgium and The Netherlands. Our first day of proper cycling began with a pleasurable ride across the beaches of Dunkerque: a challenging headwind got our legs warmed up. A few miles later we reached the Belgium/France border- a place that could be easily missed, with only two flags marking the border, and not even a sign!

On the outskirts of Ieper (Ypres), most of us stopped at the Essex Farm cemetery. We went inside the forward treatment post where John McCrea served and wrote his famous and moving poem, *In Flanders Fields*.

Before arriving at our Hotel for the night, the lucky ones got to pop into the heart of the magnificent bustling town of Ieper, where our first Belgium waffles were devoured- yummm!

A visit to the WWI Flanders Fields Museum was next on the agenda. The building where the museum is situated is grand and elegant. It was originally constructed in 1250 as a cloth hall, but was destroyed in the war. Afterwards, all attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, at 8 o'clock. The Menin Gate has 55,000 names on it: men lost in WWI.

Our first stop the following day was the Hill 62 museum. Everyone had a quick go on the 3-D imagery viewers that were used for surveillance in WWI. Exploration of the trenches was a muddy experience, but a reminder of what it was like for the soldiers during WWI. A few miles further on, we visited the Passchendaele museum - an old chateau containing a re-creation of a bunker from the war. Later we stopped at Tyne Cot Cemetery, the biggest British war cemetery, housing thousands of graves as well as the names of people whose remains were never found. Some may have spotted one of a dozen KES boys buried there, such as Second Lieutenant L. N. Rolason (1901 – 1905). After dinner we went into the picturesque medieval historic market of Bruges. The cafés all had excellent views of the Belfry tower and its forty-six bells. Some of us were afforded the luxury of a charming horse tour of the city.

Leaving Bruges the following morning, we stopped to see the three remaining old windmills, used for drainage purposes. We continued along a tree-lined canal for a while, before reaching another border, this time a small wooden bridge leading to the Netherlands. Without the knowledge of an adult, we would not have suspected that it was a border!



Our route took us through the very important town of Sluis, where we stopped at a charming café en route and polished off Apple Gebakken en slagroom (apple pie with cream). A ferry then took us four miles across a river, and we were dropped off near the gorgeous medieval centre of Middleburg. We stayed at one of the best youth hostels in The Netherlands, a thirteenth century castle with a moat surrounding it, turrets and a suit of armour! After dinner, most went down to the sea, and played around in the sand, then gathered to watch the ripples cascading onto the golden sand under the backdrop of a stunning sunset.

We now faced the first of the well anticipated three longer days of cycling. Today was fifty-four miles and no train stops: it was a 'do or die' mission. We started off the day wishing we had paid more attention to the stretches we had done last night! Soon though, our legs warmed up, and with a following wind cycling was easy: we made quick progress. After leaving the Oosterschelderkering dam, we changed direction, and faced into a really tough fifteen mph headwind all the way to the town of Zierikzee. It was akin to cycling through treacle!

The highlight of day six was going into a small replica of St Peter's Basilica, which was exquisite. By two o'clock, the heat was getting intense, reaching thirty-five degrees Celsius! The Upper Middles were especially slow today, as they encountered a series of holdups, including a lengthy pancake stop, an early swimming stop, and mechanical problems, all of which resulted in a late 8:15 PM dinner!

The next day's first highlight was Kinderdijk, the world's largest collection of windmills. Here, we saw the Archimedes screw, the three thousand year old concept which had taken over the function of all the windmills. It was not in use today though, because of the profoundly dry weather we had been luckily experiencing! Our first ferry took us to the delightful town centre of Gouda, where most took the train, and only rode a total of twenty miles. Here, we saw the extraordinary Stadhuis (town hall), heard the carillon



play on the hour and saw the cheese-weighing house with its fine architecture.

Finally we arrived at our youth hostel, in the centre of Amsterdam Vondelpark. The younger boys managed to squeeze in a visit to Ann Frank's house where we saw the offices, bedrooms and the famous bookcase. A handful of Shells and adults went to a steakhouse in the beating heart of Amsterdam, where we enjoyed a satisfying steak, a great way to finish the evening.

We would all like to thank the parents for helping and accompanying us. Most importantly, a humongous "thank you" to Mr Boardman, for all the time and effort he put into making this trip as epic as it was.

Ben Cudworth





LEJOG 2012

Our group of 25 cyclists was told two things: first, that the total distance was “a bit over about a thousand miles-ish” and second, that the gradient profile from South to North is “net downhill”, in that Land’s End is a cliff and John O’Groats is a beach. But the epic journey from Land’s End to John O’Groats began inauspiciously in thick Cornish fog, with many of the boys (including me) billeted in tents because the Youth Hostel had misbooked our stay.

After 41 miles of typically Cornish short, steep hills, with lunch in Hayle and free pasties from Fipp’s, the hostel at Perranporth arrived at the top of an enormously steep hill ending in a superb and geographically fascinating view over the bay. The third day, according to KDP “a tough, relentlessly hilly day”, led us to Launceston via a free ferry ride across the lake, thanks to ‘Team Sky’s’ (Henry Glossop, Connor McGuirk, Nathan Simkiss, Josh Late, Josh Gain and Anuj Savani) charity shirts. We stayed at Trethorne Golf Club and dined on a sumptuous carvery while semi-crashing a posh wedding.

Among the difficult hills of Day 4 we were passed by a group of triathletes riding time-trial bikes: Stephen Thatcher decided to overtake them on the next slight incline. One of the triathletes spotted Stephen’s

panniers flying past him and was visibly upset. On our last legs by the end of an increasingly hilly and hot ride, we came upon our digs for the night: Blundell’s boarding school in Tiverton, where we watched the Tour de France in the spectacular luxury of the oak-panelled boys’ common room.

After a brief rest crossing the Somerset Levels to Cheddar Day 6 started easily with a fiddly but clever route through Bristol and over the Severn Estuary. Tom Fenton was blown clean off his bike by the crosswind on the old Severn Bridge, and despite his early self-diagnosis of a broken leg, soldiered on with nothing more than some road rash and a rattled look. At YHA Welsh Bicknor, the Chief Master visited us at breakfast and mused that finding this establishment was similar to “blundering around the forest looking for the Holy Grail”, except that Sir Galahad didn’t have to carry panniers.

On we rode through torrential rain and gradients across Herefordshire to the Long Mynd. Grandma Fenton treated us to cake in Herefordshire, and we were visited by Mr Andronov, all in heavy rain, and a sumptuous luncheon was provided by a section of the Golightly family at Ellesmere to fuel us for another very long day. Things perked up as we passed through Eccleston, Bradley Wiggins’ place of residence, (we were inspired) and we followed a canal towpath to our destination at Arnside. We were treated to a ‘halfway address’ at dinner by our glorious leader,

who assured us that we would never have to visit Warrington again.

Day 11 used up the last of the Lake District's fine surroundings and we made our way to sunny Carlisle. The highlight of the day was the gigantic barbecue laid on for us by the Ashleys in Scotby, combined with our viewing of Mark Cavendish's victory on the Champs D'Elysées on their big telly.

Day 12 saw us cross into Scotland, where we were greeted by persistent rain and a strong headwind. To reach the Isle of Arran, we had to reach the port at Ardrossan in time to catch the ferry, but KDP's group was held up by the spectacular malfunction of the rear of my bicycle, so while the rest journeyed on to Arran over a mountain pass, KDP spent the night searching for repairs in the suburbs of Glasgow. From Arran the route led along the Kintyre peninsula to the Great Glen. We went the length of Loch Linnhe and stayed in Glen Nevis near Fort William (climbing Ben Nevis was a suggested evening activity; a few took it up).

Day 16 was another very long day, in excess of 80 miles. We followed the Caledonian Canal on the towpath, which boasted stunning views, atrocious surfaces and torrential rain. From Fort Augustus, it was Loch Ness all the way to Inverness, and although we failed to spot the Monster, we did encounter the monster of all the hills of the tour: a whopping 5 mile ascent followed by a descent on which few could fail to reach 40mph. After Inverness the going was tough as the headwind settled in and the tour-long fatigue began to take hold.

From Conon Bridge, we set off for Helmsdale. This day held a hilarious disaster for the Deacons elder as Richard's wheels finally gave up the ghost and a local woman took pity on them, transporting them to a local bicycle repair centre. The final day was 50 miles of A road along the fine East coast of Scotland, and we were joined by several other groups of cyclists doing the same as us; there is only the one road. Received by the transport party of Mrs Phillips, Miss McMillan, Miss Jones, Mr Andronov, Mr and Mrs Milton and Mr Symonds, we ate cake, drank champagne and posed for the obligatory pictures in front of the sign. The trip totalled 1080 miles: classic KDP underestimation.

Thanks must go to KDP for organising the trip, to PWG for vice-captaining during his brief absence, to all the drivers for shipping us, and of course to all the people who helped us along the way. All the pain was worthwhile as in the end we raised many thousands of pounds for charity.

Ben Phillips



THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT TRIP TO GREECE

During our week in the home of Western European civilisation, armed with just enough vocabulary to ask politely for a drink, we visited the buildings of the Athenian acropolis, the oracle at Delphi, the stadium at Olympia, the Bronze Age settlement in Mycenae, the temples at Epidauros and Nemea, the Theatre at Epidauros and Roman Corinth. In addition to these historical sites, we visited the towns of Nauplion and Tolon.

In Athens we stayed for two nights, and our sight-seeing was spread out over two days. Among our first destinations were the National Archaeological Museum in Athens and the Athenian acropolis and agora, as well as the later Roman

Agora. On the second day we visited less ancient sites, climbing Lykabettos Hill and visiting the chapel of St George at its summit. A quick excursion to the Greek Parliament building was conducted without any protesters noticing and we rounded off Athens by going to the Temple of Olympian Zeus, a temple started by the Athenian tyrants and finished by the Roman Emperors. Later that day, we boarded our coach for Delphi.

At Delphi, we visited the renowned Sanctuary of Apollo, a huge compound in the mountain-side overlooked by the towering cliffs known as the Phaidriades. There were treasuries built by wealthy city-states such as Athens, such as a theatre and a stadium, and the Temple of Apollo itself. In the Delphi museum we saw many of the original sculptures from





Our hotel in Tolon was conveniently placed for the beach: the tide reached its steps every morning. Our rooms afforded an excellent view of the bay (except for an unfortunate few whose rooms afforded an excellent view of a featureless wall). Tolon itself was conveniently placed for many sites in the Peloponnese near the Corinthian Isthmus. From

the temple, as well as the Sphinx of Naxos and the Delphi Charioteer.

At Olympia, the home of the Olympic Games, we stepped inside the workshop of the great sculptor Pheidias, who designed and built the Statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Just across the way lay the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, where the statue would have been housed. We also visited a less well-known building: the Temple of Hera, widely believed to be the oldest temple in Olympia. What was discovered at the site is today housed in the Olympia museum. From there, we made for our final stop: Tolon, where we would stay for three nights.

there, we visited Mycenae, a legendary bronze age city situated on a rocky hillock; Nemea, home of the Nemean games and a huge temple to Zeus; Epidauros, where there was a shrine of the Greek god of healing, Asclepius and a theatre with possibly the best acoustics in the ancient world; and Nauplion, a bustling sea-side city which we visited on a day of national Greek rejoicing: the atmosphere there was phenomenal.

But eventually came the day when we had to leave. As the shining sun shimmered over the blue sea of the bay, we left for Corinth, our final site. Unlike most of the other things we had seen, Corinth was exclusively Roman: the original Greek city was burnt down for mistreating Roman tax collectors. Despite this, a strong Greek atmosphere still pervaded its remains, from the Doric colonnades to the fact that the central temple was dedicated to Apollo: Corinth is a monument to the tremendous durability of the Greek civilisation.

For me, KES has always been a place of “once in a lifetime” adventures and this has been one of them. I saw the metropolitan sprawl of Athens, I was overwhelmed by the age of the sites, I was struck by the natural and man-made beauty of Greece and I was enlightened by it all (as well as having a great deal of fun!). All of us who went on the trip are grateful, not only to the Greeks for building it all, but to all those staff who made this trip possible: Mr Claughton, Mr Evans, Mr Lambie, Mr Worthington, Mr Corns, Mrs Claughton and Mrs Evans. And so to you all, we would like to say a deeply heartfelt ευχαριστώ!

Yanbo Yin



GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND

A real sense of fun and enjoyment characterised the Iceland trip. Thirty nine boys and five staff embarked upon an adventure to explore the dramatic landscapes of Iceland, visiting volcanoes, waterfalls, glaciers and beaches, and competing to take the most stunning or humorous photos in each location. Iceland's scenery was breath-taking and exciting: we saw lunar landscapes of lava fields and beautiful black basalt columns in the cliffs, and stood on the Mid Atlantic Ridge where Europe and America are pulling apart from each other. We stayed in the Hotel Örk where we enjoyed the geothermal outdoor pool and the giant waterslide.

After touching down in Reykjavik we headed straight for the Blue Lagoon geothermal lake. The whole group enjoyed bathing in the milky blue mineral-rich waters. Most of us also indulged in some beauty therapy, applying the white mud as a rejuvenating face mask.

The visit to the pumice quarry on day two turned out to be surprisingly good. Mr Johnson's verdict was that it was "the most fun I've had in a pumice quarry". It was like an outdoor adventure playground where the boys could scramble up and jump on the shallow banks of light rock. Mr Johnson's attempt at a forward roll down one of the taller banks was entertaining and impressive, as he started it by diving off the bank!

Seeing the Mid Atlantic Ridge at Pingveillir was amazing. The European and American continents are separating here at a rate of about 2 cm per year and new land is forming in the gap. This provoked lots of discussions about geology and tectonics, but also provided a great photo opportunity, as we all piled into the fault line. Even passing tourists were joining in with the snapshots.

The Geysir Centre was a big hit. Anticipation built up as we waited by the sulphurous bubbling pools for the sudden vertical jets of boiling water to emerge every eight minutes. We visited many stunning waterfalls, from the 120m high, snow covered Haifoss, to the beautiful Gullfoss ('Golden Waterfall') with its myriad of rainbows, to the exciting Seljalandsfoss waterfall which you could walk behind, giving us a great opportunity to study the processes occurring at a waterfall.

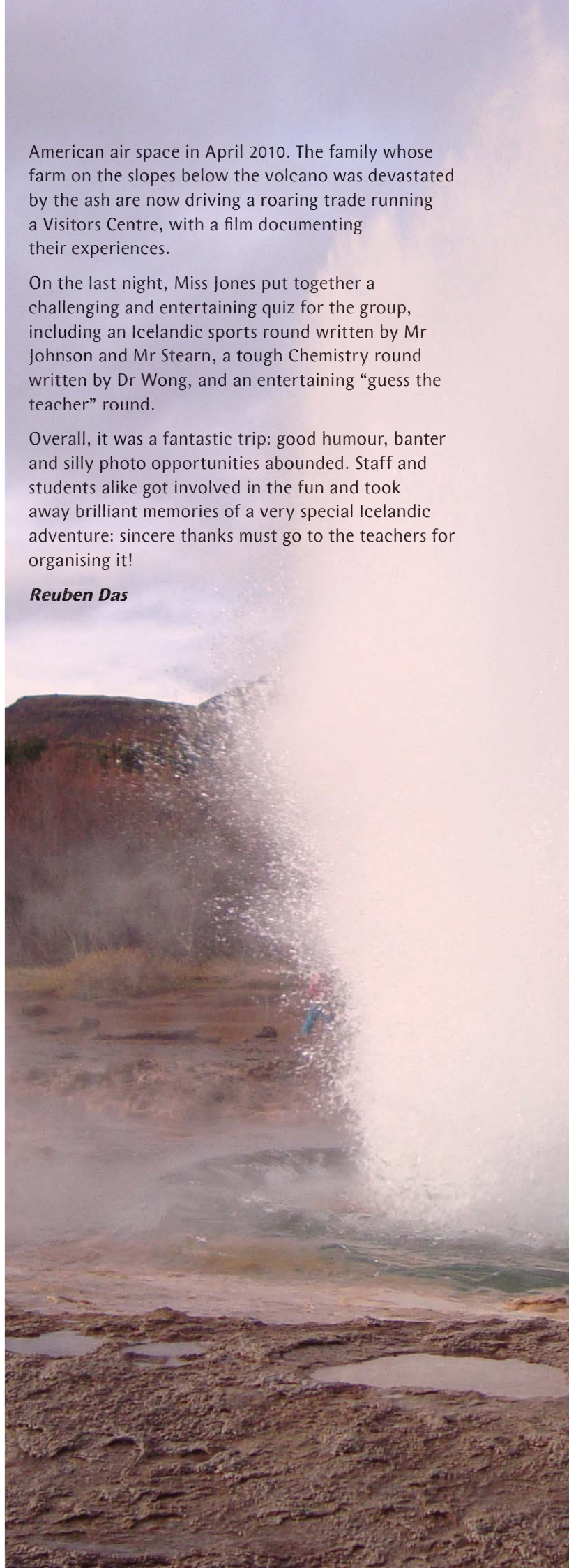
We also visited Eyjafjallajökull, the volcano whose ash cloud caused havoc for European and North

American air space in April 2010. The family whose farm on the slopes below the volcano was devastated by the ash are now driving a roaring trade running a Visitors Centre, with a film documenting their experiences.

On the last night, Miss Jones put together a challenging and entertaining quiz for the group, including an Icelandic sports round written by Mr Johnson and Mr Stearn, a tough Chemistry round written by Dr Wong, and an entertaining "guess the teacher" round.

Overall, it was a fantastic trip: good humour, banter and silly photo opportunities abounded. Staff and students alike got involved in the fun and took away brilliant memories of a very special Icelandic adventure: sincere thanks must go to the teachers for organising it!

Reuben Das







LIVING HISTORY TRIP TO DENMARK

In the late August of summer 2012, a merry troop of our medievalists strode boldly forth toward the *Middelaldercentret*, or Middle Ages Centre, and back toward 1402, for a fortnight-long adventure of “dressing up” and “make believe”.



The centre is an incredibly authentic environment to live and work in, complete with open fires, free-roaming poultry and small children. It is a truly fascinating example of experimental archaeology (a method of archaeology where artefacts can be studied through using replicas of them). There is something magical about spending a night in a medieval bed, in a medieval dress and a medieval house, before being woken by the melodious cry of the cockerels.

In keeping with the Centre's thorough authenticity, the Living History group, or Gild of the Holy Cross, portrayed a merchant's household, selling smuggled wool to avoid English taxes. As well as that civilian role, we also represent the Cheshire archers, a company of archers serving Edward IV.

But in practice we also helped with the general running of the place, from feeding horses and sheep to the afternoon archery displays. In addition we controlled the full scale trebuchets, gardened, armed and watered the knights at the tournament, cooked food and manned our perennially popular have-a-go archery. The strangest thing was that, after the first few days, we fell into a remarkable efficient routine. Maybe it had something to do with the vast quantities of efficient and intelligent German tourists we seemed to be rubbing shoulders with.



The *Middelaldercentret's* being a pretty place and historically interesting isn't the only reason why we had such a wonderful time. Our Danish friends at the Centre (complemented by a range of Germans, Norwegians, Poles and more) were welcoming and a pleasure to be with. They were without exception all rather depressingly fluent in English, including the quirky and wonderful Kaare, who is the head of the centre. We learnt a lot from our sharing of cultures, from the religious openness of an interesting place called Sandkås in Bornholm to the fact that Germans at Christmas all seem to watch a black and white slapstick comedy called “Dinner for One” about an elderly lady and her butler... and find it hilarious. And in the end we loved them so much that we invited them to a medieval feast.



We were also lucky enough to have a couple of daytrips into the lovely Copenhagen, a city with wonderful palaces, museums and a stunning Cathedral, where we saw the dubious and disturbingly transparent design for the current Danish Monarch's sarcophagus.

We would really like to thank the three staff, Mr Davies, Miss Asher and Miss Baker, who came with us, chatted with us, ministered to the cut thumbs and tree-poked eyes, put up with our almost constant talking and, if not quite tucking us into our sleeping bags, at least checked lovingly that we'd reached our beds each night. Without such generosity, the trip really couldn't have happened.

In understanding other cultures, be they of the modern world, or indeed the past, we understand ourselves more, and reflecting on this has been wonderful.

Isabella Kessedjian

GRASSE

En mars 2012, nous avons passé une semaine incroyable à Grasse avec nos « correspondants » français, des élèves du Lycée Fénélon, un grand établissement scolaire pas loin de Nice. J'ai tout de suite été impressionné par l'accueil chaleureux qui nous avait été réservé, pas uniquement par nos correspondants mais aussi par les professeurs chargés de l'échange. Qu'avons-nous fait à part visiter des parfumeries et améliorer notre connaissance de la culture française?

Eh bien, la meilleure chose pour moi était la possibilité de faire des amis français et européens grâce à la Semaine Internationale organisée par le lycée français. C'était un « melting pot » d'enseignants et d'élèves de cinq pays différents qui, chaque année, offre à des élèves de première la possibilité de découvrir des façons de penser différentes, des coutumes, des attitudes, toujours dans la bonne humeur. Le « spectacle » que nous autres Anglais avons préparé sur la ville de Birmingham au cours duquel nous avons présenté des aspects de la culture « Brummie » a été bien reçu. C'était intéressant, en plus, de pouvoir observer et participer aux cours de nos correspondants. Mais ce qui m'a enrichi le plus c'était les opportunités qui se présentaient pour échanger des idées, pour se connaître et pour rire ensemble. Cette « ouverture des frontières » tout autant linguistique que sociale, a été d'une grande valeur.



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Notre visite au sud de la France a fini par être beaucoup plus qu'un séjour linguistique ou touristique car elle a ouvert nos yeux à d'autres façons de penser et de vivre. C'était une semaine inoubliable et unique que je conseillerais à tous, tant au niveau linguistique qu'au niveau culturel.

Peter Matthews

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO SLAPTON SANDS

It is difficult to describe exactly what I was expecting from this excursion, a trip to the sea-side to study the ecology of Slapton's shingle ridge: some combination of sparkling blue sea, golden beaches and a sweltering sun, perhaps. Sadly, this was not what awaited us on our arrival at Slapton.

Rather than embarking on the post-exam beach holiday that I was expecting, we were thrown into ecology before I had even unpacked my sun-cream, shorts and shades. They would never leave the dark depths of my bag that week. From the moment of our arrival at midday on Wednesday to our departure at the same hour on Saturday, forty-some other Divisions and I were immediately swept up into a tornado of activity: by the end of the first day we had stormed through key ecological terms with lightning speed and, just as the clouds above us descended on Slapton, we descended on the Ecology Centre's sunken garden to hunt for snails in order to carry out a capture-mark-release-recapture procedure for the estimation of the snail population.

Despite the fact that Mr Witcombe had raised our hopes high with descriptions of the Eden-like plenty of the dining-hall, we were not disappointed when we retreated to our rooms, stuffed with pizza and jacket potatoes. Not only head and shoulders, but also arms, torso, waist and most of the legs above the average

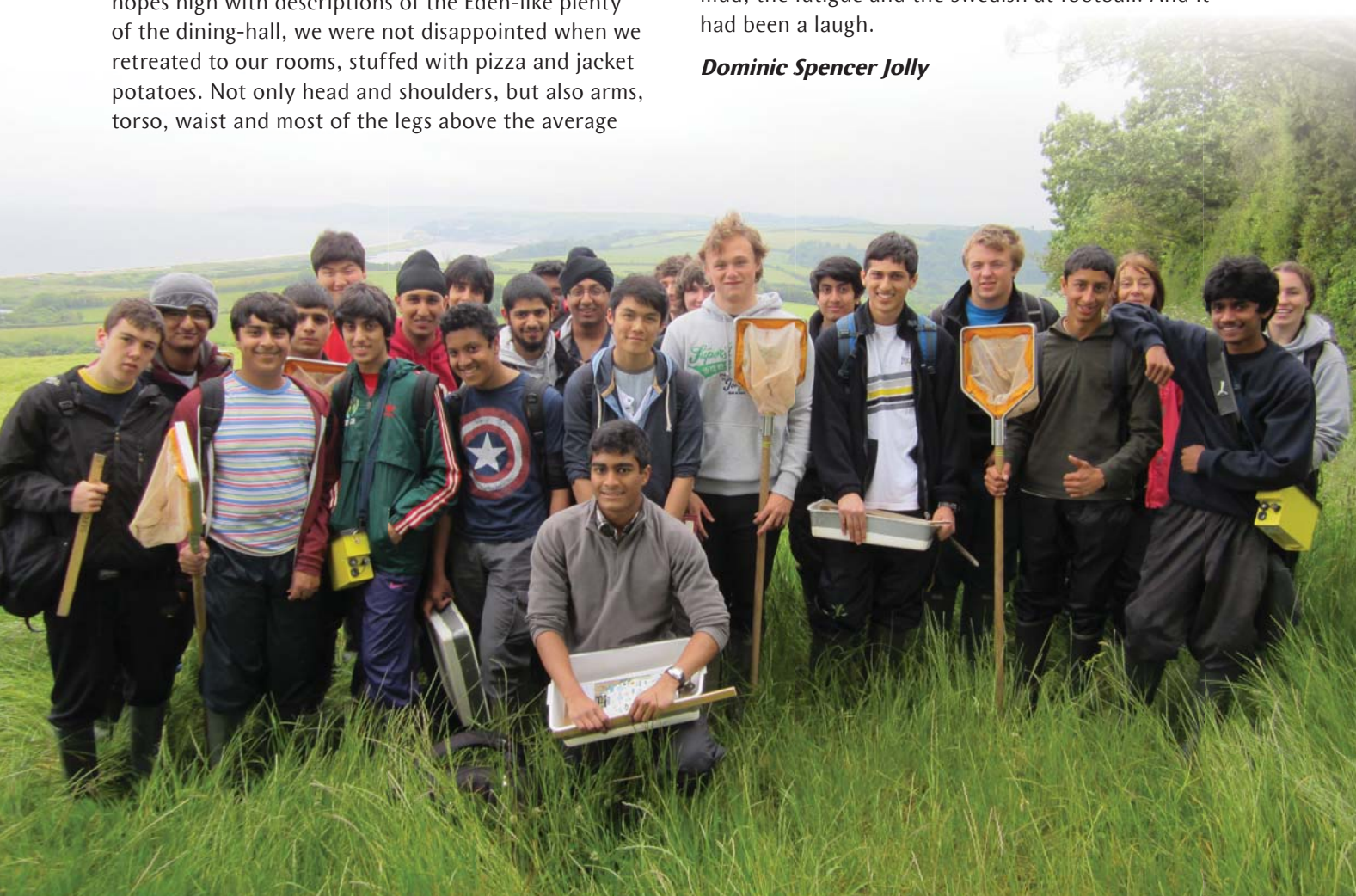
youth hostel, our bedrooms also did not disappoint: we were able to sink into comfortable beds at the end of a hard day's work and enjoy the privileges of en-suite bathrooms and a view over the sea.

Day two was spent studying succession on the beach at Slapton Sands. I would like to take this opportunity to dispel a myth about this beach. Despite being named Slapton Sands, this beach is in fact a shingle beach; whoever named it either had never visited the place, or simply intended fraudulently to lure unsuspecting tourists. However, my reflections on this day may be slightly coloured by the weather. Even in the windswept conditions and lashing rain, we soldiered on all day collecting the data we would need for our study of succession. However, I think each and every one of our number was relieved to collapse in front of the football or relax into a game of cards that evening.

Day three was fresh-water invertebrates, their habitats and food webs. After a game of fresh-water invertebrates top trumps, we headed into the woodland to investigate the species found in the Slapton Wood stream. The sun was now shining and the mood had picked up; this was an enjoyable day.

Beds stripped, packed-lunches made and bags packed, Saturday was the time to head for home. We had beaten the weather, the rain, the spray of the sea, the mud, the fatigue and the Swedish at football. And it had been a laugh.

Dominic Spencer Jolly



KES EXPEDITIONS AWARD SCHEME

I told them it would be fun!

Erecting a tent after nightfall in sub-zero temperatures in February; cooking pasta in the rain; close encounters with nocturnal wildlife; navigating through the ‘Welsh wilderness’; hiking in gales; discovering that you have been carrying ‘excess baggage’ because someone has slipped a log into your rucksack; losing your way for 2km but relocating the route unaided; recovering lost persons and dealing with an emergency far from help: these are just some of the more memorable challenges that boys from the UM year have had to face while participating in the KES Expeditions Award.

For the first time this year all boys in the Upper Middles have benefited from the school’s new and exciting Expeditions Award Scheme, devised to provide middle school students with a valuable and challenging outdoor experience. The scheme has been designed to dovetail with the already extensive programme of extra-curricular outdoor activities available at KES, with the aim of stretching individuals beyond the basic level achieved during Shells camp and Rems week.

The scheme is based on a progression through three stages: the first stage comprises three Friday afternoon sessions based at KES. These are interactive, hands-on experiences, including advanced map work, navigation skills, tent erection and expedition cooking, finishing with a session of scenarios to practise procedures used to cope with emergencies when far from help. These three sessions are compulsory for all boys and enjoyed by the large majority who then opt to enter stage two.

The second stage involves route planning and rucksack-packing sessions, followed by a training expedition, involving a half day hike from Barnt Green to Alvechurch, followed by an overnight camp based at the school’s own camp site, Andrew’s Coppice. On the Saturday, small groups have to elect their own leaders and follow their own routes, planned the night before by torchlight, to arrive back at KES by noon.

Fifty boys succeeded in passing through the preliminary training and practice phases and have just recently completed the final stage, hiking for a full two days through the Welsh borders and camping overnight below the ruins of a medieval castle near Llangollen. Participants carried full expedition packs, and were equipped with map, route card, compass





and new-found knowledge. Their excitement and anticipation were tangible on the morning of our departure, though a cloak of apprehension shrouded the group at the realisation that wind and rain were forecast for the entire two days!

On arrival at Chirk Station each group was assigned to one of the qualified mountain leaders who would be their supervisors and assessors. Their rucksacks were checked and they were quizzed about basic safety procedures and asked to produce completed route cards and maps. These were anxious moments: some quaked in trepidation as they desperately tried to remember how to 'set' the map, while others were eager to demonstrate that they already knew all there was to know. The rest quietly waited their turn to lead and later revealed hidden talents for motivating their groups. The weather was horrendously wet, and we were exhausted by the time the last of the groups reached the campsite, erected their tents and cooked their meals. An unscheduled visit to Wrexham A&E on the very day that GP's had decided to strike complicated and prolonged the day for staff.

For the boys, the real test came on the second day. Each group had the ultimate freedom of walking independently, following their own route through the hills and valleys with only remote supervision, meeting their assessors at prearranged checkpoints. By 3 pm, fifty boys had safely returned unaided, exhausted yet elated, having been fully tried and tested by all that the environment and climate of mid-Wales could throw at them.

The KES Award is intended act as preparation for bigger things to come. We hope that many boys will join the CCF, attempt the Gold Level Duke of Edinburgh's Award, or participate in one of the major annual expeditions that are being offered to Africa, South America or South East Asia. Whatever they choose to do in the future, few will forget the sense of achievement, independence and responsibility gained by leading their first outdoor adventure.

SEL, IJC & HAF

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

As the train hurtled down to London, all eight of us, besuited and armed with up-to-date research on our countries, were adding the finishing touches to our position papers. As the very first deputation sent by the school to a Model United Nations conference we were under pressure to perform well. The roles had been decided: Charles Wall and Tom Fenton were to represent Trinidad and Tobago; Keelan Fadden-Hopper, Venezuela; Imran Zaidi, the British Virgin Islands; while Kevin Vairavaraja and I were to represent Tunisia.

This conference was being held in the International Maritime Organisation's headquarters in London and aimed to simulate the real UN when it came to decision-making. This particular conference was going to be on Climate Change and had been timed to coincide with the end of the Durban Conference in South Africa.

We soon settled into the rhythm of things and were declaring our positions and motioning for debates with gently rising confidence; sometimes even going so far as undiplomatically criticizing China and the USA over their morality. We were rebuffed with 'maintain decorum' from the chair, and the overall process remained difficult and typically bureaucratic. By lunchtime, Tunisia was hobnobbing with China and Trinidad and Tobago were getting friendly with the UK and New Zealand. After a Savoy-style lunch (i.e. tuna sandwiches), work was resumed and by the end of the day our delegates had come up with several very good ideas, including financial aid for less-developed countries to become more environmentally friendly and proposals for more technologically advanced countries to share their technology, money and expertise.

After the conference was adjourned, Mr Arbuthnott promised us that we would now take a Tube train straight to our hotel. This, however, was easier said

than done: he discovered that the station we were meant to be getting off at didn't appear to exist. Nonetheless, we were not deterred and took a couple of 'taxis' (note the inverted commas). Our driver showed a blatant disregard for every single page of the Highway Code and made a 20 minute journey (by bus) take over a very startling hour. When we got to the hotel, we were all in shock at being told that one of the rooms was "in a different building, but in the same building". Nevertheless, we had an enjoyable night, planning our draft resolutions and finding the spare time to tour the 'wonderful' area of Peckham.

The next morning, we were back off to the IMO where we would cement our resolutions. Another arduous day passed, filled with arguing, motions and discussions, but by the end of it, the fruits of our labour emerged. A resolution was passed by the Small Islands Developing States Committee, with Tunisia and Trinidad and Tobago as sponsors (i.e. as two of the chief writers of the resolution). We had solved Climate Change! Well, sort of...

Our hard work did not go unnoticed: during the closing ceremony, the Tunisian delegation received an honourable mention and the Trinidadian delegation a "Best Delegation" award, despite competition from a great number of other delegates. The conference ended on a high for the boys from KES and we were very glad to have attended, learning an awful lot. None of this, of course, would have been possible without the hard work of Mr Arbuthnott and Mr Stearn and our utmost thanks go to them.

Yanbo Yin



THE OLYMPIC HOCKEY TRIP

On Thursday 3rd May, a group of 27 pupils from the school ventured down to the Olympic Park, London. The purpose of the trip was to provide an opportunity for the boys to watch two international men's hockey matches between four of the top hockey nations in the world and see the 2012 London Olympic Park as it nears completion. The matches took place at the Riverbank Arena on the new 'Smurf Turf' pitch situated in the heart of the Olympic Park. The first match saw Australia and Germany take to the field in an electric opening match between the two best sides in the world. With many of the world's best players on show, including the imperious German captain Mortiz Furste, the match was an excellent spectacle. Germany eventually ran out 3 – 1 winners in a closely fought match.

The second match, between Great Britain and India, generated an exceptional atmosphere for the boys to enjoy. Great Britain took an early lead courtesy of Rob Moore's stunning reverse stick shot after four minutes, and this set the tempo for a pulsating first half that saw Simon Mantell benefit from a defender's misfortune and East Grinstead hero Ashley Jackson net two deflections in as many minutes. Sandeep Singh scored the only goal of the second half as India showed more urgency; however, Great Britain recovered their composure to end the match 4 – 2. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, which was a fantastic advert for hockey at the school.

ME



REMS WEEK

Rems Week has been regarded by many pupils as one of the highlights of their time at King Edward's. It is a five-day trip that includes many exciting and fun activities. Whether it be kayaking in the calm Lake Bala; completing rope courses at the tops of astoundingly tall trees; or maybe even just sitting in a cozy cafe after a long and tiring hill walk, downing a lovely warm mug of hot chocolate; there will always be something special in Rems Week which will remain in a boy's memory among the best things that he did with his time at the school. During the five days we overcame challenges and managed achievements in teamwork, independence and self-confidence, and we left feeling proud. Rems Week is also a way of relaxing after the previous week, filled to the brim with exams. After days in a baking hot classroom full of sweating boys, the week refreshes everybody from the traumatic state of worrying.

There was never a dull moment throughout Rems Week, and each boy will take away memories of the week that confirmed friendships which had blossomed in the first two years at KES. Spending more time with each other than we had ever done before enlarged our views and knowledge of our classmates. As a team, we rejoiced at getting through the year and enjoyed our spoils in the beautiful landscape of Llanberis. We had a watersports day, went hillwalking, visited a power station and watched *The Apprentice*.

I believe that for many boys, the thing that made Rems week just that little bit more special was being able to share experiences with someone, whether it was boisterously fooling around in the dormitory or capsizing in the refreshingly cold lake (always purposefully, of course!). I know for certain that when a few of us, after freezing in our five layers climbing a mountain and then sitting at the summit savouring the all-round scrumptiousness of Turkish Delight which made us that bit warmer inside, what actually warmed our hearts was how we had willed each other on and supported one another.

For this wonderful week in Llanberis that will shape us in years to come, we thank the teachers who suffered us for a whole five days, and all those teachers who endured the other forms. In our form, we had the cheerful Dr Arico, the chirpy and wonderful Ms Powell and, of course, our personal photographer, leader and guide, Mr Boardman. Not to forget our amazing form tutor, Ms Seamark, who was with us in soul if not body. Thank you for the memories.

Josh Sagoo & Hanzalah Yaqub

SHELL CAMP

The first thing we saw as our coaches drove into Beaudesert Park was a vast field of green surrounded by trees and ruins. Not unlike snails under our huge rucksacks, we all filed excitedly out of the coach and into "the walled garden", where we would eat, sleep, and live for the next three days.

The first seemingly impossible task was to set up our tent. Many of us had never even been near such a feat, let alone attempted it, so I was very glad when my tent-mate told me he was a scout and had set up many tents before. Even so, it took a lot of effort, sweat, tugging and pleading before the thirty tents appeared on the previously vacant field, all complete with brightly-coloured exteriors, tiny interiors, sleeping bags and exhausted campers. For two nights the sleeping bags were our beds and blankets and the sun rays were our alarm clock, set to 4.30 am.

Our first activity was orienteering in a group of eleven. We were given a map of the site and immediately ran off to have an early start, since the map showed the park as absolutely enormous! The park included a forest, an old ruin, the "walled garden" (where we were staying), an arena and millions of stinging nettles and other strange plants. In pairs, we explored the area and had lots of fun wading through nettles, marshes and mud and searching high and higher for all those little wooden letters pinned to the very tops of the trees.

The park also facilitated a variety of exciting activities and was equipped for many games. We flew upside-down through the trees on a zip-line; nervously abseiled down a jagged vertical rock-face; and attempted to toast marshmallows on a fire made of just dry wood. The most fun activity was in the coracles: we were soaked through whilst attempting to control and steer a small circular boat in a lake. Despite being exhausted, we all walked over to the woods after dinner to play a challenging team-game which involved torches, rope, and, again, getting stung by nettles.

However, Shell Camp wasn't just about the activities. We were forced to quench our hunger by cooking on a camping stove—or face starvation. We tried to recreate hurried cooking practices and were provided with simple utensils and the stoves. Then we waited for water to boil or burgers to fry. Amidst the sounds of pasta-boiling and sausage-sizzling, the air was soon filled with delicious smells that varied from classic spaghetti bolognese to stir fry burgers and chocolate fondue. In the end, we all agreed that our fast-and-easy camp food was no worse than our mums' home cooking!

We can't wait for next year's Rems' Week!

Aloysius Lip

REMOVES VISIT TO THE LEICESTER SPACE CENTRE

When we got off the coach we were greeted by a large bubble-like building. We made a short walk to the entrance and then got into groups. We were split into groups of 3 or 4, and each group had to build three different rockets and make predictions about how fast the different designs would travel. After we had built our rockets, we tested the speed of them by launching them from an air pump and dividing the distance travelled by the time taken to travel. Then we worked out if our predictions had been correct. Afterwards, we ate lunch and had half an hour of spare time to look around the Space Centre and go to the shop.

After our spare time had run out we gathered into our groups and went upstairs to programme some Lego Mars Rovers. We did this by using a laptop to programme the Rover with a sequence of commands to carry out. After downloading the commands onto a Rover, we would position it next to an obstacle: the Rover had to complete a full circle around the obstacle. Next we had to make the Rover do a figure of eight around two obstacles. After completing this



figure of eight, we had to use a sensor on the Rover to detect an obstacle and stop in front of it without touching it. Then we visited the planetarium, which showed us lots of information about the planets in the solar system and even included a quiz. Although it was fun, it was rather dizzying. After the planetarium we had been about to go on the simulator but we ran out of time, so we had to go to the coach and back to school. We thoroughly enjoyed this trip and recommend everyone to go to the Leicester Space Centre!

Pav Suthi, Sam Saffarian, Hugo Easlea & Justin Hsu



UM GERMAN EXCHANGE 2012

In June, 13 very brave UM German students took part in the German Exchange Programme: hosting German pupils for a few days in their homes and, in return, spending 5 days with German families in the small town of Dorsten in the north-west of Germany. After just under a year of German lessons, boys were eager to try out some of their newly acquired language skills, and experience a bit of German life and culture.

There was no time for feeling homesick, as we had an action-packed week to get through. While most evenings were spent with the host families, the days were full of travel, activities and events: an excursion to Cologne with its impressive "Dom" cathedral and, 500 steps later, a breath-taking view over the city; a day in a theme-park; a morning and lunch in school; swimming at the local "Water World"; a tour of the Jewish Museum; an afternoon on a high ropes course; a 4 hour cycle tour of the local area; and loads of ice-cream! The last evening was spent at a BBQ party organised in the home and garden of one of the host families; a TV had been set up outside so that we could watch the European Cup game.

Back at Birmingham Airport, AXH and I handed over 13 very tired, happy boys to their parents. Thanks to everyone involved for a great trip!

JH

DIVISIONS AND FOURTHS ART TRIP TO OXFORD

We were taken to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History museums. The Natural History Museum looks a bit like a miniature version of the one in Kensington, with its gothic cast iron roof and Minton tile floor; it was similarly full of minerals and the bones of prehistoric creatures. But the Pitt Rivers Museum was an unforgettably unique experience. For those who don't know this place, it is tucked away at the back of the Natural History Museum, and its cabinets of every single type and style of curiosity are crammed full, with little regard for contemporary methods of display. Hand written labels hang at impossible angles from unidentifiable objects gathered from every corner of the globe. Only the whirr of wind-up torches (very eco-friendly) broke the hushed reverence that we found ourselves studying in. These torches were essential for shedding light upon hundreds of thousands of objects (shrunk heads, the arcana of witchcraft, weirdly wonderful talismans, ancient armour and sorts of weaponry unknown even to the Living History Group...) which we made our studies from.

After lunch, we went to the Ashmolean Museum, which contained art covering a wide variety of subjects from an even wider variety of places. The temporary exhibition, part of the Cultural Olympic



celebrations, was a real hit for many of us: sculptures of able and disabled athletes in contemporary and earlier 20th century styles were in marked contrast to the Lovecraftian eccentricities of the Pitt Rivers Museum. There is also some good Egyptian material here, but most of us stayed with the sculpture work, preferring these dynamic interpretations to the world of Howard Carter.

Thanks must go to Miss Seamark, Dr Porter-Salmon and Mr Spencer for organising the trip and taking us with them: next time we want to be taken to the ice creams we were told were so good but never got anywhere near.

Ben Galyas



TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO BERLIN, MUNICH, PARIS AND BARCELONA

For three weeks in the summer holidays, four intrepid KES boys enjoyed the trip of a lifetime. Inspired by the hype surrounding the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, our trip took us around several previous European venues, with the aim of discovering the impact of hosting the Olympic Games on these cities, and having a bit of fun at the same time.

The Berlin games of 1936 are famous for an attempt by Hitler to show off the dominance of white German

athletes, and the frustration of this attempt by the black American athlete Jesse Owens. The main stadium today is used by a local athletics club, but little else remains. Indeed, it is unlikely that there are many people still alive who witnessed these games. Of course, a visit to Berlin would not be complete without a trip to the Berlin wall.

Munich turned out to be something of a hidden gem. It is a truly beautiful city and an equally beautiful setting for its *Olympiapark*, just on the outskirts of town. It seems a shame that the events of the 1972 Olympics were over-shadowed by the hostage episode. The site today is still regularly used, with many activities going on when we were there, and perhaps this could be used as a template for what happens to London's Olympic park.

Paris hosted the Olympics in 1924, and there is little legacy of the games left. However, we visited the main Stadium, the Stade des Colombes, that to this day is still used for middle-league rugby and football games.

Barcelona hosted in 1992 a Games free of terrorist outrages and fascist propaganda. Barcelona is a city defined by more than absences, though, as we discovered. It has beaches, the sea, fine architecture, history, restaurants and excellent nightlife. The Olympic Park, like that of Munich, is also set in a very beautiful location, nestled amongst some fantastic buildings in a breath-taking area.

Overall, it has to be said that all of us would encourage other boys to apply for a Travel Scholarship: not only do you get to see some life beyond KES, but you definitely become more mature as a person. We would definitely describe this trip as character building and 100% the best three weeks of our lives to date; it'll take a lot to top this experience. We would all like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the governors.

Jonathan Duckett

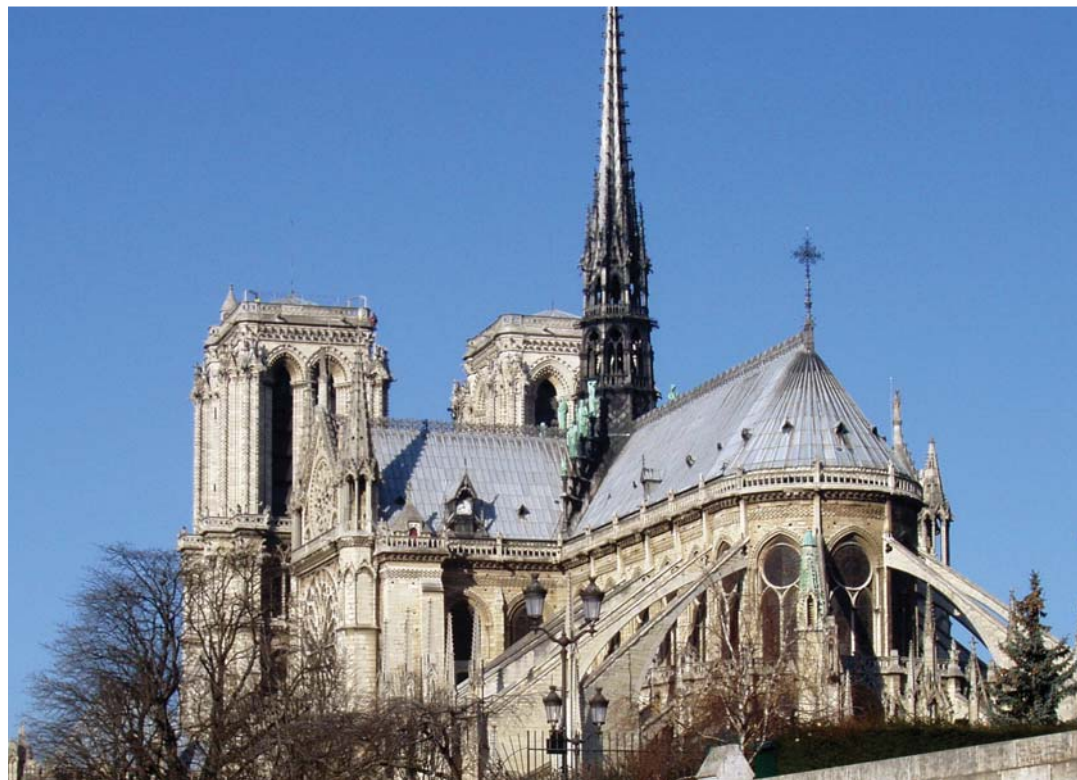


‘YOUR FUTURE IN EUROPE’ CONFERENCE, PARIS 2012

One cold February morning a group of Divisions set off for Paris, knowing that we would be attending two of three conferences. On Friday each of us would attend one of two half-day conferences: “Focus on French” or “Focus on Business”; on Saturday we would all attend the full-day conference on “Your Future in Europe”. All of the conferences proved educational and inspiring. In our free time, we were given the chance to explore Paris’s attractions and culinary pleasures at our leisure.

Many of those in attendance expected the conferences to focus on the dim prospects for Europe’s future, but in fact most speakers remained convinced that the EU still has a lot to offer despite the disconcerting economic climate. The ‘Focus on French’ talk, whilst entirely baffling for Mr Mason, was a chance for us to stretch our linguistic skills beyond the boundaries of the IB course. The talks focused on tourism in Paris and the importance of physical activity to a balanced and successful life. For Mr Mason, this talk presented an opportunity to catch up on some sleep and play games on his phone (*Surely not! Ed.*). One of the highlights of the ‘Focus on Business’ conference was the talk by a representative from ‘Innocent Smoothies’, who explained the importance of listening to consumers and using their feedback to improve products.

The main conference was far larger and featured the much anticipated Evan Davis of ‘Dragons’ Den’ and the ‘Today Programme’. He offered his own take on the economic situation in Europe and on where the structural weaknesses in the European Union lie. He argued that the main failure had been that of trying to establish a single currency among states without a united fiscal policy. The final event of the day was a “Question Time” style debate between representatives from the three major UK political parties, with Evan Davis also on the panel. Questions were of varying quality and pertinence, as were the answers: some devolved into political point scoring.



Exploring one of the most beautiful cities in the world independently was arguably the best aspect of the trip. The group split up in the evenings to go to different restaurants for food and drink and then everyone went in search of Parisian attractions.

All in all it was an informative, interesting and enjoyable trip. We would like to thank Mr Mason and Mr Irvine for organising the weekend and accompanying us.

Tom Horton, Ben Robertson

TREKKING IN THE ALPS

Nine of us, accompanied by Messrs Ostrowicz and Connor, flew off to the warmth, sunshine and mountains of Geneva. The walking proper began in Chamonix with some tricky clambering over scree and rock in the midday sun. A few hours of ascent brought us to our destination for the night: a refuge in the shadow of Mont Blanc and overlooking Le Lac Blanc. We made a rather pitiful attempt at swimming in this glacial lake: apart from Simon Kent, who seemed to like it, we could only bear a few minutes in the freezing water.

In the morning we began the next section of walking, which was part of the Tour De Mont Blanc. We passed the time chatting, at times singing or, more often than not, listening to Jamie Mitchell moan about being tired. At one point we amused ourselves by standing in a circle, holding hands and touching an electric fence. What fun. Our rest for the night was in a small Swiss village with a lovely walkers' refuge. Next came the biggest walking day of all: we climbed up to the Fenêtre d'Arpette and down again in around eight and a half hours. This was thoroughly tiring, but we all gained a real sense of achievement as we sat down for dinner and looked out at how high we had climbed.

After a rather sleepless and nervous night we awoke to the dreaded GCSE Results Day. The walking began early and after a few hours we stopped for results phone calls. We needn't have been so nervous: collectively we managed a fantastic 85 A*s and 15 As. After a celebratory beer at lunch we carried on the walking in high spirits. The day after this was another long day of walking to our final refuge, the most 'basic' of them all: we were without showers and all shared a room with other walkers. It was, however an incredible place to be, with a vast glacier next to the refuge.

The final day was spent in the pretty town of Chamonix, where we were lucky enough to have access to showers and clean sheets. After a go on the surprisingly scary luge we got the flight home in the evening. I speak for all ten boys when I say that the Alps trip was a fantastic trip: there was beautiful scenery and great company. Most important, too, is the fact that Sam Bennett said the trip was physically harder than the Kilimanjaro climb. We would all like to thank Mr Ostrowicz and Mr Connor for giving us such an opportunity; further thanks must go to Messrs Claughton and Dewar for giving up their time to drive us to and from the airport.

Tom Claughton



THE ARDECHE TRIP

On our first morning we set off to see the remains of a Roman amphitheatre in the centre of Orange. It was a magnificent sight and an excellent learning experience: there were small recordings at certain points in the amphitheatre that told you all about what the Romans did there and how they built it. Outside the amphitheatre there were also the ruins of a small temple, and we visited a famous Roman arch that was built at the same time as the amphitheatre.

This was followed by a trip to the Orgnac caves. We entered through a man-made passageway, down many stairs, that continued through the whole cave. Our guide showed us tall stalagmites which were hundreds, if not thousands of years old. Some were so huge that they had reached the roof of the cave, a truly wonderful sight to see.

We stayed in chalets, with four of us in each one. On the first night we met our instructors for the trip, who would all be helping to make sure we were safe. The next morning we went to a traditional French marketplace and spent the morning there, trying out our French. The afternoon was spent walking along a gorge overlooking a beautiful river on which we could see many kayaks and canoes.

Our first experience of being on the Ardeche river occurred on the Monday morning: we spent half the day learning how to paddle and travelled down some rapids. On Tuesday we had hoped to go rock climbing, but a day-long thunder storm forced us to go to the Haribo

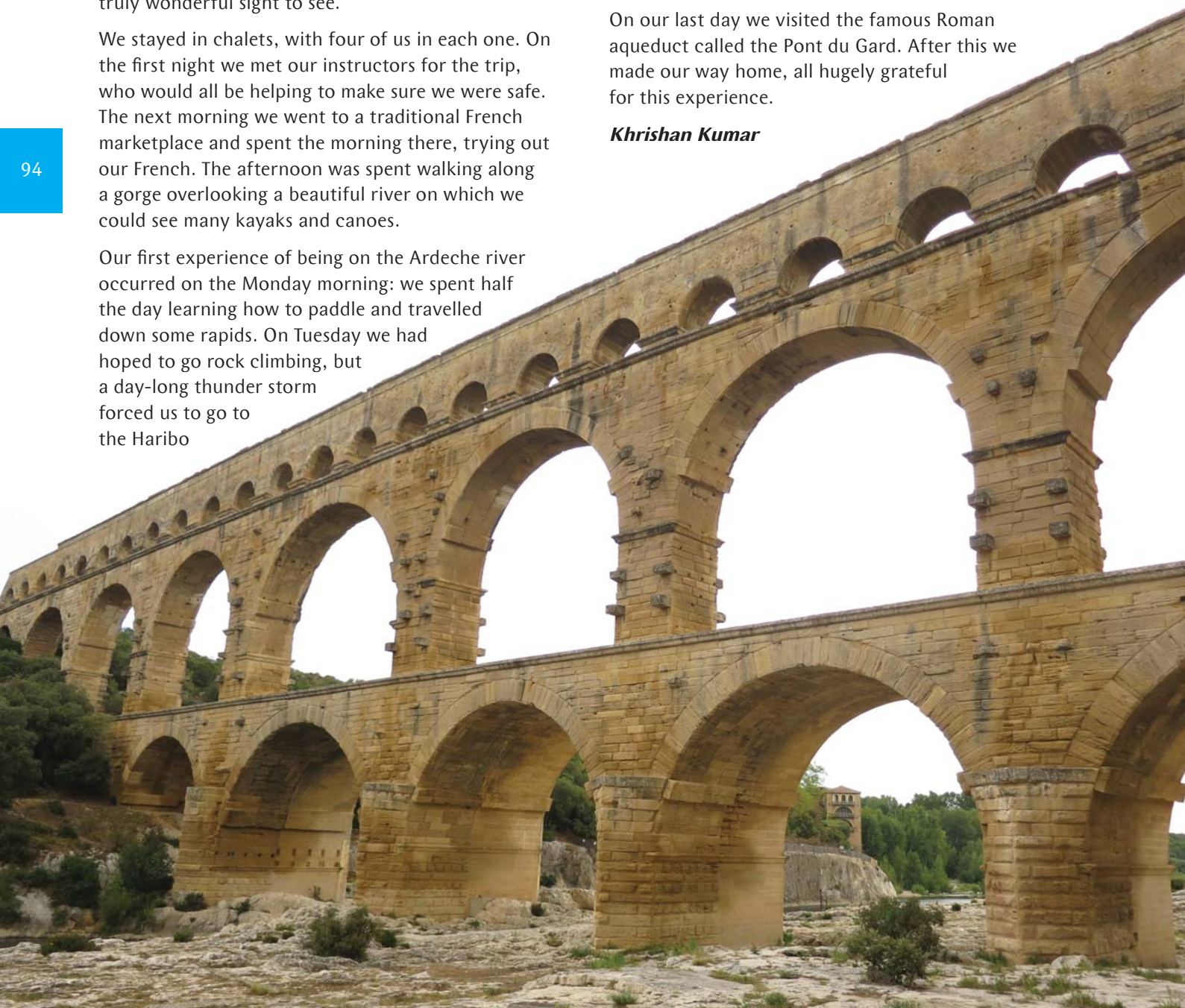
factory instead. Not too bad, I suppose. We learnt a lot about Haribos, and many of us carried truckloads of sweets home!

Wednesday saw the weather improve, so all fifty of us went to the high ropes course. This was one of my highlights of the week and we all had a lot of fun jumping, climbing and zip-wiring through the trees.

The week seemed to have passed quickly and suddenly we were at the last stage of our trip: the two day river descent. The rapids tossed us around and splashed us in the face. The first rock jump was a four-metre one, although it felt more like twenty. That night we stayed at a different campsite, where we had the option of sleeping under the stars. Half of us slept out; we even saw a shooting star pass over. The next morning we awoke, dreading millions of bites on our bodies, but luckily the insects had held off! The final day on the river was just as much fun as the first, but with an even higher rock jump.

On our last day we visited the famous Roman aqueduct called the Pont du Gard. After this we made our way home, all hugely grateful for this experience.

Khrishan Kumar





THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Vimy Ridge is a chilling introduction to the violence of trench warfare. Rising out of the flat plain between Ypres and Arras, it took Canadian forces months of planning before they launched their assault upon the German positions there but, for all their meticulous preparation, the fighting was still incredibly fierce. The Canadians took the ridge in 1917, at the cost of 3,500 men, and this is still hailed as a victory. We realized the senselessness of the First World War at that first visit on the tour.

Tyne Cot is the largest British war cemetery in the world. The vast number of Portland limestone headstones makes the area sparkle and, in a way, it is beautiful. But the grim reality of what it represents is what makes the cemetery so tragic. The second cemetery we visited was at Langemark, which is the only German monument on the Salient. In Langemark there is a weedy, unkempt patch of soil half the size of a football penalty box. A plaque tells the reader that the bodies of 25,000 unidentified soldiers lie underneath the soil. Standing in front of this mass grave was moving, but frankly sickening. I don't think I will ever forget it.

That night we went to the Menin Gate to witness the remembrance ceremony. Traffic was halted, visitors laid wreaths and a lone bugler sounded the Last Post. The number of people there was surprising; the ceremony has taken place daily since the completion of the memorial in 1929 and will continue until the Last Post has been played once for each of the names on the wall. At the end of the ceremony the entire area fell completely silent; even the echoes in the cavernous heights of the monument ceased. At Ypres



we could feel a genuine respect and pride for those who fell.

Now infamous for General Haig's attrition tactics, the Somme was a major British battle and, like Ypres, it has a massive memorial to its missing, at Thiepval. On top of one of the ridges, the 73,000 names inscribed numbed us more than the bitterly cold wind. Yet we and the wind were all that were present at Thiepval; that area of the battlefield seemed completely empty of human life.

Verdun has a military history pre-dating Roman times and was a place of great French national pride. Thus the battle for it was incredibly bloody for both sides. The Ossuary at Douaumont is testament to this. The physical remains of 130,000 unidentified soldiers could be seen through little porthole windows. On seeing this, for the second time on the trip, I felt physically sick.

No history textbook, teacher or lesson can equal the impact of standing next to the towering statue at Vimy Ridge, or next to the graves at Langemark, Douaumont or Thiepval. Realising the scale of the loss of life, and indeed of humanity, is just as important as the precise dates and facts. Therefore all of us owe enormous thanks to Mr Fern for not only showing this to us, but also for organising and executing the entire trip. Thanks must also go to the other staff, Mr Dewar, Mr Phillips and Mr Barratt, for their commitment in taking us. I can only hope the trip will run again and provide future boys with the same experience.

Joshua Kimblin

KILIMANJARO

11:00pm. 15,520 feet up (4,750 metres). The hot chocolate and biscuits are finished. We put on our packs and venture out of the mess tent. The darkness and solitude are overwhelming. We begin to walk in silence.

The first few minutes pass easily as we manoeuvre away from the camp site. Then we turn to begin a climb described as at best a 'slog' in the guide book. 'Don't look up' we are told; the faint-hearted will just turn back. Hour passes hour as we trudge ever upwards, a crocodile of head-torches zig-zagging their way to the Roof of Africa. Some aren't destined to make it; a couple and their guides come silently down from above, their summit attempt over. A Japanese man is curled up just off the path, anxious guides trying to calm his distress. This mountain takes no prisoners; last New Year's Eve, when over 1000 people made the ascent, 3 did not make it back alive and over 30 needed rescuing.

We are as well prepared as we could be. This is our 10th day of continuous walking, having already summited Little Meru and Mount Meru (14,917 feet, 4,566 m). Sunrise over Kilimanjaro, seen from Mt Meru across the Tanzanian plains, was a hard-earned majestic sight. The higher we climb the colder it gets. Water bottles in outer pockets freeze. Hands and feet sting and breathing becomes more laboured. A faint glimmer on the horizon suggests daybreak will come soon.

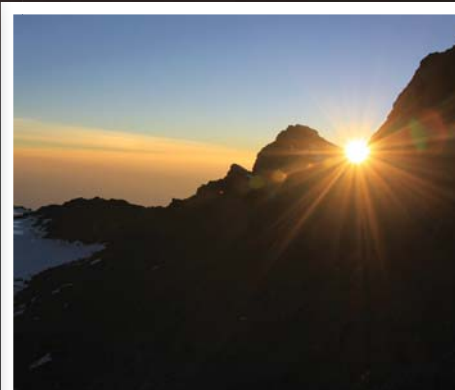
The scree (two paces up and one slipped backwards) turns to rock and the gradient gets steeper still. Gilman's Point, where are you? Drink water, and yet more, to avoid headaches. 'Pole-pole!' ('Slowly, slowly') shout the guides. The fact that we have managed only a few hours of sleep in the last few days (a symptom of altitude) adds to the fatigue. Bacon sandwiches fly in and out of peoples' mind too vividly. Resolve and determination are your only ally.

Seven and a half hours after setting out (just half of the day's total walking time), the rising sun greets our arrival at the edge of the volcanic cone. There is immense relief at getting all of the 20 strong party to the top, to be met with a relieving cup of hot sweet tea (how did the summit porter manage that?). Just over an hour later we reach Uhuru Peak, at 19,259 feet (5,895m) the highest point on the continent of Africa, higher even than Everest base camp, further around the crater rim. There is no time for snowballs, just a few minutes for some well-earned congratulations and photographs before the three hour descent back to Kibo Hut, a short rest and then a further descent down off the mountain. Five days up yet just two down. The Impala Hotel in Moshi, hot showers and soft comfy beds, feels like paradise on Earth.

So was it all just physical hardship? A trip to the Rau rain forest showed us the local vegetation and Colobus monkeys. An afternoon spent at the Amani Children's Home, with an impromptu football match against the imposing backdrop of snow-clad Kilimanjaro, put in perspective how very fortunate we are to travel from our First World luxury to the Third World struggle for survival. Two and a half days of game viewing, including a whole day in the Ngorongoro Crater (in fact a caldera, not a crater, for the geographers amongst you), was a highlight at the end of our two and a half weeks. Having wild elephants literally within touching distance from our 4x4s, as well as seeing a wide range of classic African mammals and spectacular birdlife, made this a fantastic trip.

Will Kilimanjaro and Meru prove the starting points for boys from KES to venture further into the great continent of Africa? As the saying goes, 'He who tastes the waters of Africa always returns'.

DMW





HOUSES

COCK HOUSE RANKINGS

Position	House	House Points
1st	Cary Gilson	611
2nd	Prince Lee	519
3rd	Evans	498
4th	Vardy	464
5th	Heath	447
6th	Gifford	420
7th	Levett	415
8th	Jeune	408

CARY GILSON

For many years, Cary Gilson had been condemned to the lower half of the Cock House rankings. Even our superstars could not lift us from a state of apathy or break the shackles of defeat. Dejectedly we told ourselves that Cary Gilson was in fact good; we reconciled ourselves to our disappointment by accusing other Houses of conspiring against us; and we told ourselves that it was little triumphs, not winning the Cock House, which really mattered. There appeared to be no hope: the constant encouragement from House Masters and Tutors fell on increasingly deaf ears until, in 2009, we were placed 5th! Once again in 2010 we came 5th! Rumours spread that times might be changing for the boys in black and blue. In the following year we battled to gain higher rankings across the Cock House competition and we became a connected consciousness with a hunger for first place. When we were ranked second in the 2011 Cock House order, we thought that our luck and good fortune had reached heights that we would never reach again; but this was not to be the case.

Winning the Cock House this year has been the



culmination of hard work, determination and Cary Gilson's burning desire to taste sweet victory and not bitter defeat. We have not won every event in the competition, but we have turned up to events and competed to the best of our ability. Our successes this year, such as winning Athletics Standards, have been achieved on the backs of boys who might not be the most talented of competitors turning up and getting stuck in. I would like to make a special mention of Joe Attwood, who suffered a serious leg injury whilst trying to gain Athletics Standards: I hope, Joe, that by the time you read this you are fully recovered and do not injure yourself again!

There are too many people who deserve thanks for me to fit them all in here, but a few really cannot be missed out: firstly Simon Kent, for a sterling individual musical performance and on breaking the Fifth Form shot-put record; the Tutors and Mr Turner in particular for their unfailing efforts and for supporting us all; and, most importantly, the Upper Sixths, for their truly unrivalled commitment and ceaseless enthusiasm, without which we would have had no chance of winning the Cock House Trophy this year.

2012 marks the third time in the last fifty years that Cary Gilson has won the Trophy. Now we are the House to beat. The future is bright. The future is Cary Gilson.

Andrew Eckert



PRINCE LEE

As undeniably the strongest House in recent times, having won the coveted Cock House Trophy in three out of the last four years, Prince Lee had a position to defend this year.

Under the sturdy leadership of a Prince Lee legend, George Wilson, we set off at a blistering pace in the Autumn Term, winning Minor Debating, Senior Badminton, and Removes Fives, to name but a few. The Shells proved their worth with a second place finish in both Rugby and Squash. We hope for similar in the future.

The highlight of the Spring Term, for many of us, was 'House Shout'. Throughout the years, we have performed poorly in this event, only saved from the ignominy of eighth place by performances from Heath and Levett. However we decided that this year would be different. An astonishing performance of Dancing in the Moonlight, led by Vickram Ravirajan, Harry Davenport, Rijul Bohra and Peter Shipway (another Prince Lee Legend) culminated in a fantastic final position of third.

Traditionally our strongest sport is swimming, where the House performed admirably again, winning both Senior and Fourths Water Polo and finishing second in the UM's. Our commitment continued through the Summer Term with successes in Athletics: the Fifths won (credit to Steven Yang and Peter Shipway) and the Fourths finished third.

At the end of the year, we had been beaten by quite a considerable margin by a superior Cary Gilson, and finished second. Disappointing as this was, we had maintained our place as one of the elite Houses of the school and had proven that it takes a considerable force to stop us.

Finally, I think some special mention must be given to a certain few who have put in a particular effort for the House over the past years. From the Sixth Form we have lost some extraordinary characters and sportsmen, such as Nathan Roberts, Girish Murali, Alhasan Al-habib and Jaspal Jheeta. But a special mention must go to a special two: Peter Shipway and George Wilson. Peter became the first ever member of Prince Lee to gain official 'Prince Lee Legend' status: extraordinary, considering that he was only a Fifth when he claimed this elevation. George has the incredible status of being the second greatest Prince Lee member ever! We may have lost some true Prince Lee heroes, but I still feel that Prince Lee has much to give in the coming years.

Alex Russell



EVANS

Evans have often faltered out of the starting blocks, but not this year. The House Challenge team, led by Ben Fernando, won the competition impressively and this was quickly followed by a win in Senior House Debating thanks to the eloquent Frank Lawton and the erudite Dominic Bealby-Wright. The remainder of the term was less impressive until towards the end, when the Shell Rugby team comfortably won their competition. Caleb Turner scored a multitude of tries and was clearly player of the tournament. This encouraging performance gives us hope for future years. However, we had secured a lowly 5th position at the Christmas of this one.

We always come back for the Spring Term enthused, re-invigorated and inspired, knowing that traditionally this is the term when the jolly green giant roars into life, slaying all opposition with relish. Senior Rugby was a predictable triumph. Any team who had to face Ryan "the Lion" Millar, Eddy Matthews, Ed Jackson, Connor McGuirk, Jonathan Duckett and the rest of the green infantry were quaking in their boots, feigning illness and injury

as the sea of green tore them to shreds. Dominic Bealby-Wright and Dan Turner, that dynamic duo, led Senior Cross Country to victory also. Second place in Basketball was a considerable achievement inspired by Raman Sidhu. House Music is an Evans stronghold, and Roberto Ruisi deservedly won, banishing the memory of last year's controversial joint 5th position. House Shout was led majestically by Dan Turner, who chose Mumford and Sons' *Little Lion Man*. A terrific performance led to an outstanding double. All boys involved deserve massive credit. Suddenly we were second and back in with a shout.

The summer weather was appalling and the Summer Term itself was a bit of a damp squib. Sam Arrand led the Senior tennis team to second position, helped by Akshay John, Nick Bleasdale and David Newton. The Minors won tennis, thanks to the first pair of Richard Newton and Cameron Shaylor. Out of the blue we won Senior cricket in spite of a seeding of 5th: Naveen Kumararatne and Suhail Chaudhry helped Evans superstar Bruno Richards to secure victory. But Swimming and Athletics Standards were both very disappointing and the main reason for our eventual slip into 3rd position.

The winner of the Evans Senior Shield was Bruno Richards and the Junior Shield went to Richard Newton.

SJT



VARDY



As a lifelong Coventry City supporter one gets used to disappointments, but it was still a shock to discover at the end of the Autumn Term that Vardy were languishing in eighth place in the Cock House competition. The Senior indoor competitions had not gone well, the Challenge and Debating teams had been severely weakened by the loss of last year's leavers, and a mix up over a reserve in an early round led us to missing out when positions were declared in the Chess competition. However, Tom Anderson, as House Captain, gave a stirring speech which seemed to inspire the Vardy Army to fight back.

The Shells certainly heeded the call, winning the Cross Country competition, with James Aggas and Oscar Lyttle producing excellent performances. Later in the year the Shells also won the Athletics competition, with Govind Khatkar emerging as a strong athlete. In the Removes there were fine performances in Table Tennis and Squash, and Cameron Hundle was awarded the Remove of the Year award. The Upper Middles are a very talented group of lads, winning Rugby as well as finishing a close second in Cross Country and Tennis. One notable performance was Arman Mohammad's accumulation of over 600 Athletics Standards points. In the Fourths there were excellent performances in Table Tennis, Rugby, Squash, Tennis (led by Olly Cull) and Athletics. In Standards, Kevin Raja amassed a total of over 800 points.

House Shout was another triumph, resulting in second place. Mention should also be made of Tom Anderson's performance in the classical music competition. The

Seniors exceeded all expectations with a top three finish in Basketball and in Athletics, despite the pressures of external examinations, came second overall, with a great contribution from Jared Bentsi-Enchill. Perhaps one of the most notable efforts came in Swimming, where only a handful of swimmers were present on the night of the finals. These gallant few, led by Harry Cowley, rarely seemed to be out of the water and ensured a respectable overall position.

In the final assembly it emerged that Vardy had, once again, finished a creditable fourth overall. Whilst this assembly is a light hearted affair, as the end of term looms, there is always the sad task of saying goodbye to those who have served their time in Vardy. This group of lads have had the unenviable task of being the first IB cohort and they have had a lot more to cope with than the previous A Level groups, but they have been prepared to find the time to serve the House. I am grateful for all their contributions – in particular to Tom Anderson, who has been an excellent House Captain, ably supported by Jared Bentsi-Enchill.

HEATH

This has been an exciting year at Heath House, not least because it was my first year in the job and I had a rich tradition to live up to. From the start it was clear that this was a bunch of gents with a great deal of pride in their House, who were keen to make it into something special. We were blessed with some super characters in the Sixths, led by the capable Henry Bellshaw, who threw himself wherever he was needed. George Cheetham proved himself to be a quiet man with a massive sense of service, storming the athletics track and rocking the world at House Shout. Charlie Hughes was another pillar of strength, showing initiative, leadership and pure commitment to the cause. Other Sixths of note include Salman, Sam, Ali, Ihsaan, Tom, Manvir, John, Mundev and Pav, who all pulled their weight at various times throughout the year to help lead this House from the front.

However, this was not a year for a top heavy effort. With the Sixths away on exam leave so early, our Divisions really had to front up and take over the reins. It started with the mentoring of younger boys and ended with some huge efforts across a range of events, from characters too numerous to list. I was particularly impressed by the way the boys rose to the leadership challenge in a variety of ways which suited their own personalities: some boys led by physical

example, others became very administratively competent. There were some House ties awarded to boys in the Fifths who made an extra effort to serve Heath when called upon, and these honours also extended to some stars in the Fourth's.

The Shells breathed fresh life into our yellow army, showing commitment and great resolve from early on. Likewise, our Rems and UMs kept the Heath machine rolling with strong results across a range of events. This is central to what I would like us to achieve here at Heath. If every man can do his part, then we will have a strong base to build on. If we rely on star players to carry the entire House, then we will certainly founder.

Together with incoming House Captains Tim Wheeler and Idrees Mughal, I have set some targets for Standards that we hope to achieve in swimming and athletics. We strongly believe that a man should be judged not by the outcome of his efforts, but by the effort itself. That is the Heath philosophy. If every man sheds some heavy sweat for our House on the track or in the pool, then we can hold our heads high regardless of the Cock House final standings. What's more, we will walk away from this place as better people, enriched by the experience of pulling together for a common goal. That is what the House system is all about, and that is what makes us true men of Heath.

CGI





GIFFORD

Walking around school and seeing the number of prestigious purple ties in the corridors makes me proud to be a part of Gifford. In House meetings I can see a House that has the potential to be great. During my time in Gifford, many fresh faces have arrived with the prospect of greatness, ready to lead this House back to its glory years. The time has arrived to regain our rightful place. The once young blood of Gifford is becoming a finished product and our hopes of sitting at the top of the Cock House table have been rekindled this year.

Last year was but a minor blip in our aim to reach the top and wipe the smug smiles off the faces of others, who will henceforth gaze up at us as the House to beat. Despite a strong start to the year, with high positions in the Senior Indoor competitions and Senior Rugby, the House let slip what was potentially the beginning of a triumphant comeback. Despite a strong team coming second in the Gifford stronghold that is Senior Cricket, we were hampered by a very weak showing in Athletics and Swimming Standards. The boys in purple ended up finishing in that half of the table that the weaker Houses are all too familiar with.



However, this mediocrity will not persist. I feel that the coming year will be something special. The return of our great Housemaster, Mr McMullan, is the motivation needed to kick-start our emergence onto the House scene once again. With this motivation and the coming forth of our eager and talented younger Giffordians, we will paint the school purple. We will leave others in our wake on South Field and Eastern Road. We will stun opponents with astonishing moments of brilliance. We will have Mr Dewar signing more Standards cards with the names of Giffordians than he would have imagined in his worst nightmares.

2012-2013 will be our time to shine, our year to show others what we are made of. There is no 'I' in team, and that is what we are, together, under the name of Gifford: we are a family of Giffordians and it is time to make others recognise the power of Purple once again.

Harvey Jennings

LEVETT

This year the House has remained strong, consistently challenging the dominating Houses through its pluck and sheer force of will. This is epitomised by a well-deserved second place in Athletics Standards, a feat achieved not by outstanding sportsmanship but rather by the motivation and determination which are intrinsic to the Levettian spirit.

The year also proved to be Levett's final year of residence in the much cherished MPL, a home that has become engrained into Levett's identity. It has been the location of many inspiring talks and many odd occurrences: from Mr Roll and Ted Smith exchanging their clothes to Alex Hunter hugging people dressed as Father Christmas. It will be much missed.

The final meeting in the MPL was an eventful one, focussed on 'A Day in the Life of a Levettian,' a presentation in which a representative from each year gave a talk on his experiences in the House. The Rems, Levett's golden boys this year, had once again proved their mettle in the Cock House competition with a first place in athletics and third places in tennis and water-polo: clearly, no one had told them that water is not the natural home of the Levettians. This final meeting in the MPL was brought to a close with awards: Joe Tedd was proclaimed the term's star and Alex Hardy and Hari Chauhan were awarded the Levett Cup.



Levett is a House that would not be the same without certain key individuals. The first is Ted Smith, a lively and charismatic leader who, it can be said, has supercharged the Levett spirit, transforming full House meetings from tawdry happenings towards the end of term to an unpredictable hotchpotch of activity inspiring a House to future Cock House success. Another such individual would be Levett's diligent head of House, Mr Roll: not only has he tirelessly piloted Levett through some of the House's more subdued years, but he has also kept the Levettians in high spirits throughout.

All that is left to say is that, with Michael Farrow taking the proverbial torch from Ted Smith, Levett hopes to move forward, hoisting itself up the Cock House table whilst staying true to that ever valued Levettian spirit.

Krishan Venu-Gopal



JEUNE

At the start of the Autumn Term in 2011, Jeune's ruby soldiers returned from their summer break with high hopes for the upcoming year. With the previous term's success in Athletics Standards still fresh in our minds, the desire to seek further triumphs was overwhelming; and we were certainly right to think this way.

Jeune got off to a rocketing start with several sporting triumphs throughout the Autumn Term. We achieved the sought-after first place in Senior Fives as well as success in a new inter-House competition, shooting, thanks to Rob and Tim Woolley. These victories went on to play a crucial part in securing us second place in the Cock House rankings at Christmas. However, with thirty competitions occurring during the Spring Term alone, the cup was still completely up for grabs.

Unfortunately things were not to fare so well for Jeune during the Spring months. A fantastic solo performance by Luke Doswell in House Music aroused feverish expectations for the rest of the term's competitions, but regrettably these did not go as smoothly as we might have hoped. Our band of skilled musicians, led by Tim Woolley, only reached joint fourth place in House Shout, which was disappointing for us all as they had worked so hard. Even though our position in the Cock House competition seemed to be slipping, our Shells showed promise with first places in table tennis and badminton.

Having sunk to seventh place by Easter, we were keen to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and persevere until July. A win in Minor cricket gave us hope of better things to come, but our Standards score did not reach the formidable levels of the previous year; in the end, we were doomed to 8th place.

In conclusion, we may not have done as well as we'd hoped to do this year, but that didn't stop the red army putting their all into the year's activities. Now, equipped with a new House Captain for 2012-13, can we hope for a new era for our beloved House? We certainly believe so.

Rob Ralston



A monochromatic blue-toned photograph of a young child riding a bicycle on a wet, reflective surface. The child is seen from the side, pedaling the bike. The wet pavement creates a clear reflection of the child and the bicycle below them. The word "SOCIETIES" is printed in a clean, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the child's legs and the bicycle frame.

SOCIETIES

AGORA

Agora has enjoyed a successful year, made possible by the continuing quality of its talks and the large audiences they attract.

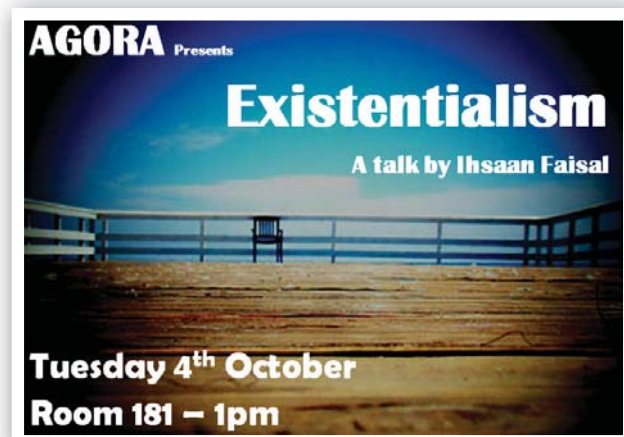
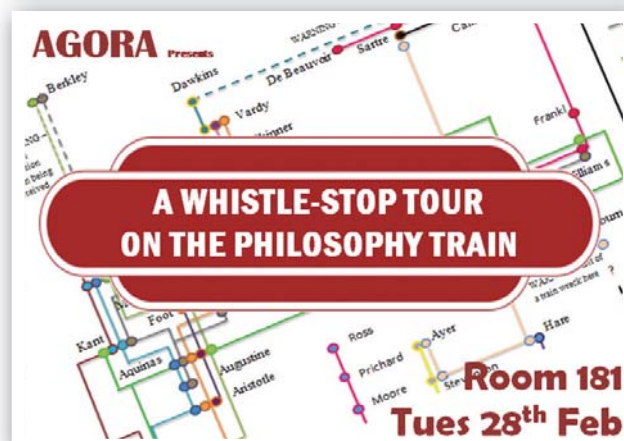
Old Edwardian Adam Ferner's discussion of "Feminist Philosophy", followed by Frank Lawton's playfully and provocatively titled riposte, "Feminism Stripped Down", set a high standard for the year. Ihsaan Faisal's elucidation of Existentialism was so well received that the two rooms Agora uses on alternate Tuesday lunchtimes proved too small to hold the audience.

The second half of the Autumn term showcased KEHS, with both Ruth Maclean and Sophie Gammage taking centre stage. Ruth's talk, "Marx – What did he really think?", enlightened all those fortunate enough to attend, while Sophie's professionally presented and incisive talk on the Social Contract captured the salient details of the topic.

2011 ended with "Out of our minds - Where is the 'I'?" by Ben Dawes. Despite the grammatical minefield in its title, Ben's talk discussed the nature of the soul, the mind and the semantic difficulty of describing such concepts accurately. Ben shared his interest in linguistics in his talk "Words, words, words" later in the term and all those present would have seen the big players of ToK frantically scribbling down notes as he spoke.

2012 got off to a bumpy start when the first speaker, Luke Botting, began by announcing that he "didn't like philosophers". He surprised us all with his talk "A New Kind of Liberal", showing how modern political structures have been shaped by philosophers of the past. It is ironic perhaps that it took a non-philosophy student to smash the assumption that philosophers are armchair intellectuals with very little to contribute to the real world! The Spring term also saw Agora uniting with Art and Architecture Society to present "Philosophy and Art: How are they related?" by Adrian Wong, and Mundev Wouhra explaining Sikh Philosophy with such passion that we hung on his every word. Rounding off the Spring term was Grant MacWalter, an Old Edwardian currently studying Philosophy at Oxford University.

It has been an honour to run a school institution such as Agora and I must thank Mrs Ostrowicz for her constant support and help in promoting the society, as well as for the loan of her classroom every other Tuesday lunchtime. Of course, a society needs members to flourish and it has been an absolute joy to see so many take an interest and regularly attend meetings.



I hope that Agora continues to provide the variety and quality of talk we have seen this year and that everyone keeps an eye on the new Facebook group for updates as to what's going on. I would like to wish the best of luck to all of our members leaving the school this year; we leave knowing that the future of the society is in good hands.

Jordan Quinlan

MATHSOC

This was another interesting and successful year for the MathSoc. Although there was no further progress on the retail development of the MathSoc maths-sock mathscot, Mrs Gardiner's Monday Morning Breakfast Club risked having to find another venue as attendance hit the maximum "26" mark on a regular basis. Three KES teams performed admirably in the National Cipher Challenge, with the "Ergophobes", Vishal Patil and Andrew Macarthur, pipped to first place by a couple of minutes in the final round, coming in second place nationally (out of thousands of teams) and winning £400 apiece for their efforts.

The usual round of trips to lectures began in September with the traditional LMS "Popular" lectures at the University across the road. The first of two lectures, on "Symmetry, Chance and Determinism", went from triflingly easy to monumentally unintelligible in the blink of an eye, but we at least discovered Dom Bealby-Wright's uncanny likeness to maths giant Evariste Galois. In the second lecture, on "Climate Models", we got to undertake some hands-on practical work in weather forecasting.

Our second trip, to Loughborough in October, was to celebrate "Neptune's First Birthday". This talk on the discovery of the planet involved the mention of "Uranus" about 200 times, and I was immensely proud that the busload of KES boys managed to avoid a single snigger during the evening. A further talk in the new year was on "Complex Networks in Biology" (where 8 of us managed to comprise 80% of the audience!), and the ever entertaining Rob Eastaway talked on the "Hidden Maths of Sport" in March.

With even more outings, trips and talks organised for 2012-2013, and the accompanying delightful prospect of fuelling these trips at a variety of fast-food outlets along the way, now is a good time for folks to join in the fun. Be there, or be a regular plane quadrilateral!

TFC

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Ask not what Classical Society can do for you; ask what you can do for Classical Society. Over the past year, the classically-minded students of KES (and KEHS too) have really answered the "call to arms" of Classical Society.

We have had many interesting talks by students; but the highlight of the year had to be the movie, endearingly called *Troy Story*, produced by Ollywood Studios and directed by the immensely talented Olly Ridgley. It tells the classical tale of Aeneas' adventurous, perilous and exciting journey to Rome, but with a few twists along the way. Its premiere was definitely an event: bouncers at the door, the actors in suits (and a few stray KES blazers worn with black trousers), popcorn being passed around and laughter heard throughout the G Corridor. I believe watching this movie should be on every KES student's bucket list. Movies such as this show that Classical Society isn't just lectures and talks.

Having said that, there have been a fair few talks this year. However, they have all been engaging and interesting. Topics have included: "Astronomy in the Ancient World" by Jamie Mitchell, about the zodiac symbols and the importance of the constellations to ancient civilisations; "It's all Cuneiform to me" by Yanbo Yin, about an alphabet which is just as much fun as saying the name itself; and "Aeschylus' Clytemnestra and the Athenian woman" by Sophie Cheng and Emily Lawry.

For our swansong for the year we had an apt talk by Mr Corns on the "Ancient Olympic Games", since London 2012 was drawing near. Afterwards, we had a *symposium* (a party in other words) to end the year. We talked and ate and had a good time. We know how to have fun in Classical Society. Jordan Quinlan and Angus McDonnell hosted a great year for this society and I hope the coming year will be just as good.

Keerthi Kshatrya



SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Without a quark of a doubt, Scientific Society is the most hilarious, popular and inspiring academic society. Routinely inviting in scientists who are experts in their field, we have been treated to some truly extraordinary speakers, complete with the necessary science jokes.

The SciSoc committee have done an excellent job. David Evans, everyone's favourite physicist, disappointed by not freezing Scott's hand off when it was immersed in liquid nitrogen, though he managed to make superconducting magnets float about all over the place, which was rather cool.

'Does a Microgram of Sugar Help the Medicine go Down?' and 'A Genetic cure for a Cancer – Hype or Reality?' allowed all the aspiring medics to add one more item to their CVs, whilst also providing some material that even managed to interest the odd physicist.

Other than Ben, Scott has been the only one brave enough to do a talk. Like all good astrophysicists, Scott talked about the dark world of black holes. Although it is tempting to make fun of the ridiculously unobservable nature of such an imaginary subject, Scott drew an audience and gave a fascinating talk, once the audience's initial resistance was overcome. Suffice to say that even though his talk was awesome, it was not sufficiently brilliant to overcome the resistance of the girl in the audience and take her Ohm.

Ben Fernando

MEDICAL SOCIETY

This year saw the foundation of MedSoc, a society begun with the aim of filling the needs of budding medics who wanted to find out more about the profession and have something to talk about in their application interviews, a niche not dealt with by Scientific Society.

The first meeting of the year saw a talk by Dr Jonathan Chester on 'Life as a Junior Doctor.' The talk conveyed how inexperienced junior doctors can be and how far from the finished product they are; how they need to learn on the job and how they seem to get stuck with all the dirty work. It was a good reality check for students who imagined that they would be completely ready for medical work after med school.

This was followed by Imran Zaidi's presentation on 'Stem Cell Research', an insightful one considering he was only in the Fifth Form. From blastocysts to totipotent cells, I think that everyone learned something new.

Dr Lucy Morse spoke on 'A career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.' We learned about the personality required for this part of medicine, the recent advances in the field, and some useful tips for medical interviews.

Finally we had a talk from the organisation Outreach International on 'How to get into Medical School.' This talk was more useful to a large number of students from the younger years, who were unsure about the application process. They were told about the UKCAT, BMAT and other silly acronyms which they would have to sit later on to confirm a place in medical schools. This may have come as quite a shock to some of them, who hadn't understood the rat race that is medical university application.

Overall our first year was a success, and numbers remained healthy and showed signs of improvement. I felt that everyone was interested in the majority of the lectures, and took something useful away from them which will help them later in their medical careers.

Akhilesh Mulay

BOOK WORMS

The Worms have wiggled their way through another great year's reading, fuelled by enthusiasm aplenty and, of course, Mr Essex's spectacular chocolate cake (you can't read on an empty stomach after all! That would be madness!). Following last year's successes and the demands of the then Rems for a meeting aimed at them as UMs, Mrs Atay has led the older boys this year, whilst I have overseen the Shell/ Rems meeting.

Both groups have read some really interesting books, which, as the 'rules' of the club dictate, have been chosen entirely by the boys. For the UMs these have taken them around the globe, from Khalid Hosseini's profound and beautifully wrought exploration of Afghan culture in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, through the digestive challenges of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, all the way to the surprising and sometimes disturbing reaches of Roald Dahl's mind in *Tales of the Unexpected*.

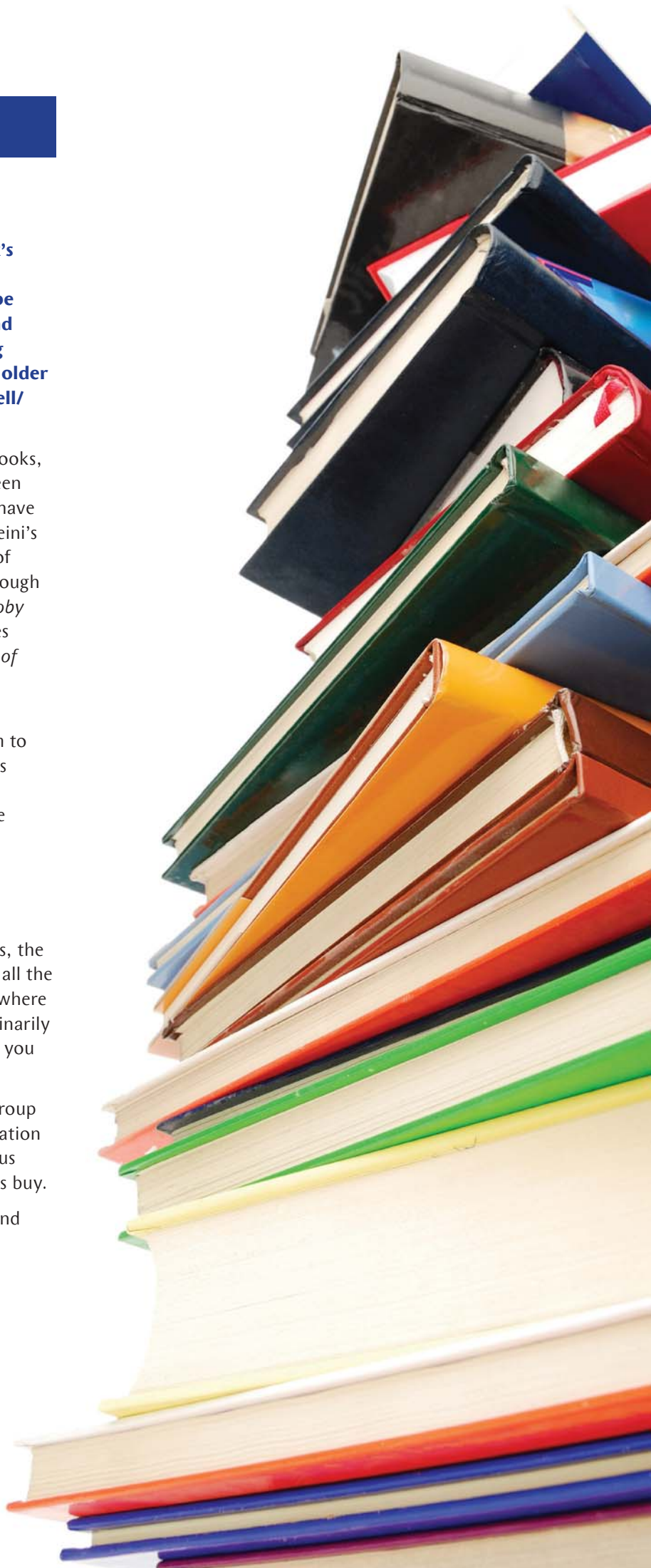
Meanwhile, the younger boys have been on adventures of their own. We followed young Jim to the far away reaches of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, went questing with Jebel in Darren Shan's *The Thin Executioner* and did some serious detective work with Eoin Colfer in *Half Moon Investigations*.

As ever, in both groups, our discussions were sometimes daft, more often than not insightful and never less than interesting. As Mrs Atay says, the joy of Book Worms is that our books have been all the better for having been read as part of a group, where you are spurred on to read when you might ordinarily lose heart or to discover that you adore a novel you might never otherwise have touched.

Huge thanks go to Mrs Atay, for making a UM group possible; to Ms Allen, for her amazing administration and hospitality; and to Lee Child, whose generous donation means we can subsidise the books boys buy.

We look forward to welcoming our new grubs and embarking on yet more literary adventures in 2012-2013.

GJP



PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

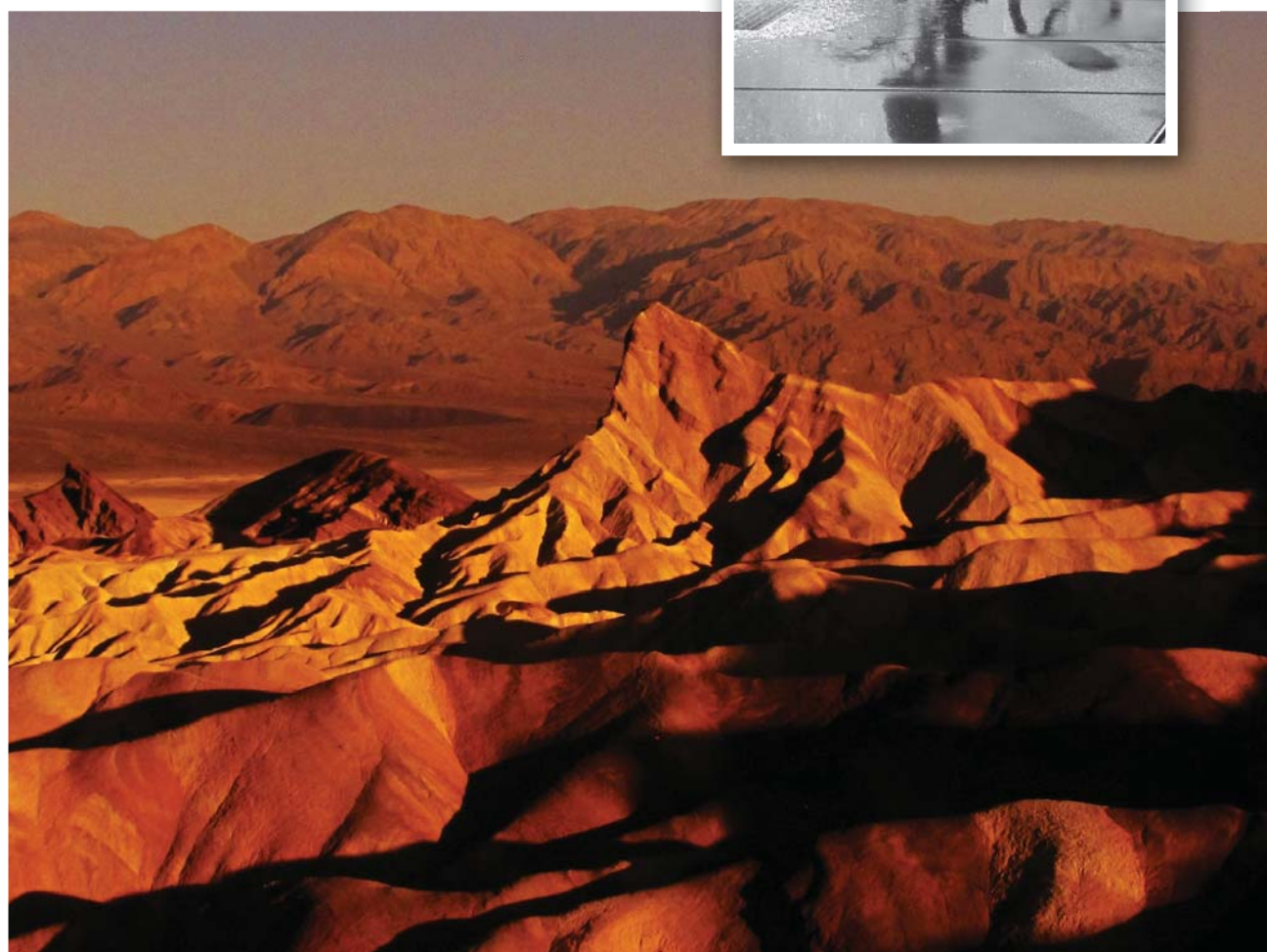
This year, the society has contributed more to the KES community than ever before. Members' work in the LUCIA 2012 calendar and the Valentine's Day cards helped to raise valuable funds for work in Ethiopia. Other projects this year have included photography for the 2011 and 2012 *Chronicles* (some can be seen in the 'Hellos and Goodbyes' section), recording the Senior Production *Into the Woods* and the Syndicate production *Footloose*, and helping out with the 'Santa and his Elves' stall at Christmas. Members' photos have also been donated to charitable organisations including UNICEF and the British Heart Foundation.

In addition to work supporting the school's charitable and dramatic activities, members' work has also been published and exhibited, some in galleries as prestigious as those of the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. The society has contributed greatly to the school's outreach, charity work and development. In supplying the majority of the photos for the *Class of 2012 Yearbook*, we hope to have permanently

recorded the many happy memories of KES that our members have.

Whilst we might worry that the photographic tradition will peter out as the current Sixth form leave, by arranging for the purchase of some high-specification SLRs and the setting up of lasting ties with other school societies, we have done what we can to ensure that the society continues once I and Anish Kundu have left. We also hope that some of Mr Corns' aspiring photographers might take up the lens in support of even more good causes.

Ben Fernando



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations is a new society that has quickly grown thanks to committed and enthusiastic members. Each person undertakes to represent a different nation and articulate that country's viewpoint in a discussion of current affairs, before voting on resolutions, just as in the actual United Nations. Thanks to Mr Arbuthnott, we have been involved in two conferences involving hundreds of delegates, and have had some success.

During Thursday lunchtimes, Fourths and above have had some fascinating discussions on issues as diverse as the Libyan conflict, North Korean disarmament and stability in Yemen and Syria. On some issues, such as North Korea, we clearly represented our countries well and the sessions ended in deadlock. In others, like Libya, we came to surprising and uncharacteristically warlike conclusions! Much of the year, however, has been spent preparing for external conferences and we must thank both pupils and teachers for their dedication in coming to after-school sessions.

The first conference was in London at the impressive headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation, the only UN agency based in Britain. Here, we discussed climate change for two days. Schools from as far afield as Saudi Arabia attended. Despite representing smaller countries (Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia) the KES delegation made an impact. Yanbo Yin and Kevin Vairavaraja received an "Honourable Mention" while Charlie Wall and Tom Fenton won "Best Delegate" awards from their committee of a hundred.

The second conference was at Haileybury School, where for three days we discussed a wide range of issues: piracy, slums, euthanasia and the pursuit of Arab democracy, to name but a few. Six hundred students attended from schools around the world.

Again we were not representing geopolitical giants, but Sierra Leone and Belgium. Yet it was the least experienced of us, Nick Porter, who rescued the KES team from ignominy with a "Highly Commended" award.

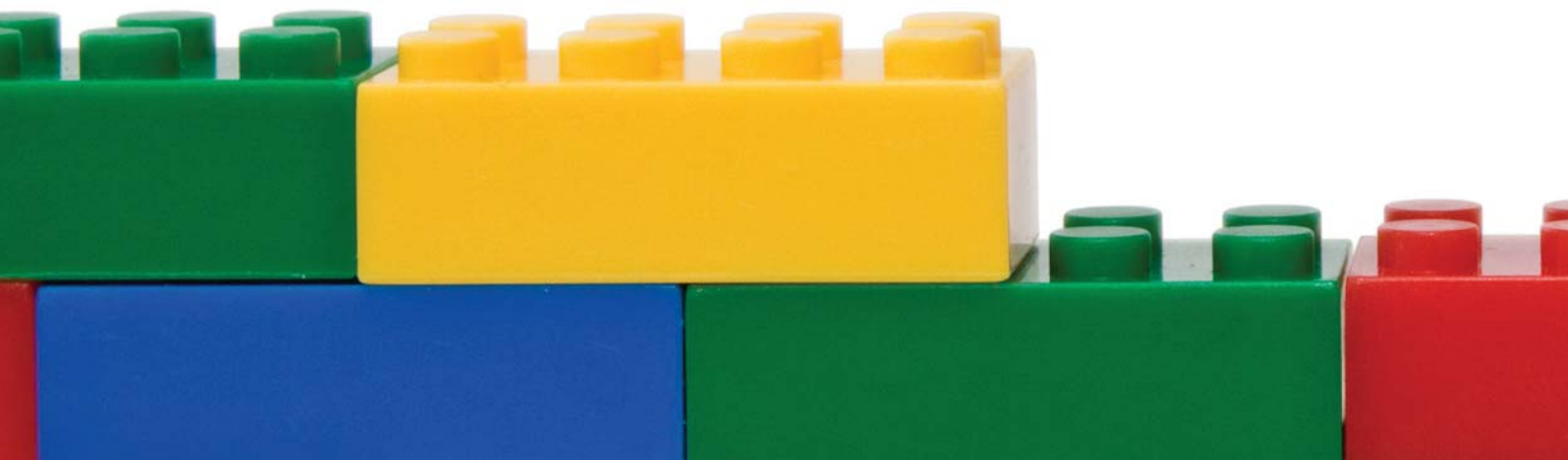
Next year we aim to have more lunchtime sessions as well as to continue visits to conferences. We may even launch our own KES conference. Yet whatever the society does, I am sure that with engaged members and helpful teachers like Mr Arbuthnott we can go from strength to strength. We hope that more people, interested in world affairs, will join us next year.

Charles Wall

LEGO SOCIETY

The First Lego League (FLL) is an annual challenge set by Lego. It involves using complex Lego Robots to solve a major problem in today's society. This year, the challenge was named *Food Factor*, and involved the transportation without contamination of food. The competition involves teams competing in Regional and National Finals. Each team has to build a Lego Robot using Lego Mindstorms NXT Bricks: a purchasable Lego part which acts as the *brain* of the robot. In addition to this, motors and sensors are used to help guide the robot around certain tasks set by Lego. The robot has to function autonomously in order to complete its tasks, therefore requiring advanced programming techniques using Mindstorms Programming Software.

Lego send a task board to participating schools and clubs. This board has certain patterns and models on it. The robot has to interact with these models to complete the challenges. An example of one of the



challenges we completed required the robot to pick up some corn from a model combine harvester, and transport it back to base.

This year, the Regional Final of the FLL was held on Friday 13th January 2012 at Loughborough University. Our team consisted of six students from the Upper Middles. We called ourselves **W.R.E.C.K.E.D.** (**W**inning **R**obotics and **E**ngineering **C**lub at **K**ing **E**Dward's). KES send a team to the event every year, and every year so far teams have brought back a trophy of some sort. This meant we felt under pressure! With our robot and presentation prepared for the challenge, we competed with many teams from across the Midlands. The coordinator gave us a timetable. We would be judged on four criteria: the Robot Games (the challenges described earlier), the Presentation, Core Values and Robot Design. Core Values were a set of rules published by Lego to help enhance professionalism and cooperation. We were expected to socialise and encourage other teams. The Robot Design referred to how well our Robot completed its missions and how it suited the task. These four criteria generated 25% of the Final Score each. We won that day and were proud to be the victors. This gave us entry to the National Finals two weeks later.

We were unfortunate in that a judging error caused us to lose 30 valuable points, which sadly lost us a place in the quarter finals. We were all extremely disappointed, but at least we had enjoyed ourselves!

We all felt we had learnt very much from participating in the First Lego League, and we further felt it benefited us in teamwork and cooperation. The FLL was the source of much enjoyment. Good Luck to KES' team next year!

Jules Desai, Team Captain

CHALLENGE

For a collection of individuals with more trivia knowledge than the world could possibly use, look no further than the KES Challenge Society. We entered this year's national competition as reigning champions, so we had a position to defend.

In the first round, held at KES in November, the A team of Yanbo Yin, Patrick Wernham, Andrew MacArthur and myself went up against a number of different sides, beating all of them by a comfortable margin. This included beating the team from across the drive for the second time in succession, much to the amusement of the boys.

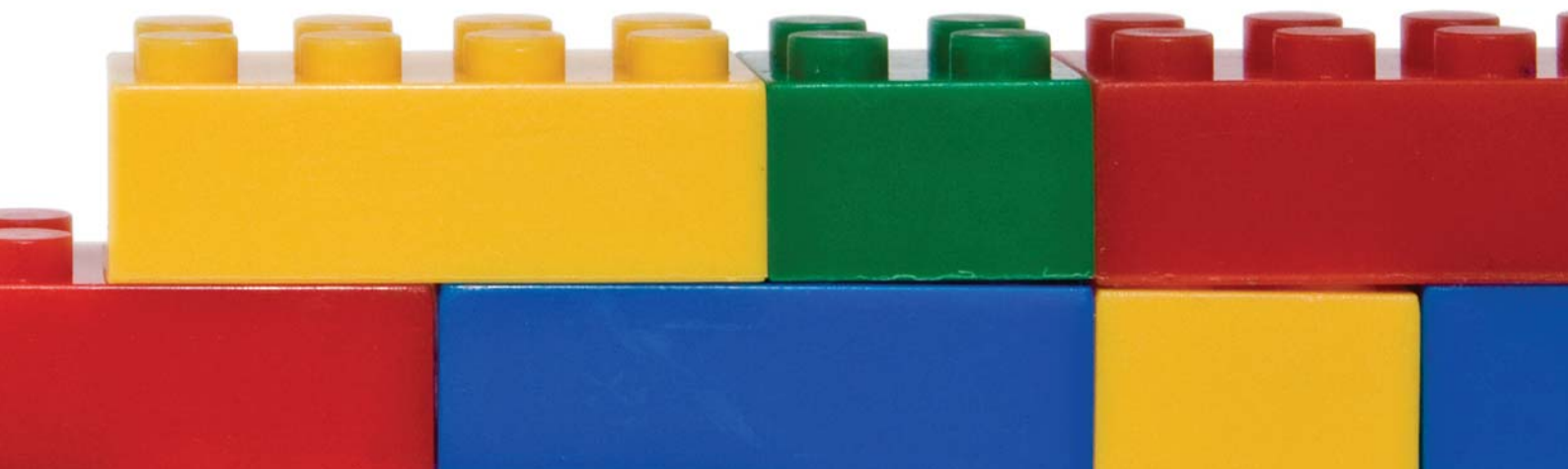
The highlight of the evening was the inspired guesswork in response to 'Who was the first female Secretary of State under Bill Clinton?', which elicited the answer 'Monica Lewinsky'. Apologies, Ms Albright.

The second-round match was against the Perse School in Cambridge. Along with a free lunch, our prize for sacrificing the first day of the Easter holidays to Challenge was a convincing win, and an increase in our knowledge: Yanbo learnt not to repeat the wrong answer that the other team had just shouted out, and Andrew realised that saying the right answer just as the other team gave the wrong one wasn't particularly smart either.

The weekend before IB exams began (which, of course, was our excuse for a lapse in form), the national finals were held in Westminster. The opening round was no trouble at all; our opponents looking slightly shocked as the score passed 400-nil or some-such figure.

The second round was not such a success: against Lancaster Grammar not even the might of Nick Wyatt, son of the Mastermind finalist Mark Wyatt, was enough to prevail. In fairness, the loss was only by one question, and the round lacked nothing in terms of controversy. But after all, we have to deal with IB, and they're only doing A-levels.

Ben Fernando



JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The Society was certainly poorer in the Autumn Term of this year for the loss of Dominic Bealby Wright and Ashkaan Golestani, whose IB activities and sporting commitments left them little time to attend or run meetings. From the new Fifth formers no one emerged to take their place and it fell to some of the Fourth year to help out from time to time. George Bandy did a grand job of listening in on the activities of the Shells and Rems and Oisin Robinson (UMs) manfully chaired some of the debates. In the latter half of the year Patrick Wernham and Oliver Bealby Wright were able to take on some of the work, and Ashkaan and Dominic slipped back in from time to time to add impetus to the proceedings. Nevertheless debate topics ranged from the banning of zoos and Facebook to the intricacies of Grand Prix racing!

In addition to the weekly Wednesday activities the Fourth years also took on the challenge of the ESU Public Speaking competition: Patrick Wernham, Charlie Wall and Yanbo Yin brilliantly retained the Birmingham Cup and narrowly lost to Magdalen College School in the regional heat. Elsewhere a combined effort from Ashkaan and the rest of the debating faithful was poured into training Small Heath debaters on Friday afternoons and taking part in the Birmingham Airport Debate attended by local MPs. Special mention should go to Lokesh Jain as our youngest member to take a prominent role in both the training and the prestigious public debate (which made local news).

So, despite a rather lacklustre start to the year, JDS finished rather strongly and goes forward into the new academic year with sterling support from Oliver Bealby Wright and Patrick Wernham, who will be initiating the new Shells into the arcane delights of debating! Thanks to all for their support and loyalty.

FMA

THE LIVING HISTORY GROUP

This has been a tremendously successful year for us, with many new recruits as well as the return of some old friends. The year has seen another sojourn at Chepstow Castle, further historical additions to the herb garden, and our second (and much larger) annual Christmas Feast. The climax of the year was the trip to the Middlealdercentret in Denmark during the Summer, an event that occurs only once every two years.

Due to the vastly increased manpower of the group, training days have been numerous. These mainly manifest themselves in traditional events at Whittington Castle and Avoncroft Museum, where the group can practise archery and other skills. We have had experts visit us throughout the year: swordsmen, weavers and even a bread oven builder have all contributed knowledge to the group.

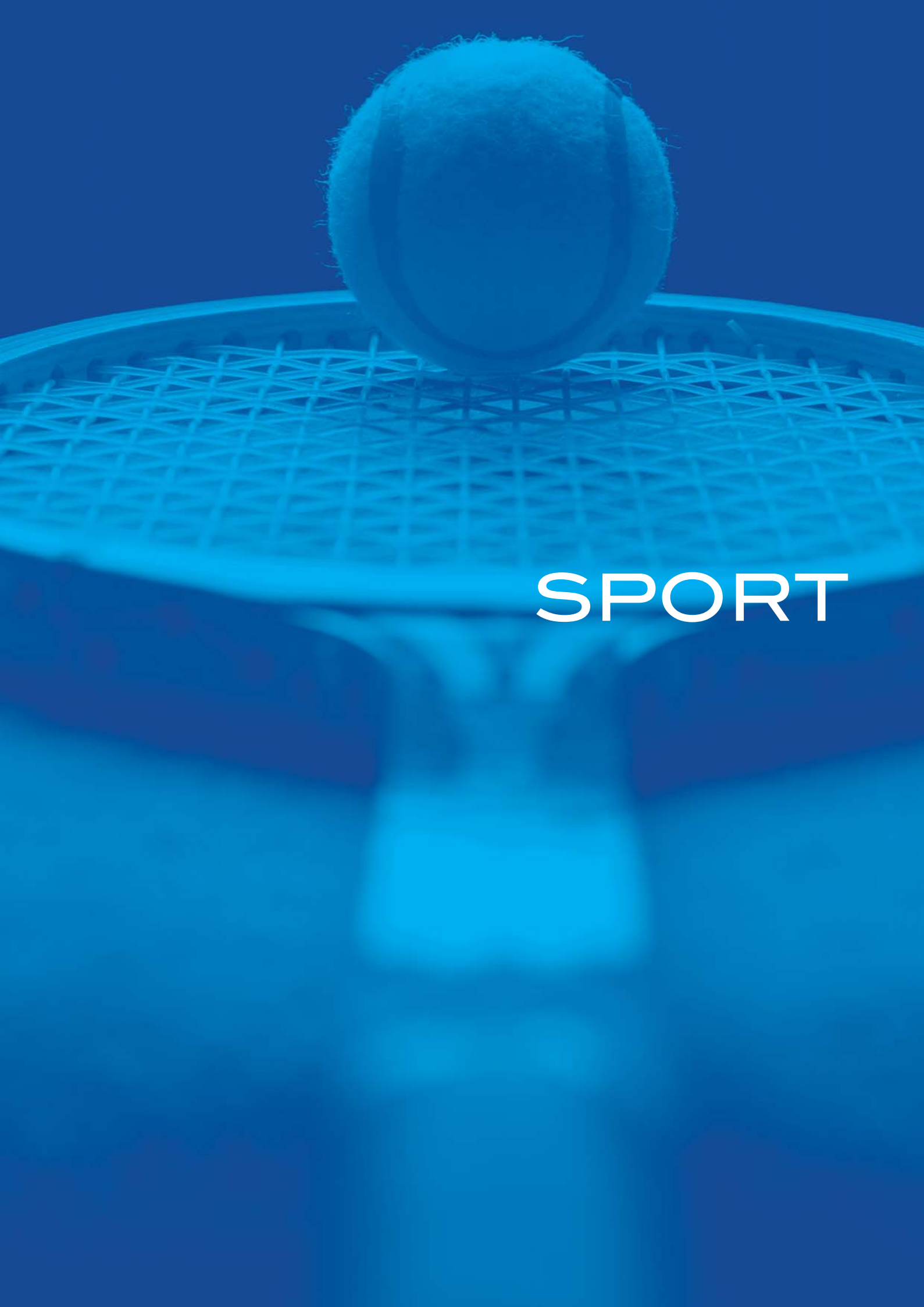
The Christmas Feast took place in the assembly hall of KEHS, and with every member of the group invited (plus a few guests) it took a tremendous amount of work to produce an authentic and tasty Christmas dinner. It was a resounding success, with many dozens of dishes on display: special thanks must go to the cooks and organisers, who somehow managed to cater to the masses.

When it comes to the herb garden, there are many new additions. Many herbs are growing now, but the biggest changes were the addition of a turf seat (a massive wooden structure dedicated to being an organic bench) and a fully functioning bread oven made from clay. These projects ate away at many lunchtimes and meetings, but the result was well worth it. Also new: we have acquired a siege tower, cannons, and, lo and behold, another trebuchet.

The largest event the group has been to this year was at Tretower Court in Wales, a lovely site containing the ruins of a castle and a fully authentic house. The event was well received by the visitors and by Cadw (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage). While it was a bit cold and wet at times, the group managed to entertain the Welsh public with almost every display one can think of!

Overall, this year has been among our most action packed, with something significant occurring every day, every week. The group has lived up to the challenges the year has presented, and the response has been one of enthusiasm. With a growing number of displays, events, and re-enactors, the LHG is lively and thriving, ever eager to get to the next big event.

Richard Miller



SPORT

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL RUGBY CLUB 2011– 2012 SEASON

	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against
1st XV	26	16	10	0	556	376
2nd XV	16	4	12	0	203	275
3rd XV	12	3	9	0	134	327
U16 A XV	12	1	9	0	160	352
U16 B XV	4	1	3	0	17	179
U15 A XV	18	12	6	0	577	365
U15 B XV	12	8	4	0	248	204
U14 A XV	16	9	6	1	298	294
U14 B XV	13	5	7	1	243	366
U13 A XV	15	9	6	0	291	227
U13 B XV	13	6	7	0	263	209
U13 C XV	7	3	2	2	356	134
U12 A XV	14	4	9	0	279	255
U12 B XV	10	8	2	0	281	103
U12 C XV	9	6	2	1	249	97
U12 D XV	6	5	0	1	212	60
Total	200	100	94	6	4367	3823

28 fixtures cancelled due to snow and frost

Team Honours

- 1st XV – Quarter final of Daily Mail Vase
- U16 XV – North Midlands plate Semi-Finalists
- U15A XV – Winners Greater Birmingham Cup
- U14A XV – Runners up Greater Birmingham Cup
- U13A XV – 4th Greater Birmingham Cup
- U12A XV – Runners up Greater Birmingham Cup

Individual Representative Honours

Under 16

Greater Birmingham Selection – W. Goldup

Under 15

Greater Birmingham Selection – M. Dixon, A. Hardy, S. Geelan, P. Oduwu (Staffordshire)

Under 14

Greater Birmingham Selection – O. Brown, F. Koral, A. Cheswick

KES Rugby Club Individual Player Awards

Clubman of the Year

Ed Jackson and Ed Matthews

1st XV Player of the Year

Ryan Millar

1st XV Most Improved Player

Salman Sadiq

2nd XV Player of the Year

Sam Polding

2nd XV Most Improved Player

George Wilson

3rd XV Player of the Year

Sam Neale

3rd XV Most Improved Player

Josh Jackson

1st XV Players Ties awarded to:

E. Matthews, E. Jackson, C. McGuirk, R. Millar, J. Ward, N. Roberts

Full Colours Awarded to:

N. Roberts, H. Cullen, O. Erinfolami, E. Matthews, C. McGuirk, R. Millar, S. Sadiq, J. Ward, R. Wigley, E. Jackson.

Half Colours Awarded to:

A. Ali, J. O'Donnell, C. Hadley, N. Simkiss, J. Duckett, W. Goldup, I. Chukwulobelu, H. Cowley, O. Shahzad, J. Bentsi-Enchill, N. Cooke, S. Jones, K. Koumi, T. Anderson, E. Radcliffe, S. Polding, G. Wilson, B. Watson, A. Malhotra, J. Mahon, N. Gately, J. Moylan, A. Wong, C. Deacon, S. Deacon, S. Madden, M. Newbold.

RWJ

1ST XV

Despite most of the XV having been on a successful pre-season tour to Argentina and Brazil, we started the season slowly, lacking in fitness and physicality. We lost heavily at King's Worcester despite a good first half performance, but beat Trent at home with a depleted side and RGS in the Daily Mail cup by the tiniest of margins. An early victory, a convincing 43-6 win over King Henry VII in scorching heat at the end of September, featured some nice team tries finished by Jamie Ward and Ryan Millar. But the news was not all good: we were knocked out of the Daily Mail cup by a heavy 38-3 loss to Solihull, lost to Camp Hill, and a few calamitous errors of judgement against Princethorpe resulted in a 7-5 loss in a game that we deserved more from.

The run-up to Christmas is traditionally where we have our hardest fixtures against other big Rugby-playing schools, building up to the Bromsgrove game, and this year was no exception. The team kept on improving in terms of physicality and commitment but, regardless of some brave performances, losses to Solihull and OSH at home as well as Nottingham away left our season statistics looking anaemic. Thankfully, and finally, the real turning point of the season arrived with a magnificent 24-18 home victory over Adams' Grammar, a huge upset on the basis of form and squad strength. We drew on this rousing performance for the annual fixture against Bromsgrove, which this year took place away from home; whilst this fixture may have started to become one-sided in recent years, it still retains a sense of occasion for every 1st XV player, especially when for most of the squad it was their last ever fixture against Bromsgrove. As so often, we found ourselves on the back foot from the onset, hanging on to the game for as long as possible but unable to get our hands on the ball. Still, we managed a feat that not many other 1st XVs have managed in recent years by scoring a try, thanks to Connor McGuirk's magnificent long range interception, to leave the score at 32-7.

However the rousing effect of the victory over Adams' survived the Bromsgrove defeat: we went on a nine-game unbeaten run after the Christmas break. The correlation between the number of tries Ryan Millar started scoring and the number of games we starting winning was startling, and it became customary for him to have secured a hat-trick by half time. Highlights include victories of 39-15 over Vesey's, 50-6 against Shrewsbury and 62-7 against KE Stratford, to name but a few.

Yet if you were to ask any of the players what defined this season, most would reply that it was reaching the Quarter Finals of the Daily Mail Vase. After the frustration of being knocked out of the main competition, we entered into the Vase with high hopes. Victories over Malvern, King Henry's, Aston and Verulam placed us in the Midlands A final at home to Leicester Grammar. The weather did its best to intervene and have the game cancelled, but deadlines insisted that the game simply had to be played, on a Bank pitch like an ice-rink, with a large audience of KES boys cheering us on. After two early tries from Jamie Ward we held on to win 17-8. This left us only two matches away from Twickenham. Once more the weather played its part in delaying the Quarter Final, but eventually a date was set for the fixture, away to Wirral Grammar. With no more regular season matches, there was the added piquancy for most the squad that this had the potential to be their last KES game. Unfortunately we started slowly, failed to catch up and succumbed 17-0. At the time it felt like an anti-climax because we had believed we could go all the way. But with hindsight it seems a fitting way for most of the squad to bow out from KES Rugby, at the highest point we had reached in any competition for a long while.

Apart from those mentioned above, special congratulations should go to Salman Sidiq's contributions to scrummaging, Ed Matthew's fantastic performances in the lineout and off restarts, Ed Jackson's solid work at the breakdown and Hugh Cullen's unyielding defence in the midfield. We both also want to thank and congratulate the whole squad for their efforts in bringing about a successful season: after all, a lot of us were under intense academic pressure throughout. Finally we would like to thank Mr James and Mr Johnson for all the time they put into training and match-days, and wish the new 1st XV luck for the coming season.

Ed Jackson and Ed Matthews



THE 2ND XV

KES rugby is led by the talismanic 1st XV; some way behind is the more relaxed environment of the 3rd XV; somewhere in between comes the mighty second team: a mixture of talent and humour often leads it to claim to be the most popular team to play in. Looking at our scores, it would be easy to say that we had had an unsuccessful season: of 16 games we let the other team win 12, even throwing away close games just to keep opposition morale high. More seriously, the number of close games is highlighted by our points difference of 72, demonstrating how unlucky we were on a number of occasions. Our analogy is that the second team was actually just like the England rugby team on their recent tour to South Africa: committed and talented, yet without ever actually getting the wins.

Yet there were some noticeable performances: special mention must go to Sam Polding and Henry Glossop, who managed to keep our line-outs and scrums competitive against some outsized opposition forward packs. But in fact everyone made huge efforts and all had moments of success. The younger players coming in, such as Harry Cowley, Michael Farrow, Nick Cooke and others, displayed courage and ability, often shining in games. I am certain that next year's first and second XVs will be highly competitive. For others, the days of putting on the second team jersey are over, and it is time to say goodbye to the Sixth

formers who formed the backbone of the side: Jon Mahon, Ben Watson, George Wilson, Andrew Eckert (who sadly missed almost the whole season owing to injury) and Josh Moylan. I hope that they will continue to play rugby, as each played creditably on numerous occasions this year.

This team is led by Mr Turner, who keeps telling us at Half Time that 'we don't have any John Waynes in our team'. None of us has had the heart to tell him that we don't know who John Wayne is. During a game his words are few and far between, mostly consisting of 'support' or, for variation, 'support him'. However, no one would question his commitment to his segundos: we owe many thanks to Mr Turner, whose unyielding enthusiasm keep the team driving forward.

It would be rude to write this report without also thanking Mr Birch, who willingly turns up in rain or shine to coach and referee the 2nd team. The highlight of his season must be when he was asked to referee the second game against Loughborough, which was away from home.

As our KES careers draw to a close, memories made this season with the 2nd XV will be in our minds. We'll probably be reminded of them whenever an international team throws away a victory. It has been a season of great fun and enjoyment and the future of KES rugby looks bright. Oh yes: a last word for next year's segundos; *please* beat bloody Bromsgrove.

Nick Gately and Ali Malhotra



U16A XV

This was a difficult, hard-fought year for the U16 A team, but I don't think there is any KES side that displayed a stronger work ethic. Everyone fought and played for one another, and this is why we had such a great time in the U16 team. An early loss to King's Worcester didn't put us down: we came back to draw with King Edward's Aston, tries coming from Ed Moore and fly-half Jamaal Choudhury. Our front row of Tom Porter and Regan Wong and new hooker Ali Coles gave us a solid lead at the front of the scrum, reinforced by the huge strength of second rows Hasan Khan and Desharn Sandhu, who came on in leaps and bounds during the season.

Later in the season we met Aston again in the quarter-final of the North Midlands Cup, KES going through as the away side. The highlight of the season came when we beat Old Swinford 56-0, when a great performance was put in by everybody. Tries came from fullback Amun Burgess, flanker Conor Murray, number 8 Michael Durante and winger Jack Schofield, amongst others. Jake Roberts and Matt Shah at scrum-half made it possible for centre Nick Eccleston to score frequently. Josh Gain fought through injury to put in outstanding performances both in the line-out and in the loose for the last half of the season. We never gave up hope, but always kept pushing to become better, stronger and more intelligent rugby players; I'm sure everyone will continue to improve as we move on to the years ahead.

Michael Durante

U15A XV

It was a season of massive highs and lows. Things got under way brilliantly against King's Worcester, and there were other great victories; against Shrewsbury, Nottingham High and Camp Hill, to name but a few. Yet despite being a hard-working and gifted team, we fell pretty much at the first hurdle in the prestigious Daily Mail Cup, losing to Old Swinford Hospital in the second round – a bitter disappointment to us all.

The undisputed irony was that we went on to beat Old Swinford Hospital the following Saturday in a block fixture which saw our best performance of the season: the forwards played well as a unit, particularly in the contact area, and the backs maintained shape in

defence. A special mention must go to Paolo Odogwu, who scored a hat-trick in that game and many more throughout the season with serious pace and power.

We managed to win close and testing games against Trent and Princethorpe, and a further high was victory in the Greater Birmingham tournament (for the fourth year running). Although there was a close match with Bishop Vesey in the opening game, we defeated Five Ways convincingly in the final. Lastly I would like to thank Mr Porter and Mr Taylor for all their hard work throughout the season. Their commitment is unquestionable and their passion for the game rubs off on everyone in the squad. Thank you all very much.

Max Dixon





U14A XV

This year's rugby season has been very good for the U14A's, with some splendid victories. Once again we reached the finals in the Greater Birmingham tournament; it was a closely fought match but in the end we came in second place. We struck back with a crushing victory against the tournament winners, Bishop Vesey's, on their home ground. One of the best games we played was against Solihull, where we lost but played fantastically well – it was a shame to lose but we took a lot from the loss.

Throughout the whole year the team has matured and improved endlessly, and our knowledge and skills have significantly stepped forward. The synergy between the forwards and backs was more polished: forwards worked well together and won the balls, providing the opportunities for the backs to score some fantastic tries. The new skills we developed will be taken forward into the seasons to come, laying foundations for a promising season next year.

All the boys in the team have thoroughly enjoyed playing rugby this year. I would like to thank our coach Mr Coverdale: without him the season wouldn't have been nearly as enjoyable.

Finlay Koral

U14B XV

There was a disheartening start to the U14B rugby season, a heavy loss to a King's Worcester team that hadn't been defeated in three years. Things did pick up, though, and by the end of the season the win:loss ratio was only just below 50:50. Consistent work from the team paid off and the determination of some key players helped to achieve some hard fought victories.

One of the highlights of the season was a draw against a very good Old Swinford team. For much of the game our team was heroic in defence, with excellent tackling led by Christopher Dillon. A break away try actually gave us the lead, which the team held onto until the dying minutes when an unfortunate charged down kick allowed the opposition to equalise. Thankfully their conversion, the final kick of the game, was missed, giving our team a well deserved draw.

Nick Wyatt led from the front with some excellent displays at scrum half and rightly won promotion to the A team on several occasions. Tariq Khattak was often our strongest runner and he also appeared for the A team. He was well supported by Muhammed Arman. Tariq scored all the tries in the team's best performance of the season, away against Adams Grammar School.

Oliver Beardmore was the most elusive runner in the back division but needs to work on his defensive game if he is to move up to a higher level. Owen Davies showed he was capable of playing in virtually every position in the backline and has the potential to be a very good player. Guy Withers kicked the ball very well and was the regular fly half whilst Guglielmo Vecchio was reliable and hard working at centre. Other backs that performed consistently well were Ed Cooke and Ayo Ogunremi. Sam Shah and Kieret Dhaliwal showed their A team class when they appeared for the Bs.



In the forwards, George Turner won promotion to the A team after some excellent performance. Ethan Dockery, Kush Sinha, Vimal Rathod, Jaawad Razza and Sunny Chatha were other members of the forward pack who worked hard and rarely let their heads fall, even against the most difficult opposition. There is no reason why any of the players mentioned, and some that haven't been, shouldn't be capable of playing at a higher level. Plenty of past players from the U14Bs have ended up playing 1st XV rugby!

RDD

U12A XV

We lost to King Henry's in our first match. The team contained lots of new players and only a handful who had any experience, having played for their local clubs: our performance was further hampered by the fact that we didn't have much practice leading up to the match. We made plenty of mistakes. We lost the next few games, too. The potential was definitely there but we needed time to get used to the game as well as to bond as a team.

By mid-season we had improved tremendously, winning a handful of games and losing others only by close margins. The real turning point for the team was when we defeated Newcastle: the game was level until we scored the first try, which then resulted in a flurry of tries near the end of the game. This victory boosted our confidence and we went on to win many of our remaining fixtures.

In the end the team bonded well and grew in confidence. We went into the Greater Birmingham cup believing that we had a good chance of victory: we managed to reach the final, but were defeated by Bishop Vesey in a closely fought match, losing by only one try.

We are all very proud of our achievement in this season and would like to thank Mr Barratt and Mr Johnson, who coached us and always encouraged us to try our best.

Alex Burtley

U12B XV

The Oxford Dictionary defines a 'team' as a group of players forming one side in a competitive game or sport, and the U12B rugby players were just that: a team. No obvious stars (they were taken by the A team), no stand out personalities on the pitch, but a collection of hard working and spirited individuals who, once the group had settled, played their hearts out in every match. The tougher the opposition, the harder they played.

Captain Sam Bowles writes: "Winning 8 out of 10 matches played was an outstanding all-round performance from the U12 B team. After knowing each other for only a few weeks, the team bonded well. We were soon playing like a strong rugby team: our rucking and mauling were dominant and our backs worked hard, passing the ball out wide and achieving several centre switches. The highlight of the season would have to be our last match, in which we beat our local rivals Camp Hill by 51 points to 0. I would like to thank the entire team for their hard work and support throughout the season. It has been a pleasure and honour playing with you all."

DMW

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS VS. LLANELLI SCARLETS

On 18th November 2011 Mr Taylor invited a group of boys from the Upper Middles, Fourths and Fifths to attend an exciting rugby match at the home ground of Northampton Saints, Franklin's Gardens.

This match between the Saints and the Llanelli Scarlets gave us a great opportunity to see professional rugby players and some international players such as Courtney Lawes and Chris Ashton. Even though the majority of us gave our support to the Saints, the match ended up as a win for the Scarlets 28-23; this was a very enjoyable trip for everyone and we were able to see some great rugby.

Mason Gain

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL HOCKEY 2011– 2012 SEASON

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	GF	GA	%Win
1st	27	21	3	3	78	19	77.8
2nd	16	11	1	4	62	20	68.8
3rd	14	12	0	2	74	12	85.7
4th	9	6	3	0	15	10	66.7
5th	5	0	0	5	4	4	0.0
6th	1	0	1	0	1	7	0.0
16A	1	1	0	0	3	1	100.0
15A	14	12	1	1	73	15	85.7
15B	8	5	2	2	25	11	62.5
14A	22	13	5	4	58	17	59.1
14B	4	1	2	1	6	8	25.0
13A	26	20	3	3	78	10	76.9
13B	7	4	2	1	19	3	57.1
12A	5	2	3	0	12	9	40.0
	159	108	26	26	508	146	67.9

1ST XI

For a large majority of the team, the 2011/2012 season was to be our final year as KES Hockey players and so we knew that we had to deliver. And deliver we did. We kicked off the season by easily winning the Buttle Tournament, winning all of our four games without conceding a single goal. We remained undefeated throughout the whole of the Autumn Term: winning 14 consecutive games while scoring 57 goals and conceding a mere 8. The highlight of our winning streak was the 3-1 dismantling of arch-rivals Solihull, with Sam White scoring an inspired hat-trick.

However, there is a hard patch in every season; the two matches preceding our County Cup semi-final game against Warwick were goal-less draws. Though we dominated both matches, against Adams Grammar School and Bloxham, we just could not manage to score. This left us perhaps slightly low on confidence for the crunch game against Warwick, but despite going behind early to a strong Warwick side, we managed to grind out a 2-1 win to take us to the County Cup final for the second year in a row. For many of us, the memory of losing in the final last year

only served to increase our determination that the same would not happen again.

The match, against Rugby School, epitomised our great team spirit: we went behind early, only for our very own 'Captain Fantastic' George Adams to pull us back into the game with two sublime goals. From then on, we took the game away from Rugby School and eventually won 4-2. This was the first time that a KES 1st XI had ever managed to win the County Cup, so we were proud of ourselves; but we also knew that we had so much more ahead of us, with the possibility of making the National Finals.

We first had to qualify for the Midlands Zone Finals. We started off brightly, beating Uppingham and Trent before losing to Denstone. This left us facing Repton, last year's National Schools Championship winners, in the semi-final of the tournament. We fought hard but we could not force that victory that would have secured us qualification to the National Finals.

Even so, the 1st XI of 2011/2012 can rightly call themselves the most successful hockey team that KES has ever produced. In the whole season, we did not lose a single full 70 minute game. In fact, out of the 28 matches we did play, we only lost 3, all shortened 40 minute cup matches.

Captain George Adams was instrumental in our success, leading the team with his inspiring team talks and swashbuckling play; Sam White, with his sensational skills and blistering pace, scored over a quarter of our goals (23 to be exact); James Cloughton's 'thou shalt not pass' attitude at the back was the main resource of our solid defence; Bruno Richards' close control and dribbling complemented our attractive passing game; Tom Hyne's tremendous work ethic embodied the team's unending effort; Alex Roberts never seemed to give the ball away; Ed Burns was consistency personified; Jamie Fennell was as dependable as ever in goal; Max Galla ran heroically up and down the wings; Sam Greenbank's versatility allowed the team extra flexibility; Tom Cloughton literally put his body on the line on several occasions for the good of the team and Harman Khangure unfortunately tended to be ill or injured most of the time.

Thanks must also go to coaches Mr Johnson and Mr Edwards, without whom none of the team's achievements would have been possible. I wish next year's captain Ed Burns the best of luck as he and his team mates try to emulate the success of the 2011/2012 season: it's not going to be easy!

Girish Murali

2ND XI

What a season this has been for the mighty 2nd XI, one that certainly lays down the marker for 2nd XIs to come. The stats make for impressive reading; the team played 19 games, won 14, drew 4 and lost only once. It should also be mentioned that many of the teams we faced were in fact other schools' 1st XIs, so 14 wins and 4 draws is an even better record than it sounds. The only loss, 3-1 to Solihull, came very early on in the season, so it could be put down to being undercooked, but we soon put that behind us to end the season unbeaten (gaining revenge for this defeat in the return leg). Our best result was a 12-0 win against RGS Worcester's 1st XI.

The scorebook will tell you that an impressive 71 goals were scored in total this season. Matt Rodrigo chipped in with 21 of the 71 and our very own Michael Owen-esque goal poacher Umar Galla scored 11. The unpredictable Steven Yang also ended up scoring 5 goals. The hurricane-like force on the wings of Nick Porter and Alex Russell scored 16 between them, putting deadly balls into the box for the strikers to feed off. Our midfielders also deserve credit for their link-up play and solidity: Naveen Sivakumar and Jhaspal



Jeeta did very well indeed, while Haris Khan-Cheema and Harman Khangure were inspirational when they played, daunting opposition defences. A defensive rock was built throughout the season on an ever-present back four of Jack Moreton, Idrees Mughal, Aniket Sonsale and Jamie Mitchell, who conceded 23 goals, keeping 6 clean sheets in the process. Tom Hodgkisson was sound in goal, keeping 5 clean sheets.

So all in all, an excellent season indeed, one spearheaded by the master tactician Mr Roll for the first half of the season and the astute Mr Irvine in the second half. Many thanks must go to them for their splendid coaching, without which we would not be the force we are. This team could be unbeaten for years to come...

Aniket Sonsale

3RD XI

Tinner's Invincibles were captained by Andrew Macarthur and regularly attracted crowds of 2 whenever his grandparents were able to come to the fixture. Good teams have a combination of committed hungry players and team spirit, and we were not found wanting.

Nick Bleasdale was our fulcrum in attack setting up countless chances with his unselfish layoffs. At times it appeared that he was happier if someone else scored rather than himself. Harry Davenport was magnificent at left midfield and in the last match had 20 shots, which was indicative of the total hockey that the team played. Jamie Mitchell and Hari Pai were fabulous in defence and were, quite rightly, moved up to the second XI. Half way through the season Anuj Savani suddenly became an imposing goalkeeper. We even had a drag flicker in Saajan Jemahl who occasionally scored from a short corner. Rahul Karavadra was magnificent in midfield and his equaliser against Bloxham with a fantastic reverse stick effort into the far corner a couple of minutes from the end, after we were 3-0 down at half time, was the moment of the season. What made it more impressive was that when he had practiced the technique before the game he was so poor that I had banned him from attempting it in the match unless he scored. We played quite a few 1st teams, the defeat of Old Swinford Hospital 11-0 being a highlight. Tom Haines, James Kuo George Galla and Aditya Kale were also regular members of the team. It was a joy to coach such an enthusiastic and talented 3rd XI and the team fully deserved its unbeaten record.

SJT

U15A XI

This was a highly successful season: we recorded 11 victories and scored 80 goals (only conceding 14) in the 13 matches played. After a slow start with many players unpractised, we gathered pace and went from strength to strength. Ten players got their names on the score sheet, with special mentions going to captain Jay Reddy, who scored 30 goals, to Hugh Hadley with 11, and to Tom Lamb with 10. Defence and goalkeeping were also strong, as shown by our only losing once, to Loughborough, in the entire season. Especially notable was our 18-1 victory over Bablake School, creating a new school record.

A greater challenge was ahead in the Spring term, with the departure of Alex Georgevic and Jay Reddy to Australia. Learning to play effectively without them was difficult at first, but we soon improved greatly. They returned just as we were to face our strongest opposition yet: Repton, to whom we had lost in the Midlands semi-finals last season. With some fantastic team play and a superb goal from Jay in the last two minutes, we equalised to make the match 2-2. It may seem odd that the highlight of the season was a draw, but the game was truly tense and it was exhilarating to play such a strong side.

Our final match was against Warwick, whom we beat comfortably 6-0, bringing a fitting end to an excellent season. Thanks must go to all the hockey coaches and particularly Mr Edwards, with whose help we have grown individually and as a team over the season.

Charlie Wall

U14A XI

This season the team has come a long way as we have absorbed new recruits and received yet more tactical enlightenment from Mr Roll. The season has seen big improvements in our results.

After winning our first two fixtures, we experienced our first defeat at the hands of archrivals Solihull, losing 3-1 despite our team's superior possession of the ball. The rematch was a different affair: we blew them out of the water with an enormous 9-1 victory. Solihull players shed tears of frustration. Another notable victory was on the water-logged pitches of Newcastle, where the team scored 8-0 in stormy conditions.



U15A Team

At the heart of our year was the national tournament. After first-round success, we played in Round 2 in Beeston, where we won, beating Round 1 winners Bablake 2-1. On to Round 3 in Cannock, the home of hockey, where we lost against the strong favourites, Bromsgrove, in our opening match. However, a 2-0 win over Worksop allowed us the chance to progress to the semi-finals of the Round, provided we secured a draw against Ratcliffe. This was when our most memorable goal of the season was scored, by Siddharth Singh, following great assistance from Kundan Uppal and Mason Gain. This goal admitted us to the semi-finals. Hopes ran very high, but unfortunately our fatigued team was unable to progress any further, going down 2-0 to Rugby.

I would like to thank the entire team for the level of hockey played this season. As captain I believe that we have matured, and will continue to mature, into a strong side. I would also like to thank Tarush Gupta, Finlay Geelan, Duncan Miller and Angus Bradley from the U13 side for helping us get as far as we did in the national tournament. Finally I would like to thank our coach Mr Roll, who has brought us to the level we are over the past two years. Overall, we won 13 out of 22 games played, only losing 5 and drawing 4. Our target for the coming season is to better this record.

Siddharth Singh



U13A XI

The U13 Hockey team performed extremely well this year and the side shows real promise for the future. There were many victories throughout the year and some results which showed significant improvement from the previous year.

The best performances came in the U13 mini hockey championships. The team finished as runners up to Bilton Grange in both the Warwickshire Championships and the Midland Hockey finals. This meant the team qualified for the National Finals. This is the first time this has been achieved by any hockey team in the history of King Edward's School.

The competition was played at Cannock Hockey at the end of May. Having never made it past the regional



rounds before, the team was a little apprehensive about the quality of the opposition they would face.

The first pool game was against Ipswich School and the team earned a 2-1 win to start the competition on a high. Another 2-1 win followed against King's Chester. A goalless draw against Simon Langton School meant that a win in the final game would see KES in the Final. Unfortunately the team lost 3-0 to the eventually winners, Queen's College Taunton. Despite only losing one game in the group, the team had to play in the 5th/6th playoff against Beeston Hall School. In a game in which KES dominated, unfortunately we could not break down the Beeston Hall defence and eventually lost on Penalty strokes. It was a fantastic effort from the team and I hope that this is the first of many National Finals for KES hockey.

MEJ

U12A XI

Although we won only two of our five fixtures, defeating Warwick and rivals Solihull, this was a successful season for the under 12A hockey team.

After a slow start against more experienced sides, which saw us beaten, albeit narrowly, by Solihull, Ratcliffe College and Bromsgrove, we improved tremendously, including a 7-2 scoreline against Warwick. Special mention goes to centre forward Cameron Bailey, who scored 7 of our 12 goals, though the whole team put in some fantastic performances throughout the season.

Tanay Kulkarni and Keshav Singh





CRICKET OVERVIEW

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Date	Opposition	Score	KES score	Result
21-Apr	Shrewsbury	87-1	KES: 83 ao	LOST
05-May	Solihull	153 ao (Rao 4-35)	KES: 154-7 (Mubarik 36)	WON
12-May	Warwick	247-6	KES: 205-7 (Porter 43)	LOST
16-May	Oldswinford	153-6	KES: 154-4 (Roberts 60*)	WON
19-May	Kings Worcs	112-4	KES: 115-9 (White 44)	WON
23-May	Malvern	130-2	KES: 126-6 (T Cloughton 31)	LOST
26-May	Bromsgrove	81 ao (Kumararatne 4-15)	KES: 253-6	WON
13-Jun	XL Club	145-8 (Wigley 5-21)	KES: 153-4 (Roberts 71)	DRAW
20-Jun	Repton	142-4	KES: 139 ao (White 34)	LOST
27-Jun	Old Eds CC	147 ao (Kumararatne 4-20)	KES: 139-9 (Roberts 57)	LOST
29-Jun	Westminster	157 ao (Murali 4-22)	KES: 268-8 (Roberts 115)	WON
05-Jul	Scotch Coll	91-8 (Murali 3-23)	KES: 90-9	LOST

Batting

Name	Innings	Not Outs	RUNS	H.S.	Average
N. Roberts*	11	1	383	115	38.3
S. Mubarik	7	1	244	82	40.6
S. White	9	1	198	44	24.8
J. Jheeta	11	0	189	90	17.2
M. Galla	12	3	147	32	16.3
N. Porter	9	0	113	43	12.6
T. Cloughton	11	0	91	31	8.3

Bowling

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	WICKETS	Average
G. Murali	58	8	201	15	13.4
N. Kumararatne	27.4	3	107	9	11.9
J. Cloughton	72	8	284	9	31.6
R. Wigley	35	4	125	7	17.6
S. White	47	3	198	7	28.3



1ST XI

For all KES cricket teams this season started with high hopes but ended tamely, battered and bruised by the unrelenting rain of the wettest summer in a century.

After a fine pre-season of sixteen weeks and the introduction of yoga to aid performance, a First XI of eight returning Sixth formers and plenty of talented youngsters were eager for the season to start in April. But the first fixture against Shrewsbury is always one of the toughest on the fixture card: after being asked to bat on a tricky pitch, the batsmen struggled to cope with fine bowling and posted an under par score that was quickly overtaken by the opposition.

After a number of cancellations, our next fixture, against Solihull, had to be played without the Sixth formers, who were in the middle of their IB exams. The young team under the captaincy of Max Galla responded extremely well and bowled the opposition out for 153. Two stand-in bowlers, Sid Rao (4-35) and Ashay Patel (8 overs 2 wickets for 19 runs), set up a fine victory. The job was finished off by a fine batting display with four batsmen showing much potential.

The game against Warwick proved to be as disappointing as the Solihull game had been a success. Wayward bowling (with the outstanding James Claughton the exception) allowed the opposition to amass too many runs, and although a number of our batsmen got themselves 'in', no one went on to play a substantial innings, so we ended well short.

The next two games, shortened due to the weather, saw good victories against Oldswinford and Kings Worcester. James Claughton was by now proving himself to be a bowler of real worth and consistency, while a number of the batsmen were beginning to find their feet in the tough damp conditions.

After a drubbing at the hands of a very strong Malvern College team, the side finally had some good weather for the Bromsgrove fixture. The batsmen did not let us down: Saahir Mubarik (82) and Jaspal Jheeta (90) put on 172 for the second wicket and led a formidable score of 253 -6. The bowlers did not disappoint either. The two spinners, Girish Murali and Naveen Kumararatne, led the way; KES bowled the opposition out for 81.

After Half Term the team started with a draw against the XL Club, during which fine individual performances from Rob Wigley (5-21) and Nathan Roberts (71) showed us what we will miss next season. After a heavy defeat by a classy Repton side, with only Sam White (34) standing up to be counted, came a disappointing defeat by the Old Eds CC. Naveen Kumararatne again bowled well and Captain Nathan Roberts hit a fine 57.

Little did we expect it, but there were now only two matches left, both against touring Australian teams. We played very well against Westminster School from Adelaide. Nathan Roberts scored a fine century and KES amassed 268, the highest team score for a number of years. Girish Murali then wove his magic



and the opposition were hustled out for 157. Rain affected the 20 over match against Scotch College from Melbourne, Australia. We struggled to 90, with Nick Porter manfully constructing 22. However the bowlers did a splendid job and we just lost off the last ball of the match.

The rain had washed out a staggering ten matches. Nathan Roberts led the side extremely well and I know will go on to become a strong force in local league cricket in the years to come. Girish Murali continued to show that there aren't many better spinners in school cricket, and James Claughton was chosen Player of the Season for his fantastic attitude to bowling: whatever the conditions, whenever asked, and with a great deal of skill. The future looks bright with a number of young players coming through; Saahir Mubarik (Fourth Year) had a fine introductory season and could do great things in future.

The Season of 2012 cannot finish without a final thank you to Richard Hare, our outstanding groundsman, who did his best to tackle the elements head on and only just lost on occasions. His efforts to ensure that games could be played and to provide the best surface possible were Herculean. Nobody more than him deserves the Summer of 2013 to be nothing short of a heatwave.

LMR

2ND XI

In a season that allowed only three games, thanks to an unprecedented number of disheartening downpours, the 2nd XI managed a creditable record, winning all three. Our victories were even more satisfying given that they were over three of the best cricketing schools in the Midlands, namely Warwick, Malvern, and Bromsgrove. A team made up almost exclusively of Fifts and Divisons managed enthusiastic fielding performances and some excellent spells of fast bowling.

Against Warwick, opening spells from Ed Burns and Suhail Chaudhry provided us with a fantastic platform to take wickets from. These wickets were reaped through the leg spin of Naveen Kumararatne and Ben Galyas, who took 5 wickets between them, and added to by Michael Durante and Ashay Patel; Warwick finished on an under-par 130. A brilliantly patient and focussed half century from Hari Pai, with support from Shiv Pabari, steered us home with plenty to spare.

Malvern were our next victims. Batting first, KES assembled a score of 153 for 7 thanks largely to an 80 run stand between Harman Kangure (47), and Aniket Sonsale (32), which set up an excellent base that we perhaps failed to build on significantly. However, an excellent opening spell by Ashay Patel, left him with miserly figures of 7 overs, 3 maidens, 10 runs for 2 wickets. The pressure asserted by this accurate and troubling spell meant the Malvern batsmen had to attempt to attack our resident legspinner, Kumararatne, but he too responded and picked up 3 wickets for just 12 runs. The job was duly finished off by Rao (2-21) and Galyas (3-33) as Malvern were bowled out for 117 within 32 overs.

The season culminated with a trip to Bromsgrove School, a trip from which last year we returned empty handed. This was not to be the case this time round. Batting first, Lilburn laid the foundations with a solid 38. The good start was spectacularly built upon by Pabari, who amassed 56 runs in the last 12 overs of the innings, hitting a spectacular 6 over one of the longest boundaries we've play on, leading us to an imposing score of 173 for 9 off 30 overs. The openings of both bowling and batting had been consistently successful for KES this year, and this trend continued through the partnership of Burns (1-12) and Patel (2-30). The bowling was consistently difficult for the Bromsgrove batsmen to get a hold of, and this pressure was added to by our dynamic display in the field, including an impressive catch taken by Pabari at first slip off Chaudhry, who held his nerve during the closing moments of the game to achieve impressive figures of 2-29 and leave Bromsgrove 21 runs short.

The 2nd XI can be proud of this year: a side known for its joyous team spirit has a considerable amount of success to build on, and for certain individuals to take into the 1st XI next year. Thanks go to Mr Phillips and Mr Edwards for their coaching and support through a disrupted but vastly enjoyable season.

Ben Galyas

U15A XI

Like all the other school cricket teams, the U15 A team endured a frustrating summer, managing to play only four games, one of which was a pre-season warm up game against Bromsgrove.

Bromsgrove posted a large total of 195 from 35, which KES battled valiantly to chase down. The day belonged to Saahir Mubarik, who smacked 44 runs in the last 3 overs to score a fantastic 104, supported by Alex

Georgevic (36) and Matt (22 n.o). However, the total proved just out of reach, KES eventually losing by 14 runs. Following this game KES, now without Saahir, came up against a Warwick side. Warwick batted first, posting 118 all out thanks to tight bowling from all the bowlers, particularly Avishay Mehra. We started our innings with a flurry of wickets, before Scott Geelan stabilised the innings with a score of 49. Max Dixon was able to hit the winning runs, with three wickets in hand and two overs to spare, giving us our first win.

The next game was against Bromsgrove. KES set a decent total of 171, courtesy of 51 from Hugh Lilburn and 32 from Scott. However, Bromsgrove made short work of this total, dismantling the bowling attack to all corners of the pitch, and winning the match with six overs to spare. Next came a Warwickshire Cup semi-final (also our first cup game) in which the old enemy Solihull stood between us and the final. Solihull posted 125 off their 20 overs, despite tight bowling from Karan Sood and Jay Reddy, leaving KES with it all to do. We started with a quickfire 17 from Saahir (returning briefly from the first team), but after Saahir's wicket runs were painfully hard to come by. Eventually, despite a solid 28 from Hugh and a more aggressive final four overs from Max (14 n.o.) and Scott (23 n.o.), KES fell short. Our cup dream was over. Another blow came when the Oxford festival was washed out, an all too common story for the season.

We had four Australians join our team, as part of the annual cricket exchange, for the latter part of the season. Unfortunately, they were denied a game by cruel English weather, apart from a staff match. However, their support and effort in training were great and their presence was hugely appreciated by all who met them. All that remains is to thank Mr Stearn, Mr Collins and Mr Roll for their coaching and support, and we reserve special congratulations for Saahir for breaking into the First XI.

Matt Jolley & Scott Geelan

from Sachin Singal, and handy support from Vikram Thakur, led us to a total which would be very hard to chase down, and a highly-rated Bromsgrove team were unable to do that. Although the shortage of games was a shame, we were happy to finish with a 100% success rate and a much improved side, and all in all we benefited highly from the season. The limitation of outdoor practices meant we were able to train indoors and focus more on technique, meaning the team next year should be very strong.

Johnny Allen

U14A XI

A season severely curtailed owing to the wettest summer for years prevented the side performing to the required level. Results were disappointing.

However, there is sufficient talent and spirit in the team to augur better for the future. Mentions have to be made of opening batsmen Pratinav Sinha and Usman Khattak, whose fine innings at Bromsgrove was the highlight of the season; of Siddharth Singh for keeping the inning running; and of Pratinav Sinha, who also performed well as an opening bowler. Other mentions go to all-rounder Guy Withers, an array of bowlers including paceman Ollie Brown, Owen Davies, Oliver Wiseman, Arjan Goswami and 'spin wizard' Sarban Hoonjan, to our ever-improving wicketkeeper-batsman Mason Gain and to newcomer to the team Finlay Koral, whose solid batting enhanced the team's performances.

My thanks to all my team-mates for their support, and especially to coach Mr Johnson, whose efforts deserved more.

Guy Marston

U15B XI

Despite the weather, this was a successful season. The rain limited us to only two games, but the first of those was an extremely exciting match; we seemed out of the game after a weak batting display, but some great bowling from Rotimi Akindeinde and Karan Sood led us to a victory by very few runs.

The second game was a completely different matter. An extraordinary display of composure with the bat

U14B XI

We had hoped to repeat last year's success, but unfortunately a lot of our games were rained off. In the matches we actually played, we performed well. We got some good early results and won in the first round of the cup.

Rain interrupted some games in the middle of the season. There were two disappointments at the end of the season: after being knocked out of the cup, we were beaten by Bromsgrove in a game we should have won. Special mention must go to Sam Shah for a half-century against Bromsgrove and to Nilesh Ray for taking five wickets that contributed greatly to the comeback against Holte.

Nicholas Wyatt

U13A XI

In our second year as KES cricketers we had a very successful season, despite the horrendous weather which was responsible for eight cancelled matches. The high point was the great win away at Warwick, against a team who narrowly beat us last season. Unfortunately we were not able to defeat a strong Bromsgrove side containing a cricketing prodigy.

There were some fine individual performances. Excelling with bat were Tarush Gupta, Josh Ray, Samraj Hullait and Hamza Ajaib, all heavy and reliable run scorers. Regular wicket takers were our bowling twins Vignesh and Vishal Sriram, along with the pacey Matt Madden and Saroop Nandra. Special mentions go to Finlay Geelan and Tom Fenemore for their uncomplicated and aggressive run making in the middle order, to Will Handy for his batting cameos, and to Harry Nijjar and Nirad Abrol for notable contributions.

We should also thank Mr Mason, our coach, for all his hard work, enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the season, Mr Cloughton for the occasional cricketing masterclass, as well as all the schools, umpires and tea ladies who made the season so enjoyable. But we are hoping for a proper summer next year.

Joshua Dowdeswell



Postscript:

Josh is too modest to mention his own contributions. He captained the side with maturity; it was not an easy job, as most of the team were willing to give him the benefit of their thoughts on tactics. He also bowled his off-spin well, taking important wickets and usually being economical. When he batted he scored runs, but was always unselfishly willing to give others a chance to bat.

The season actually finished on a high note on a lovely September afternoon at Eastern Road. KES narrowly beat King Henry VIII School from Coventry in the final of the Warwickshire County Cup.

The match was played over 30 overs. Winning the toss, KES batted first and posted a competitive 169-7 thanks to a magnificent maiden century from Tarush Gupta.

King Henry's laid solid foundations and at the half-way stage of their innings it was anyone's game. With 91-2 after 18 overs they were on the same score as KES at the same stage, having lost one wicket fewer. However, a couple of run-outs and another wicket put KES in the driving seat and a victory seemed almost assured. With 5 overs to go, 50 runs were needed. At this point, the Coventry captain hit 33 in 2 overs and swung the game back in his side's favour.

The last over began with 6 needed and two wickets in hand. Josh Dowdeswell brought himself back for the vital over. The first two balls yielded no runs; from the next ball there was yet another run-out as the batsmen attempted to keep the captain on strike. With the fourth ball of the over, Josh bowled his opposite number and the cup was King Edward's.

Mention must go to Josh Ray, whose direct throw was responsible for one run-out, and to Matt Madden and Finlay Geelan, who took good catches. The whole side fielded well and all six bowlers bowled tightly, especially Vishal Sriram.

After a frustrating season, it was nice to finish with such a good game of cricket. I should like to wish the team every success for next season.

TM**U13B XI**

Despite losing a number of games to our main opponent, the weather, the U13B Cricket team had a good season. Our opening game against Warwick was a difficult challenge. After setting them a target of 75, owing to Richard Chapman's innings-saving knock of 27, we needed to keep our bowling very tight. However, the Warwick order was extremely strong and, despite Amar Rai's 4/8, we were unable to keep them below our score.

We opened our Development Cup campaign with an emphatic victory over Stockland Green, Pathaq and Fennemore putting in 24 and 22 runs respectively. We kept our bowling tight and with Rai, Nijjar, Chapman and Wilson on top form we cruised to victory. After a number of byes we met Saltley School in the final at Eastern Road. Following a rather disappointing batting display, the players were tense as Saltley went in to bat to reach their target of 75. Thanks to Amar Rai's lethal bowling, we managed to get them all out for 12 and win the trophy.

Well done to the boys for their performance and determination during a difficult season.

MPB

U12 XI

It is a real shame the season was decimated by the weather. The U12 cricket team has shown heartening promise in the few games they played. The team had victories against both Solihull and Bromsgrove, and managed to reach the Warwickshire County final, only losing the game to a talented Warwick School side.

Throughout the season there were some great performances with both the bat and ball. Felix Abbot Black scored 87 not out against Solihull. Adam Hussain scored regular runs throughout the season, including 48 not out against Bromsgrove, and took five wickets against Solihull School. The Bhambra brothers, Ajeet and Jujhar, took regular wickets. Tanay Kulkarni captained the side well. He scored valuable runs, including 38 against Bromsgrove and he took four wickets against Solihull.

For many this was the first year of hard ball and from the limited matches played, the side has great promise for the future.

MEJ

WATER POLO

It was always going to be a tough year. We had lost Morgan Hirsch (Great Britain captain), James Cull (English schools), Matt Richardson and Ryan Hughes, the core of the U16 national championship team (2009) and the U18 champions (2010) and runners up (2011); the team was going to have to be rebuilt. Yet we can feel proud: the youth have risen to the challenge, and strong performances lower down the school, particularly in the under 16 nationals, show that the future is bright.

First, the Seniors: the Sixths found that the demands of IB left little time for training, so the form of the U18 side was not quite what we would have liked it to be. Yet they missed out on the national finals only by a hair's breadth.

It was a different matter for the Junior sides. Both the U14s and U16s qualified for the national finals with ease on the back of some strong performances. The U14s finished sixth, showing their potential to continue the school's fine traditions in water polo, but it was the U16s that were the real success story this year. Most of the squad remained intact from the team that finished third in 2011, and they were ready



to have a crack at the biggest goal as an U16 side. A strong fifth year led by Hamish Scott was mixed with a solid young contingent, starting out the day well. In the semi-final, a tightly fought match against City of London resulted in a one-goal win and a ticket to face vaunted rivals Manchester (Great Britain 'B') in the national final. Another tight match ended, heartbreakingly, in a 6-5 defeat, but second in the country isn't so bad.

The Senior squad is training harder than ever in the build up to next season, as captains Harry Cowley and Ed Burns look for triumph in their final year of school water polo. Also, a mention goes to George Sadler for attending the England Talent Programme in the 1997 age group.

Ed Burns



The triumphant U16 water polo team



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KES water polo players, past and present

BASKETBALL

The year has been long and hard, and the boys have trained hard and given it their all throughout the season. Spirits were always high during the long training sessions, the toughest workouts known to man.

Although we may not have triumphed in any games, we have learnt from our mistakes and hope to come back in 2012-2013 bigger, better and stronger as a team, to recreate the past glories of KES basketball.

Kashif Ali

CHESS

This has been a particularly successful season for us. KES is the only school which enters teams in all five divisions of the Birmingham and District Chess League: we were joint winners of Division One, runners up in Division 3, joint winners of the Year 8 competition and outright winners of the Year 7 competition. The last was particularly noteworthy as the two best Shell players, Ashwin Kalyana and Aloysius Lip, never played for this team, as they were already playing in Division One. However, there was plenty of other talent available, with James Draper and Alex Jarvis producing noteworthy performances. In the Removes, Si Woo Kim ably captained the squad.

The Division 4 team gave many lads a chance to play competitive chess, with Sid Singh and Ojaz Sharma obtaining many victories. Mention should also be made of two new arrivals, Bill Wang and Nihaar Upathu, who strengthened the squad. The Division 3 was made up boys from a mixture of years in the school, with Nathen Chung, Aman Chawla, Hugh Lilburn and Richard Miller doing particularly well.

Outside the league, the Shells won the area championship at a tournament in January. The under 14 team played in a tournament in Solihull which attracted strong teams like Haberdashers, Nottingham, Wilsons and Torquay, emerging as winners of the members trophy after giving these top schools a run for their money. In the same way, the seniors, playing in the Invitation Tournament at KES in November, beat Nottingham's A team and finished in joint second position with Haberdashers. Aloysius Lip and Ashwin Kalyana both won board prizes.



The highlight of the season was the senior team's success in the National Competition. Captained by Tom Lilburn, they progressed through to the final of the plate competition, beating teams like Winchester on the way. This is the first time for many years that KES has reached this stage. Special congratulations must go to Tom, who travelled to Uppingham with us and managed to concentrate despite the fact that he knew his IB results were being published on the final day of the competition: he even waited until we got back to Birmingham before enquiring about them! Apart from Tom, other stalwarts of the team included Shakeel Choudhury, the Nijjar brothers, Arun Dhesi and Jaspal Jheeta (as well as the stars from the Shells).

None of this would be possible without the help of Mr Simpson, who, despite retiring a number of years ago, still does all the complex administration for the Nationals. In addition, we have been helped by our coach, Mr Malcolm Hunt (OE) who, after some health problems this year, has given up his post. We wish him well for the future.

DCD

TENNIS

1st VI/IV P8 W6 L2; 2nd VI P2 L2

The Senior team performed well, reaching the last 32 of the National Senior Students championships before losing to a strong side from The Chase School, Malvern. In the summer, our only defeat came against an impressive Warwick side. Sam Arrand, Josh Price, Joe Carter, Jack Southall and James Kuo were the mainstay of the team. The Simon Booth Cup was won by Josh Price, who beat Sam Arrand 6-1.

U15 P7 W6 L1; U14 P1 W1

In the Spring Term the U15 team lost in the last 32 of the Aegon Schools Championships, but only after giving Kenilworth, who reached the National Final, a real scare. In the Summer the team was unbeaten, including a couple of victories over Warwick. We also won our Birmingham regional group in the Schools Championships: Olly Cull, Guy Marston, Giordano Magnante and Hugh Hadley, amongst others, have particularly impressed.

U13 P8 W7 L1; U12 P1 L1

In the Spring Term the team performed superbly, reaching the last 8 in the National Championships before losing to Warwick. In the Summer we comfortably won our Birmingham regional group in

the Schools Championships. The quality performers in particular were Finn Geelan, Hugo Easley, Richard Newton and Angus Bradley.

In a summer with so much inclement weather the tennis players deserve much credit for competing admirably in often less than desirable conditions.

SJT



BADMINTON

KES Badminton continues to progress under the supervision of ex-International Dave Eddy, who has been coaching at the school for some four years now. Our Senior squad trains for two hours every Thursday evening, whilst the younger age groups train on Tuesdays until the middle of the Spring Term.

We now have a regular series of home and away friendly fixtures for the Senior boys, against Bromsgrove, Camp Hill and Joseph Chamberlain College; this year we have also started an association with Bishop Vesey's on Wednesday afternoons. Our playing record continues to be very good, though we did have to go to Camp Hill this time with a team decimated by exams and other events, so unfortunately we lost convincingly there.

This season the school entered the Center Parcs National Schools Team Championships for the first time. There are two age groups: for years 7, 8 and 9; and for years 10 and 11. In the latter category we lost narrowly in the Area Finals to Camp Hill, despite our Staffordshire County star, Anuj Savani, winning both his matches.

However, the Junior team won both their Area and Regional stages and progressed to the National Finals at Center Parcs in Nottingham in April. Here we finished in a creditable fifth position, losing out in the group stages to the overall winners. This was a magnificent first attempt and, with at least three of our team still eligible next year, we have high hopes of doing even better next time.

Thanks must go to Mr Johnson, who showed terrific support for our efforts throughout the year, and to our Club Captain, Vickram Ravirajan, who worked tirelessly all year to keep the sessions and matches running smoothly.

Vickram Ravirajan

CROSS-COUNTRY

It has been a successful year for KES cross-country. Tim Griffith became the first runner to retain the Birmingham League Individual title and achieved course records on every course, whilst Dominic Bealby-Wright finished in a very respectable 7th place after a strong finish to the season. Dom, still with one year left, may well be a contender for next year's League title. Dan Turner placed highly as well, finishing 13th in this competitive regional league. Other notable highlights included the partnership of Dan and Tim claiming the Sutton Park Pairs Race trophy, a title that had managed to elude the team for some time. Furthermore, the school once again sent a team to the prestigious National Relays in Coventry, which was a good test for all the squad, given that some of the strongest under 18 runners in England were competing.

Several fresh faces joined the ranks from the lower years, helping to improve team performances dramatically compared to the year before. Training runs were as diverse as ever, with the Clent Hills, Sutton Park and Birmingham canals being the most likely places to spot the KES squad in practice. The team's general participation in races outside school has increased significantly too; the Birmingham Half Marathon was a hotspot for KES talent. In the 2011 race, Tim finished 24th in 73.48, making him the 13th fastest UK under-20 athlete over the distance in 2011. For those leaving the team this year, their running careers are far from over: several are likely to represent their respective universities at the BUCS championships in 2013.

Thanks must go to Dr Bridges and Mr Storey, who has taken us to every single race with sufficient warm up time "for the majority of the team". We hope that the KES cross-country philosophy is upheld by the upcoming talent, but one thing is for sure: the future of KES cross-country is in safe hands.

Timothy Griffith

Postscript:

Thanks too to Tim, who leaves as probably King Edwards' most successful school cross country runner ever. He was awarded Honorary Colours at Christmas in recognition of his outstanding achievements for the School.

RTB

