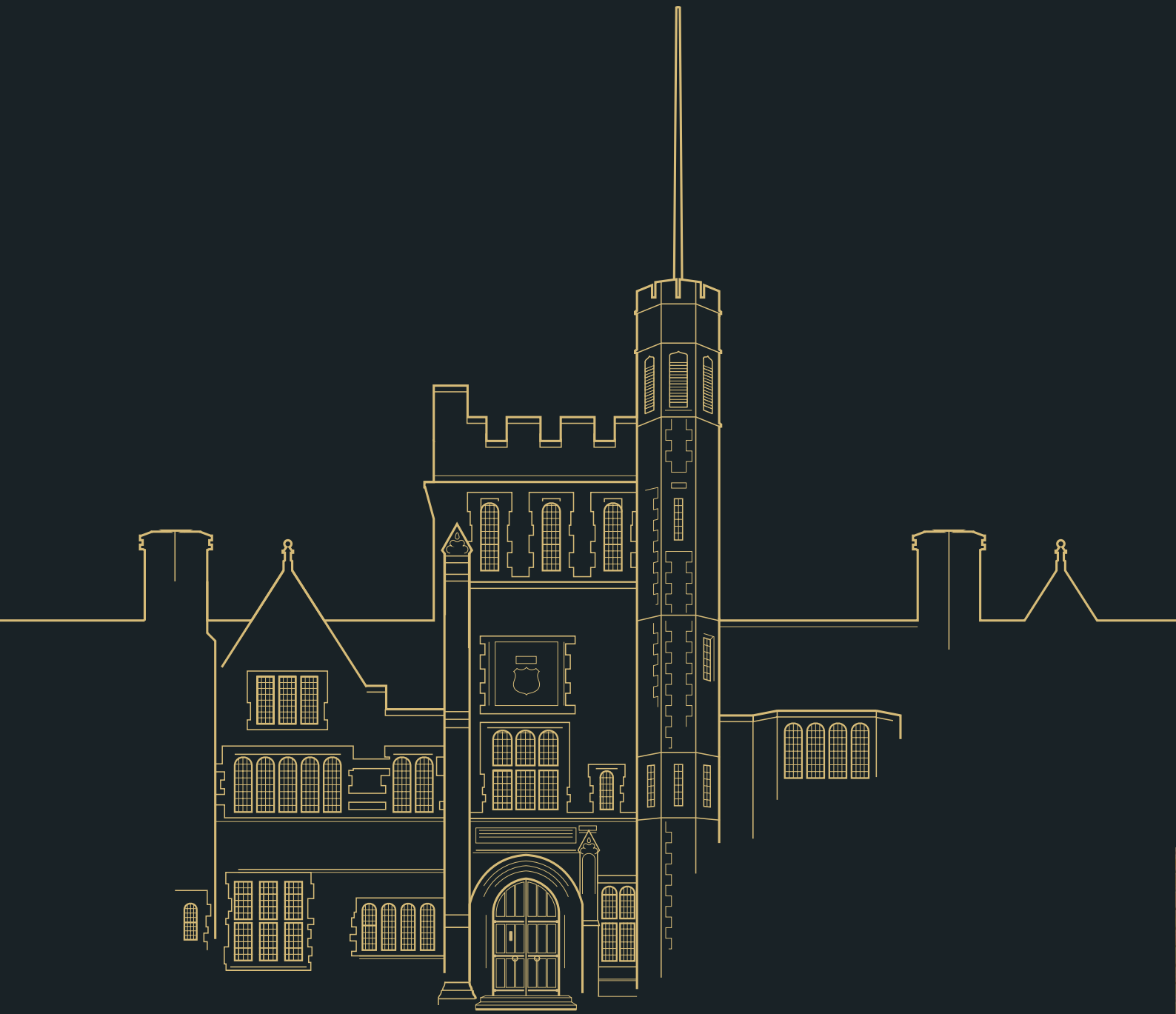




KING
HENRY VIII
SCHOOL

THE COVENTRIAN 2019-2020

ISSUE 278



KING
HENRY VIII
SCHOOL

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Welcome to the 278th edition of the Coventrian

What a year it has been... a year of two contrasting halves! Many of the pages that follow would be recognisable to generations of pupils, with reports of autumn and Christmas concerts; a magnificent production of *Little Women*; a Cup run for the U15 XV; and the 49th running of the KHVIII Relay. Alongside these familiar annual markers sits an astounding lockdown diary, showcasing a term of virtual lessons and events as the School responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

Pulling together the material for this edition has proved a greater challenge than previous years and my sincere thanks go to all the pupils, parents and staff for sharing their lockdown experiences, and in particular to Mr Dearden and Mrs Jackson for their efforts to compile this record throughout lockdown.

My now annual, but no less heartfelt, words of gratitude are once again directed to all those pupils and staff who have contributed articles, and Mrs Jackson and Mr Schofield for their excellent photography. Final thanks are reserved for Gus and his team at Ammac Design Ltd for all their assistance, in particular Beccy, without whose wonderful creativity and endless patience this edition would simply have not been possible.

Mr Rob Phillips



HEADS OF SCHOOL 2019-20

Head Girl
Giulia Szubart

Head Boy
George Gawthorpe

Deputy Head Girl
Jacqueline Correa

Deputy Head Boy
Alex Goodwin





COVENTRIAN FOREWORD 2020



What a 12 months it has been. We started the year full of optimism in September 2019; all seated in our newly refurbished 'Burgess Hall' for the traditional start of year assembly. Exam results had been strong. Extracurricular successes were coming in thick and fast; from the routine (but not taken for granted) national success in robotics to the equally routine 1st XV rugby win against the arch rivals, supplemented with further success in newer ventures such as national programming competitions. The academic year progressed very positively; the superb production of *Little Women* being a massive highlight, as was the Christmas Concert.

And then things started to get a little uncomfortable as news (and a virus) was spreading from the East. Hands were becoming so dry from being washed frequently that even a stereotypical Yorkshireman started using moisturiser. And we stopped shaking hands to congratulate everyone and started touching elbows. A school that prides itself on being friendly and open had to discourage visitors.

Of course, what followed will characterise 2020 for evermore. School closed the 'big red doors' (and all other doors) to all but the children of keyworkers on Friday 20th March. Barring a handful of days for Year 10 and 12 towards the end of the summer term, the 'big red doors' wouldn't reopen again for the rest of the academic year.

The true character and spirit of a community is shown at times of adversity. Schools are no different. And how the community of King Henry VIII School responded to global pandemic was nothing short of heroic. A whole ICT infrastructure was built overnight; using school equipment but also anything else that anyone could find at home to connect. Teachers were seen borrowing their children's 'gaming headsets' and webcams were firmly clamped above worksheets. Overnight, we all became experts on previously unused and unfamiliar software such as 'Teams'. Whole schemes of work were rewritten and lesson plans adapted. Videos were recorded and lessons broadcast

'live'. Our whole operation moved 'online'. Pupils followed their usual timetable, from home, and across a screen – often staring at teachers delivering lessons from kitchen tables or in their own dining rooms, stoically remaining committed to the development and education of their pupils. We had three main aims: to keep our community safe (mentally as well as physically), to provide structure and stability at a time of uncertainty, and to continue the development of the young people in our care.

Our approach wasn't just limited to academic lessons. Ways were found to hold House Cross Country – competitors running remotely from each other. Online rehearsals continued for *High School Musical*. Music performances, including ensemble pieces, were brought together with appropriate technological wizardry. And weekly whole-school assemblies continued to be broadcast on YouTube. Imagination and innovation are two intellectual characteristics that the school has promoted for some time and they were centre stage during the lockdown period.

We also played our part in the wider community. With relatively simple gestures such as providing free parking to key workers using the train station, to more complex operations such as the manufacture and distribution of thousands of face visors. We also stayed open throughout school holidays to provide childcare for those keyworkers that needed it.

A real concern was the pupils in Years 13 and 11 whose onward educational journey depended on grades secured at A level and GCSE. They had been denied the opportunity to succeed (or fail) according to their own merit through the cancellation of external examinations. They'd also been denied so many other rites of passage: the school prom, the last day at school, results day. Their roller-coaster journey lasted all the way until late August after the debacle of 'calculated grades' and the mystical algorithm was abolished (rightly so) for being

unfair. They were replaced by 'Centre Assessed Grades', awarded by teachers. And whilst these might have been on the generous side, surely this was a small price to pay at the expense of an alternative whereby thousands of teenagers were denied passage to the best path forward to the rest of their life.

At A level, 48% of all grades received were A* or A. And a third of all pupils gained grades A* or A in all of their subjects. At GCSE 90% of all grades received were at grades 9, 8, or 7. It is important to remember that the last three months of these courses did not characterise the approach and effort of the previous 17 months. These young people worked really hard over the duration of the course and thoroughly deserve congratulation. My hope is that they are not stigmatised for being the class of 2020 or the 'Covid generation' but are respected for their resilience, fortitude and tolerance. They have suffered more than most in this challenging period.

Of course, King Henry VIII School must now plot a course with a change of Headmaster. It has been an honour to serve as Headmaster for the last ten years. I leave with a sense of pride for the community which has never been stronger. I also leave with a heavy heart and will miss, terribly, the community that has played such a big part in my own life. King Henry VIII School remains a very special place.

*Jason Slack
Headmaster*

NEW STAFF

In September we welcomed the following new staff to the School.

MR JAMIE ABBOTT

Mr Abbott joined us as Head of History, coming from Lawrence Sheriff School where he has been Head of History for the past five years.

MISS MELANIE CUTLER

Miss Cutler arrived as our new Head of Learning Development. She has previously worked with Warwickshire County Council Specialist Teaching Service where she has advised schools on their learning development provision.

MR ADRIAN BOULSTRIDGE

Mr Boulstridge brought his considerable experience to the English Department, having previously been in senior management and more recently a Head of English Faculty at Lutterworth College.

MR NICK GERBER

Mr Gerber joined the Maths Department. He graduated from Bath University and has since been teaching Maths at President Kennedy School.

MR JOSEPH JACKSON

Mr Jackson joined the PE Department after graduating from Cardiff Metropolitan University. Mr Jackson will also teach PE in the Prep School.

MRS SHARON MCCUNN

Mrs McCunn joined the Computer Science Department, having turned to teaching after a successful career in industry where she worked as a project leader in coding analysis.

MR NICK VEEVERS

Mr Veevers added welcome additional staffing capacity to the ever-expanding Outdoor Education Department.

MRS ANNE CONWAY

Mrs Conway joined the PRE Department in a part-time capacity, bringing her considerable experience to the school.

MR SIMON THURSZ

Mr Thursz joined the Geography Department in a temporary capacity, covering the maternity leave of Mrs Baker.



SUPPORT STAFF

Miss Sophie Allen	SA	Sports Centre Supervisor
Mr John Ashley	JRA	Minibus Driver
Mr Craig Ashton	ASH	Assistant Caretaker
Mr Daniel Balcam	DJB	Performing Arts Technician
Mr Thanh Bang	TVB	Laboratory Technician
Mr Neil Beckett	NB	Sports Centre Manager
Mrs Ravinder Bhuhi	RKB	Office Manager
Mrs Sharon Bradley	SB	General Office Assistant
Miss Abigail Brown	ABB	IT Technician
Mrs Sarah Cadwallader	SJC	School Nurse
Mr Ross Clarke	ROC	AIP Catering Manager for KH8
Mr Paul Cooke	PJC	Data Manager
Miss Shanice Coomey	SC	PE Apprentice
Ms Helen Cooper	HAC	Librarian/Library Aftercare Supervisor/Archive
Mrs Anna Cox	AJC	Admin Assistant (HoDs)
Mrs Claire Davies	CD	CSF HR Manager (Foundation Office)
Mrs Catherine Dearden	CLD	Aftercare Supervisor/Sixth Form Office Assistant
Mrs Karen Duggan	KD	Pupil Manager (Sixth Form)
Mr Tony Foley	FOL	Maintenance
Mrs Christine Gallagher	CG	CSF Finance Manager (Foundation Office)
Mrs Catherine Gittens	CLG	CSF Transport Manager (Foundation Office)
Mrs Kate Goodfellow	KG	Alumni Relations Officer
Mrs Karen Greenway	KG	Music Secretary
Mr. Simon Gulliver	SG	Site Services Officer
Mrs Jacqui Hammond	JAH	CSF Director of Finance & Operations (Foundation Office)
Mr Jason Holmes	JH	Head Groundsman
Mr David Iles	DAI	Facilities Manager
Mrs Suzanne Jackson	SJJ	Marketing Manager/Admissions
Mrs Angela Jones	AJ	Admin Assistant/Staff Cover
Mr Daniel Kearns	DVK	IT Technician
Mr Alistair Kennedy	ACK	Head of Instrumental Studies
Mrs Karen Kettley	KK	CSF Fees Administrator (Foundation Office)
Mr Simon Lavelle	SCL	IT Technician
Mrs Lindsey Lee	LJL	Food Technology Technician
Mrs Sarah Lees	SJL	Reprographics Technician
Mr Tim Lees	TL	Network Manager
Mrs Belinda Leslie	BL	Examinations Officer
Mrs Julie Low	JSL	School Administrator
Mrs Jayne Moore	JLM	Receptionist (afternoons)
Miss Debbie Morse	MOR	Senior Physics Technician/Orienteering
Mr Mark O'Neill	MO	Assistant Caretaker (Late Shift)
Mr James Parsonage	JEP	Gardener
Miss Emma Pascall	EP	Drama Assistant Apprentice
Mrs Tracey Pascall	TP	Senior Finance Officer
Mrs Karen Pickup	KPS	Staff Refreshments
Mrs Sally Pike	SCP	Careers Adviser/Student Voice
Mr John Robson	JR	CSF Property Manager/H&S Officer (Foundation Office)
Mrs Joanne Rolls	JSR	Office Assistant/Admissions
Mr Shaun Schofield	SKS	Casual School Photographer
Mrs Amanda Skinner	AAS	Headmaster's PA/Entrance Exam Admissions Secretary
Mr Arron Skyrme	ADS	Assistant Groundsman
Ms Carol Smith	CS	Senior Biology Technician
Mr Peter Stafford	PRS	Head Caretaker
Mr Bill Timson	WT	Senior DT Technician
Mr Nick Veivers	NJV	Outdoor Education Assistant
Mrs Nina Virk	NKV	Office Assistant
Mr Matthew Waddington	MPW	Senior Chemistry Technician
Mrs Jo Walter	JAW	Receptionist (Mornings)
Mr Mark Ward	MDW	Site Services Officer
Mr Lucas Whelan	LW	Sports Centre Supervisor
Mr Paul Wilkins	PCW	Art Technician

ROLL CALL TEACHING STAFF

Mr Jason Slack JS.....	Headmaster
Mr Philip Dearden PMD.....	Deputy Head/Modern Foreign Languages
Dr Michèle Cuthbert MBC.....	Deputy Head/Physics/DSL
Mr Richard Sewell RGS.....	Deputy Head/Economics
Mr Jamie Abbott JWA.....	Head of History
Miss Lucy Ainsworth LCA.....	Girls' PE & Games
Mr Naz Amlani NA.....	Mathematics/KS3 Maths Co-ordinator
Mr Tom Andrews TDA.....	2i/c Mathematics/Energy Warden/KH Relay Race
Mr Conn Anson-O'Connell CJA.....	Head of Modern Foreign Languages
Miss Sarah Baker SMB.....	Biology
Mrs Sarah Baker SB.....	Geography (maternity leave)
Dr Steven Barge SRB.....	Head of Mathematics/Acting Oxbridge Co-ordinator
Mr Matthew Blake MAB.....	Physics/Co-ordinator for the Academically Able
Mr Philip Bond PDB.....	Head of Philosophy, Religion & Ethics/Head of Hales' House
Mr Adrian Boulstridge AB.....	English
Miss Sally Bradley SCB.....	2i/c Classics/English
Miss Sally Burton SEB.....	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics/Head of Sherwyn's House
Dr Helen Buttrick HLB.....	Head of Physics
Mr James Carlyle JMC.....	Head of Geography
Mrs Anna Clegg ALC.....	Modern Languages/German
Mrs Louise Collett LCC.....	Head of English
Ms Anne Conway AC.....	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
Dr Rosalyn Coull RVC.....	Assistant Director of Music/ESP Co-ordinator
Miss Melanie Cutler MJC.....	Head of Learning Development
Mrs Carrie Dowding CLD.....	Assistant Head/Head of Sixth Form/Chemistry/Deputy DSL
Mr Jon Fitt JDF.....	Director of Sport
Miss Laura Garcia LG.....	Modern Languages/Spanish
Mr Nicholas Gerber NDG.....	Mathematics
Miss Margot Griffiths MG.....	Geography/Charities & Community Link Co-ord/EPQ Co-ord
Mr Richard Harrington RAH.....	Physics
Dr Debbie Hayton DAH.....	Physics/Timetabler
Mrs Anna Heathcote ACH.....	Assistant Head of Sixth Form/Head of Food Technology
Mr John Henderson JWH.....	Art/Reports Co-ordinator
Dr Tim Honeywill TCH.....	Mathematics/Assistant Head of House System
Mrs Linda Horton LGH.....	Biology
Mrs Merun Hussein MH.....	Modern Languages/Head of Spanish
Mr Peter Huxford PNH.....	History/Boys' PE & Games
Mr Joseph Jackson JPJ.....	Boys' PE & Games
Mrs Joanne Jones JCJ.....	Director of Outdoor Education/DoE Co-ordinator
Mr Nick Jones NCJ.....	Head of Classics/Head of White's House
Mrs Victoria Kaczur VJK.....	Modern Languages/Head of German/Head of Year 9
Mrs Aileen Lockey AL.....	Classics/Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
Mr Duncan Lovell DJL.....	Head of Year 10/Head of Law/Law & Politics Society
Mr Peter Manning PSM.....	Head of Psychology
Mrs Rachel Mason RHM.....	Head of Girls' PE & Games/Head of Girls' Hockey
Mrs Jaynita Mattu JM.....	Head of Computer Science/Webalumnus/Intranet/KS4 IT Resources
Mrs Sharon McCunn SMM.....	Computer Science
Mr Craig McKee CMM.....	Head of Year 11/ PE & Games/i/c of Boys' Hockey/Academic PE

Dr Mary McKenzie MVM.....	English
Mr Nick Meynell NPM.....	Head of Economics and Business
Mr John Miller JPM.....	Head of Chemistry
Mrs Jenny Morris JNM.....	Girls' PE & Games/Teacher i/c of Netball
Miss Sarah Mould SCM.....	Head of Art/Publicity Officer
Mr Robin Newton RJN.....	Director of Music
Dr Donna Norman DLN.....	Head of Biology
Mr Francis O'Reilly FMO.....	Head of Year 8/History
Mrs Kerry Owens KLO.....	Girls' PE & Games
Mrs Kulwinder Pabla KKP.....	Chemistry/PA Link/MedSoc Co-ordinator
Mr Guy Parker GTP.....	Geography/Head of Holland's House
Dr Adam Petherwick ASP.....	Biology
Mr Rob Phillips RJP.....	Design Technology/Coventrian Editor
Mrs Jessica Proudlock JHP.....	English/Geography
Mrs Debra Quinn DNQ.....	Art
Mr Al Rendle ADR.....	Design Technology
Dr Lynn Reynolds LR.....	Biology
Mr Paul Robbins PR.....	Mathematics
Mrs Lynne Roote LMR.....	Head of Year 7/Learning Development
Mrs Taj Sanghera TKS.....	2 i/c English
Mrs Chris Spriggs CAS.....	Geography
Miss Grace Spring GMS.....	English/Head of Drama
Miss Sally Spruce SMS.....	Mathematics
Mr Stuart Sweetman SS.....	Head of Design Technology
Mr Thomas Swinford TSS.....	English
Mr Simon Thursz ST.....	Geography (maternity cover)
Mr Neil Tingle NRT.....	Economics
Mrs AJ Tracey AJT.....	Chemistry/Acting ESP Co-ordinator/Teacher Induction Co-ordinator
Mrs Kate Whitehead KMW.....	Chemistry
Mr Chris Wilde CMW.....	Modern Languages

COACHES

Mr Dave Lees DL.....	Hockey Coach
Mrs Lisa Whiteman LJW.....	Dance Teacher
Mr Steve Wilkes SPW.....	Rugby/Cricket Coach

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Miss Hélène Kerhom	French Assistant
Miss Lisa Abt	German Assistant
Mr Antonio Arellano Segundo	Spanish Assistant



475th ANNIVERSARY

23 July 2020 signalled the 475th anniversary of the founding of the School by Letters Patent, issued by King Henry VIII to John Hales.

Lockdown provided an opportunity to look back at old editions of *The Coventrian* to note how previous generations marked some of the more recent anniversaries.

Published in October 1945, the 165th edition of the magazine makes only passing reference to the conclusion of the Second World War but does dedicate several articles to the quatercentenary. Considering the main School was still a shell following the 1941 bombing, and most lessons were conducted from temporary huts on the edge of the field, a surprising amount was achieved to honour the 400th anniversary. In addition to a commemoration service in the Cathedral ruins, the significant milestone was also marked by the publication of the

School history and the first performance of *The Falling Arrows*, by Classics master J. B. Young-Evans, concerning the foundation and early years of the School. Prizes that year were distributed by no less than the Minister for Education, Richard Law (soon to be Baron Coleraine), in one of his few engagements during Churchill's caretaker government of May-July 1945.

Jumping forward to 1970, there is perhaps unsurprisingly no mention of the 425th anniversary. A news-light year might have benefited from some official celebration, however, when you consider that the purchase of a second television in the Junior School made the final draft of that edition!

The 450th commemorations of 1995 blended traditions of the past with first-time events that have since become established elements of School life. Drama once again took centre stage, with the world amateur

premiere of Old Coventrian Bob Carlton's *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. The Bishop led the service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral, while the Butterworth Hall concert showcased musical talent across both Junior and Senior Schools. A number of overseas trips were organised, including a rugby tour of Australia, a climbing expedition to Tien Shan in Central Asia and a netball tour to the Isle of Wight!



Future generations will no doubt define 2020 by the statistics of the pandemic that has dominated. Any thought of marking the 475th anniversary in a traditional manner was denied us but I hope those looking back at these pages in 2045 remember the resilience and grit displayed by the current generation of pupils and staff to ensure that King Henry VIII School lived on to celebrate its quincentenary!

R. J. Phillips

THE BURGESS HALL

On 27th March 2017, Roy Wallace Burgess passed away peacefully at the age of 86. Roy attended King Henry VIII 1939-1949, a period covering both the turbulent war years and the austerity that followed. Despite the logistical challenges faced by the School during that time, Roy was always appreciative of the education and opportunities he received, allowing him to pursue a successful career as a senior tax officer in London.

After retiring from the civil service, Roy and his late wife Joan settled just outside Evesham, close enough for Roy to reconnect with his old school. Many visits to Fosseau with close friends Jeff Vent and Stan Gough followed, as well as countless dinners and day trips. Roy was eventually persuaded to become President of the Old Coventrians, a position he held with immense pride.

On the death of Jeff Vent, Roy was amongst the first to step forward to serve on the newly established OCA committee and his contributions in those early meetings did

much to ensure the long-term survival of the Association.

Thanks to a substantial bequest left to the School by Roy, the main hall, the spiritual heart of King Henry VIII, underwent an extensive refurbishment over the summer holiday. A new ceiling, lighting, tiered seating, flooring and acoustic insulation were installed to transform the hall into an outstanding modern performance venue. Even before lockdown halted many of our traditional gatherings, the renamed 'Burgess Hall' hosted productions, concerts, assemblies, parents' evenings, robotics competitions, the Christmas Fayre, as well as the annual Old Coventrians' Dinner, over which Roy had presided for so many years.

Photo: JBV, Roy and Stan Gough during their final trip to Fosseau.





PERCY RILEY

A MOTOR INDUSTRY PIONEER

In February the School hosted an event with *The Riley Cars Heritage Trust*, which provided a fascinating insight into the history of a Coventry car manufacturer and Old Coventrian, Percy Riley, whose inventive genius kicked the company into life. Five sons of bicycle manufacturer William Riley were pupils at the School towards the end of the Victorian era. Geoff Haviland from the Trust talked about middle son, Percy Riley, and the replica of the first Riley car, which was on show during the talk in the Burgess Hall.

There is evidence that Percy's work on the original vehicle started when he was just 13 and still a pupil at KHVIII. Using facilities at the family factory, against his father's better judgment, who considered the motor car a passing fad, Percy's dream eventually became a reality in 1898. As this groundbreaking vehicle, and any technical design documents, had been lost long ago, Percy's nephew, Victor Riley, has led the project to produce an accurate replica of the original car.

The replica has been created using only visual information that could be gleaned from just two surviving photographs of the vehicle. At this stage there is no engine but fortunately one of the photos shows the bonnet raised, providing just enough information for stage two of the project. Coventry University automotive design students hope to develop a working replica of the first mechanically operated inlet valve engine, as designed by Percy several years before Karl Benz. It is hoped that the work on the replica will be completed in time to be featured in the 2021 City of Culture programme.

Percy only built one of this original design but Riley Limited went on to market dozens of models in low volumes over the following decades, although this rather weak business model eventually led to financial problems and the sale of the company to Nuffield, later BMC and British Leyland.



Despite its eventual fate, Riley deserves its place in history – it is claimed that Percy Riley's vehicle was only the second car seen on the streets of Coventry. Perhaps more significantly, Riley as a brand were the inventors of the removable car wheel and pioneered the dropped seating area of the car between the axles, rather than high above them, leading to modern, aerodynamic car body shapes and a more comfortable ride for passengers. The brand is now owned by BMW, although no Riley badged vehicles have been marketed for around 50 years.

Keith Bushnell & Rob Phillips



HOUSE REPORTS 2020

WHITE'S

1st – 158½ Points

Captains – Ellie Smith & Henry Monnington

When the school year started in September, a White's Band Trophy win was probably the second least predicted event of 2020. However, the socially distanced trophy presentation in July was great to see, even if we couldn't manage the pyrotechnics that Liverpool had the previous month. In fairness, they had to wait ten years longer for their title.

It was fitting that White's sealed the Band Trophy with wins in Participation and House Points. Our strength this year was in the commitment of the whole House to the events and it was great to see this continuing even in lockdown with great support for the remote events. Seeing full teams, substitutes and supporters for the House events shows the ongoing popularity of House events.

Once again White's dominated the early autumn events. Grace continued to demonstrate her talent in Photography and the pairing of Anurag and Eloise in House Bake Off paid off too. Patrick led the Junior Quiz team to a stunning victory showing a huge range of general knowledge. I suspect that the elite University Challenge contestants didn't also win House Cross Country too.

House Drama was a great victory not just for the quality of the performances but also for the size of the cast and supporting crew. A key feature of the House competitions is seeing students trying new things and it's always a highlight to see pupils on the stage for the first time. House Music saw similar involvement and quality with a slightly different result.

In lockdown, it was brilliant to see loads of White's taking part in House Cross Country and Sports Day. Year 7 threw themselves into these events and it's clear that we have some really talented individuals at the lower end of the House. At the upper end, it was also great to win the inaugural Staff Cross Country



– thank you to all the staff who took part and who have attended assemblies over the year.

Although the Band Trophy win was a real team effort, some individuals deserve mention. It's a real shame to lose Connor and Joss at the end of Year 11: both have been superb captains at various times and have always been willing to take part outside their comfort zone. They'll both be huge assets in their new settings. The Year 13 girls brought humour and enthusiasm to every event they did and also gave me a regular starting point to each assembly with their inability to take their coats off indoors. Max joined in Year 12 and has taken part in every event possible whether that be singing, water polo, the quiz or on stage. To earn House Colours in one year is a huge achievement.

Finally thanks must go to the House Captains. Henry and Ellie have worked really well together, Henry's laid-back leadership style and Ellie's drive and energy complementing each other. Ellie's organisation of Drama and Music was superb and she thoroughly deserves the Morgan Shield for her contribution to White's over her seven years. Well done, everyone!

Mr N. Jones

Event wins in 2019-20

Drama
House Points
Basketball
Water Polo
Bake Off
Senior Girls' Hockey
Year 9 Netball
Year 10 Netball

Junior Quiz
Senior Quiz
Year 8 Rugby
Participation
Virtual Quiz
Boys' Cross Country

Events in italics were held in lockdown



HOUSE MUSIC

House Music is always one of the most exciting events on the calendar, and this year was no exception. Highlights included four people at one piano for Hale's playing a piece called *Les Noces d'Argent*, a terrific vocal quartet from Sherwyn's performing *Ocean* by Billie Eilish, a beautiful performance of *Bruises* by White's, and a movement of a Beethoven string quartet from Holland's.

All the houses put on great performances of the set work, 'You'll Be Back' from *Hamilton*, and it was, as always, my favourite moment when everyone came together at the end to give a massed performance of it. Ellie Smith took over conducting duties for this final performance and did a terrific job!

The standout from this year was how strong all the houses were. This was the closest contest I have seen and there really was fantastic work from every house. This event really does go from strength to strength and I am looking forward to seeing more people involved and showing their brilliance next year.

HOLLAND'S

2nd – 136 Points

House Captains – Candice Correa & Sam Duckers

This year has been a far more successful year for Holland's after a disappointing 2018-19 season, seeing us finish second overall in the standings; had lockdown not occurred, who knows what could have been. A surprise win in the swimming early in the year was built upon excellent participation from the house with us able to enter swimmers in every race. Whilst outright wins were few and far between, consistency across events saw us sneak into the lead as we approached lockdown with second place in music, several rugby, hockey and netball competitions as well as basketball. Wins in music instrumental competitions and photography helped contribute to a strong finish, with drama being our weakness sadly yet again! Hopefully, we can improve upon our fourth place next year!



As ever, we are losing some great Holland's stalwarts. House captain Sam Duckers has been an ever-present in sporting fixtures this year. Ollie Kenyon, the school's First XV captain, has expanded his repertoire into drama and music in addition to sport, along with Toby Barham who balanced all of this well with his academic pursuits. Vice-captain Jasmine Close and Gisa Arumugarasa led music and drama respectively well too.

The competition for this year's Head Cup was more competitive than ever with four individuals in the running up to the last minute. Will Kelly, our vice-captain, was an ever-present in any event this year with notable turns in rugby, water polo, drama

and driving audience participation in music being just a few of his noted events. Head Boy George Gawthorpe let his musical and athletic talents shine through as ever being another who has always been willing to do any event the house may ask of him. In the end, the cup was shared this year between twins Jacqueline and Candice Correa. These two have both been ever-presents since Year 7 in events for their house and have led from the front well this year. It looked like Jacqueline had pipped Candice to the post with an excellent showing as our only senior girl in house water polo but house captain Candice clawed it back by managing the music competition well, stirring up enthusiasm from many of our younger students too. These two will no doubt leave difficult shoes to fill next year.

Mr G. Parker

Event wins 2019-20

Swimming
Senior Instrumental Music
Year 7 Netball
Junior Photography
Year 7 Rugby
Year 7 Relays (joint with Sh)

HALES'

3rd – 125½ Points

Captains – Meghna Patel & Matt Bailey

As we all know, it's been a very different year from usual with regard to all things, and this includes the House System naturally! Having won the Band Trophy last year, we did fall short this year, but there are a lot of positives to take through from last year into the upcoming events in whatever form they take. I think all of Hales' would extend their congratulations to White's for their Band Trophy victory, and indeed to Sherwyn's for their victory in the lockdown events. I am confident that Hales' are in a strong position to bounce back and aim for victory in 2020-2021!

The highlight of the year for Hales' has to be the performance in house music, and the continuation of our success in this major event from last year, winning once again after the triumph of last year. This was driven by a large number of the students within the house, but particular praise for this must go to individuals such as Meghna, Amar, Dharma, Tom and many others. What cannot be ignored is the massive



contribution of the many students who gave their time for rehearsals and house music in general to make this possible, and I am proud to have so many talented and inspirational students in Hales' who contribute to these successes.

Earlier in the year we had the house drama performance. This was ably led and indeed largely written by Elle in Year 13, and ably performed by our students. The confidence and innovation to write and deliver a piece shines a light on the strength of Hales' students and students at Henry's in general, and despite not winning I could not have been more proud of those students involved.

I would like to thank Matt Bailey and Meghna Patel who are the outgoing Year

13 captains for Hales'. They did a great job for a number of years, and were pivotal in ensuring that Hales' performed well. This includes the significant contribution that they made to our Band Trophy win in 2018-2019 as Year 12 captains.

Across the year, we had a huge number of students who took an active part in house activities and I would like to thank and say that I am proud of all of them. Whether it be dodgeball at lunchtime or house photography, all of Hales' add to our success, and we had a great spectrum of students who took part this year, seemingly increasing year on year. The aim now of course is to regain the Band Trophy!

Mr P. Bond

Event Wins 2019-20

House Music
Dodgeball
Year 8 Boys' Hockey
Senior Photography

SHERWYN'S

4th – 114 Points

House Captains – Annabelle Thompson & Deepinder Dyal

What a bizarre and incredible year we've had as a House team! We extend our warmest congratulations to White's House on their victory in the Band Trophy. We know you've waited a long time for that. Despite our 4th position this has been a year to be proud of for Sherwyn's and we have a lot to build upon to try to snatch the trophy back in 2021.

I must begin by saying thank you and goodbye to our excellent Captains, Annabelle and Deepinder. They have shown organisation, enthusiasm and resilience in spades.

Early in the year I had the privilege of seeing the most extraordinary House Drama production in my eight years at the school. Sherwyn's treated us to a Sherlock Holmes adaptation penned by our very own Seb Andrews of which Conan Doyle would be proud. Under the superb direction of Harri O'Leary, Clemi Andrews donned the deerstalker giving a truly marvellous performance. In addition we have a wealth of talent backstage with tech from Alex Pitcher and Declan Sassman, and make-up, as well as an abundance of motivational speeches,



provided by Annabelle Thompson. Very well done to all of our cast and crew. I've never been so proud of a Sherwyn's Drama performance!

House Music was another fantastic display of our creative talent and thanks must go to Lucy Stewart, Theo Bratton and Giulia Szubart for their efforts in putting this together. Our rendition of 'You'll Be Back' from the musical *Hamilton* really conveyed the meaning behind the lyrics and brought out the intended comedy of the song. I know the school's resident 'Hamilfan' Miss Spring thoroughly enjoyed this. It was great to see some of our Sherwyn's sports stars moving out of their comfort zone with a brilliantly entertaining rendition of Journey's 'Don't Stop Believin''. Finally we had a sublime Billy Eilish cover and a beautiful clarinet quartet. We have a lot of talented students in Sherwyn's, and seeing your willingness to get involved and push yourselves is really what House events are all about.

We had a lot to do to improve in the Band Trophy standings as the school entered lockdown in March, and let's be honest you rose to this challenge marvellously, getting involved and showing incredible self-motivation as we conducted events remotely. We achieved victories in Cross Country, Instrumental Music, 'Celebrity Supporter', and of course Sports Day. In short, nearly every event! From Edmack's keepy-ups (140!), to Dharam's drumming, and Lauren's creative sports mimes, you were all brilliant! A huge well done to you all for your victory in the inaugural Jason Slack Award for Lockdown Competitions. It was fantastic to see your enthusiasm shine through and great to finish the year with a win and a smile. For obvious reasons though we hope this is not a trophy we will ever have to defend!

Miss S. Burton

Event wins 2019-20

Year 8 Girls' Hockey
Year 9 Girls' Hockey
Year 9 Rugby
Senior Rugby
Year 7 Relays (joint with Ho)
Instrumental House Music
Girls' Cross Country
Sports Day
The 'Jason Slack Lockdown Cup'

Events in italics were held in lockdown





HOUSE DRAMA

House Drama is one of my favourite events of the year, as the Drama Captains undertake the entire page-to-stage process in just three weeks! During the competition, each team must get to grips with the whole iceberg as well as the tip: selecting a text; casting the show; planning rehearsal schedules; developing technical design plans and rehearsing the performance. The mark scheme breakdown considers every aspect of this process and judges Mr Dearden, Miss Spring, Dr Coull and Miss Pascall were faced with some difficult decisions choosing a winner from the four excellent pieces on show. We were also excited to stage the very first public event of the year in September in our newly refurbished Burgess Hall.

White's House gained first prize, with their magical, entertaining and interactive version of

Snow White. The staging boasted a wide range of year groups and was well organised by co-directors Hamilton (Y12) and Alessandro (Y12). Star performer was awarded to Libby (Y8) for her strong leading performance and stage presence as princess Snow White.

There was a hair's breadth between the winners and the runners-up, and Sherwyn's House came an increasingly close second with their slick, imaginative production of *Sherlock Holmes*. A complex story and intimidating number of lines were managed deftly by the cast and crew. Director Seb (Y12) was awarded star performer for his strong direction, adaptation skills and clever staging, ably assisted by Harrison (Y12).

In third place, Hales' House burst on to stage with energy and confidence with their rendition of *Are You New Here?*. This

comedic piece was adapted by Elena (Y13), with assistance from Jade (Y13). Off-the-wall, memorable characters and an extra-terrestrial twist captured our imaginations and we were left wondering what life could be like on the planets beyond our own. Star performer was awarded to Toby (Y8) for his (maybe a bit too convincing?!) portrayal of teacher! I hope he was not based on me!

In fourth place, Hollands' House staged *Fantastic Mr Fox*, a charming adaptation directed by Gisa (Y13) and Grace (Y12). In particular, our Year 7 students seized their moment to shine, impressing us and making us laugh with their quirky range of characters in true Roald Dahl style. Star performer was awarded to Albert (Y7) for his witty, charismatic performance as Mr Fox. Further credit must also go to the team and the understudying sixth-form narrators, who had the audience in stitches despite stepping in to fill in the roles on the day.

Miss Spring, Head of Drama





SPORT

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

King Henry VIII School has achieved another very successful sporting year. With the vast majority of our students participating regularly in clubs, practices and sporting fixtures, sport is certainly flourishing at the school. On the boys' front, the Under 15s charged through to the final of the NatWest Vase scheduled to be hosted at the Allianz Park, the home of Saracens rugby. Unfortunately, the Covid lockdown stopped the boys from achieving cup final glory. Boys' rugby again achieved another very successful and positive year with all our sports teams. The squads will be looking to 2020 as another opportunity to develop our style and gameplay.

The new fitness suite has seen more students using the facility than ever. Mr Pickering is the heartbeat of our S&C programme. It is amazing to see so many students working hard for a variety of reasons and using exercise as the vehicle to be a better person. The Perform Better team created an amazing space and we are so grateful for Mark and his team's efforts. Added to this was the Health, Well-Being and Sports Preparation programme which embedded an incredible new USP to the PE department and the school to use to support our students.

The School welcomed Coventry University for our first TASS Talent Identification with a wicked group of amazing school athletes. The programme aimed to identify and support some of our elite talent as they pursue professional recognition in their own field. S&C, Nutritional and Psychological support is provided which will allow the students to gain the feeling of being a professional.

This year's School cross country has achieved great progress. In the Coventry School League:

Year 7 Boys finished 2nd
Year 7 Girls finished 4th

Year 8/9 Boys finished 1st
Year 8/9 Girls finished 7th
Year 10/11 Boys finished 1st

Gold medals were achieved by Dougie Garnett and Dylan White, and Bronze medals by Oscar Gawthorpe, Jude White and Sam Devlin.

Our intermediate girls also qualified for the regional English school rounds at a very wet Moreton Morrell.

The relay ran its 49th race with the boys' A and B teams making progress on their previous year's performances. The girls ran valiantly and did the school great credit. The operation requires a huge effort from many people, none more so than Mr Andrews; so a massive thank you to him, to Mr Robbins and Mr Tromans for all the work with the runners, and to all our student helpers for an amazing effort.

Athletics praise of the season goes to Robin Greenwood who competed for Warwickshire at Sports Hall Athletics for the U15 girls. The team delivered an impressive performance to see off Birmingham, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire, culminating with a comfortable gold in the sprint relay. The team now heads to the UK Finals in April.

Robin and Ngonda Takang also represented Warwickshire U15 Girls rugby, narrowly losing out to North Midlands. Both girls produced very impressive performances. Well done.

On Thursday 6th February an 18-strong team of Year 7 & 8s competed at the annual Warwick School 50s event. Despite strong competition from 14 other schools, our swimmers' efforts saw us increase our number of top five finishes. Swim of the day goes to Julia in Year 7 who won her 50m freestyle heat and was only touched out into second place in the final heat by four tenths of a second! Special mention should

also go to those Year 7 boys who 'swam up' in the U13 events to ensure we could fulfil our commitments.

Our aspiring Olympian Lauren Cox swam amazingly at the National Winter Championships in Sheffield. In the 50m backstroke she set another personal best time, a West Midlands record (26.98), and claimed a Silver medal; also, Gold in the Youth event. In the 100m backstroke she claimed a Bronze medal with a big, best time and new West Midlands Record! Also, Gold in the Youth event.

As all sporting seasons were brought to a slightly abrupt end it is important to realise how much effort and dedication has been put in by all the students, staff and coaches. We aim to provide an opportunity for all, across many different sporting platforms, and I'm so proud of the achievements that we make as a school. We must continue to strive for excellence, to work hard on and off the field But most importantly we must continue to love sport and exercise and be proud of the opportunities we are given to represent our school.

Mr Jon Fitt



WINTER SPORT

HOCKEY

U12 HOCKEY

Hockey was a new sport for the majority of the U12s this year, with very few of them holding a stick before. However, the boys' commitment and determination to improve ensured they were as ready as possible for the start of the season.



U12 A TEAM

The season started well with a 2-1 win against King Edward VI Five Ways School. However, this was followed by a string of tough fixtures against Bloxham, Warwick and Solihull where the squad learned some valuable lessons leading up to the Bablake game. This fixture was highly anticipated and the boys knew it would be a very close result. Both teams played well, but a late goal from Dougie Garnett clinched the winner for the team.

U12 B TEAM

The U12 Bs were a team to be reckoned as they managed to claim some big scalps in Bloxham and Bablake this year. The first fixture of the season saw them draw 3-3 to King Edward VI Five Ways School which was a good result considering it was the team's first exposure to competitive hockey. However, this team grew in confidence and style as the season progressed and an away win against Bloxham showed what this team would be capable of. The last game of the season for this team was against Bablake where the team walked to victory 9-2.

Both the U12 A and B teams have been excellent to work with this season and their success has been down to their drive to learn and improve. I am excited to see where this group of players will be able to go in seasons to come. Well done boys!

U14 HOCKEY

The U14s were exceptional this year in every aspect of Hockey. Training sessions were attended consistently which enabled the team to progress dramatically and have an extremely successful season.

The season started with the U14 Tier 2 County Tournament where the team won all their games and managed to win a penalty shootout to claim the championship. This was the second year in a row the U14 team has progressed to the regional round. The next round of the competition was a step up, and with no natural goal scorer the team struggled to take their chances. Unfortunately the team missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals through goal difference.

I am really excited to see where this team will go in the future. If they continue to demonstrate the focused attitude and outstanding work ethic of this season they will certainly be a force to be reckoned with. Well done everyone involved.

U15 HOCKEY

This year has been another successful season for the team. All the players worked tirelessly at training to improve their skills and be better hockey players. Under their captain Gurveer, the group built on last year's performances of reaching the Midlands finals round. Solid performances against KES Birmingham, Arnold Lodge and King Edward VI Stratford allowed the team to play from the back and score some excellent goals up top. The team has seen 18 players representing the A squad along with the mixed game which included several of the girls

who trained with us throughout the season. The team beat Arnold Lodge 3-1. It was fantastic to see both Bell and Ruth from the Girl's XI play for the team having consistently attended training and worked hard. Special mention must go to Gurveer, Connor and George F who improved incredibly over the season. The Team were an excellent one to coach and their energy and effort provided loads of laughs, learning and the development of a passion for hockey. The Covid crisis ended our season early which was so disappointing, but I am confident that many of the players will continue to represent the school in 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI matches.

FIRST XI HOCKEY

The 1st XI team had a difficult start to the season with a 3-0 loss against Framlingham in the National Cup. However, this did not knock the boys' confidence and wins against King Edward VI Five Ways School and Warwick backed up the potential of this squad. However, this form did not continue and a 3-3 draw against King Edward VI Stratford ensured the team stayed grounded leading into their Tier 3 National Cup game against Ratcliffe. Disappointingly, this was the last game of the season for the 1st XI and an early goal saw the team knocked out of the Cup. Although the result of this game was not on our side, this was one of the best performances I have ever witnessed by a King Henry VIII 1st XI. The boys were exceptional and anyone watching would have thought we were 5-0 up.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boys who played in the 1st XI this season and for making it such a pleasure to coach you. In particular, I would like to thank George Gawthorpe, Deepinder Dyal, Alex Goodwin, Matthew Bailey, Toby Barham, Jordan Parker and Stephen Hickinbotham for being excellent role models for the younger boys, and I wish you all the best for what next year has in store for you.

OVERVIEW OF GIRLS' HOCKEY 2019-20

Although it was curtailed by the coronavirus lockdown, the girls enjoyed the hockey season. It is a fine testament to the commitment of the players that over 100 girls have regularly attended training and have represented the school in all types of weather and usually with excellent humour! Indeed, one of my final memories of school hockey before the premature ending of the season was Year 7 house hockey completed during a complete whiteout of snow and hail at the astro! However, the girls displayed great tenacity and resilience to get the matches done so that there was time for a few snow angels after!

Every player has made progress throughout the year and the improvements in team performances have been excellent. This progress would not have been possible without the commitment and guidance of Miss Griffiths, Miss Ainsworth, Mr Lees, Mrs Morris and Miss Owens and so a big thank you to all of them.

It is impossible to pick out all of the highlights of the season, because each squad will have had their highs and lows and will have become better players as a result. It was brilliant to expand our fixture list this year to include King Edward's Fiveways and our U12s had a wonderful afternoon playing matches against them. Also, living long in the memory will be the fantastic U14s winning their match against Stratford Grammar – the jubilant celebrations of the players only surpassed by the excitement of Miss Ainsworth!

There are a number of players who are leaving the school after seven years of service to hockey. My thanks to them all for their commitment, dedication, hard work and banter! To Rachel Carron, India Cleverly, Jasmine Close, Jade Greenway, Anna Hopley, Ananya Kannan, Holly Slack, Ellie Smith and Abbey Forsythe, I am so sorry you didn't get the send-off you deserve because of lockdown but best wishes to you all for the future and good luck! Abbey Forsythe was the 1st XI hockey captain this year and was an inspirational captain. Not only did she do a wonderful job on the pitch but her organisation off the pitch was faultless and she managed to maintain an outstanding commitment to school sport whilst balancing the demands of national league hockey as well. Huge congratulations too to Caitlin Hickinbotham (Y11), Daisy Yarker, Ruby Clark (Y8) and Megan Cullinane (Y7) who were all selected to represent Warwickshire at hockey. A wonderful achievement for all the girls!

A huge thank you to all of the parents who have transported the girls to matches and training and to all the team players in all of the years for their commitment and hard work. Fingers crossed we will be back on the pitches soon!

Mrs R. H. Mason



RUGBY



FIRST XV RUGBY

The 1st XV have had another very strong season. Captain Ollie Kenyon and his leadership team have been incredibly dedicated and supported each other throughout what has been a tough set of fixtures. An excellent pre-season allowed all the players to bond and gel in preparation for our first competitive matches against Princethorpe. New structures and 'processes' gave the players more to think about as new leaders emerged of line-outs, attack and defence. The old boys' game showed the potential of the group with many Year 11s stepping up to the mark. Senior players

such as Sam Duckers, Matt Bailey and Declan Cutler were eager to cement their starting places and lead from the front. The first game was a

perfect example of that as for 20 minutes the opposition side barely touched the ball, as some sublime tries and moves were executed. New



additions to the team in Max Carter and Alfie Bell provided platforms from the line-out and at 10. Further impressive performances were evident throughout the season, a resounding victory against Adams Grammar School again proving the potential of the team. Sadly, the biggest determining factor in achieving an almost unbeaten season was through injury. The passion for rugby within the squad created a huge culture and desire to succeed. The togetherness of the group and how hard they pushed each other allowed 30-plus players to represent the school at 1st XV level. The strength in depth allowed us to deal with injuries and still record excellent wins against the likes of Wellingborough, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Abraham Darby.

On Friday 15th November, the 1st XV was able to retain the Mick Hibbert Trophy for the fifth successive year. This is the first time that any school has achieved this feat in the history of the competition. The contest was one of the toughest games we as a senior rugby group have ever prepared, given that in every match in which we have played Bablake as a year group they beat us easily. Both teams were incredibly motivated to win the contest, and the early exchanges certainly set the match up for a classic encounter. Henry's early domination allowed points to be scored under control on the game. However, in Bablake public fashion, they showed grit and determination to get themselves back into the fixture after an unfortunate mistake by King Henry's.

With time running out, an opportunist break, great work on the floor and a perfect offload undercharging run saw Henry's

regain the lead. It was then about defending their line and holding strong; which Henry's did, maintaining their unbeaten record over the past five years. The celebrations were one of relief and sheer emotion for the situation. 19 players on the night played out of the skins and the result was down to every one of them doing their jobs to their maximum and being better than their opposite number. As coaches we could not have been prouder.

There were County honours for Matt Bailey and Ollie Kenyon for the Warwickshire U18s and Finn Connelly and Ralph Gawthorpe for the Warwickshire U16s. Finn also furthered his ambitions with the opportunity to trial with Scottish Exiles, a great honour which has been achieved through his hard work and efforts. Academy performances for Tom Miles for Worcester Warriors and Alfie Bell for Wasps RFC in the Academy League have allowed both boys to experience the next tier of English rugby as they aspired for professional recognition as England U17 squad members. There were further Academy efforts from Max Carter and Piers Golby (Wasps RFC).

As always special thanks must go to the coaches, Mr Robinson, Mr Anson-O'Connell, Mr Jackson, Mr Thomas and some of our guest coaches from Wasps.

Senior rugby again surprised us all and it has been an incredible journey for the Year 13 players who, as juniors, achieved very little success as a side. However, a different level of determination, belief, and desire to be better continues to put the King Henry VIII 1st XV on the map as a competitive contest for the best schools around.

Mr J. Fitt

U12s RUGBY SEASON

Our season was one to be remembered: with ups and downs, wins and losses. We started off our season with a tough starting game against an U13 B squad at Adams Grammar School, and next fought an uphill battle against a well-drilled Ellesmere College A team. Northampton School for Boys A was a really tough match, but we had an incredible match with Princethorpe College A in the pouring rain – we were soaked head to toe but we fought hard until the match ended and, even though we lost, we left in high spirits. We then had an even battle away against Warwick School B which ended in a 35-all draw. A week later a stronger Warwick team beat us convincingly in horrible conditions at home.



Nonetheless, with our raised confidence we charged into battle against our long-time rivals – Bablake ... We arrived at the Butts Park Arena not knowing what to expect. Unfortunately, we suffered our biggest loss of the season. Battered and bruised, we prepared for our next fixture. Surprisingly, we smashed King Edward VI Stratford B at a jaw-dropping 50 to nil. After a close defeat against Newcastle-under-Lyme School A we ended our season

with a thrilling, last-minute win against Haberdashers' Abraham Darby A team.

My thanks on behalf of the team go to Messrs McKee and Wilkes, the team's coaches.

We played 10, won 3, lost 6 and drew 1.

*Fred Parker
(Captain KHVIII U12 A team 2019)*

U13 RUGBY

It has been a season of ups and downs for the U13s this year, with good wins over Ellesmere and Lutterworth early in the season being mixed in with heavy defeats to three outstanding teams in Princethorpe, Newcastle and Northampton. The season was unfortunately quite broken for the side as well, with numerous fixtures cancelled in October and November due to weather and our festival cancelled due to Covid-19 with only 13 games total played.

After a mixed start to the season, including two drawn games against Adams Grammar and Abraham Darby that we should have won, the players really began to step up after Christmas. A spirited loss to a talented Kenilworth side was followed by an excellent performance against Loughborough, seeing the team run out 40-35 winners away that then led to an outstanding 40-15 win over main rivals Bablake two weeks later.

The team was led very well this year by Oli, with outstanding performances by Kamsi, Diamond, Noyo and Rohan seeing

them selected for a B-team fixture for the year above. Our players have made some excellent progress as several adjusted to new positions, none more than our new scrum half Toby who really began bossing games after Christmas.

A special mention must also be made of our debutants Toby and Esher who've joined the team this season, as well as Leo, Adam and Adam who've made the step up from the B team well. As a team, there is a lot of potential going forward into next season as long as the boys can dictate the game that is being played and play for the full match. The future is bright!

Mr G Parker



U14 RUGBY

The U14s were a committed, talented and cooperative squad, with some excellent results, and the real potential to progress as they enter senior rugby. The season was left incomplete only by the non-playing of the Coventry Cup final, where the team was hoping to repeat its earlier 27-0 defeat of Bablake in the regular fixture. That display led to perhaps the most pleasing summary of the KHVIII side, from a Bablake parent: that KHVIII knew what it was trying to do, executed its plan, and retained its structure even when the 1st XV was not on the field.

It was, indeed, a squad and not a 'first fifteen'. If the new 50% regulations sometimes meant that large numbers could not always be taken to matches, there were sufficient B (and even C) team fixtures to show a depth of talent, and enough times when 22 boys were able to represent the A team in a fixture. All successful teams depend on forwards to win and retain ball. Line-out plays (well called by Nawfal Haji, a tower of strength as pack leader and number 8) offered variety and a stream of ball; scrums improved after a few sessions with Mr Wilkes, and at least six front-row forwards of considerable ability played. Humraj Singh's size was always matched by endeavour, and increasingly by fitness, Hubert Selormey was vitally consistent, strong and undemonstrative, Patrick Savage was vitally demonstrative and skilled, while Tyrone Soko and Oscar John were reliability personified. Oskar Young enjoyed hooking, but was increasingly seen to advantage as a scavenging and brave open-side flanker. In the back row his skills complemented Haji's energy and turnover capacity, Tafara Mhurushomana's fitness and speed, and Tom Duckers' power and expertise. The last-named was perhaps the forward of the season (amidst strong competition), in whatever row he was positioned. The most-improved forward was arguably Ted Brankin in the second row: clever line-out hands and real pace and willingness in defence and attack. His partners were Jude White, always totally committed and fierce in the tackle, and Kelvin Lin, quick and amused and amusing at the same time.

The first-choice half-backs used possession wisely: Oscar Gawthorpe was a busy scrum-half, as valuable for his enormous defensive energy as for his breaks and passing, while Max McHugh offered a good rugby brain at 10. His short-kicking game was always a threat, and he has the ability to 'run' a game. As a result, Nishil Patel's handling and vision and Luke Davies's energy and skill were seen less often than

would be the case in weaker years. In the centre JoJo Dow was a key figure as a dominant tackler and potent runner, and Oscar Novakovic's skill and directness gave real selection difficulties. The first choice back three was Raunak Banerjee (brave and powerful) and Ola Oladipo (elusive and a fine finisher) on the wings, with Dan Fennell at full-back. He offered fine running and kicking qualities – more than one opposition team regretted kicking so often to him! Eric Cowell was a fine replacement when he was available from other school commitments – as a last line of defence, he was outstanding in his tackling.

This, though, would be a back division without captain, top try-scorer, and instiller of trepidation into opponents: Samir Asharia. Whether at centre or on the wing he was a fine leader and set an impressive example of determination, reflection and awareness. Of course, there are areas for team improvement, and for individual development, but many of the season's victories were dynamic and convincing. Moreover, defeats to schools like Northampton and Loughborough were fiercely fought, offering scope for a reversed outcome next year.

It was pleasing to see many B-team fixtures, and some very encouraging victories (especially Wellingborough 38-24 and, sorry – Bablake again 35-0). This was a team brave in defence and willing to run the ball from its own lines. In addition to players already mentioned the following deserve thanking and naming – they have received their own individual report feedback: Harry Bennett, George Boyes, Kiran Clark, Arvin Dua, Edmack Kamhuka, Hitesh Muthyala, Nik Tambar, Ethan Trend, Ruskin Tromans and Baley Watts.

We have enjoyed the season as much for its spirit as for its results. There were several matches where opponents could not provide 15 players, meaning that a rotation of KHVIII boys had to play against their peers. They did this with notable determination and impact. We hope that next year, with developments in distribution, ball presentation and clinical finishing, the individuals will continue to build team skills and retain their desire to learn and progress. We thank a large and loyal band of parental supporters for their good-natured enthusiasm, the grounds staff for providing great pitches for running rugby, and the specialist coaches, notably Messrs Thomas, Jackson and Fitt, for their support and much-appreciated expert input.

PNH/NCI



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It has been a bittersweet year for U15 rugby





U15 RUGBY

After an initial 32-22 win at home v Princethorpe, the U15 squad suffered heavy injuries that resulted in losses at Adams Grammar School, Lutterworth High School and Ellesmere College. Henry's also suffered a disappointing loss against Ashlawn School in the National Vase area knockout final 32.

Importantly, the U15 boys did not take this challenging run of games lightly. A commendable redoubled effort at training sessions saw the squad develop greatly. The resulting 12-7 defeat of Bablake in the National Bowl Area knockout final 16 was evidence of the boys' hard work, which culminated in a well-needed boost to their self-belief. Following further injuries, Henry's did not let a challenging friendly at Wellingborough destroy their spirits, following this with a strong win at Pitsford School in the National Bowl area knockout quarter-final.

The U15 squad then went on to win against Prince Henry's and Arden academy in the Area knockout semi-final and final respectively. The quarter-final was won at home against Calday Grammar School.

The season culminated in a challenging and triumphant semi-final for the U15 National Bowl which saw King Henry VIII playing Farlingaye for a place in the final at Allianz Park.

After a 'good luck' message from British Lions and Irish legend Seán O'Brien the boys were spurred on as they arrived at Woodbridge Rugby Club, encouraged and stimulated by their nutrition plans and exercise schedules on the road. A fantastic run from Asharia saw Henry's score their first try at 11 minutes. Brilliant support from Ferguson also saw Henry's provide equal strength in what would prove to be a challenging and physical match. A great drive off the line-out saw Ray score, followed

by a further try from McMurray and conversion from Dowling that took Henry's to 17-0. Despite this, Farlingaye proved a team with high physicality, continuing to challenge Henry's and leaving the boys with a final score of 17-5.

King Henry's were due to play Warden Park on Tuesday 17th March 2020 and were raring to go after a fantastic 'good luck' message from Sir Gavin Hastings.

The important lesson to take from Henry's performance in the U15 Bowl is that of fortitude, resilience, and teamwork in the face of adversity. Without the ambition, determination, and drive of the U15 squad, who redoubled their efforts in training in the face of our initial heavy defeats, the Henry's boys would not have made it to the final of the National Bowl. They should take pride in their performances throughout the season.

Thank you to the continued support from parents at weekends. Likewise, thank you to all of the senior players who came to help the U15 rugby team prepare for the NatWest Bowl Final.

#WeAreHenrys



GIRLS' RUGBY REPORT

It's difficult not to think of what might have been when reviewing the season. The cancellation of three sevens tournaments, including a return to the National Schools Sevens, meant that probably our strongest squad so far was unable to show how talented they were as the season came to a finish. However there were still a number of highlights in this shortened season.

The undoubted high point was the first ever U18 15-a-side fixture played against Oundle at the Butts in December under floodlights. Henry's had all the possession and attacked for virtually the entire

game but couldn't break through a very committed Oundle defence. In the last minute, a dropped pass saw Oundle score a breakaway try that gave them a win against the run of play.

Thanks must go to Bishop Vesey's who helped fill some gaps in our team. The season began with an away fixture against them where after conceding some early tries, the team worked out how to play and the powerful running of Nadine and Rachel led to a much improved second half and a win.

Evie scored some great tries and ran tirelessly in support of attacks while Sarah showed her bravery and fitness in defence. Their leadership will be really important next season. Aggie continued to impress in the set piece and Molly showed growing confidence in attack and defence on the wing. Izzy and Caitlin gave us a scrum that often won opposition ball and both Year 11s grew in confidence over the season. Kate made her debut in our final fixture and her jinking footwork from netball saw her make several line breaks.

However, the undoubted players of the season were the captain and vice captain, India and Giulia. Giulia, like all good scrum halves, wasn't afraid to tell her forwards what they should be doing and was also never afraid to make key tackles on much bigger players. India led from the front in every way and her speed and elusive running saw her develop into an excellent centre. Both players worked tirelessly in organising the team and getting them to practise in the cold and rain.

My thanks also go to Mr Huxford and the U14 boys for practising with the girls and helping them develop in the run up to key matches.

The U15s continued to develop and again played very well at the Sibford sevens only to lose a semi-final to a much larger team. Ngonde and Tandi both made some huge tackles throughout the tournament and Diane demonstrated her pace and strength with some fine solo tries. Rosa grew in confidence in defence and will hopefully believe in herself more next season. The player of the tournament was Robin who showed the eye for a gap and pace that had brought her county selection earlier in the season. Congratulations to her and Ngonde on their selection for Warwickshire U15s and Nadine for the U18s.

The U13s improved in every game at the Sibford sevens and scored some really good tries. As they grow in confidence with tackling, they'll see results begin to go their way. They were led superbly by Daisy, backed up by Eloise, and Clarissa and Scarlett brought experience from club rugby which will help them next year.

Well done to everyone involved.

Mr N. Jones





NETBALL

The 2019/2020 Netball season has seen highs and lows. The U12s had lots of training and time to find their feet before they started playing fixtures at the beginning of November. It has been a tough season for them with difficult opposition. The girls have learnt a lot and have all gained experience in different positions. A particularly proud moment for them was the victory at the Ratcliffe festival. The U12s certainly show promise for the coming years.

The U13s have had another great season. The girls have shown fantastic commitment to training and fixtures and have worked hard week after week to improve. There is a lot of depth in the U13 teams and they show great potential for next year. The U13s shone in fixtures against Nottingham Girls' High School, Princethorpe College, Ratcliffe College, Wolverhampton Grammar, Arnold Lodge and Higham Lane. The highlight of the season though was winning against our rivals, Bablake, after losing to them in Year 7.

The U14s have taken wins against Arnold Lodge, Northampton High, St Martins, Princethorpe College, Ratcliffe College and Edgbaston High throughout the season. The U14 A team competed against tough opposition in the county tournament, following qualification from the Coventry tournament. All six teams were strong and the tournament was very fast paced with a high level of competition in every game. The girls played extremely well, and showed tenacity in their final match overturning a loss to Solihull from earlier in the week. It's unfortunate that the team didn't qualify for Regionals, especially after losing to the overall tournament winners by just two goals. A great team effort girls, well done.

The U15s have demonstrated amazing team spirit and support of their team mates. The shooters have worked hard to improve their shooting, often practising at break times. They have grown in versatility, often needing to play out of position to allow the team to be at its most effective. The U15s look forward to playing as seniors next year.

The 1st and 2nd VII have played some very tense games throughout the year, coming up against opposition such as Princethorpe College, Wolverhampton Grammar School, Stratford Girls' Grammar School and KEHS Birmingham.

They have also travelled to play Ratcliffe College, a school renowned for their sporting abilities. With only 14 players and therefore no substitutions possible, the matches were very tiring. They were highly competitive and very physical with the 1st VII winning by three and the 2nd VII narrowly missing out on the win.

The 1st VII had the tournament of their lives in the tightly contested county tournament in November and finished as runners-up, progressing through to the West Midlands round of the national competition. During the course of the evening, they beat Bablake, Solihull, KES and St Martins by effectively applying tactics and strategies practised in training sessions. Despite most of the girls having competed at the tournament in previous years, nerves were running high at the regional tournament held at Bromsgrove School. The highlight of the day was putting on a fantastic performance against Bromsgrove, winning in the second half but unfortunately not being able to make up the deficit from the first half. Although they showed great team spirit and put up a good fight, they didn't qualify for the National Finals. The 1st VII fully deserve to be awarded the Tudor Trophy for the most successful netball team of the season. A great season, well done, girls!

All teams did themselves proud in the annual Coventry Schools tournament with most teams finishing in second place and the 1st and 2nd VII taking the Coventry champions title. Sadly with the season ending rather abruptly with the Covid-19 pandemic forcing school closures, the U12s didn't get a Coventry tournament for their first year at the school. Additionally, the U13s missed out on a weekend tour to Conover Hall at the start of lockdown. The trip to watch Wasps v Team Bath in the Vitality Netball Superleague for the U12s-U15s was cancelled at the beginning of May. With great disappointment the seniors missed out on finishing their season with the Henry's fun tournament and the Old Coventrians competition where ex Henry's students visit school to play in competitive fixtures. This is a lovely event to catch up with recent leavers and keep the Henry's spirit of sport alive. We will welcome back the Year 13s next season as OCs instead.



Over 85 netball fixtures and 12 tournaments have been played this season – a huge amount considering the season was cut short. I am thankful to all of the girls who have given their time, effort and commitment to their teams. I am extremely proud of all of the girls for their achievements, whether attending training and representing the school for the first time or having been selected to represent their county or selection into Loughborough Lightning or Wasps hubs.

Thank you and well done to Rachel Carron on her netball captaincy and Evie Slattery and Eliyan Wallbank on their vice captaincy. Special thanks go to Mrs Mason, Miss Owens and Miss Ainsworth for their hard work with their teams throughout the season. I would also like to thank the parents for their continued support, whether ferrying the girls to and from training and fixtures or travelling to spectate at regional competitions. It is greatly appreciated and without your support the girls wouldn't get so much enjoyment out of playing netball.

Mrs Morris, Head of Netball



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL RELAYS, COVENTRY





On Wednesday 5th February, 91 teams, comprising 470 runners, attended the Annual King Henry VIII School Relay Race. As for every one of the 49 years this race has been run in Coventry, the event was held at the War Memorial Park: a 2.3-mile route, taking in the grass, footpaths and the necessary mud and puddles of the woodland to the west of the park.

Schools and visitors from all over the UK, travelling from north of the Lake District and along the south coast of England, came to experience another fantastic day of XC relay. Bradford Grammar School secured their first girls' win, whilst the Judd School from Kent dominated every aspect of the boys' race: record times for both A and B teams, and fastest leg for captain James Kingston.

In fine running conditions, Ermysted's School, Skipton, started strongly as usual in the boys' race: in-form Sebastian Segger-Staveley pushed on halfway into the iconic multi-terrain loop to clinch the first of six stages in 11:22, a 48s improvement on 2019, and a time which only Kingston would pip later. County champions Matthew Knowles (Lancaster, 11:30) and Fraser Sproul (Sedbergh, 11:38) soon followed, while RGS Guildford had the ever-improving Tom Jones opening strongly in 11:44.

Ermysted's remained ahead with Josh Carnelly throughout leg two, though Ben Fitzpatrick (RGS) closed slightly. Just behind, Josh Prendergast was scything through for the leg-fastest 11:49 – an astonishing time for a Y9 pupil – bringing Judd into an unexpectedly strong contention for the lead at this stage. Judd teammate Alex Beeston swept ahead on leg three with a strong 11:48; Midland champion Liam Rawlings (Thomas Telford) ran an unnoticed third-leg-fastest 11:39. The contest was as good as over by leg four, as Judd's Kingston (11:21) took a minute out of the chasers with his finest relay leg to date. Time-adjusted for the 1991 course shortening, Judd's 71:09 is the 14th best in history – and the fastest team time in a generation. All eyes turned to the intriguing battle for second: Ermysted's

national champion Alex Thompson, finishing with a tantalising 38s lead over GB international Will Barnicoat of RGS Guildford, taking bronze.

The four-stage girls' race saw an absorbing tussle between Bradford and Woodbridge, but it was Indie King who broke away late on to take the first leg for Loughborough HS in 13:19 from Millie Wills (Millfield) and Rebecca Flaherty (Bradford). UK Champion Ruby Vinton – expected to perform well here again – surged into the lead for Woodbridge in stage two in a manner similar to last year, albeit slightly slower (13:15). No change on leg three, with Amy Goddard holding a minute lead for the Suffolk school, but Bradford saved Emily Gibbins for an inspired 13:30 anchor to snatch glory with 1km to go, with a team time of 56:01. Woodbridge held silver, and Upton Hall denied Millfield another podium finish, taking third place.

King Henry's, assisted this year by teacher Paul Robbins and GB athlete and coach Glynn Tromans, secured another victory over their friendly rival Bablake, with Head Boy George Gawthorpe running the fastest lap (13:27) in the boys' race. To balance it up, Bablake beat Henry's in the girls' race, Sarah Brown running Henry's fastest lap (15:53). Other schools in the city who often attend (such as West Coventry Academy, who won the girls' race in 2008) did not manage to get teams together this year; it is hoped that in the 50th race event in February 2021, more of the local talent can come along!

In the presentations back at the school, Coventry Olympian Sheila Carey – who has spent many years working with athletes in Coventry and Warwickshire – spoke about the opportunity she was given to run with the torch as part of the London 2012 Olympics, hoping to inspire some of the impressive young talent we see at the Relay every year. A big team of volunteers – led by Mr Andrews and including teachers from the school, parents, and of course almost 100 pupils – helped to make this incredible event.

Report by *James Taylor,*
Tom Andrews and Is Andrews



With the 2020 cricket season wiped out by Covid-19, we thought it would be fun to look back in the Coventrian archive at the 1920 season review and the often brutally honest Cricket Characters report...

CRICKET – 1920!

The first match of the season, that with Mr G. H. Bunney's XI, was postponed till 17th June, owing to bad weather, so that our first match was with Northampton.

We opened the season with two defeats, then we improved and beat Stratford. So far we have won four matches and lost six. We had two good matches with the Coventry Police, but they proved too strong for us both times.

The whole-day match with Northampton on their ground was spoilt by rain. The home team batted first and made one hundred and seventy. At the end of their innings there was a violent thunderstorm. When we went in to bat, the wicket was terribly slippery and soft, and Northampton got us out for the miserable total of forty-three. The Northampton captain must

be complimented on his score of one hundred and one out of one hundred and seventy. [Wilfrid Walter Timms – went on to play 106 first-class matches for Cambridge University and Northamptonshire CC between 1921 and 1932.]

Both the Tettenhall matches were played on our ground, as they were unable to use theirs on a Saturday. We won the toss both times and batted first, but although the visitors won the first match we won the second.

Our first match with Warwick School was played on our own ground, on a very wet wicket, as it had rained hard in the morning. We came off victorious, but Warwick returned the compliment by beating us when we played them on their ground.

The match with Mr Bunney's XI was the first two-innings game we have had this season, and we managed to win comfortably. We must thank Mr Bunney for taking the trouble to bring up a team to play us.

A most enjoyable match was spent against Mr Butterworth's XI, at Coventry and North Warwickshire Ground, and the game ended in a win for us. We have to thank Mr Butterworth heartily for his grand sportsmanship and kind hospitality.

Our cricket has been vastly improved by the efforts of Duckham, our Pro., but still more good would be done if we had a good net wicket.

J.M.H.

CRICKET CHARACTERS 1920

J.M. Hartley – A good forcing type of batsman who has played some invaluable innings. Has little defence. A very good wicket-keeper. Is very keen, and has captained the team well, always being a very good example to his side.

A.L. Bunney – A batsman with a nice easy style. Has plenty of patience and a good sound defence. Has played some excellent innings. Rather an erratic bowler, owing to his peculiar action, but has had very fair success. A good all-round man, who will improve each season.

J.S. Woodward – A very promising bat, with a splendid style. His defence is excellent and he plays forward well. May be useful as a change-bowler. Has fielded very well at point. Another year should do well.

C.B. Holden – Has been an unlucky bat. Ought to have made runs. Would bowl better if he would not sacrifice length for pace, and at times has done well. Should develop another year.

N.J. Smith – Is a poor bat, and will not do any good till he lets himself go. Rather slow in the field. As a slow left-hand bowler did well on the softer wickets, but is apt to get far too short.

A.L. Holden – A very promising young bat with plenty of strokes. Will do well as he gets more strength to put behind the shots. Quite a good field. Is very promising indeed all-round.

E.L. Hartley – Although very young has played some very good innings. Has plenty of strokes. A good field. Will develop into a good all-round cricketer.

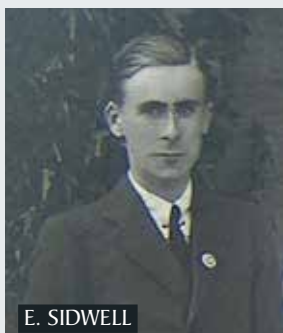
E. Sidwell – As a bat is disappointing, and has no strokes. His style is far too cramped. A fair field. Has shown keenness, and carried out the Secretary's duties well, giving up much spare time to the work.

F.L. Tew – As a batsman has achieved nothing. Never lets himself go in a match as he should do and can. A fairly good medium left-hand bowler who ought to improve. Only a fair field. Tries to throw down the wicket too often.

J. Franklin – A very promising young player. As a batsman has done all that was expected. He has no defence. A left-hand bowler of medium pace who has been very consistent, but must not try to bowl too fast. A very good field.

R.E.S. Willison – As a bat disappointing. Has strokes, but rarely tries them. A very slow runner. Rather a poor field.

M.P. Whiteley – Has only played one good innings. Has a useful leg-stroke. Only a moderate field.



E. SIDWELL



A.L. BUNNEY



J.M. HARTLEY

SUMMER TERM – LOCKDOWN

GIRLS' PE AND GAMES

Well, it has been a summer term like no other! Sadly, the plans for athletics, rounders and cricket fixtures had to be put to one side and instead the girls' PE department got together to think about what we'd like the girls to do during their games and PE lesson times. Obviously, at the forefront was the need to ensure the girls were being set physical challenges away from the computer so that they would maintain physical activity but we were also incredibly mindful of how their mental well-being might be. Knowing that each girl's set-up at home would be different, we also knew that we would have to let the girls tailor their work to their facilities/gardens/equipment etc. Some examples of the work set are below:

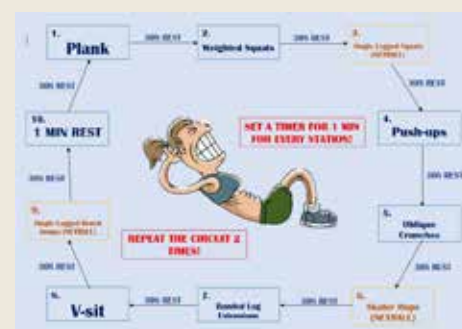
Year 7 – Create personal activity diaries so that the students and teachers could see how much activity they were doing; research some of the basic components of fitness and design circuits/dances/activities to work on those components of fitness; complete a step challenge and record results in the activity diary; 'spell your name' challenge by designing different tasks for each letter; design your own board game like PE-Opoly.

Year 8 – Research circuit training and then set up a circuit at home to work on muscular endurance (innovation at stations encouraged!); researching agility and designing activities to improve/test agility; researching cardiovascular endurance and planning activities to improve it; what is continuous training?; design a garden heptathlon.

Years 9 and 10 – each year group spent five weeks on a project entitled 'Exercise

for health' and five weeks on a project 'Exercise for performance'. 'Exercise for health' included keeping a log book over the weeks where heart rate was monitored during periods of rest and after exercise; a stair challenge was included so that students could see which tall buildings in the world they could climb; new activities were tried eg. yoga, Pilates and then during the project new topics such as mental health considerations and diet, hydration and sleep were included so that the girls could include more detail to their log books. The 'Exercise for performance' project entailed the girls designing and then performing two hour-long sessions per week on the following topics: components of fitness; overload principle; goal setting in training and plyometrics and bounding. The girls then evaluated their designs.

Rachel Mason





SPORTS DAY

Lockdown couldn't put a stop to one of the key House events of the year – Sports Day 2020 would be unlike any before! Pupils (and staff) were asked to complete as many of the 10 sporting challenges as possible during the day, following the entertaining examples provided by the House Heads in their introductory videos. For the first time, the final result was decided on participation. We all hope for a return to some competitive athletics in 2021, but hopefully this isn't the last we've seen of the hilarious sporting recreations!



4th Hales' - 165 points
3rd Holland's - 227 points
2nd White's - 235 points
1st Sherwyn's - 271 points!



2020

HENRY'S SPORTS DAY EVENTS 2020

1. 100M SPRINT
2. STANDING JUMP
3. LONGEST EGG CATCH
4. DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTS STAR
5. MOST KEPT UPS WITH FOOTBALL
6. RECREATE A FAMOUS SPORTING MOMENT
7. QUICKEST TIME TO BLOW UP 5 BALLOONS FULLY AND THEN POP THEM WITHOUT USING HANDS OR FEET
8. MOST GOALS SCORED IN 10 SECONDS
9. 1500M RUN / 1000M CYCLE
10. MORE AS MANY SPORTS AS YOU CAN IN 60 SECONDS FOR SOMEONE TO GUSS

CHALLENGE



WE'D LOVE TO HAVE A PARENTS' DAY. YOUR PARENTS CAN CHOOSE WHETHER TO JOIN THE DAY, THE LUNCH OR ANY OF THE OTHER EVENTS. THEY JUST HAVE TO BRING THEIR PARENTS' AND THANKS TO THE TEAM LEADERS. <https://www.khvhs.co.uk>

Music

PRIZEGIVING SUCCESSES IN 2019/2020

FRANK LIDDIARD EXHIBITION

Jason Arya

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Warwickshire Choristers

Rohan Halder

Coventry and Warwickshire Youth Orchestra

Grace Brennan	Flute
Jade Herrero	Violin
Aoife Anson-O'Connell	Cello
Meah Dharmi	Clarinet

Northamptonshire County Youth Orchestra

Hannah Baker	Violin
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CBSO Youth Orchestra

Aoife Anson-O'Connell	Cello
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NATIONAL AND LOCAL FESTIVAL SUCCESSES

Birmingham Music Festival

Piano Open Class Winner: Dharma Muthalaggapan (ARSM)

Pro Corda National Chamber Music Festival for Schools

Clarinet Quintet (Meah Dharmi, Lucy Stewart, Jay Madan, Roma Kayasthe-Patel, and William Ferguson) and String Quartet (Hannah Baker, Belle Worster, Alessandro Pace and Aoife Anson-O'Connell): Semi-final round.

BY AUDITION MUSIC COURSES

Pro Corda Cello Course

Aoife Anson-O'Connell

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

GRADE 1

Ria Heer	Piano
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GRADE 2

Raunak Banerjee	Piano+
Rosiana Selormey	Clarinet+

GRADE 3

Matthew Kalyango	Piano+
Anna Kisaakye	Piano*
Victoria McQueen	Cello
Gurnika Pabla	Clarinet
Roma Chahal	Piano
Dan Andrews	Electric Guitar
Alex Walsh	Electric Guitar+
Nanaki Bhuhi	Clarinet+

GRADE 4

Olivia Hughes	Clarinet
Mia Rayner	Cello+
Isabella Sheppard	Clarinet

GRADE 5

Phoebe Chandler	Singing+
Nadine Izzat	Singing+
Anna Kisaakye	Piano*
James Moffatt	Trumpet
Conor Winters	Electric Guitar+
Ben Harrot	Electric Guitar

GRADE 6

Adam Price	Singing+
Hardeep Rai	Drum Kit

GRADE 7

William Ferguson	Clarinet
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GRADE 8

Meah Dharmi	Clarinet+
Oscar Francisco	Drums+
Ralph Gawthorpe	Trumpet*
Amar Nahil	Piano*
Alessandro Pace	Singing*
Oliver Rolls	Saxophone

*Please note, the symbol * indicates that the student achieved a Distinction. The symbol + indicates a Merit.*

A large number of students will have entered music examinations outside school, and we also offer our congratulations to them.





AUTUMN CONCERT

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Chamber Music continues to play an important part in the life of the Music Department; we have traditionally produced strong ensembles and this year was no exception. Chamber Music is a broad church, and the variety of the ensembles within the department is testament to this, from String Quartets to a Jazz Combo.

Piano Duet Club, one of the more unique clubs within the school, continued to thrive, with a record number of participants this year with students being represented from every year group 7 to 13. The highlight of the year saw five duet pairs prepare a movement each from Ravel's 'Ma Mère L'Oye' (Mother Goose) suite so the work could be performed in its entirety at the Chamber Concert, sadly cancelled of course. Another group that thrived this year was Brass Ensemble thanks in no small part to the lively repertoire including a recording, with choreography, of Pharrell Williams' 'Happy'! Another ensemble with record numbers was the Clarinet Group which was bursting at the seams with 16 players including three bass clarinetists! Again, fun and varied repertoire contributed to this group's success.

The Jazz Combo had to reinvent itself this year with the loss of several key members from last year but the new line-up of Alessandro Pace on keys, Connor Winters on bass guitar and Hardeep Rai on drums gave a wonderful performance of Bart Howard's 'Fly Me to the Moon' at the Christmas Concert. Blues Band too had to reinvent itself with Connor Winters the only surviving member of last year's line-up, but he was ably joined by Morgan Lovell on lead guitar, Ralph Gawthorpe on bass, Hannah O'Sullivan on drums and Gisa Arumugarasa on vocals. The stand-out performance from this group was the Shakin' Stevens classic 'Merry Christmas Everyone' at the Christmas Concert.

The Flute Ensemble of Grace Brennan, Breeya Hall and Rosa Coutts-Smith became a tight-knit ensemble this year, their hard work culminating in a creditable performance at the Pro Corda Chamber Music Competition for Schools. Classical Guitar Ensemble with a new line-up of Adam Price, Avnish Sinha, Massimo Pace and Jason Arya had successful performances in both the Autumn and Christmas Concerts.

Piano Trio was reworked this year to consist of Hannah Baker (violin), Aoife Anson-O'Connell (cello) and Dharma Muthalagappan (piano). Working on music by Haydn and Mendelssohn was very rewarding but Covid deprived the group of any real performance opportunities. Hannah and Dharma worked impressively hard during the lockdown to produce some great performances, including successfully recording a duet for the final concert of the year. All three are looking forward to getting back together in person!

The Clarinet Quintet has always been one of our strongest chamber ensembles and this year was no exception with the line-up of Meah Dhami, Lucy Stewart, William Ferguson, Jay Madan and Roma Kayasth-Patel reaching the semi-final stage of the same Pro Corda Chamber Music Competition at Nottingham High School. Joining them in these semi-finals was the newly formed string quartet of Hannah Baker, Belle Worster, Alessandro Pace, and Aoife Anson-O'Connell who promise much in the year ahead.

A very large proportion of pupils took part in chamber ensembles this year. These ensembles are not always 'seen' or heard, but chamber music plays such an important role in the development of young musicians. Finally, I would like to thank all the VMTs who run all these ensembles and put so much hard work into making them successful, vibrant and fun.

Barbershop

Over the past year there have been two barbershop performances and one virtual barbershop performance. The valued members in the Barbershop Group are Oscar John, Charlie Atkinson, Theo Bratton, Alessandro Pace, Mr Blake, Mr Newton and myself. At the beginning of the year it was a struggle to find our feet.

We had new leadership because we had to say goodbye to Matt Pandya last year but we also welcomed a new member, Theo, this year. He was a fantastic addition to the group and he was extremely committed, having attended all of our rehearsals. In the Christmas concert we sang 'Annie's Song', which was very helpfully arranged for us by Matt. We tried to get this number ready for the autumn concert and we were very close but nearer the time some of us got ill and it wasn't looking realistic, so we delayed it till Christmas and it turned out to be a confident first performance.

The second barbershop performance was part of Hales' house music programme, where we performed 'My Girl' with Tom Honey on bass, myself on baritone, Meghna Patel on tenor and Max John on lead. House music approached very quickly this year and the interlude in 'My Girl' had some very difficult harmonies and syncopated rhythms so it was extremely ambitious, especially because the four of us had never sung together before. So we rehearsed at least three times a week for four weeks and it paid off; I was really proud of the four of us! Our last performance was done virtually and Matt joined us again. Mr Blake encouraged us to sing 'Tonight' from *West Side Story*, a song we had sung previously. We all recorded ourselves individually singing our parts to The Ringmasters' version on YouTube, I am sure adding up everyone's recordings we probably did over 30 takes! We each sent our recordings to Mr Blake and he kindly put them all together to give one last barbershop performance and indeed my last one at KHVIII.

It has been a pleasure singing with this group and watching us all improve and I am excited to see their performances next year!

Amar Nahil



Junior Choir

Junior Choir has had an extremely enjoyable and busy year, despite the reduced length of the academic year. The choir has practised and performed many beautiful songs. Some of my favorites were: 'Hushabye Mountain', 'The Lord is my Shepherd', 'The Rhythm of Life', and 'Tonight' (from *West Side Story*). We were also extremely lucky to attend the Leamington Spa Music Festival, in which we performed both 'The

Lord is my Shepherd' and 'The Rhythm of Life'. It was an exceptionally enjoyable trip, and the scores were very close. The judge thoroughly enjoyed both of our songs, and we were awarded first place, and a shield as a memento.

Some of us were fortunate enough to sing with the Philharmonic Choir last November when we collaborated in a sublime concert

performance of *Carmina Burana*. It was a wonderful night, and many of the audience said that they thoroughly enjoyed it.

It has been a wonderful year for Junior Choir, and even though we didn't have a chance to perform in the Music Festival this year, it was yet another incredible experience.

Mara & Silvia Iuga

SENIOR CHOIR

Once again Senior Choir has had an exciting year with lots of new opportunities arising to get involved. Conducted by Mr Newton and including keen singers ranging from Year 7 to 13, we have learnt a wealth of new repertoire and showcased our musical talent in termly concerts this year. Throughout the year we have been committed to weekly lunchtime rehearsals, progressing and improving our ensemble skills together.

Senior Choir took the opening number for our Autumn term concert performing 'Seasons of Love' (from *Rent* the musical). It's an upbeat but meaningful song that explores how we should 'measure our lives in love'; it has remained one of my personal favourites. The Christmas concert came around quickly and we sang 'Sunday' by Stephen Sondheim (from *Sunday in the Park with George*). Lauren Hughes sang a beautiful solo in 'Once in Royal David's City' and the audience were enthusiastic to join us in singing some carols too.

Throughout the Spring term we had been learning and practising a medley from *Wicked* the musical by Stephen Schwartz, which was a great arrangement because it included

several of the greatest numbers from the show. Unfortunately, we were unable to deliver a live performance this Easter due to school closures, but we have not let that stop us making music! Senior Choir starred in our May Virtual Concert singing 'Come What May'. The song choice quite literally sang a very relevant message for today.

The future looks exciting for Senior Choir with lots of new opportunities on the horizon. Many of our singers who also enjoy acting will be inspired to get involved with our musical production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* next term. Currently, a new commission by Howard Skempton is being written for us to celebrate Coventry's City of Culture award that will be performed in the Butterworth Hall in March. Be sure to come and watch us!

We look forward to returning to school and singing together as soon as possible, and grow as we hope for some new talented voices join us!

Hannah Baker

JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

Over this past academic year (2019-2020), it is with great pleasure that I am able to reflect on the wonderful year that many others and I shared whilst playing for our school's Junior Orchestra. Performing both the Prelude from 'Te Deum' as well as 'O Holy Night', the success of our performance was testament to all of the hard work spent practising our pieces in Music Room 1 on Monday lunchtimes. I must also not forget that due to the dedication and guidance put in from Mr Kennedy as well as Mr Newton, all of us were able to execute these pieces to the quality that we did. Thank you to both of these music teachers.

Throughout the year with the presence of many eager faces from our new Year 7s as well as many returning faces, we were lucky enough to have an extremely well-rounded ensemble for every rehearsal. In addition to this, there were some other teachers of the school who performed alongside us adding more texture to the overall sound of the orchestra. Hopefully, with fresh talents joining the school in September, King Henry VIII's Junior Orchestra will have another amazing year ahead.

Hubert Selormey, 9BD

SENIOR ORCHESTRA

Despite these difficult times, music has been a fundamental factor in pulling us through lockdown. The virtual concerts have allowed us to reflect on our diverse repertoire. One of my proudest moments was leading the orchestra in Prague where we performed the Ballet from Debussy's 'Petite Suite' and Elgar's 'Chanson de Matin'. This allowed us all to experience different environments and lovely acoustics from churches, museums and outdoor stages.

At the start of this academic year we performed Mozart's *Magic Flute* overture in the autumn concert. It was our first concert in the new Burgess Hall and there was a noticeable improvement in the acoustics. This made our performance all the more gripping!

Unfortunately, I was unable to perform in the Christmas concert; however, the orchestra performed 'Sleigh Ride' – a tradition at Henry's which is always a lot of fun – and once again members of the audience joined in with bells and singing. This year we had extra comedy because the whipper whipped the whip too energetically.

At the start of the New Year, we decided to play Rossini's overture to *The Barber of Seville* and this came with many challenges. Nevertheless, the piece gradually came together – it was just a shame that we missed the opportunity to perform this great work.

For me, orchestra has always been something that I have looked forward to and it was

a chance to spend time with some great people. Not only did we have a real sense of community but rehearsals were also a good diversion from busy school life.

I firmly believe that orchestra has allowed everyone to improve and learn skills they may not find elsewhere. Ever since I stepped up and became leader, I believe it made me more confident and assertive. It helped me understand that it's okay to make mistakes and to just go for it! Over the years, the music department has made me, along with so many others, grow. I hope that I have made a good impact and that everyone's love for music does not stop!

Jasmine Close



HENRY'S 9

The members of Henry's 9 this year consisted of Giulia Szubart, Meghna Patel, Jasmine Close, Lucy Stewart, Aoife Anson-O'Connell, Milla Spyczak, Alice Kaye, Grace Brennan, and myself. On occasions additional individuals filled in to maintain the group at nine singing members.

This year we sang some brilliant pieces; one of the most memorable and a particular favourite of the group's was 'Second Hand White Baby Grand'. The piece was written by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman for the musical TV series *Smash*. The song is based on a true story about Marilyn Monroe's relationship with her mother. The piano that the piece is named after was a prized possession inherited from Monroe's mother and is interestingly now owned by singer Mariah Carey following auction. We performed this piece at the 2019 Autumn concert, during which Milla Spyczak gave a stunning solo.

At the Christmas Concert we sang the classic 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. The rehearsals in the months leading up to the

performance were a joy to attend and certainly generated a festive atmosphere for us all. Vividly I recall loving the harmonies in the piece and appreciating how the piece, that term, brightened my days in school.

After the Christmas concert, we discussed the next pieces that we would work on and began rehearsing 'The Seal Lullaby' by Eric Whitacre. The song had beautiful lyrics, which are the poem 'Seal Lullaby' written by Rudyard Kipling.

Looking over the year, what makes this choral girl group so amazing to be part of is the cameraderie. I have loved getting to know the girls in the group and it has been such a pleasure to learn from them all and collaborate, but also to get the honour of listening to their combined voices. Last year, following the building of a close relationship with, and being inspired by, the older girls in Henry's 9, I was intrigued for this year and the new mix of members. However, it was so encouraging when I got to bond with the girls in Year 12 who I had previously not been all that familiar

with. I can happily say how grateful I am to have been in a music group with them all. Henry's 9 allowed me to make some really good friends. Across the year, we have had brilliant memories and lots of fun, while also developing our singing. As a result of singing and spending more time with the girls subsequently I sang a piece together with three of the girls in House Music.

Without a doubt, Mr Newton has been a huge part of Henry's 9; we all appreciate his passion and talent for music, and devotion to his job. One Tuesday lunchtime when many of the girls were on a school trip we were unable to rehearse. Meghna and I stayed and spoke to Mr Newton all about his career and many of his fond experiences of music. I remember us both reflecting on how inspiring and fascinating it was to hear about all of his memories.

Overall, there have been many highlights and I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege that I have experienced by being in Henry's 9.

Annabelle Thompson

Wind Band & Brass Ensemble Review

Wind Band is a fun and helpful band to be in as it usually plays lots of the fun pieces throughout the year but especially at Christmas. Such as: 'All I Want for Christmas is You' by Mariah Carey, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and my personal favourite the *Back to the Future* theme tune. These are fun to play as they are famous and it is easier to remember the tune and also, they are usually quite catchy, so they get stuck in your head, which helps you remember it. The atmosphere in Wind Band is great as we are mostly all good friends so we don't have to be nervous if we make mistakes and we can play to our full potential. It

is helpful because it forces you to play in time with other people, which playing on your own doesn't do and it also allows you to learn of other more experienced musicians.

Brass Ensemble is also fun and is usually much louder due to the fact that it is made up of the loudest group of instruments possible. This is fun because Brass Ensemble is a smaller group and lots of us know each other from other things so we are all good friends (including Miss Ayton) and this helps us play better because we can talk and practise together outside of school and our usual

practice times. Another benefit of playing with your good friends is that no one is scared of asking for advice or help which allows everyone to progress quicker and ultimately become a better musician. It is a good thing that we can still perform our 'Happy' piece in lockdown as it would be a lot of practice and effort wasted otherwise, plus it is always fun to play catch-up with your friends.

Jojo Dow



DRAMA

GCSE Drama performances

It was a jam-packed year for the Year 11 GCSE students, staging two major performance evenings over the Autumn and Spring terms.

We opened with our devising showcase in November, a programme of three original pieces written, designed and performed by the class. The evening opened with *Out of Time*, a presentation of two different childhoods – one in the 1970s and one set a year in the future. Set design student Freya worked on evoking the eras through two parallel sets, one crisp, clean and contemporary and the other busily decorated with patterned wallpaper and 70s pop memorabilia. Costume designer Ella worked carefully to evoke the contrasts between the make-up and fabrics of the times, contrasting layered denims and patterns with block colours and simplicity. Performers Amrita, Ishika, Chujaani and Priya worked together to develop a thought-provoking narrative, exploring the contrasting freedoms and restrictions of both eras, and the difference between a pre- and post-social media world.

Next up was an incisive exploration of the impact of the media upon the family of a prominent parliamentary candidate. Skilled writer Chrissy played an instrumental part in the story development through her witty, tightly crafted script. Lighting designer Alex and sound designer Luke worked together to bring the fast-paced atmosphere of the political media circus to life, punctuated by spotlights, news reports and the click of cameras. Performers Maria, Kate and Chrissy evoked the struggles of a family balancing a fraught political campaign with domestic life, while Amy and Sophie presented the external figures: the teenage best friend trying to keep up, and the manipulative political figure at the heart of a career and family-threatening scandal.

Finally, we were treated to a tensely plotted courtroom drama, exploring the ups and downs of a custody battle. Deliberately leaving the young child voiceless and unrepresented by a performer, the piece focused on the adults of the court: a seasoned judge (Raveena); a financially insecure but dedicated father (Marissa); a whip-smart corporate mother, frustrated with her husband's lenient parenting (Olivia); and two very different lawyers, cleverly distinguished by a single performer (Prudence). Important questions such as financial security vs. time at home, underpinned by research into the Fathers for Justice movement, hung

over the courtroom, making for a powerful performance piece. Costume designer Sophie evoked the sharp, professional lines of the judge and corporate mother with careful attention to detail.

In March, our examiner visited the school for an evening of monologues, duologues and design concepts from a range of exciting performance texts. Kate, Chrissy and Marissa deftly tackled *The Power of the Dog*, a moving exploration of the impact an ambitious, unconventional teacher and a troubled young prodigy have on one another. Sophie, Maria, Amy and Ishika brilliantly explored the complex relationships between three different generations in *My Mother Said I Never Should*, spanning all the way from a bomb raid during the war to the late 20th century. Alex and Luke took on the challenge of the lighting and sound design for this multi-era performance. Chujaani chose two entirely contrasting characters from *Nothing Compares To You*, making us laugh with her comic portrayal of a hangover and empathise with her thoughtful portrayal of a grieving young woman attempting to make sense of her feelings. Amrita sensitively portrayed the struggles of a young woman reflecting on a past trauma in *Five Kinds of Silence* alongside her sisters, dealing with her feelings at different stages of her recovery. Olivia and Raveena also took on the role of sisters, comically sparring with one another and responding terribly British-ly to overwhelming grief.

Some of the students opted for classical performances. Ella and Freya collaborated meticulously to create the costume and set for *Medea*, drawing on classical Greek architecture and the themes of love, blood and honour to bring Prudence's nuanced portrayals of both Medea and Jason to life. Meanwhile, Priya chose to explore *Romeo and Juliet*, sensitively characterising both Juliet's youthful first flush of love and her desperation as the tragedy unfolded. The difference between these stages was also brought to life skilfully through Sophie's symbolic and period costume design.

Some of my favourite moments of this academic year were with this class. Lessons were a hub of activity with dress fittings in one corner; set painting in another; lighting and sound tests at the side and multiple rehearsal runs in every available space. Well done, Y11 – I will miss you!

Miss Spring, Head of Drama

A Level Drama Performances

The Drama Department staged several performances and rehearsal performances in the Spring term, treating staff, students and parents to a varied and exciting programme. Although our final examiner was unable to attend, our supportive audiences more than made up for it!

Part of the joy of A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is the limitless range of performance texts: the process of finding challenging, exciting pieces is a highlight of the course. Among the students' final choices were a series of monologues. Gisa entertained us with a contemporary comedy piece, developing and refining a Detroit accent in the process. Jade opted for a classic text, taking on the grandeur and manipulation of *The Seagull's* Arkadina. And finally, with a choice that our school's namesake Henry might (or might not) approve, Elena portrayed the captivating terror, drama and resolve of Anne Boleyn's final night alive.

For their group piece, the students selected a contemporary text, *Broken Biscuits*. This moving coming-of-age comedy explores one of life's most exciting and nerve-wracking transitions: leaving school and embarking upon adulthood. Elena entertained us all as the controlling wannabe popular kid Megan, desperately trying to glue the group together with a rather ill-advised plan to set up a band. The brains of the group, Holly, portrayed with subtlety and warmth by Gisa, was naturally sceptical of this plan. After all, none of them could play an instrument. Well, apart from the flute... (not the most common choice at Glastonbury). And, finally, Jade took on a challenging male role, making us laugh and cry as Ben, a newly out young gay man with a taste for red glitter and a talent for telling the truth.

I could not be prouder of this class, managing the challenges of organising a performance alongside the unanticipated challenges of an approaching lockdown. They did so with passion, dedication, enthusiasm and skill. Well done, Y13 – I will miss you!

Miss Spring, Head of Drama



LITTLE WOMEN

We were very excited to stage our first full-scale production in our newly refurbished Burgess Hall. Beating Emma Watson's movie to it with our obviously superior adaptation, we brought this literary classic to the stage in early December. To capture the multiple stages and the full journey of growing up, we cast a younger set of March sisters. Towards the end of Act One, the four younger girls transitioned into their older selves. However, throughout, the younger and older girls supported and watched over each other, silently (or vocally!) commenting on their movement throughout life.

Lucy (Y12, Jo), Kiya (Y12, Amy), Anoushka (Y12, Meg) and Aoife Anson-O'Connell (Y12, Beth) deserve high praise for their lively and emotionally intelligent depictions of the older March girls. And this high praise extends to our younger March sisters, easily holding their own with their older counterparts as they managed the challenging lines and staging demands of their first senior play. Bursting off the stage with energy, the highs and lows of the girls' early years were thrillingly brought to life by Grace/Teertha (Y10, Young Jo), Mary (Y9, Young Amy), Katie (Y10, Young Meg) and Clemi (Y10, Young Beth). All nine girls were consistently watched over by Marmee, played with resilience, compassion and warmth by Grace (Y13), the opposite of the acid-tongued Aunt March, a sharp, witty and hilarious Gisa (Y13).

Lovelorn boy-next-door, Laurie, was brought to life with charisma and pathos by four actors – Stephan (Y9) and Mackenzie (Y9) as Young Laurie, and Hamilton (Y12) and Alessandro (Y12) as Laurie. Seb (Y12) and Harrison (Y12) brought strength, humour and even more warmth to the piece as suitors John Brooke and Professor Bhaer (complete with a German accent for Harri, which I absolutely did not teach him... my German accent extended to saying 'German, German, German' if I ever had to read in. That, or transitioning into a mild Russian.) Tobias (Y10, a kind, loving Mr March) was much more valuable when it came to helping with the accent! For the American accent work, I take a little more credit.

The moment we will never forget has to go to our aristocratic women, Sallie and Belle. In true festive season tradition, these roles were fabulously depicted by three of our (tallest) sixth-form boys: Joseph (Y12, Sallie) and

Alessandro/Hamilton (Y12, Belle), delighting us with their humorous portrayals. As Hamilton and Alessandro were also sharing the role of Laurie, I was mildly concerned that one of them might accidentally materialise in the wrong scene to propose to Jo in a dress. Who knows, maybe they might have been more successful than Laurie?

Hope (Y10) continues to go from strength to strength as a performer, finding endless moments for comedy as Aunt Carol. Huge congratulations also go to Marissa (Y11) for her seamless multi-roling as Ned Moffatt, the Maid, the Passer-by, the Ensemble and all the quick changes this entailed! Hasnain (Y10) regularly stole the show, keeping both our assembly audience and our real audiences in stitches as the frighteningly British and frighteningly dim Fred Vaughan. The ensemble were tremendously talented, taking on a wide range of roles – even ballroom dancing: a big thanks to Marissa, Hope, Maja, Teertha, Charlie, Mackenzie, Stephan and Tobias.

And finally, I am hugely grateful for Miss Griffiths' excellent stage management and Mr Balcam's brilliant team in the tech box. Dr Coull, Grace (Y12), Alessandro (Y12) and Lucy (Y12) were responsible for the fantastic musical direction of our haunting musical numbers. Once again, Grace (Y11) was an invaluable help for all departments, supporting direction, costumes, props and microphones. And, last but not least, the wonderful Miss Pascall, who was my right-hand woman throughout the process.

Miss Spring, Head of Drama





High School MUSICAL JR.

High School Musical must be one of the catchiest soundtracks of all time, a much-loved family favourite for so many students (and teachers!). Therefore, we were delighted to select it as our Summer Lower School Production. The audition process was tremendous fun and the students could not have been more dedicated, with many of them piling into the Drama Studio to practise Miss Pascall's audition dance for 'We're All In This Together' every single break and lunchtime.

We could have cast the show three or four times with the amount of talent that showed up to auditions, but we had to settle upon two casts – Cast A (Older) and Cast B (Younger). The split casts were a great support to one another, filling in for each other if one could not make rehearsal and working together to develop the characteristics of their iconic Disney roles. Rehearsals were varied and always full of energy, whether it was learning basketball choreography or cheer routines with Miss Ainsworth and her dedicated team of Year 11 helpers; learning to 'stick with their cliques' with Miss Spring or tackling some famous harmonies with Mr Newton.

Post-March, rehearsals turned remote! The dedication of our cast to keeping the show going on was remarkable. Mr Newton, Miss Spring and the cast rose to the challenge of teaching and learning harmonies from home and shared several *High School Musical* song collaborations online, inspired by some of the West End remote collaborations we had watched. Our assistant directors also continued to help, with Teertha (Y10), Grace (Y10) and Grace (Y13) regularly attending rehearsals to support and encourage the students. In acting rehearsals, we worked on everything from accent to individual scenes and character development and had a great time in the process. For our last remote rehearsal of the year, we had a big surprise in store: Miss Pascall was back from Torquay during lockdown and joined the session for some rehearsal games and a recap of the 'We're All In This Together' choreography. And the year ended in true Disney style, with a dance-off!

Miss Spring, Head of Drama

REMOTE LEARNING

Drama students have been working hard in lockdown with fabulous results! Alongside developing their performance and design skills, our classes have embraced innovative technologies to overcome the challenges of performing and designing apart.

Year 7 students were set the challenge of staging 'One Moment in Time', either individually or in a group. This moment could be taken from any part of history, including right now, and projects could focus on acting, design, or a combination route. Students developed scripts, technical designs and performances, undertaking historical research, organising Teams rehearsals and embracing a broad range of skills including video editing, sound design, costume making and stop-motion animation. Final pieces

included a remote World War 1 football game; an animated moon landing; an exploration of the parallels between the BLM movement and the Civil Rights movement; and a fully costumed and video-edited performance of the Salem Witch Trials, complete with long-distance stage fighting. For anyone keen to see more, a highlight reel of their performances is featured on the King Henry VIII School YouTube channel entitled 'Life in Lockdown'.

GCSE students continued to explore Dennis Kelly's *DNA* and set to work on their devising projects, using breakout groups on Teams to explore a range of stimuli, including the year 2020 and Maya Angelou's powerful poem 'Life Doesn't Frighten Me'. For our June practical sessions in school, our students worked hard

on bringing these ideas to life, trying out characters, improvising and designing lighting states and sound cues. One of the highlights was a fully staged political protest!

Meanwhile, Year 11 students enjoyed their first taste of A Level Theatre Studies in their transition lessons. Inspired by the National Theatre's livestream of *Frankenstein*, students designed their own Frankenstein sets and their own concepts for a future staged version of '2020: The Lockdown'. We explored vocal and physical performance nuances and even tried out a challenging new accent (Mississippi)!

Miss Spring, Head of Drama

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Following the success of our West End *Hamilton* workshop with Gabriel Mokake, we invited Alex Hammond from Activate Theatre to run a series of professional masterclasses for KS3, KS4 and KS5. An experienced performer in shows such as *Matilda* and *Motown*, Alex spent two days with our students, bringing with him a wealth of industry knowledge alongside an infectious energy! Alex helped the exam classes to refine their performances, providing a critical audience and offering one-to-one guidance and feedback. Year 10 students developed their own Coventry soap operas, and younger students took part in a range of rehearsal games and improvisation challenges. After school, multiple year groups packed the Drama Studio for a singing, acting, and dancing workshop based on *Matilda* the musical. And the training didn't end there! Myself (Miss Spring), Mr Balcum and Year 11 GCSE lighting designer Alex attended a session with 1stinTheatre, learning how to use and teach the Drama Studio's brand-new lighting board. The lighting bug even extended beyond the Senior School: Alex volunteered to run exciting workshop sessions for guests at Open Morning, and I started to gather some new technical recruits from the Year 5s and Year 6s at Summer Activities Camp!



LIVE Theatre

Our students enjoyed a range of live theatrical performances, kicking off with the award-winning spectacular *War Horse* at Leicester Curve. Once again, students were dazzled by the world-class puppetry and moving storyline.



Our Year 10 and Year 13 students were on the edge of their seats (quite literally during the nail-biting final ten minutes) for *My Beautiful Laundrette* at the Birmingham Rep, an adaptation of the 80s classic movie. We were laughing and crying as we rooted for Omar and Jonny, embarking on a relationship against an unforgiving background of cultural conflict, gender equality, homophobia, and class strife. And when we weren't on the edge of our seats, we were dancing in them, thanks to the catchy 80s soundtrack! We even managed to squeeze in a festive trip to the Birmingham Christmas Market.



Also dancing in their seats were Year 7, dancing and singing along to the Birmingham Rep's *Peter Pan Reimagined*. In a modern-day Neverland juxtaposed against a cityscape, with Peter reimagined as a 'lost boy' within the foster care system, this inventive production got us thinking and dancing. Year 7 (and teachers), if you don't still have the rap for 'Let's Build Wendy a House' stuck in your head, you probably do now! Clearly, we had Peter Pan on the brain, with Year 13 begging me for tickets to *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* at the Belgrade. This performance by the playful Mischief Theatre Company reimagined Peter Pan as an amateur theatre show, performed by the world's worst performers and stage team. Forgotten lines, terrifyingly risky stage flying and light failure pyrotechnics quickly ensued. Mr Balcarn would never have let us get away with such a health and safety nightmare on our stage!

As the Spring Term approached, our Year 10 and Year 13 students were lucky enough to enjoy Pilot Theatre's *Crongton Knights* more than once. We caught the show's professional debut live at the Belgrade and were able to catch up on it again via streaming – very helpful for the live theatre questions on the end-of-year exams! In this brand-new production, a very talented small cast multiroled, beatboxed, sang and danced their way through the intimidating urban landscape of fictional London town 'Crongton'. Within lockdown, students were able to continue accessing the world of theatre through a range of exciting streams. In remote lessons, we focused on extracts from a range of pieces including Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller's *Frankenstein*; the Bridge Theatre's immersive *Midsummer Night's Dream*; and Rifco's *Mushy: Lyrically Speaking*,

an inspiring stage adaptation based on *Educating Yorkshire*.

I have also been lucky enough to watch Henry's students in their own performances outside of school. In Lutterworth, Elena (Y13) took on the challenge of a thrust performance (staged on three sides), with a witty and confident turn in Alan Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*. Ex-student Matt (Y14) mastered a new challenge as villain Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Birmingham Old Rep: we knew he could hit the high notes as Valjean in *Les Mis* but these had to be some of the lowest notes I'd ever heard! Freya (Y11) demonstrated her performance and design skills in Side by Side's moving performance of *Live, Love, Laugh... Life*. Side by Side is an inclusive theatre company based in Leamington, in which adults with and without learning disabilities work alongside each other. The results were enormous fun and deeply moving: Freya deserves to be so proud of her involvement.

And, of course, there has been student performance on stage at Henry's, from our GCSE and A Level groups to our superb House Drama competitors and our senior students in December's *Little Women*. Lower school production *High School Musical Jr.* continued in a remote capacity, practising songs, scenes and dance moves through remote rehearsals. We even ended the term with a dance-off, and a special visit from Miss Pascall, an uplifting and fitting end to another fantastic year of Drama at Henry's.

Miss Spring, Head of Drama



PETER PAN REIMAGINED

On Thursday 12th November 2019, Year 7 visited the Birmingham Rep to watch *Peter Pan* with a twist. This new and improved version followed a very similar plot to the original, incorporating modern problems, older struggling characters and new, catchy, toe-tapping songs.

LIGHTING

Wash lighting, which is lighting large sections of the stage, was used during the majority of the play. However, when a character was singing, a spotlight was used, highlighting their part. Spotlights were also used when the stagehands were discreetly trying to change the set and the director wanted you to look at the actors, and not be distracted. Only downlighting, which is light from above the actor, and multi-directional lighting, when an actor is lit from many different angles, were used in this particular performance, to great effect.

The colour of the lights helped create the mood of the character, as well as the location of the scene. For instance (spoiler alert!), when Tinkerbell died the lights changed to blue to symbolise sadness. Blue lighting was also used when the Lost Ones were about to get captured, through until they were about to walk the plank. The lights then turned yellow to symbolise joy as (plot spoiler!) Peter arrived to save the Lost Ones.



SET

3D scenery was in abundance and used for the stairs, kitchen cabinets, Wendy's house and a playground for the Lost Ones. All of these items were easy to move and created to be able to flip round for different scenes, which was a cost-effective and imaginative way to save money, effort and time. The

final piece of 3D scenery was the crocodile, whose head and body were made from a car and its tail from tyres!

Hydraulic scenery was the other method used to make up the scenes. This rose up to form the underground hideout of the Lost Ones and for the pirates' ship.

PROPS

Props were sparsely used during the play, except for the odd one such as dishes or a teddy or blanket, with Captain Hook and Peter Pan wielding short, plastic swords. Peter and the children used ropes to pull them up which made it appear that they were flying.

COSTUMES

Wendy and her brothers wore casual, modern clothing such as jeans and t-shirts. Whilst Peter Pan and the Lost Ones wore ragged clothing of varied colours and textures which helped portray their traditional image from the stories, the pirates wore classic pirate outfits with swashbuckling belts, gleaming boots and bandanas although their clothing was still worn out and torn.

SUMMARY

This was one of my favourite plays and a memorable performance. The actors were convincing, with amazing expression, speaking clearly and always staying in character. I thought they were very imaginative in the way that they changed the play to lifelike situations, which were presented very well. They also added some new catchy songs, and my particular favourite was 'Wendy's House'. I would truly recommend this play, especially for children up to 14, who love a bit of action and adventure.

Fred Parker



On 12th December, Year 7 went on an amazing trip to see *Peter Pan Reimagined* at Birmingham Rep theatre. The play was fantastic and all the actors were excellent. Most of the costumes and scenery were made of recyclable items which made it seem more from a different world. Everyone in Year 7 really enjoyed it because of the modern theme instead of the old-fashioned original book theme.

Tinkerbell was given a new personality and a bright, silvery, and sparkly costume, and all of the characters could fly using a harness clipped to their costume. The play really appealed to the audience as it was set in a council estate in Birmingham – where Wendy and her brothers lived – and so it was in the modern world that we live in. Hook was played by a woman and the scene where Hook was eaten by the crocodile was very believable; the crocodile's head was a car that was painted green, with the number plate 'TIMES UP', and the tail was a string of tyres of different shapes painted green. The whole play was very enjoyable, plus we got a Calippo ice cream in the interval! What's not to like?!

Lauren and Laura, 7SD

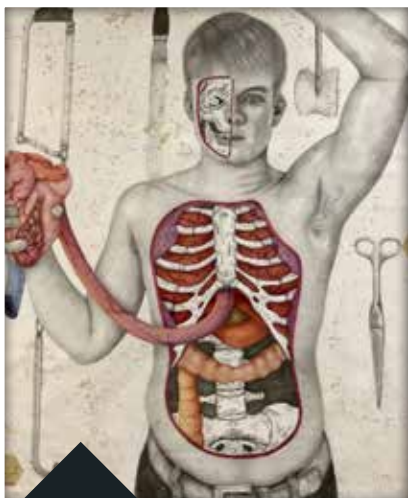




Tom Zheng



Aoife Anson-O'Connell



Andrej Carpinato



Weilong Xie

A LEVEL
ART



Aoife Anson-O'Connell

RUGBY YOUTH OPEN 2020



Amandeep Dhillon



Annabelle Cox



Anya Kelsi



Ella Caine



Freya Caine



Molly Aston



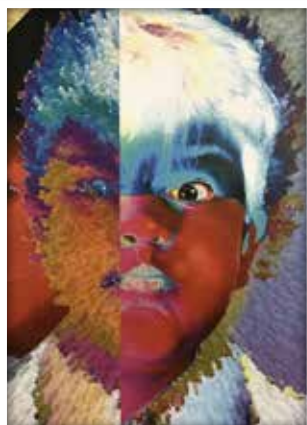
Maya Nicholls

GCSE
ART



Year 8 Drawing Lockdown





Harrison Putt – Year 8



Pavan Panesar – Year 8

KS3 ART



Year 8 Captain Tom Lockdown



Priya Kumari – Year 8



Jasmine Sekhon – Year 8

KS3 ART



Year 7 Bugs



Year 7 Tone Photography Lockdown

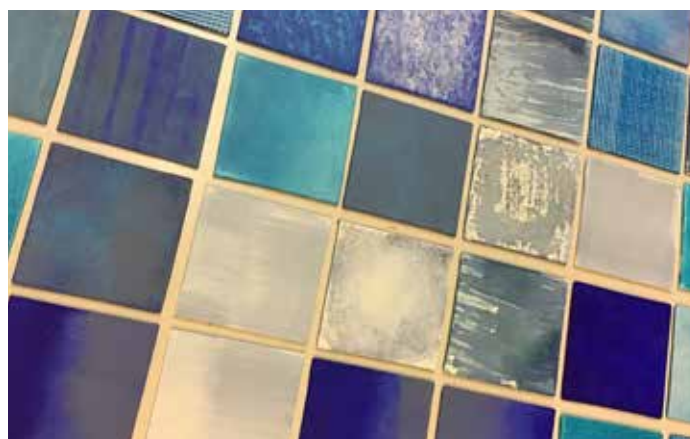
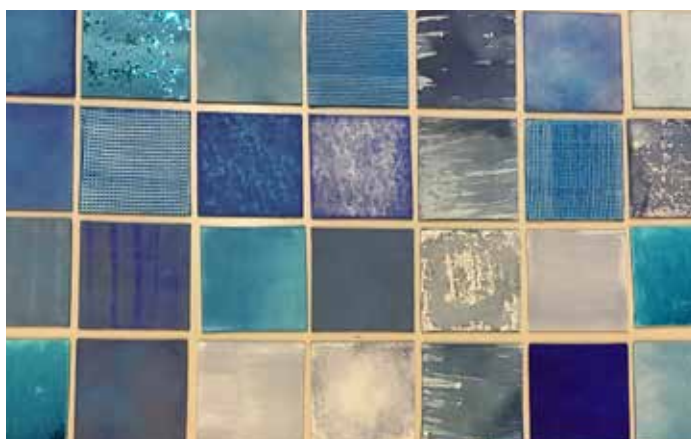


Year 7



MOVING BLUE

CREATIVE ART MORNING





FROM COVENTRY TO CÁDIZ...



Our Year 11 students of Spanish enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to the south of Spain. Surrounded by natural beauty and a wealth of historical and cultural heritage, students immersed themselves in the Spanish way of life. With October weather here being extremely pleasant, many students made the most of their down time on the beach and a dip in the Atlantic was a must!

Daytime activities included a language-learning lesson each morning before departing for visits. Excursions to local markets and museums, cathedrals and bullrings including the famous Maestranza, Alcazar and Cathedral de Sevilla during a full day in Seville were among the highlights of the trip. An evening of tapas followed by live music entertainment had all our students up and dancing to a variety of tunes from folkloric to modern Spanish music. A chance to learn

Flamenco dancing went down especially well with some of the students who got very much into the spirit and gave it a good whirl – ¡Olé!

The visit made for a very authentic and eye-opening experience into life in modern-day Spain and gave all our students food for thought. The opportunity to practise language learnt in classrooms in a real-life setting proved nerve-racking, exciting and satisfying as students realised they could communicate with Spanish speakers and be understood. Well done to all students who made every effort to practise their Spanish and made the most of every minute.

A huge thank you to all at KHVIII that helped make this trip possible and a special thanks to Mrs Mattu and Mr Lovell who gave their time in half-term, with Mr Lovell even missing his son's 16th birthday to be there! ¡Muchas gracias a todos!

Mrs Hussein, Head of Spanish



Berlin trip

ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND HISTORY TRIP TO BERLIN AND DRESDEN

In December 34 Economics, Business and History students from Years 12 and 13 took part in a packed series of visits to experience one of the most important European cities of the last two centuries. Berlin is a constantly evolving city, with its modern, dynamic (yet relaxed) cosmopolitan atmosphere making it such a wonderful place to visit. This time, however, we also got to visit Dresden for a day which provided a fantastic contrast. The wealth of history that Berlin has borne witness to is staggering, from the site of the bomb-damaged Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church – left as a memorial to the civilian losses in the Second World War (and twinned, through the Cross of Nails, with Coventry Cathedral) – to the moving and thought-provoking sight of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The eerie remains of the Berlin Wall can be seen in various parts of the city, and our accommodation was close to the former East/West division. It seemed appropriate that our first visit was to the new Reichstag designed by Sir Norman Foster, and providing a wonderful night-time appetiser to what lay ahead.

The group paid a visit to the Olympic Stadium, famous for its use in two World Cup competitions and of course the 1936 Olympics with Jesse Owens. The stadium of course is still in use by Hertha Berlin, and UK interest in the Bundesliga is probably now much greater since lockdown! Our historians then got an opportunity to see numerous historical sites (Soviet war memorial, Victory column, holocaust memorial to name a few) led by Mr Huxford on perhaps his final King Henry's trip to Berlin – let's hope not! Business and Economics students were able to see the BMW motorbike plant where some 100,000 models are made annually. There were plenty of photo opportunities where we were allowed to sit on some pretty

powerful (and expensive) bikes. A final late-evening visit to the DDR museum showed the day-to-day life enjoyed/ endured by former East German residents. Whilst students mocked some of the décor and electronic consumer goods on display, some members of staff were old enough to explain that 1970s Britain was perhaps not hugely different!

An extra day allowed us to visit Dresden and yet more Christmas markets. Dresden has such a strong connection to Coventry, and we were only a couple of months away from the 75th anniversary of that dreadful night. To see how Dresden had been meticulously rebuilt did give us an idea of what Coventry 'could have been'! We also got to see the exceptionally moving 'Panometer': a cylindrical gas tower where images of the bombing of Dresden are projected onto the internal walls. Pictures can do the exhibit no justice, it simply has to be visited. Dresden is certainly going to feature on our itinerary in future visits.

Our fourth day started with a very moving visit to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Whilst not a 'death camp', it clearly saw many appalling atrocities. A timely reminder for us all about the importance of tolerance and compassion, after which a tour of the Berliner Kindl Brewery provided a welcome distraction. Students and staff particularly enjoyed the post visit 'quality control' sessions, and were amazed at the scale of production, even though this was only a moderate-sized brewery by German

standards. The evening was completed

by a group meal at the Hofbrauhaus (the world's biggest beer hall), with a Bavarian band playing (in Berlin!) to add a little authenticity!

All participants had an excellent time and found a great interest not only in historical elements of Berlin and Dresden, but also in today's modern and cosmopolitan cities. On the final day students had some of the day to undertake their own visits on Berlin's ultra-reliable integrated transport system, although some seemed to misunderstand the ticketing system! BVG fare revenues recorded an uptick that day. Many used this opportunity wisely and expressed a genuine sorrow that they had to leave with so much still left to explore. A return visit is clearly inevitable in many cases. The staff would like to thank all students for their behaviour, good humour and genuine interest shown throughout.

Nick Meynell, Peter Huxford, Jamie Abbot and Debbie Morse



CHEMISTRY

Year 11 pupil Dharma Muthalagappan's interest in Earth Sciences has been reinforced by his study of Environmental Chemistry in the Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry syllabus. This includes the impact of fossil fuels and inert plastics on the environment, composition of the atmosphere and how to detect chemicals. He was successful in gaining a place on the Earth Sciences Work Experience Programme July 2020, which promised to be an exciting combination of laboratory work and field trips. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic the university adapted this for an invaluable online experience and Dharma has summarised this:

Despite the challenges brought by coronavirus this summer, there are still many opportunities that can be found both academically and which support a wide variety of interests; I write this article today to encourage you, as fellow students, to seek these opportunities in order to enrich your life and find benefit during this summer. Recently, I found out that I was successful in my application for work experience to Bristol University School of Earth Sciences (thank you to Mrs Pabla for helping me with this).

The three-day course started with a look at geomicrobiology and environmental mineralogy; in particular, the microbial iron redox cycle. There are three main bacteria responsible in the reduction and oxidation of iron in this cycle: microaerophiles, phototrophs and nitrate reducers. Such bacteria can be found in your local park (in the soil); they are magnetic as a result of the presence of magnetite in the biofilm.

We then observed the nature of Marsquakes as part of the broad topic, 'planetary seismology'. The main topic of discussion was 'How does one place a seismometer on Mars?' The lander used was called the InSight Space Lander. Challenges faced include Mars' diurnal temperature range of 100 (varying between -95 and 5 degrees every day). Other challenges included dust and dry air, which were averted through a large dome-shaped wind and thermal shield. An unexpected result of the Marsquakes was that seismic waves appeared all over the planet. Therefore, it is understood that Marsquakes are not caused in the

same way that earthquakes are. It is known that earthquakes are caused by movement of tectonic plates (hence there are hotspots); yet, we now know that Mars doesn't have any tectonic plates (its quakes are rather caused by changes in pressure due to water five metres beneath the surface).

The last subject is one that has become rather significant in the last few years: coralline algae. By observing the aesthetic variation between the three types of coralline algae (rhodolith, crustose and articulate), the main reason for their destruction became apparent: sea dredging for scallops (which find nursery grounds in the formations of these algae). Another reason for their bleaching is the acidification of the ocean. Despite being carbon sinks in function, these algae cannot withstand the carbon dioxide when it is in the form of hydrogen ions. The journey of this gas is as follows: CO_2 gas dissolves in water, turning into carbonic acid and then being converted into bicarbonate ions which produced both hydrogen and carbonate ions (creating acidity due to H^+ ions).

Overall, this was a very enriching experience, which provided some colour to an otherwise whitewashed summer.

Dharma S. Muthalagappan, Year 11



CLASSICS: Latin in Lockdown

COMPETITIONS

This year during the lockdown there were many amazing competitions and so many amazing teachers giving you confidence to do your best in everything. All of KHVIII's Latinists enjoyed competitions ranging from myths to audio-visuals on ancient history. These were national and, sometimes, international competitions, so we really had to try our best.

Pupils from the senior school were invited to enter the 'Audio-Visual Ancient Worlds' competition with many promising and impressive entries. I entered this competition. I made a PowerPoint about the hardships that Rome went through during their time as an empire, comparing their hardships to those that Rome and the rest of the world are going through now, and giving positive messages that we could get through this. My teacher told me it was an outstanding entry.

Pupils in the Prep school were invited to enter the 'Primary Latin Projects Annual Mythology' competition on the well-known myth of Daedalus and Icarus. Miss Bradley launched this competition with two Year 8 pupils, Sophie and Harriet, before lockdown and it proved to be a brilliant activity away from school. Everyone who entered had loads of fun with the myth.

Miss Bradley got the news that the results for this competition were in towards the end of June. We were all so impressed to have two winners within the KHVIII community. Arisha in Year 3 created a beautiful canvas for the Level 1 Art category and won first prize! She definitely deserved it! Izzy, another Year 3 student, wrote a brilliantly imaginative story for the Level 1 Creative Writing category. She won third prize!

The judges were very impressed with both their entries. These two students deserve to be proud of what they achieved and we are of them. What makes their achievements even more impressive is that the judges' report said that schools entered this competition from as far away as Australia this year, as it was even more popular than ever with lockdown.

Pupils in Years 4-6 were also invited to take part in the 'Latin Programmes: Scriptoris' short story or poem competition. Well done to Keshav in Year 5 for making a brilliant script which we are sure will blow the judges away.

The final Classics competition before the end of the year was the 'Athena's Owl' competition where students in Years 7-9 could write a story about Hercules' 13th labour (if he was to have one). Senior school students shone, especially Dougie and Megan in Year 7, and Harriet and Eloise in Year 8. They wrote extremely impressive stories which certainly deserve to get a mention. Dougie wrote about retrieving the Map of Paradise from the horns of the Minotaur. Megan's story was about Hercules cutting the snakes off Medusa's head. Harriet wrote about Hercules stealing Poseidon's trident from the depths of the sea. Eloise's story tested Hercules' wit, rather than his strength. Everyone who entered the competition showed their inner myth-writer superpowers.

Every Classics competition during lockdown was fun and exciting. Everyone should be very proud of what they achieved, especially the winners and runners up. We can't wait to hear news of more results. Well done!

Guillaume Haas



Individual Feedback from the judges

Level 1 Art

Arisha - Wow, I love the painting, all of the colours and the whole scene, the golden feathers and great colors. Wonderful!

Level 1 Creative Writing

Izzy has written a charming adaptation of the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. She has imaginatively taken the key points of the original myth and added her own touches such as making King Queen Elizabeth and replacing the Minotaur with a virus. There are effective humorous touches throughout the whole piece that are very engaging. This is an amazing piece of writing. Well done.

Thank you for submitting this piece. It is clear that Izzy is very familiar with the myth and knows which parts of it she can substitute and which need to remain to work. This is a complex skill. I very much enjoyed reading this.

The Thirteenth Task - Eloise Mills, 8AH

Opening extract

After Hercules had finished his twelfth labour, he was compelled to further venture into the Underworld and Hades surprised him by saying that there was still one more challenge to be completed. As soon as this was said, Hercules shouted in frustration, "BUT KING EURYSTEUS SAID THERE WOULD BE TWELVE NOT THIRTEEN! I HAVE DONE SO MANY THINGS ALREADY AND RISKED MY LIFE - WHY?"

"Because they were all about your strength and this LAST task will test your wits as well. This challenge is scribed on a wall in your house. Good luck - you will need it!" And with that Hades waved his arms dramatically in the air creating a mysterious sapphire blue flame around Hercules - which sent him back home.

As soon as he opened his front door, Hercules saw the writing on the wall. Oh no, he thought with his heart breaking in torment, this task was impossible - he had to sacrifice the one thing that he truly loved. As Hercules paced around the room, he thought about what it could all mean and about how he could complete the challenge. The rules of this Thirteenth labour meant that he only had three chances - if he failed after that, he would die. Furthermore, he couldn't ask anyone for help or he, and his ally, would be banished to the Underworld forever.

An extract from Hercules' 13th Labour, by Dougie, 7HL

Hercules fashioned a spear out of wood and a rock which was sharpened in preparation to slay the Minotaur. On entering the dark imposing cavern, Hercules felt the walls to guide him, the dark moss on the side dampening his fingers. Hercules tightened his grip on the makeshift spear. From the darkness the Minotaur sprang out from a crevasse in the rock below Hercules, pulling him in.

As Hercules dropped dangerously down, his weapon fell. Hitting the ground, the impact rattled his body, the deep red blood he had seen just hours ago, where he had killed Megara, coated his cut hands.

The Minotaur growled, the echo was deafening. The two opponents faced each other. Hercules was weaponless but he spotted a jagged rock behind the monster. Springing into action, Hercules dived through the Minotaur's legs, grabbing it. He made a vicious stab at the monster, slicing the cable. His enemy screamed in pain, roaring, then charged at Hercules, who dived out of the way just in time, sending the magical bull into the rocks behind him.



YEAR 7

In these unusual times learning at home has been an exciting and fun challenge for all of the Year 7s. From exploding volcanos to Roman graffiti, verb tenses and superlative adjectives, Latin just gets better and better.

One of the first civilisation projects we did was on gladiators. We started this just before lockdown and continued it in our first online lessons. We've got to say, it was a good excuse to fight our siblings! We watched a fascinating documentary on a gladiator's life. Even though the IT was a struggle to get to grips with at first, we quickly adapted and became TV and radio experts within only a couple of weeks. We made radio commentaries on a gladiator fight! We also created our own posters and TV adverts for what gladiator shows would be like. Some of us got our whole families involved. Then we learnt about the riot in the amphitheatre and became journalists writing our own newspaper reports. Over Easter holiday, some of us took on the extension challenge to make our own gladiator board game! Lily's was fantastic!

We then explored the genius Roman baths! We were given the challenge to become architects, designing and labelling our own Roman baths complex. As an extension challenge we built the baths and even designed the interior with mosaics. This was very fun! Some of us used Lego for our builds. Lottie made a brilliant baths!

Alongside all this we learnt more grammar like superlative adjectives and the dative case, and got ready for the exams ahead of us in May with lots of active revision, from loo-roll gladiators to flashcards and noun case posters!

After an exam week online and a boiling hot half-term, we then moved on to Roman schools. We thought modern school was difficult, but this is nothing compared to what ancient Roman school was like! Not only did Roman masters beat the pupils, they also

closed from July to October, meaning they did not learn to their full potential. These are just some of the facts we learnt about the Roman schools. What's more, girls stayed at home! Our class online poll showed that most of us preferred to go to modern school. To feel more like a Roman pupil, we then created our own wax tablets (the Roman iPad!) and we made sure the kitchen was messy!

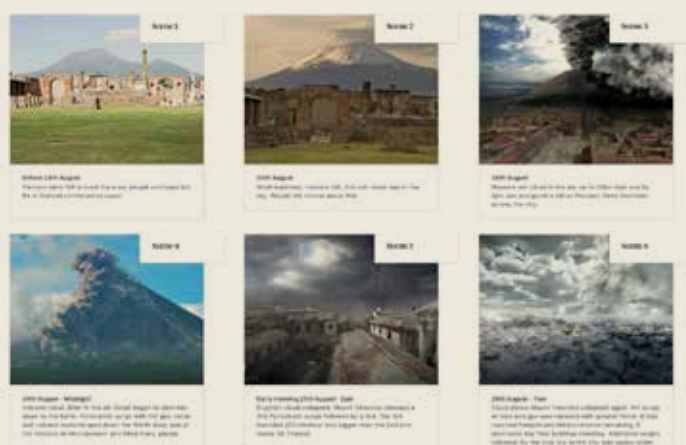
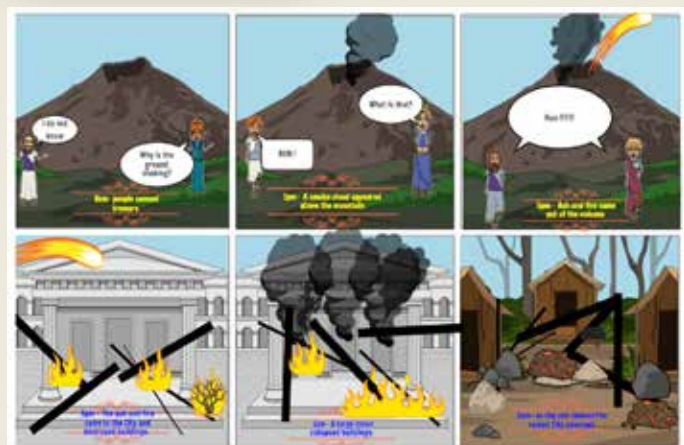
Alongside Roman school, we learnt all the endings for the present, imperfect and perfect tense and finished all the grammar in Book I of the Cambridge Latin Course. We were very proud of our achievement.

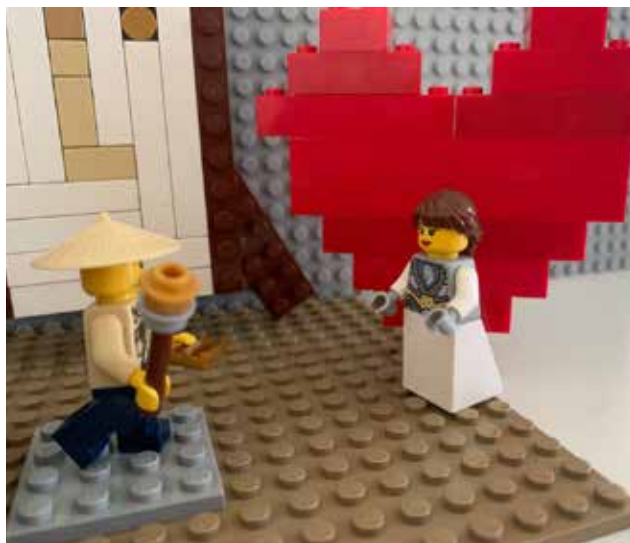
Finally, we discovered the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 and its consequences for the people in Pompeii, sending some of us to tears, especially for the loss of our beloved Caecilius and Cerberus. We don't know if Metella and Quintus survived, but we are hoping so! We made our own storyboard about the lead-up to the eruption and the eruption itself. We then became archaeologists. We learnt about how the archaeologists excavated Pompeii and how they used a plaster-cast technique to dig out the bodies that were kept in perfect condition. We even saw the face of a victim being recreated – this was quite moving! After this, in our final week, we made the volcano using various ideas and resources. And as the last lesson of the year we made documentaries about Mount Vesuvius. There was a lot of thinking outside the box!

Latin has been fantastic, despite the fact that we haven't been in school for a while. Thanks to our amazing teachers, we have been able to carry on learning Latin and life in Pompeii, broadening our knowledge and having fun at the same time. All of the Year 7s are very grateful.

Bring on Year 8 Latin!!!

Lauren Hughes and Polly McMullan





YEAR 9 LATIN

Learning in lockdown has been exciting and thrilling for the Year 9 students of King Henry VIII School. And of course, why wouldn't it be with such amazing teachers there to support you every step of the way in these unprecedented times. From intriguing myths of the Roman and Greek world to scary old grammar, the Year 9 Latinists tackled it all!

Year 9 Latin students started their online learning with some good old grammar lessons! We were introduced to subjunctive verbs and their uses as part of their Cambridge Latin Course Book III study. To enhance our learning we took part in appealing activities from the online version of the Cambridge Latin textbook. These activities put our knowledge of the Latin language to the test to make sure we are up to date with our grammar.

We then explored three civilisation projects as part of our study of myths and ancient history, something we always do alongside our language study. Fun, fun, fun! The first being on the inspiring Alexander the Great where we read an article overlooking the formidable leader and the role he had in the history of our world. As we watched an episode of *Time Commanders* in which we explored Alexander the Great's unique battle tactics and qualities as a commander to an army, we were asked to put forward our own military strategy, comparing it with that of Alexander the Great at the famous battle of Guagamela. Then our knowledge was put to the test as we were asked to write a balanced argument on our understanding of the great leader on whether he really deserved the title of 'Alexander the GREAT?' Here, we were asked to include our own understanding and research about Alexander the Great to evaluate whether he really was all that 'great'. Ideas included how sincere he was to his

troop; his battle strategies, and his overall qualities and bravery as a leader. Sounds hard – well Year 9 Latinists are the real warriors who are able to tackle anything that comes their way! We also creatively interpreted myths about the mighty Macedonian king. These many myths included: the taking of Bucephalus; the Gordian knot; and the burning of the Temple of Artemis. We were told to let our imaginations run wild and include some humour, colour and exciting pictures to illustrate these myths!

The second of the fascinating ancient history stories was about Hannibal who was a Carthaginian general and statesman. He commanded Carthage's army against Rome during the Second Punic War. He is widely considered one of the greatest military commanders in world history. We explored a second *History* magazine article. This article was part of our Latin end-of-year examination so we needed the military precision of Alexander the Great and Hannibal combined in our preparation. We were given time to extract information in note form for ourselves before developing the evaluative skills we had already put into practice with our work on Alexander the Great in the civilisation section of the exam.

After a short half-term break, Year 9s came back ready and fresh to continue their learning about Greek myths. Our focus was the depiction of women in myth. We began with the fearless Amazons. Have a read about these women and you will be left breathless! We were left amazed by the breathtaking stories of the Amazons and their bloodthirsty battles. One famous Amazon was Penesthilea and she even fought in the Trojan War. We even learnt that gender equality was being encouraged in some societies of the ancient world. For example, both boys and girls in



Scythia were taught how to ride horses and shoot arrows. Through our exploration of the Amazons we learnt the links between the ancient warrior-women and modern fearless book/film female characters like Katniss Everdeen, Princess Leia and Wonder Woman (how exciting). This was Girl Power ancient style! We could totally relate to ideas by modern comparisons.

We then explored Euripides' portrayal of Medea, evaluating her character. Our study included an online theatre trip to watch the Oxford BAME society's modern adaptation of the tragic play. The Classics Department always offer great trips so it was nice to get a virtual one in lockdown too! We watched this play in the lesson and after discussed it with our teachers to enhance our understanding of the modern adaptation of the revengeful character of Medea and her story. The weather played its part too to help us feel what was going on. Despite the blistering heat we had at times during lockdown, loud thunderstorms and atmospheric lightning across dark skies outside helped set the scene, allowing us to feel the true raw emotions of Medea! Miss Bradley reckoned she set the whole thing up, organising the weather for our lesson!

Who says learning in lockdown has been tough!? Every Latin lesson was an exciting new journey to explore different parts of the language, ancient history or myths. A salute to all the hardworking teachers who have worked day and night to prepare interesting and enjoyable lessons in these difficult times. When you have the brilliant teaching skills like the teachers at Henry's and a goal to learn like the amazing students, anything is possible!

Izaan Ali

YEAR 10 LATIN

We began lockdown focusing on our language skills through stories in Book IV of the Cambridge Latin Course. We experienced a fusion of *Come Dine With Me* and *The X Factor* as we attended a Roman dinner party like no other (birds flying out of wild boar roasts!) and took the music industry by storm with our future tense songs, a new tense that we learnt how to recognise. Our teacher said that some of our masterpieces are BRIT Award 2021 nominations guaranteed! It is such a shame that we can't share audios and videos here, but I can share my sing-a-long Latin future tense song lyrics. Sing along to the tune of 'YMCA'! We also practised our comprehension skills, reminding ourselves about good practice for exam preparation. Through our stories we also learnt about Roman entertainment, particularly the 'pantomimus' and the dubious relationship one of them had with the wife of the emperor, Domitian!

Most of the final term of our lockdown centred on literature. We were introduced to a combination of colour-mapping, number-mapping and sequencing strategies to help us uncover the meaning behind ancient Latin passages and make translations stick in our mind long-term. The theme that our literature passages follow is superstition and magic, so whilst we worked our way through the Latin in the various passages, we gained an understanding of Roman superstitions and views on omens, dreams and magic. From companions who mysteriously turned into werewolves to dreams foreshadowing a famous author's death and the assassination of Julius Caesar, the texts covered a variety of magical ideas.

We also learnt to analyse the language used in our Latin texts. This helped to both develop our note-taking and analysis skills, as well as allowing us to learn about various stereotypes revolving around different characters in the story and how strange idioms are used in Latin to express strong feelings! My favourite passage was from the poet Horace because it was interesting to see the variety of bad omens that were included and why they were perceived as bad in ancient Rome!

To help further our understanding of the theme and to help understand the context behind certain parts of the story, we even analysed visual

sources, which were fascinating, especially when introduced with the texts, as it helped us to unpick meaning even more! Through a mixture of source analysis that was supported by background information, they help us understand more about the ancient world and what life was like back then. We have covered so much material for our literature in lockdown and will have time to study it more next year.

Our final task was a 'Stepping into Year 11' challenge to learn our full vocabulary list for our language paper. We had lots of support for this, from an interactive tracker, online tester, and teacher advice on making effective flashcards and using spaced learning to help make the words stick. We will be starting Year 11 feeling ready for anything.

Teertha Titin

YEAR 11-12 LATIN

After the cancellation of the summer exams, our year group were given the opportunity to participate in preparatory sessions for A levels in order to gain a more augmented insight into the nature of the A level courses we were thinking of pursuing in the future two years at Sixth Form. Within

the Latin sessions, we were introduced to a text that we would go on to study and given the opportunity to pursue a wider interest in the subject. We started by studying the Open University course on the 'Repute and Reality of being a Roman Emperor' and the 'Introducing Virgil's Aeneid' course. We then progressed onto a more detailed study of the development of spoken Latin into the Romance languages and the relation between formal written Latin, and spoken colloquial Latin and the effect this has had on its linguistic development.

The lessons were enhanced by the inclusivity brought by Miss Bradley's video calls and Mr Jones's conversational-style chats as if like any normal one, helping to bring back a bit of normalcy. Video clips and podcasts helped to enhance our study. We were all awarded with three Open University certificates of participation, enhancing our digital footprint. Most importantly, our study allowed us to confirm our interest in the subject and cement a strong foundation to hit the ground running in September.

Ben Cartwright



HISTORY



YEAR 9 COLD WAR VISIT TO COSFORD



COMPUTER SCIENCE

We saw lots of changes in the Computer Science department this year. Mrs Mattu was really excited to lead the department as the new Head of Department and Mrs McCunn joined the team, having previously taught at Blue Coat School. With her, she brought a wealth of experience from different schools and industry that the students have really benefited from. We were lucky to keep Miss Burton to teach lower school, as the students really enjoy her lessons.

The autumn term started in full flow with Year 8 students becoming engrossed in their Inspiring Digital Enterprise Awards (iDEA). iDEA is a digital and enterprise version of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in which students complete a series of digital challenges to achieve an award at Bronze or Silver level. This year, 59 students in Year 8 achieved their Bronze Award and seven extraordinary students achieved their Silver award. We would like to congratulate all students on their awards and give a special mention to **Henry Kilner, Henry Thomas, Tolly Maude, Ethan Medcherippady, Jaideep Virdi, Avnish Sinha** and **Harriet Garnett** for gaining their Silver Awards.

This was the third year of the Bebras Computational Thinking Competition with hundreds of thousands of students from across the country taking part. 84 students gained a Distinction Award and 62 students are through to the Oxford Computing Competition. The students that were best in school received prizes

ranging from micro:bit sets to 3D printing pens. The 'Best in School' prizes are awarded to:

Year 7 – **Haralds Meyers**
 Year 8 – **Avnish Sinha**
 Year 9 – **Tina Salh**
 GSCE – **Jenny Tian**
 A level – **Abhimanyu Chohan**

The Oxford Computing Competition took place early in the spring term. This competition involved coding and problem-solving questions and we were extremely delighted that **Eden Rendle** got through to the final round, which took place during lockdown. Our biggest congratulations go to Eden for coming 21st in the country in the Intermediate Challenge.

Our A level students were lucky to visit the Computer Science in Action day at Warwick University. It was the ultimate enrichment day where they had five lively sessions from lecturers, people in industry and postgraduate students. The speakers explored relevant topics and gave the students ideas about future careers. Topics ranged from AI and where it will go next, 'Big Data' that is collected and what we do with it, algorithms in animations, 'Smart Cities' that we live in and many more. Students came back buzzing from the event and enjoyed the different sessions.

It was the second year that we entered our Year 8 girls into the CyberFirst Girls' Competition. This competition provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in cyber security.

Team JAKS comprising **Jaideep Virdi, Kaly Salh, Aswica Reggian** and **Silvia Iuga** got through to the semi-finals which were hosted at PWC in Birmingham. Here, we battled against 22 other local schools and came an outstanding 12th overall.

Coding club has gone from strength to strength with students enjoying experimenting with the OhBot and Turing Tumble. They have also been creating programs using micro:bits, Scratch and Python. Lockdown provided new challenges for the whole school and we were extremely proud of how the students quickly adapted to learning from home and their use of technology. We were lucky that we could still teach the same content but livened up lessons with games, quizzes, unplugged activities as well as live lessons. We are looking forward to returning to school in September for a new, calmer but exciting academic year full of lots of opportunities for the students.





Queen Elizabeth
LAW CENTRE

LAW

CROWN COURT VISIT 2020

The A level Law students made their annual visit to the Crown Court in Birmingham in February. They were given an introductory talk by a member of court staff and one of the judges, who responded very frankly to students' questions about the impact of funding cuts on the justice system. The students then split into small groups and sat in on a range of trials, including a murder, a GBH and the sentencing of a burglar who had gone into multiple houses at night and received a particularly high sentence. Possibly the most interesting trial was one featuring four defendants who were accused of being members of a proscribed right-wing organisation. The students saw

one of these defendants being examined and cross-examined by counsel. It appears that the trial was later delayed due to the Covid-19 outbreak, but was concluded recently, with all four defendants being convicted by the jury and sentenced to between two and four years in prison. The students were able to discuss the outcome and sentence as part of their remote learning during lockdown. As usual, the trip gave students a tremendously valuable insight into the workings of the criminal justice system, as well as a window into the world of the criminal fraternity!

Mr Lovell

GUEST SPEAKER: JUDGE TICKLE

His Honour Judge Tickle, who sat until recently in the Crown Court and has also sat as a senior tribunal judge, came to run a workshop on sentencing for the A level Law students. They had to examine a range of scenarios and apply the relevant guidelines to reach a proposed sentence for the offenders. The judge gave his own opinions on each matter, and threw in a few fascinating anecdotes for good measure. He also made time to attend the lunchtime meeting of the Law, Politics and Economics Society to answer students' questions about careers in the law and his own experiences.

Mr Lovell

LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

The Law Department has stayed busy during lockdown. A level lessons continued, with the students completing their tort law module before the examination and then resuming criminal law with a look at homicide. One highlight of the online lessons was a session in which the students had to listen to 'Delilah' by Tom Jones and then work through the legal rules to determine whether Tom might be able to raise the partial defence of Loss of Control to reduce his murder conviction to one of manslaughter. Sadly for Tom, the students decided that the defence was unlikely to succeed and he'd be facing a mandatory life sentence.

Mr Lovell used MS Teams to carry out an online interview with a former pupil, Louise Delahunty, who works as a consultant lawyer advising defendants in 'white collar crime' cases. The discussion ranged from advice on qualification and working in the legal profession to recent changes in the law regarding the definition of dishonesty. The interview was recorded and shared online with the Law students and the Law & Politics Society.

The Year 11 students on the 'bridging course' also looked at homicide and considered the case of Berlinah Wallace, who threw acid over her ex-boyfriend,

causing him such horrific injuries that he later travelled to Belgium to undergo voluntary euthanasia. Although the Court of Appeal ordered that murder should be an option for the jury, they declined to convict for this, opting for a lesser offence. Many of the students disagreed with this! There were some lively debates and this bodes well for when this group starts Year 12 in September. The group also looked at the development of English law, an overview of civil law and criminal process and when force can be used in self-defence.

Mr Lovell



MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION 2020



On 1st February a team of students took part in the Independent Schools Mock Trial Competition at Wood Green Crown Court in London.

Students took on the roles of barristers, witnesses and court clerk and argued their case. Although we didn't make the final, we only lost to finalists Norwich School by one point and Sarah Doran scored full marks for her cross-examination skills. Unfortunately, Hope Bland was convicted of GBH and sentenced to five years (in her role as the defendant!).

The following week, the team performed one of the cases to an audience of students in the Drama Studio – the guests took the role of jurors.

NameYear Group

Hannah Ali.....	11
Samuel Devlin	11
Hope Bland.....	10
Krishan Sharma	10
Olly Rolls.....	12
Daya Bhamra.....	12
Sunil Banga.....	12
Sukhdeep Mahil.....	12
Asha Mistry-Magin.....	12
Debalina Choudhury	12
Sarah Doran	12
Ashlyn Kumbuwa	12
Lavena Sahjipall.....	13
Jasmine Close.....	13

Mr Lovell & Mr Bond





Maths

RESULTS FROM MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS 2019-20

BRITISH MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD AND CHALLENGES

In the **Senior Mathematical Challenge** (aimed at Years 12-13), five students obtained Gold, 13 Silver and 17 Bronze – these include 16 students younger than Year 12! This is one of the most impressive sets of results we have had for a long while, especially for our Year 11 and 10 students. The next round – the Senior Kangaroo – was taken by the top six students comprising: Ananya Kannan, Abhimanyu Chohan, and Jade Zhu (who received a merit), Stephen Hickingbotham, Haotian Chen, and Mia Rayner of Year 11.

In the **Intermediate Mathematical Challenge** (Years 9-11), nine pupils obtained Gold, 31 Silver and 49 Bronze, which is even better than last year's results, cementing the improvements we've seen over recent years. Mia Rayner got the best in Year 11, Jenny Tian got the best in Year 10 and Hemish Patpatia and Raunak Banerjee shared the best in Year 9 certificate! We also saw Jade in 8BE and Avnish in 8RS get a Silver certificate, as well as seven pupils from Years 7 & 8 achieve a Bronze certificate.

The **Junior Mathematical Challenge** (Years 7-8) was taken by all pupils in Years 7 and 8 in lockdown, so a little different to normal! We didn't have any follow-on rounds this year, but were delighted with the certificates that were awarded, where 12 pupils obtained

Gold, 34 Silver and 34 Bronze. This is a massive haul of prizes and is one of the best results the school has known – it is well above the national average. Congratulations to Jess Gale (Y7) and Ben Pilkington (Y8) for getting the highest mark in their year groups.

We also attended the **Year 10 Team Mathematics Competition**, just before lockdown. Mr Andrews, helped by A level Maths student Meah Dhami, took two teams to the local 'Maths Feast' run by Warwick University's advanced maths support programme. One of the teams, with Belle Worster, Teertha Nitin, Maja Wozaczynski and Jenny Tian, came first overall, winning three of the four rounds – a fantastic achievement! Our other team made up of Robin Greenwood, Clemi Andrews, Felix McMullan and Jay Madan also did well, coming second place in a couple of the rounds, and also winning the coveted 'best teamwork' award. Special mention to Alizeh Bilal who missed out on coming along due to a random name picker – the only way I could think of to choose the team from nine brilliant students.

In November, Dr Honeywill led a group comprising Ananya Kannan and Stephen Hickingbotham from Year 13 and Abhimanyu Chohan and Abdullah Abdullah from Year 12 for the **Senior Team Mathematics Challenge**,



which is held at Warwick University. They put in a brave performance, despite fantastic opposition, and were in contention to win the whole competition were it not for one round that got the better of them, which bumped them into a respectable third place.

The **Junior Mathematics Team Challenge** regional finals were in March. Mr Robbins took the team, comprising Hemish Patpatia from Year 9 and Avnish Sinha, Roma Chahal and Silvia Iuga from Year 8. They worked on team maths questions such as Cross-numbers and a number relay race throughout the day; they came seventh competing against a large number of schools from across the Midlands, and had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

*Tom Andrews
Mathematics Department*

Library: ARCHIVE REPORT

When the I joined the School as one of the first girls in 1975, the class of 1969 were on their way out, so to speak. It was therefore a great pleasure (and a bit of a surprise) to reacquaint myself with some of them on the day of the Old Coventrians' Association Annual Dinner in November and to give them a tour of the School.

In these photos, you can see more than one of our Class of 1969 visitors in their prime. Can you recognise any of them in the photos from the tour and dinner?



Always popular with the girls (with apologies to Jayne Skipper, Jane Maries and Stella Oliver): helping JBV on a school trip to Paris in the late 1970s



Raising money for the School's first minibus in the autumn of 1974



Both photographs taken 23rd November 2019



The bonus question is: which recently retired Deputy Head's brother appears in these photographs?

As an aside: it's fascinating that the School managed without its own transport until the purchase of its first minibus in April 1975 and that the whole School turned out for a sponsored run in the Memorial Park in order to raise the money for it. According to the October 1974 edition of *The Coventrian*, the sponsored walk (and a swim) raised £2,949 helping to bring the C. B. Shore Memorial Fund to a total of £8,000. The next edition of *The Coventrian* in July 1977 states that 'Staff and pupils became generally more mobile in April 1975, when the School purchased a minibus from the proceeds of a sponsored walk the previous Autumn. Since coming into service, the minibus has been in almost constant use.'

23 years younger, the Class of 1992 also visited the Archive later the same day:



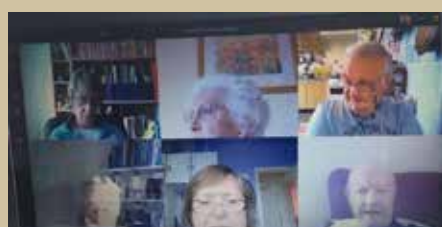
Work in the Archive largely depends upon a dedicated group of retired former staff, who have now been working every Friday morning for four or five years to help catalogue our documents and artefacts.

This work ground to a halt in March as a result of the Covid-19 closure of schools and subsequent lockdown. These photographs illustrate the impact of these events:



The Archive Volunteers at work in the Archive pre-lockdown on 4th October 2019 (L to R: Jane Earp, Norman Styles, Allen Hodgkins, Jeremy Thomas, Mike Purslove, Geoff Courtois, Max Field, Jacky Matthews, Brenda Humphrey and Pat Head)

A post-lockdown, virtual meeting on 19th June 2020 (top L to R Jane Earp, Pat Head, Norman Styles; bottom L to R Max Field, Jacky Matthews and Geoff Courtois). Of course, it has been impossible to undertake any Archive work during lockdown, but it has been enjoyable maintaining the social contact for when work can resume.



After the end of the summer term, the Archive volunteers were delighted to be able to arrange an outdoor, socially distanced farewell and thank you to Mr Slack.



In the School Quad, 10th July 2020 (L to R: Allen Hodgkins, Brenda Humphrey, Jane Earp and Mr Slack)

The Archive volunteers presented Mr Slack with an engraved paperweight to commemorate his time as Headteacher at the School.



This year, the Archive has gratefully received several donations but probably the most poignant was received from Ms Louise Kollmer and relates to Horatio Nelson Ormsby, a former pupil of the School.



About 50 years ago in South Africa, Ms Kollmer purchased a copy of *Pericles and the Golden Age of Athens* by Evelyn Abbott which had been awarded on 28th July 1898 to Ormsby as a prize for coming first in French. Ormsby was killed during the First World War at Gallipoli on 4th June 1915 but it is amazing that this book found its way back to the School 122 years after he received it.

Helen Cooper, School Archivist

KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Jan 14
Our Book of the Week is a new addition to the Library which was published in July 2019. "A Girl's Guide to the Wild: be an adventure-seeking outdoor explorer" by @RufusLizetteWalt is ideal for pupils preparing for a @KHViliOutdoor activity.



KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Feb
Our Book of the Week is "Maus", the Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novel by Art Spiegelman. "Maus" studies the bloody pawprints of history and tracks its meaning for all of us! #PulitzerPrize2020 @ArtSpiegelman



KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Feb 4
Our Book of the Week is "What's Where in the World", brilliant for everyone who loves facts, facts, statistics and infographics! This is a brand new book and it's available to borrow now. @KHViliOpenLibrary @KHViliOutdoor



KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Feb
The Heartstopper series by @AliceOseman is our Book of the Week for Valentine's Day!



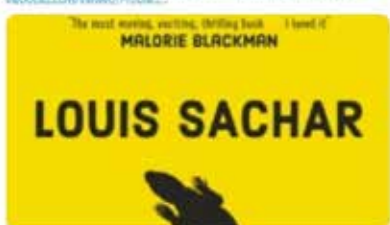
KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Mar 3
"New Daughters of Africa" edited by Margaret Rubby OBC is our Book of the Week. It is "An international anthology of writing by women of African descent". Read @ChimamandaNgoziAdichie @RufusLizetteWalt @AliceOseman and more than 200 other fabulous writers.



KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Mar 10
Our Books of the Week are @ShednWhitney's 'Get Coding!' and 'Get Coding 2!' published in association with @young-wired @KHViliSchool @KHViliWeek.



KHVIII Library @khviii_library · Mar 25
#BookoftheWeek from our VLEbook platform is "Holes" by Louis Sachar. #booksfromVLEbookProducts...



LIBRARY REPORT

It would not be possible for me to run the School Library without the support of my hardworking and reliable Pupil Librarian Team.

Since 2016, this team has been led by a Head Librarian: Emilia Cieslak (2016-17), Ethan Latty (2017-18) and for the past two years by Joint Head Librarians, Jason Adams and Max Campbell, ably assisted by Saqib Ahmed. These three pupils were here to greet me when I joined the staff in June 2014 and demonstrated throughout their time at the School phenomenal loyalty and commitment to the Library. As Head Librarians, they have overseen the work of younger Pupil Librarians, provided interesting and entertaining after-school training sessions and supported all Library events. They will be greatly missed.

The Junior Librarians this year were: Tomi, Rose, Katie, Clara, Aaron, Thando (Y7), Raunak, Aneel, Joshua, Charlie, Dhruv, Hareshkaran (Y9), Maja, Jason and Teertha (Y10).

Shortly before lockdown, the Pupil Librarian Team celebrated World Book Day with a Cake Sale which raised £60.50 for Book Aid International.

Thanks to generous funding from the Parents' Association, the Library was able to participate in the BookTrust's BookBuzz Scheme this year. Every pupil in Years 7 & 8 visited the Library at the start of the autumn term to choose a book which they then received as a gift from the School just before Christmas. As well as encouraging pupils to read for pleasure, participation enabled pupils to hone their critical skills and think hard about what types of book they enjoy and why.

For news about the Library, a good

starting point is our Twitter account (@khviii_library). Since January, we have tweeted our Book of the Week, often new Library stock including: *A Girl's Guide to the Wild: be an adventure-seeking outdoor explorer!* by Ruby McConnell, the *Track* series by Jason Reynolds, *Maus* by Art Spiegelman, and the *Heartstopper* series by Alice Oseman.

Another good starting point for information about how to use the Library and what the Library has to offer staff and pupils to support their teaching and learning is the Library page on the School intranet. You can get one-click access to the Library's online resources, eBooks and subject pages packed with news and information: and it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year!

The current health crisis and associated closure of the School have curtailed the Library's activities this year; for example, we were unable to run a Readathon for the first time in five years. This was particularly disappointing because, in December 2019, we received an 'Outstanding Readathon School' certificate from Read for Good because in total we have raised £12,347 for the charity.

Helen Cooper, School Librarian



Lockdown Diary

WEEK 1

ONLINE LESSONS BECOME THE 'NEW NORMAL'

Like much of the country, at 8:45am pupils and staff signed in for their first full day of MS Teams. It's hard to recall how unfamiliar this software was to us all, given how dependent we would become on it in months ahead. Dining tables across Coventry, Warwickshire and beyond were requisitioned as school desks. Laptops and tablets were charged and ready to go. Could a full curriculum be delivered remotely? Would the pupils engage? Any fears were short-lived!



WEEK 2

CREATIVITY CONTINUES TO THRIVE!

Any concern that online learning would involve nothing but hours in front of a screen, stifling all the wonderful creativity normally seen in our students, is quickly forgotten. The Art Department continue their 'colour theme of the week' challenge, Food and Nutrition lessons become exciting edible experiments as yeast and flour shortages continue, and Year 10 Design & Technology students show what fantastic models can be produced with even the most meagre resources.

In addition to a fantastic array of musical talent, the end-of-term virtual Spring Concert saw the first online appearance of the soon-to-be legendary compèring double act, Newton & Dearden – our very own Ant & Dec!

"This morning we were delighted to receive a kind gift of protective visors from the school. Looking good, comfortable to wear and most importantly offering us the vital protection that we need right now. Many, many thanks from all the team in theatres."

Good Hope Hospital,
Birmingham



PPE VISOR PRODUCTION

As most teachers and pupils were enjoying a well-deserved lie-in after the first week of online learning, Mr Sweetman was reading tweets from DT teachers around the country, discussing how their now deserted departments might help with the current PPE shortages. The members of the KHVIII DT Department assembled within the hour and began producing visors using the laser cutter and 3D printers.

Over the following three weeks Mr Sweetman, Mr Phillips, Mr Timson & Mr Rendle would go on to produce over 11,500 items of PPE, which the School were able to donate to over 250 local health and social care organisations! This was only made possible through generous donations

from across the School community and the support of a number of local companies in sourcing and purchasing materials.

Alongside the harrowing first-hand accounts of Covid-19 from selfless frontline workers came many grateful messages, together with gifts of chocolates, biscuits and even a home-made Indian banquet!

"Massive thanks to King Henry VIII School in Coventry for making and supplying us with 120 visors, working all through the Bank Holiday to get them finished."

Heart of England
Mencap

"Just wanted to thank your school for the visors. They are so appreciated and decrease the viral load massively and protect us all."

St Bernard's Care
Home, Solihull



RICOH **COVENTRY Building Society** **telent**
frederickcooper **amtico**
point spraying - powder coating
antalis **Kitronik** **TSL**
for all Coventry Group
 HUGE THANKS TO THE COMPANIES SUPPORTING US

WEEK 3

The Classics Department helped tackle the boredom as we moved into a fifth week of lockdown with board games and Top Trumps inspired by the gladiators of the ancient world.



SONG REQUESTS FOR THE NHS



Over the Easter holiday Miss Spring set up a Facebook group, allowing people to request a song to be sung for a donation of £2.00 for NHS Charities Together. Mrs Kaczur, Dr Coull, Mrs Roote and ex-students Matthew Pandya and Chloe Storer all got involved and the group raised almost £6,000! Requests ranged from musical numbers to pop and rap, including hits like 'You'll Never Walk Alone' for Captain Tom Moore's 100th birthday, and *Frozen*'s 'Let it Go'.



HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY



House Cross Country took place on Wednesday 29th April. Staff and pupils were asked to complete a 3km run near their home and submit their time.

Victory in the girls' competition went to Sherwyn's, while White's took the boys' event. Well done to all those who took part!



WEEK 4

By Week 4 of online learning, staff were really beginning to embrace the technology. While the amazingly creative range of activities continued to grow, several teachers were loving being in front of a camera. Mr Meynell hosted Outdoor Education Club from his allotment, Mr Harrington recorded the first of his 'don't try this at home' physics experiments and Mr Fitt began a series of interviews with senior sportsmen and women, discussing their motivation, inspiration and much more!



WEEK 5

Mrs Jones continued her daily offering of puzzles, quizzes and challenges, all inspired by the great outdoors. We also welcomed back the fantastic Mrs Pike, whose calm words of advice to Years 11 and 13 were a beacon in the uncertainty surrounding public examinations.



VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Pupils marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day by producing their own bunting in Art lessons and updating World War II posters to reflect the current epidemic.





YEAR 7 VIRTUAL BUSHCRAFT TRIP



Over half-term, Year 7 took part in our first ever 'virtual' trip, replacing the cancelled Bushcraft Adventure. Mrs Jones and her amazing team hosted an action-packed three days of adventure and fun, teaching a wide range of new skills along the way. Students took part in a variety of bushcraft and outdoor activities, including building and cooking on campfires; whittling twigs, branches and logs to make furniture and outdoor art for their

camp; and a 'big wilderness walk'. Many constructed dens and shelters in their garden and some braved the elements for a 'sleep out' under the stars. Each day began at 8am with a campfire-cooked breakfast (eggs in oranges, and blueberry and lemon pancakes), followed by over 12 hours of outdoor activities for the pupils and their families – concluding with traditional songs round the campfire, via the less traditional Zoom call!





WEEK 7

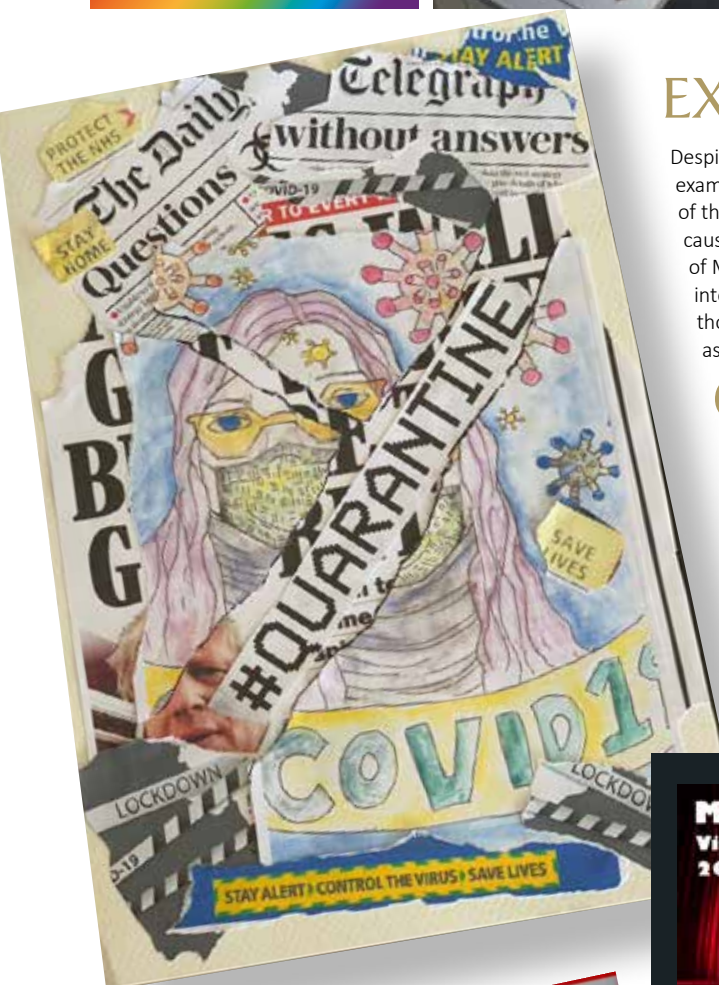


EXAM WEEK

Despite the difficult circumstances, exams took place in the final week of the half-term. After a brief panic caused by the Europe-wide failure of Microsoft Forms, pupils settled into routine and displayed many of those characteristics we so value as a School.

CLUBS

Many extra-curricular activities continued during the exams, providing a welcome relief from revision. Outdoor Education put out a knotty challenge, while Dungeons & Dragons Club continued online.



May Concert Virtual Edition 2020

Presented by Mr Beardon & Mr Newton

MAY CONCERT

The half-term concluded with a fabulous online concert, featuring two new 'lockdown' performances completed virtually, alongside some favourites from previous events.

May Concert

1. Disney 'Wild Cat Cheer' from High School Musical Jr: featuring members of the cast
2. Massenet 'Meditation' from Thaïs: Hannah (violin), Darren (piano)
3. M. McLean Tango for String Quartet: Jasmine (violin), Belle (violin), Niamh (viola), Aoife (cello)
4. Granados 'Maiden and the Nightingale' from Goyescas: Dharma (piano)
5. Gabrieli 'Canzon' for Four Trumpets: Ralph, Dan, Jacob, Matthew
6. M. Keen 'Homeward Bound': Henry's 9 — Tegan, Emily, Sara, Jasmine, Niamh, Eva, Ouyeari, Meghan
7. D. Boerwald, arr. Beale and Newton 'Come what may': members of Senior Choir, video editing Mr Blake

Encore

8. R. Newton 'Lockdown Song', arr. D. Brennan: Grace (sop), Dan Brennan (piano)



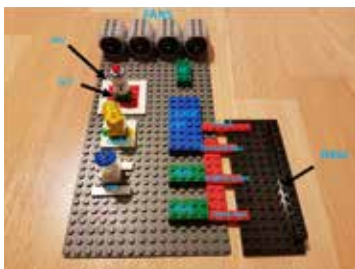


DOUGLAS HOLT & GOOD FELLOWSHIP CUP

The Douglas Holt Award was first presented in 1944 in memory of John Douglas Holt. It is awarded to the Year 13 student who has contributed most to the School during the year and is decided through a whole-school ballot. The 2019-20 recipient was announced by the Headmaster, via a Year 13 online assembly, as George Gawthorpe, in recognition of his contributions to School music and sport, as well as his numerous duties as Head Boy.

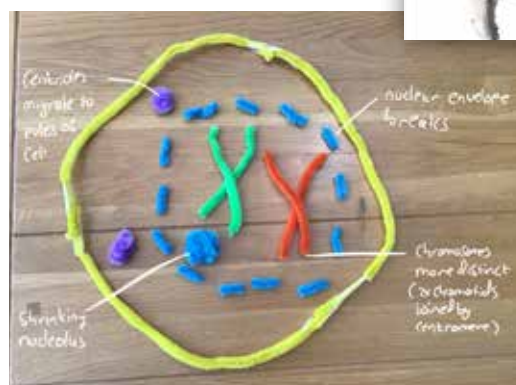
In the same assembly, Mr Slack also presented one of the most prestigious awards offered at King Henry VIII, the Good Fellowship Cup, to Annabelle Thompson. The Cup is presented annually by the parents of Mark McCormack, a former student who passed away in South Africa during his gap year. It is awarded to the Year 13 student who has made the biggest contribution to Sixth Form life and is voted for exclusively by the Sixth Form body.

WEEK 8



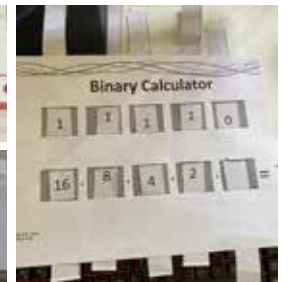
WEEK 9

By Week 9 of online learning we were seeing some wonderfully creative models. Craft boxes were raided to illustrate mitosis in Biology, while Lego sets and kitchen cupboards provided materials to replicate the structure of a CPU for Computer Science.



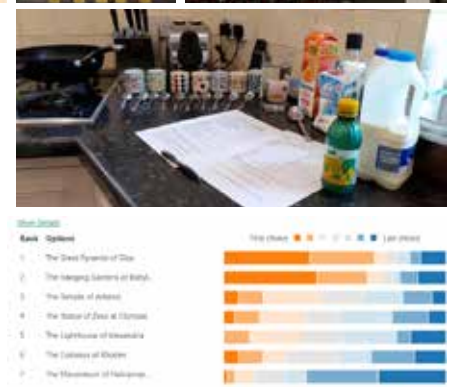
WEEK 10

Further examples of the delicious offerings from Year 8 Food lessons, alongside an equally mouthwatering apple being used to explain Newton & Einstein's theories in Physics.



WEEK 11

Staff were delighted to welcome Year 10 back in to School for some science and sport, while those taking creative subjects for GCSE also had some time in their specialist rooms. Thankfully the weather was kind, allowing a socially distanced picnic lunch on the field.



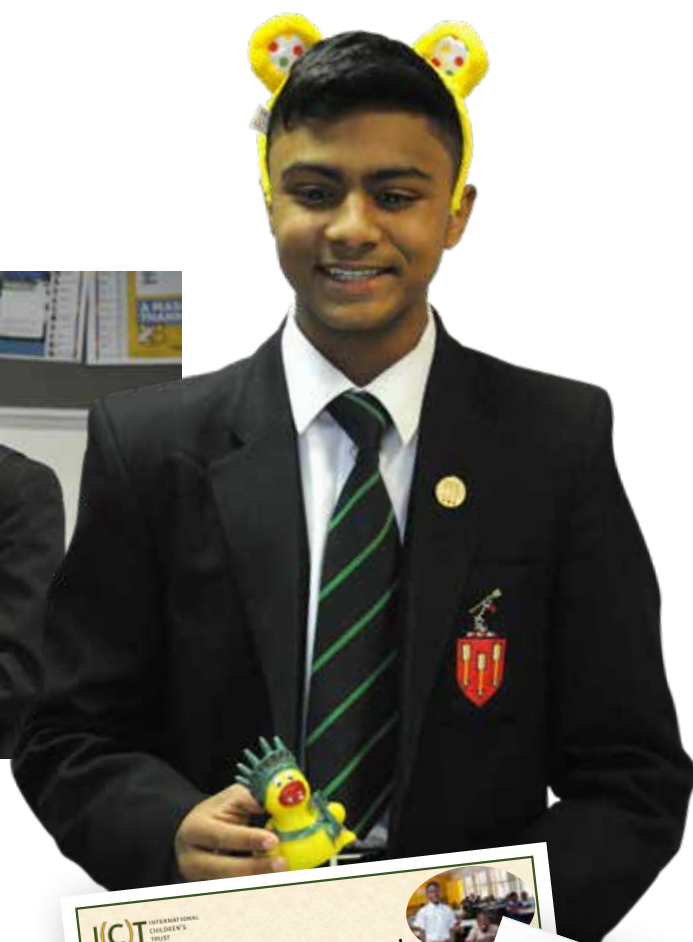


WEEK 12

As the end of the school year approached, there was a final flurry of creativity. Year 7 assembled some wonderful models of Mount Vesuvius to conclude their study of Pompeii, while musicians from across the year groups treated us to a magnificent Summer Concert.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES



CHARITY REPORT 2019-2020

Like with most things this year, Covid-19 hit most of our charity events; most KS3 events, 'Tackling Hunger' and 'Race for Life' all fell victim to the pandemic. The autumn term was our only formal charity time; however, many students and staff during lockdown took the opportunity to help others and raise money for local charities and the NHS.

Autumn term saw the Sixth Form, Year 11 and Year 10 raise money for the Rotary Club, Children in Need and Mental Health Awareness, respectively.

The Sixth Form had two cake sales and a non-uniform day to raise money for Coventry Rotary Club. The money raised was split between supporting the club's effort to send an ambulance to Kenya to help in rural locations, and the Children's International Trust, a Rotary International charity. In addition to this, all the Sixth Form tutor groups put together two to four shoe boxes for the

European Rotary Club Christmas Box Campaign. Well done to the Sixth Form!

Year 10 raised money for the four different Tutor Group charities including Mental Health Awareness and Warwickshire Kidney Patients' Association. Events included cake sales, selling of bracelets, and 'wear something yellow' day.

Year 11 raised money for the national Children in Need event with a cake sale and a whole-school non-uniform day, raising £1,080. Well done!

As the threat of lockdown approached, Year 9 were gearing up for their charity month. 9PS managed to arrange a Just Dance competition just in time and raised over £50 for Mind.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity this year!

Miss Griffiths





CLIMBING CLUB (YEARS 7 TO 13)

The last year has seen a renaissance for the King Henry VIII School Climbing Club under the tutelage of Mrs Jones and Mr Thursz, supported by other staff members and external volunteers, with a loyal and increasingly skilled following from Years 7-13. Climbers have enjoyed everything from traversing to roped climbing, testing their mental and physical abilities and reaping the rewards of trying something new and reaching beyond their comfort zone. It has been wonderful to see some of our members battle their fear of heights, whilst others have set their sights on tackling the tough routes on the overhang, with the whole group supporting each other in achieving their individual goals.

We also had two very successful GCSE climbing sessions at Warwick University Climbing Wall, supporting Year 11 students to achieve their GCSE Climbing grades. In addition, we welcomed Year 6 students to our climbing taster day earlier in the year.

We are very much looking forward to continuing climbing in September. The wall has been stripped and cleaned and new routes have been set on the wall ready for our existing climbers and newcomers to climbing in September. We will also be introducing the NICAS climbing awards as well as some leadership climbing awards. Students will also have the opportunity to take part in an outdoor climbing trip to the Peak District in June 2021 as well as visits to Warwick Climbing Wall and other locations.

Well done to everyone who has taken part in climbing this year.

Mrs Jones



MED/DEN/VETMED SOC

SEPTEMBER 2019 – JUNE 2020

It has been a challenging academic year due to the coronavirus pandemic and the first 'normal' term now seems like a lifetime away, during which we held numerous Med/Den/VetMed Soc sessions during Thursday lunchtimes. All Year 12 pupils who are aspiring to read Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine are invited to attend and where relevant Year 13 pupils too. We do also welcome any pupil who simply has an interest in health-related issues, and this year pupils hoping to read Pharmacy or Paramedic Science did attend some sessions.

We thoroughly enjoy welcoming back past pupils who amazingly make time during their busy degree courses or working lives to share their unique experiences since leaving school. Steven Abbey and Eve Barnes were our first visitors in September. Steven studied Medicine through a traditional degree course at the University of Nottingham and had graduated two years earlier. He gave wonderful insight to his journey to becoming a junior doctor. This included the application process whilst at school, how he fared during his degree and how his F1 and F2 years have influenced his possible career choice. Mrs Pike and I and our Year 12 attendees were hugely impressed by his clearly very caring nature and passion as he explained why he was considering becoming a paediatrician after his planned trip to Australia. Eve is studying Medicine at the University of Bristol so could relate a current account of her course. This session was particularly useful as Year 12 had the opportunity to ask questions about two different universities. Incidentally, Steven and Eve were Head Boy and Girl respectively during their time in Sixth Form. In addition, Vishnu Menon who graduated from the University of Bristol made a very welcome surprise visit and shared his experiences and fielded questions from Years 12 and 13. Our pupils gained a very different perspective from an external speaker, Dr Anil Sachdev. He described why and how he studied Medicine in Romania and is now working as a SHO in Birmingham.

This year we had a unique and very enthusiastic talk given by Aisha Ssemwogerere (Class of 2008). Aisha

completed a Clinical Sciences degree at the University of Bradford and she was just starting her first year of a Physician Associate (PA) masters course at the University of Birmingham. Aisha explained very clearly the difference between the roles of a PA compared to a doctor. It was fascinating to hear about this fairly new role in the UK (since 2003) and how PAs work alongside doctors and surgeons in a variety of settings, including GP surgeries and hospitals, as part of the multidisciplinary team.

We had organised for dentists to visit after Easter but lockdown occurred! Despite our time in school being cut short, we did fit in a lot. To help Year 13 with preparation for interviews, Mrs Dowding, Dr Norman, Mrs Pike and Mrs Pabla delivered an intense but fun MMI session during the autumn term; this complemented the Mock Interview Evening organised by Mrs Pike. MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews) are now the preferred method for medical (and some dental) schools to assess applicants and include a number of 'stations' like role play, data analysis and situational judgement scenarios. Year 12 were provided with information regarding UCAT and BMAT (although this changed during lockdown and we have been sharing updates with them). In addition, we held Pharmacovigilance and Ethics talks (Mrs Pabla), and Mrs Pike gave a fantastic overview of the whole application process too. Year 12 researched areas of interest and presented their findings to their peers.

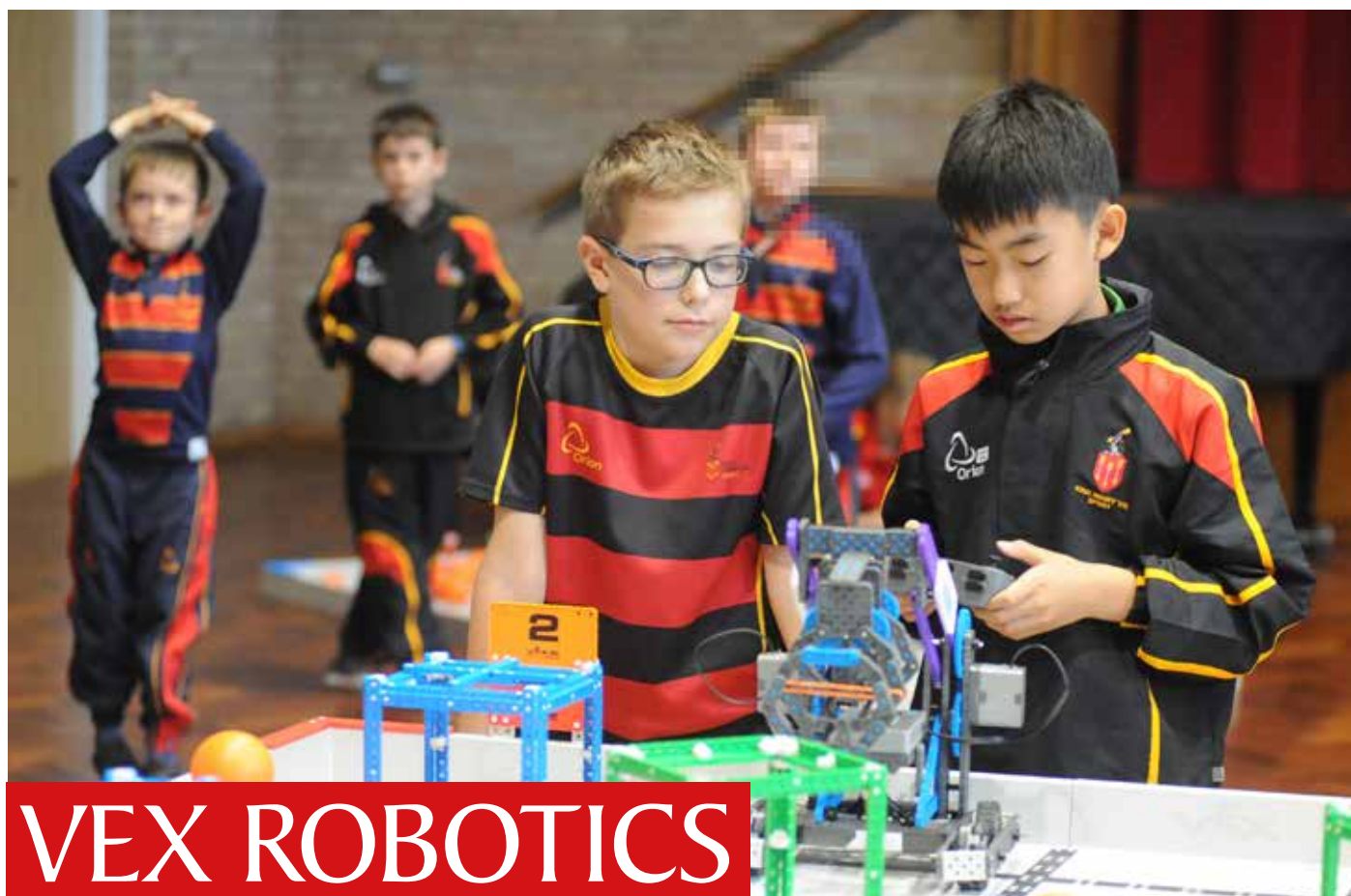
Our current pupils have benefited hugely from first-hand accounts of students and the working environment of dentists, doctors and vets. They gain an insight to different types of courses and teaching of specific disciplines, student life in different cities and the application and interview processes. Our current Year 13 pupils also take a session or two to share their ongoing application process experiences. Some Year 12 pupils attended the annual Medical Insight course held at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire during which they witness the positives and negatives of working in the NHS. Med/Den/VetMed Soc provides the Sixth Form the opportunity to develop communication and team-building skills and the knowledge and understanding required to deal with a difficult and highly competitive application process.

Mrs Pabla & Mrs Pike





VEX
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION



VEX at Henry's continues to grow and move from strength to strength! This year saw our first foray into the Prep School with our pilot team to test out the feasibility of growing the club in the lower years. With the inclusion of the Year 4 team we also had teams from Years 7 and 8 competing in the IQ challenge and teams from Years 9 and 10 taking on the VRC version of the competition.

This season's IQ game involved large cubes, which needed to be lifted onto platforms to score points and balls also scoring on top of the cubes. A wide range of robots were produced and season-long development saw our first trophies coming from the Year 4 team, winning the Programming Skills challenge title in their first outing! Year 8 also brought home trophies from the first competition winning the overall tournament champions award. This showed the potential of the teams and they did not disappoint. By the time the National finals came around we had four teams representing Henry's. They battled hard against the best 60 teams from across the UK over a tiring two days of competition. The older students were a little unlucky to miss out on the knockout rounds after some technical issues but the Year 4 boys battled through to finish second overall! An amazing achievement in their rookie season.

The VRC competition was also based around cubes, but there were way more of them and they stacked high! Winning robots were

stacking 12 cubes in dizzying towers above the arena – towers that were not always as stable as they could be! This year we had four teams competing in the VRC challenge: three from Year 9 and one from Year 10. It was a mixed season with as many awards as issues and robot breakdowns. We finished the season with three Champions awards as well as numerous judge awards, with three teams qualifying for the National Finals. Naturally, the competition was tough with the biggest and best robots coming from the corners of the UK. Another two days of competition saw all the teams battle through to the knockout rounds, with the Year 10s making it into the division finals. In a close-run match, they were narrowly beaten and ended the season as runners-up. Impressive result from a tough season.

This runner-up spot was enough to qualify them for the World finals in Kentucky, along with the Year 4 team who also finished in second place and our Year 7 team who won a place through their programming skills competition. So we had a team from each element of the competition representing Henry's at the World Finals!

However, that is when it all came to a halt. International flights were being grounded and the decision was taken to cancel the finals for the safety of all the teams. A shame for the teams from across the globe who had all battled hard to earn their places but as

things start to get back to normal I'm sure they'll come back stronger.

Thanks to Mr Rendle, Mr Phillips and Miss Burton for their efforts and support this season. It's a huge task to run a robotics season especially to the standard we've now set!

Bring on next season!

Mr Sweetman



OUTDOOR EDUCATION AWARDS & CLUB



Year 7 Bronze & Bronze+ Outdoor Education Adventure Award Programme

This year all Year 7s have taken part in the Year 7 Adventure Award Programme (Stage 1), which is a non-competitive award with progress measured by the participants' experiences, knowledge and involvement in activities. The Adventure Award Programme is about embarking on an adventure and developing a spirit of adventure, discovery and self-reliance by participating in a number of individual and group-centred outdoor education and adventurous activities. Activities have included the adventure safari days, outdoor education club, the Bushcraft adventure trip (albeit a

very successful 'virtual trip' this year), adventure reading, one month of doing a physical or skill activity, one month service, food technology, shield activity, first aid, charity fund-raising activity, as well as trips. Students have been working towards completing their Bronze or Bronze+ Award. Awards will be presented later this year in September. A number of these activities took place in school before lockdown, whilst others have been adapted for online learning at home throughout lockdown. Students have been making some fantastic creations and continue to produce some excellent work.



Year 8 Silver & Silver+ Outdoor Education Adventure Award Programme

Year 8 students have also been working towards their Silver & Silver+ Outdoor Education Adventure Award during lockdown, and again we gave adapted activities for students in which to participate. 40 students were fortunate to be able to take part in our Blue Peris Outdoor Education Residential in February in North Wales, prior to lockdown.





Year 7 Outdoor Education Club

Year 7 & 8 Outdoor Education Club has been very popular this year with a large number of our Year 7 & 8 students taking part in a variety of outdoor education activities every Tuesday lunchtime since September, and these have continued throughout lockdown. Activities have included rocket making and launching, making SOS survival bracelets, rope techniques workshop, first aid, team building games and activities, pizza making on a wood-fired oven, the very popular photo-orienteeing (Easter egg hunts), and more recently students have been growing vegetables, herbs and flowers whilst on lockdown and lots more besides. Well done to everyone who has taken part this year. Lots more exciting activities in September 2020 to look forward to...

Mrs Jones





BRONZE DofE QUALIFYING EXPEDITIONS

Students successfully took part in their Bronze DofE Expeditions in the Cotswolds in September 2019. Little did we know back then that these would be our last expeditions for a while!

Bronze, Silver and Gold training days also took place in the autumn and spring term in school where students have had an opportunity to learn about campcraft; planning menus for expedition; how to pack a rucksack and what kit and equipment to take with them; first aid, navigation and route planning on eDofE amongst other things. In January 2020, Bronze DofE students also had the opportunity to practise their navigation skills during local walks around Kenilworth.

DofE participants have continued to be busy with their DofE throughout lockdown adapting their volunteering, physical and skills sections in order to continue with their activities. It's also nice to hear that a significant number of students have been helping neighbours, care home residents and staff and the NHS for their volunteering whilst on lockdown. All expeditions for 2020 will hopefully resume again in late August. Well done to all students who have been working hard to complete their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections.

As the world's leading achievement award for young people, DofE is a programme of leisure time activities to

help participants to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure, and rewards participants with a great sense of achievement. It is also prestigious and highly valued by employers and university admissions tutors. The majority of our students complete Bronze in Year 10, with a large number going on to complete Silver in Year 11 and Gold in Years 12 and 13. For each level, participants complete activities in four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. At Gold level there is also a Residential section. The programme is very flexible and in each section participants choose their own activities. Participants can start a new activity or carry on with something that they already enjoy. Upon achieving their Gold award, students are invited to St James' Palace to receive their award, which is a very prestigious occasion.

The DofE programme is a great way to meet new friends, improve your fitness, learn new skills, increase your confidence, learn to work as a team, participate in expeditions and experience an adventure, as well as gaining a great sense of achievement. In addition, the award programme promotes a number of positive attributes and characteristics in young people such as leadership, self-motivation, teamwork, communication, organisation, consideration for others and the environment and above all, a willingness and an ability to learn, all of which are valued by external organisations such as colleges, universities and employment establishments. The DofE is a fantastic award and I am pleased to say that so many of our students take these opportunities afforded to them, and in doing so, make fantastic progress. Well done to everyone who has achieved their Bronze, Silver or Gold award this year.

Mrs Jones

BRONZE SILVER & GOLD



Gold DofE Awards

Congratulations on achieving your Gold DofE Award!

Achieving your Gold Award is a big deal. It shows that you have the skills, determination and mentality to really succeed. So, it's only right you get a proper celebration of your achievement. All young people who achieve a Gold Award will be invited to a Gold Award Presentation (GAP), attended by a Member of the Royal Family, to receive their certificate in London at St James' Palace or at Buckingham Palace Gardens. This will be a great occasion to look forward to in the months ahead.

In the meantime, congratulations to our current and former King Henry VIII School students for achieving their Gold DofE award: **Matthew Bailey, Toby Barham, Jonathon Borkan, Jasmine Close, Candice Correa, Jacqueline Correa, Declan Cutler, Adam Duffy, Maiwenn Dunoyer, George Edwards, Thomas Honey, Jordan Parker, Maghna Patel, Holly Slack, Annabelle Thompson (Y13), Yueping Feng, Zachaeus Will-Waugh, Orchha Keatman-Smith, Kunwar Nagi, Pravinth Nimalan, Mandira Patel, Tegan Pike, and Harriet Rayner (2019 Leavers) and James Goodwin and Conor Keen (2018 Leavers)**. Well done to everyone! There are also many more students who are still working hard to achieve the very prestigious Gold DofE award.

Congratulations also to the following students who achieved their Gold DofE Award in the autumn term:

Hannah Pilbeam, Akshat Sinah, Thomas Meynell, James Miller, Adam McNutt (2019 Leavers) and Charlotte Gudger, Nathaniel Harding, Jaya Herian, Callum Pearman, Ria Sanghera and Daveena Kaur, Elizabeth List (2018 Leavers).



Silver DofE Awards

Congratulations on achieving your Silver DofE Award!

Achieving your Silver DofE Award is also a very prestigious occasion. DofE awards are highly valued by colleges and universities and establishments as well as employers. Achieving your Silver DofE award shows that you have good leadership, organisational and communication skills, all of which are invaluable life skills. Congratulations to the following students: **Mohammed Abdullah, Mark Arya, Anoop Bains, Sunil Banga, George Beaumont, Daya Bhamra, Raveena Bhogal, Michael Channing, Meah Dhami, Sarah Doren, Adrian Er, Tia-Caitlynn Ghataura, Daniel Hedgcock, Nikhil Jhaj, Jobandeep Khuman, Matthew Lively, Mani Mahal, Sukhdeep Mahil, Lucie Mellor, Henry Nicholson, Nithushan Nimalan, Kavi Patel, Agshaniya Ramesh, Oliver Rolls, Roise Rushton, Raajan Sarana, Ethan Sassman, Evie Slattery, and Lucy Stewart**. Well done to everyone! There are also many more students who are still working hard to achieve their Silver DofE award.



Bronze DofE Awards

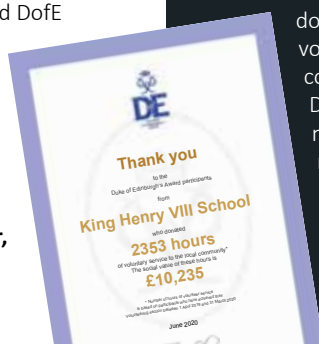
Congratulations on achieving your Bronze DofE Award!

Achieving your Bronze DofE Award is also a great occasion. Achieving your Bronze DofE award shows that you can work as a team, make decisions and support each other as well as undertaking learning experiences through participation in volunteering in the community, physical activities as well as learning new skills, all of which are invaluable learning opportunities and life skills. Congratulations to the following students for recently achieving their Bronze DofE Award: **Aisha Ahmed, Tom Andrews, Hannah Baker, Isabel Barham, Trineesha Barnaby, Sophie Bird, Emily Boyes, Ella Caine, Freya Caine, Ben Cartwright, Amrita Chahal, Phoebe Chandler, Toby Channing, Oliver Cherry, Nisha Choli, Finn Connolly, Annabelle Cox, Olivia Davies, Liv Davies, Samuel Devlin, Raveena Dheer, Grace Doyle, Ollie Duckers, Ruby Duncan, Erwan Dunoyer, Will Ferguson, Ralph Gawthorpe, Danny Gill, Dilan Grewal, Naifat Haji, Breeya Hall, Bella Handy, Anna Harper, Harsimrat Hayer, Reva Hayre, Amy Hayton, Maria Healey, Dan Honey, Max John, Anya Kalsi, Matthew Kalyango, Georgia Kelly, Cameron Kirk, Aman Korla, Simran Kmuari, Priya Lalria, Morgan Lovell, Macey Miller, James Moffatt, Dharma Muthalagappan, Theo Nelson, Jacob Oxtoby, Alex Pitcher, Izzy Poole, Tavleen Sekhon, Sharad Sharda, Josh Sheppard, Priya Sidhu, Luke Simpson, Chujaani Sinnanthambi, Kifayat Siraj, Emi Thomas, Ramon Toor, Harry Treble, Orla Wagstaff, Sophie Welbourne, Joss Wozencroft, Daniel Xavier, Jamila Yunus, and Sinan Zaid**. Well done to everyone! There are also many more students who are still working hard to achieve their Bronze DofE award.

Mrs Jones

Volunteering Success!

Regional DofE have presented King Henry's with our Volunteering Certificate for all the hours that students have volunteered between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020. Well done to everyone who has volunteered in our local community as part of their DofE Award. You have made and continue to make a huge difference to people's lives in our local community. Be proud of what you do and what you achieve! Well done!



MOUNT COOK

Mount Cook was such a wonderful week and going there at the start of our time in Year 7 at King Henry's really helped us all to make new friends across our new year group.

I had been at the Preparatory School so I already had a lot of friends in our year but going away and spending so much time together helped me to make new friends, with people who had joined the school, which was really great.

There was so much for us to do at Mount Cook, some of which I had done before but some new exciting things to try out and to challenge us too.

I particularly enjoyed the zip wire, canoeing, archery, archery tag and the gladiator wall;

however, the whole week and all of the activities we did were lots of fun.

The other reason I enjoyed Mount Cook is that it gives you a huge sense of achievement when you try and also succeed at something out of the ordinary, that you would never normally get to do.

We also had some group activities to complete together throughout our stay, which involved everyone and made us all feel settled as the new Year 7 at KHVIII.

It was a fantastic week of outdoor adventure and activities of which I have lots of happy memories.

Max, 7ML



Mount Cook is a brilliant idea from the school. When you have just started King Henry's you're tense and timid, particularly if you are like me and only knew one other person in Year 7, and you are worried you will feel homesick. But then you go on this totally awesome trip. And at the end of it you never want to leave.

Mount Cook was a magical experience. Every second of it was full of smiles and laughter. My friends and I grew closer, and the connection between us when we left Mount Cook became unbreakable.

We were always challenging ourselves to do activities that were nerve-wracking. But I know that the encouragement from your friends and teachers pushes you forward and makes you realise how fantastic they are. Mount Cook is just the start of trust, friendship and respect between friends.

There was always a smile on everyone's face even when we were about to do things that

were extremely scary. For example, being 20m off the ground!

I will never forget the Mount Cook trip. The activities we did were so exciting. My favourite was the zip wire which I did twice as I loved it so much. At first, I was really anxious but the second time I was laughing my head off, as my friend and I did rock, paper, scissors down parallel zip wires. Another memory was when my friend woke me up at six o'clock in the morning every day... But looking back it was such a laugh.

Every day was better than the last. I can't actually put in words how much the trip helped us all bond. Looking back on it now I'm almost in tears. I am missing my friends so much during lockdown.

Mount Cook is only the start of your epic journey with your friends and King Henry's.

Polly McMullan, 7SD

WENLOCK WINTER WONDERLAND STAFF WALK

On Sunday 15th December 2019, staff and their families, together with some of our external volunteers from King Henry VIII School, chose to escape from the madness of Christmas shopping and shopping-centre crowds to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Shropshire countryside on our circular walk of approximately 11 miles along Wenlock Edge and over surrounding countryside.

We'd hoped for crunchy frost under our boots and clear blue skies to see the views of the Long Mynd and surrounding areas. We weren't disappointed! We didn't quite have the frost, but we certainly had the blue skies, albeit with a little rain in the afternoon. With the date being so close to the longest

night, the hours of daylight were short so we departed early to arrive back before darkness fell upon us at around 4.00pm. Whilst on route we enjoyed some festive spirit, with mulled wine and mince pies at a fantastic viewpoint. A great walk in great company in a great location!

We finished our walk just as it was getting dark in time to enjoy our meal and beverages at the George and Dragon pub in Much Wenlock, before travelling back to King Henry VIII School.

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



YEAR 7 ACTIVITY DAY

Friday 18th October 2019

Year 7 students took part in an Outdoor Education Activity Day full of engaging and fun activities. Students sharpened their minds and found inner strength to complete lots of problem-solving and team-building activities, as well as lots of orienteering and navigation games and even some indoor climbing! Students participated in non-competitive and competitive activities to encourage those attributes of communication and cooperation as well as leadership and competition.

A fantastic day. Well done to all Year 7 students!

Mrs Jones





YEAR 8 BLUE PERIS OUTDOOR EDUCATION RESIDENTIAL, North Wales



During the February half-term holiday, King Henry's Year 8 students visited Blue Peris Outdoor Education Centre, North Wales, one of the leading Outdoor Centres in the country. Students visited Blue Peris as part of our Outdoor Education Programme. Students had an amazing time participating in a range of exciting Outdoor Education activities including a gorge walk and scramble, a brilliant mine trip, which included small sections of via ferrata, climbing up ladders attached to ropes, as well as crossing a small underground lake on inflatables, crazy canoeing (it was very windy!), orienteering, team-building activities and a night walk. Students and staff had an amazing time! So good, that we have already booked it again for next year on 14th-17th February 2021, for our next cohort of Year 8 students!

One of the really special things about Blue Peris is its location, close to the heart of Snowdonia National Park in the north-west corner of Wales. This is a truly magical area of the world, a place where the wild, craggy mountains sit next to a beautiful coastline peppered with dramatic sea cliffs and beautiful beaches. There are also tranquil lakes and rivers, extensive cycleways and mountain bike trails, fascinating old quarry workings and ancient woodlands, all waiting to be explored. Adventure activities are best when they occur in the great outdoors, and it doesn't get much greater than Snowdonia.





This is a genuine paradise for outdoor activities; in fact, you would struggle to find anything comparable in the whole of the UK. Blue Peris really do offer a deeper experience than the standard 'thrills and spills' approach. It's not just what you are doing that matters, it's where you are doing it, how you are doing it and who you are doing the activities with.

All of the activities at Blue Peris introduce and nurture personal qualities such as confidence, initiative, commitment, teamwork, communication, perseverance, risk management, leadership and learning new skills as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. During our three days at Blue Peris students had time to adjust to the values of the residential experience and took part in activities based at the centre as well as offsite in the heart of Snowdonia.

Students had 'down time' to chat and play with their friends; the 'games room' was a very popular choice with students! Students also engaged with looking after their peers at breakfast and mealtimes, being responsible for daily chores, which enhanced students' responsibilities.

A fantastic trip and thank you to all staff at Blue Peris for a wonderful experience.

Mrs Jones



STAFF LEAVERS



MR SLACK

Jason Slack's time at Henry's has been across two separate stints, arriving as a Physics teacher back in 1995 with youthful exuberance and passion for his subject. He was not just committed to the classroom, showing great sporting adaptability in taking his football nous and applying it (with some success!) to the rugby field.

He moved away from Henry's showing great leadership development and potential through independent schools in Cheshire and Yorkshire where he took on roles as Head of Science and Deputy Head before he returned to Henry's in 2010.

Ten years later he leaves having successfully led and developed the school, overseeing capital projects and improvements including the Jeff Vent Archive Room, refitting of numerous labs and classrooms and upgrades to the security of the site, alongside taking the school through a highly successful ISI inspection where Henry's was awarded 'Excellent' in every category.

His legacy runs deeper than this with his calm, balanced and caring nature being a real support and pillar to all members of our community, from staff and students through to parents. He has great emotional intelligence and ability to understand and judge a situation, providing confidence to all, coupled with a personable demeanour.

His commitment to Henry's has been incredible, whether playing violin in the school orchestra, supporting students on the touchline at a sporting fixture or participation on a DofE expedition. He has put the young people at the forefront of his vision for the school; a holistic approach encompassed in a framework of shared values, which is founded on educational excellence and diversity.

He knows every pupil, has a genuine interest in what they do and has always been able to talk to parents knowledgeably about their children. His personable demeanour has

been a key part of growing such a positive community at Henry's.

We wish him all the best in his new role at King's Macclesfield. We will miss not just his guidance and leadership, but also his enthusiasm and commitment to everything related to Henry's! We have no doubt he will be a great success and we thank him for his tremendous contribution to King Henry's.





AMANDA SKINNER

Amanda has been the Personal Assistant to the Headmaster for over 15 years. Managing a Headmaster is not for the faint-hearted and being a PA to a Headmaster can present significant challenges! Amanda has fulfilled her role with skill and diplomacy.

Characterised by wonderful judgement Amanda has acted as a shield, filter and gateway with composure and charm. Amanda has allowed parents, pupils and staff to feel valued and appreciated, even when the overriding sentiment has been frustration. In addition, Amanda has administered the school's admissions process.

Her knowledge of the school and ability to represent the ethos of the school to prospective parents with confidence has acted to reassure many a family who were unsure about the massive decisions being faced regarding entry to the school. Her contribution to the school has been invaluable and we wish her all the best in the future.

Jason Slack

EMMA PASCALL

Emma Pascall joined Henry's in September 2018, staying with us for 18 months to complete her Drama TA apprenticeship. Anyone who worked with Emma will be unsurprised to learn that she passed her course with flying colours. An invaluable member of the Drama Department, Emma got stuck in early with our production of *Les Misérables*: staging scenes, supporting backstage and helping the students to develop their characters.

The students warmed to her quickly and trusted in her guidance, theatrical expertise and infectious sense of humour. She went on to support many more shows as an assistant director and choreographer, playing a huge part in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Little Women*, *High School Musical Jr.* and helping to judge two House Drama competitions.

In the classroom, Emma's energy, great sense of fun and compassion made her an invaluable presence. Students were quick to ask her advice on their performance pieces and often sought her support and guidance emotionally.

The regular queue outside the Drama office for Emma was a testament to the number of students that trusted her and valued her opinion. She knew her classes inside out and was always meticulous when it came to meeting their learning and emotional needs, thinking of new ways to help them and engage them with theatre.

Emma was also a regular feature on trips, supporting numerous theatre excursions and joining the Year 7s at Mount Cook. Year 7 and Year 8 hold particularly fond memories of Emma, as she assisted every class in both of these year groups.

As a colleague, Emma was intuitive, proactive and considerate, an invaluable team member and now lifelong friend. We wish her every success in her new role as a Trouper for Parkdean Resorts.

*Miss Spring
Head of Drama*

CATH DEARDEN

Cath Dearden joined the school in 2017 following her return from several years living and working in Sri Lanka and China. She worked as an Aftercare Supervisor until taking maternity leave in 2018 and when she returned in September 2019, she took on the additional role of Administrative Support to the Heads of Sixth Form.

The autumn term is traditionally the busiest term in the Sixth Form with lots of administrative support required. Cath was not fazed by this and she fitted into the role seamlessly, modifying and improving many of the processes we had had in place for years. She was a highly valued member of our team, always cheerful and smiling. We will miss our afternoon chats as well as the excellent support she gave us.

Cath was also very popular with pupils in Aftercare and worked hard with them to maintain high standards of work, behaviour and appearance. Younger pupils particularly enjoyed watching her pregnancy progress and really enjoyed meeting her son, Arthur, when she brought him in to meet them.

Cath is leaving King Henry VIII School to take up a role as Teaching Assistant at Finham Park School.

*Helen Cooper
School Librarian & Archivist*

JO WALTER

Jo Walter worked as an Aftercare Supervisor, covering for Cath Dearden's maternity leave during the 2018-19 academic year. She then briefly worked as a Receptionist in the School Office pending the outcome of the Foundation's Support Staff restructuring. Jo previously worked for the school several years ago as a Science Technician and has a grandson at the school.

Jo was very popular with the pupils in Aftercare and built positive relationships with everyone. The combination of a fantastic sense of humour and a grandma's knowing look, meant that she was perfect for the role. Unfortunately, by the time the Aftercare post became available again, her family commitments prevented her from returning to work.

Helen Cooper, School Librarian & Archivist

JULIE LOW

Julie started working at Henry's in August 2004. In various different guises, she has managed the non-teaching activity of the school, most recently as School Administrator to the Senior School but previously her responsibility had covered both Senior and Preparatory Schools. Julie was the only non-teaching member of SMT and has been incredibly successful in her role. Her administration and judicious management of school budgets has necessarily been strong and efficient. But this has never been at the expense of doing what is in the best interests of the pupils. When the educational argument for a particular initiative has been compelling Julie has, somehow, made the finance work!

Despite the accuracy and clarity of Julie's quantitative presentation, her greatest quality has always been her empathy. Julie has been a wonderful comfort to families in challenging circumstances, supporting them emotionally and financially to allow their children to continue at the school. Julie has also been a good friend to other staff at the school, providing wise counsel and advice that lets them navigate the complexities of modern life and allowing those that she managed to play a full and productive part in our community. Her amazing work ethic has been an example to us all and she leaves to enjoy a well deserved retirement with our best wishes.

Jason Slack

SHANICE COOMEY

Joining us as a part of the SCCU Apprenticeship Scheme, Shanice arrived at the school with a fresh enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. She developed her independence and confidence in delivering many different sports and skills. Her swim teach was especially good, working with novice swimmers who have a real fear of the water. She worked hard to support our Health, Well-being and Sport Preparation programme with Mr Pickering, offering students physical and psychological support. On the sporting extra-curricular front, she became an integral part of the team run teams and clubs. She was loved by the students and it is credit to her development that she goes on as a teaching assistant and member of the profession who will make a fantastic impact on many students' lives.

SIMON THURSZ

We met Simon when he was a tutor at the Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre where he taught our A level Geographers for two successive years. We were very keen to bring Simon to King Henry's, so when we learned that we would need a maternity cover for 12 months we snapped him up! Simon's geographical knowledge is excellent and his passion for all things geographical quickly captivated his students. He is an extremely likeable character and the relationships he has forged with staff and pupils at Henry's have been hugely positive and productive.

For a staff member who has only been here for a matter of months Simon has contributed massively to life at Henry's. Most notably he has been instrumental in re-establishing rock climbing at the school from Prep School children all the way up to GCSE PE. He is certainly a proactive member of the team and seeks opportunities to support his colleagues and add to the curriculum. Simon will be sadly missed and we all hope that he will grace our classrooms again at some point in the future!

KATE GOODFELLOW

Kate has been a wonderful Alumni Relations Officer over the last two years. Her meticulous organisation and pragmatic approach have served both the school and the Old Coventrians' Association to a very high standard. In addition, her warm demeanour and personable communication immediately left people feeling welcome as they liaised with their former school, reinforcing our family ethos and our holistic approach to 'education for life'. Rejoining the world of healthcare just before 'lockdown' might not have been intentional but I'm sure that Kate will have made a difference just as she has at Henry's.

JO ROLLS

Jo joined the school in 2016 as an Admin Assistant, and her ability to manage a variety of tasks with such ease quickly made her an invaluable member of the team. She enjoyed managing events and soon came to occupy a pivotal role in the organisation of the Sports Dinner. Jo improved the administration of the event but more importantly the event itself, adding the extra-special touches of vases, fairy lights and confetti to make the event more special to the students.

Jo's role also included Admin Support for Admissions. As part of the Entrance Examination day, she was responsible for administering all the exam papers and making sure that they were sent to the correct rooms and that all the papers were returned. Jo was also a member of the Junior Orchestra group where she played her flute during regular lunchtime sessions and participated in many school music concerts.

Jo now resides at Hales campus as an Administrator following the support staff restructure. Her vast administration experience and her ability to adapt to changes will enable Jo to shine in her new role. We wish her all the very best of luck.

LAURA GARCIA

Laura joined King Henry VIII School in September 2013, when she was appointed as the Spanish Language Assistant for the year. It was immediately apparent that Laura was a dedicated classroom practitioner given the time she spent helping students in all aspects of their Spanish. Indeed, Laura regularly would go beyond the call of duty to assist students in her own free time. When a position for a Spanish teacher arose in September 2014, the decision to appoint Laura was an obvious and easy one to make. She continued to approach her work with students with enviable commitment and many pupils owe their success in Spanish to Laura's unstinting generosity. The additional hours of work that she devoted to helping individuals and preparing resources every week cannot be emphasised enough.

In January 2020 Laura decided to follow a new career path and also to spend more time with her new family. We will miss her genuine affection for the department and the tasty delicacies that she regularly brought back to the department having returned to Spain during the holidays! We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

ANGELA JONES

Joining the Henry's community in June of 2017, Angela was thrown in at the deep end, organising cover for staff she didn't know in a school she did not know in her role as Cover Organiser. However, she rose to the occasion consummately, quickly grasping the nuances of the school and staff, and getting to grips with Sims Cover, a cranky piece of software at the best of times. Angela also supported the school through input to safeguarding, the joy of processing DBS checks, exams administration, organisation of invigilators along with supporting the admin team more widely.

Angela spent much time working to pass on her skills, understanding and insights, often helping the senior team in their work. Most recently, she has helped Mr Sewell, upon his arrival at Henry's, to grasp the workings of various elements of the database software and better understand the administration of the school, from cover, to exams, to recruitment.

At Henry's, Angela will be remembered most as a personable and warm individual, encapsulated in the tone of her regular greeting 'good morning' which she never failed to say with just the right amount of cheeriness for 7.15am, when she started her working day.



GOOD
LUCK



OLD COVENTRIANS

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am not sure whose idea it was to get the Chair to write an annual report, but it certainly focuses the mind and provides a really useful opportunity to take stock of what we have done and what we would like to do going forward. Doing my research and delving into the depths of my computer's memory it seems I was elected as the Chair of the OCA in June 2015 and this is actually my fifth Report. In many ways it is perhaps the easiest to write simply because we have been significantly restricted in what we have been able to do this year. But then I came to look at what we have actually managed to do and there is still quite a lot.

Back in July 2019 we had the Celebrate Your Time event when there is a buffet for the leavers of that year and their parents, where we welcome the next crop of OCs. They get another dose of hospitality at Christmas in a reunion for those coming back from their first term at university – though it's really much more of an opportunity for them to socialise rather than reminisce about their time at the school. For those of a more sporting bent, we entered a team in the Dean Close Girls' Hockey Sixes and various teams in the Thames Hare and Hounds Running event. The runners again had their usual pre-Christmas event at Crackley, but the Crown Green Bowls was moved to a date in May. There was a fair amount of OC support for the School Team 1st XV which beat Bablake 13-10 at the Butts Park Arena.

Then we had the 97th Annual Dinner in November. Following a year when the catering was not at its best, this year it was exemplary and with an excellent speaker in Graham Wigley we were able to welcome specific groups from the Classes of 1969 and 1992 as well as marking the 60th Anniversary of the Running Club. February saw an unusual event for us, organised by our Deputy Chair, Rob Philips, with a talk about

a replica of the first Riley Car, built between 1896 and 1898 by Percy Riley who was even at the time still a pupil at the school – a fascinating evening.

But then it hit: Covid-19 and the lockdown. That scuppered the Bowls, the Class Dinner for those of 2003, the Seniors' Tea Party and the planned 40 Years On Dinner to mark the Class of '73's Leaving. We couldn't hold events or committee meetings, and this was compounded by losing our new Alumni Officer, Catherine Kaye, to furlough after one week in post. The previous AO, Kate Goodfellow, left around Christmas to return to the high-powered world of pharmaceuticals and our thanks go to her for an excellent job.

While we are on the subject of departures, I should mention the Headmaster, Mr Jason Slack, leaving. He really is one of the reasons that the OCA is as robust as it is. He had to deal with the aftermath of Jeff Vent passing away and helped set us up. He continued to provide an essential connection between the OCA and the school, fully recognising the value we bring to the life and community of the school. He will be missed but it is equally an opportunity for Mr Phil Dearden, the new Acting Head, to capitalise on the good work done by Jason.

There are a few other things we do that need a mention. Amongst them is a new event – our trip out. Whether it is a one-off or the start of a tradition, we shall have to wait and see but those who visited Liverpool, mainly to see the magnificent Cathedral designed by Old Coventrian, Sir Frederick Gibberd, thoroughly enjoyed it. The other key thing we do as an organisation is to produce the Newsletter. I am so grateful to Keith Bushnell, our Secretary, for all the work he puts into it in terms of the layout and general editing and collating. It can be challenging accumulating all the stories, even when we

are busy with events – but when we have no events, it almost feels like it runs the risk of becoming not much more than a catalogue of obituaries. Having said that, with the recent passing of Geoff Courtois, I have been surprised by the number of comments and people's stories of him – so perhaps this really is one of our most valued functions.

Geoff's passing does at least demonstrate that our social media presence remains strong, though perhaps Facebook may be an area for future development. Linked to that is the database. When I took over, we had just 6,902 entries, probably with several hundred duplications. We are now up to 11,496 (including deceased and those who have explicitly asked us not to contact them). I believe that that is everyone back as far as the 1930s, though there are omissions and errors. In terms of email addresses on the database, we have gone from 2,985 (including ones that don't work) to 3,248 (excluding the ones that don't work or who wish to be excluded), so growing this has got to be one of our next challenges.

Unlike previous years, I have put my thanks at the end of this Report, but they are no less important than previously. Firstly, I would like to thank the membership for entrusting me with this office. Secondly, I would like to thank the school for its continued support of the OCA – in all the multifarious ways: from providing the Alumni Officer, the database, IT support, etc. etc.; and finally, I really do thank the Committee – those tireless souls beavering away in the background who, but for Covid, would have organised the dinners, the get-togethers, and all the other events. Without them and their work there would be no OCA and the school would be poorer for it.

Paul Fernandez-Montes

60th Anniversary Run of KHVIII Running Club

On Saturday 23rd November in Coventry's War Memorial Park, 20 Old Coventrians celebrated this anniversary by running the course of the nationally famed KHVIII Relay Race. With an appreciative group of supporters and spectators, including club founder Ted Norrish (Staff '59 – '87) and former world record holder David Moorcroft OBE (who attended King Henry VIII Junior School), all participants finished the 2.3-mile course. Although not a race as such, some were keen to improve on previous times, so past captains Ed Gazeley ('04) and Alistair Galt ('03) had a fine tussle at the front, with Ed edging it on the line in 13.01 minutes. For the six female entrants, none having ever run the course before, it was Emma Garnett (nee Crossley) ('83) who was first home in 15.53.

All runners and supporters afterwards retired to the school's Sixth Form centre for refreshments, certificates presented by the redoubtable Ted Norrish, speeches and much conversation – many had not seen each other for a number of years. Ten past club captains were present, including Mark Aldersley ('74), who still holds the school's course record of 11.16 from 1981, and Simon Forster ('78) and Peter Mahiques ('79), who were both members of the 1985 school team that won



Former Cross Country Team Captains: David Smith, David Gadsby, Chris Harris, Mark Aldersley, Ed Gazeley, Alistair Galt, Neil Aldersley, Simon Forster, Peter Mahiques, Steve Watson, with (seated) Ted Norrish.

the race that year. Some of those present had travelled considerable distances just for the day, and others stayed on for the Annual Dinner in the evening.

In part, the event, and its great success, was a tribute to Ted, whose energy and

inspiration in cross-country, orienteering and very adventurous expeditions, has left such a legacy to the school, and contributed so positively to the lives of so many pupils.

David Butler (Staff 2005-11)

OLD COVENTRIANS ON THE RUN – 2019

For the seventh successive year, we had a team (eight this year, but no ladies!!) out on the fine, five-mile course on Wimbledon Common in the Alumni Race on 14th December. Good conditions above ground, but pretty wet underfoot. In the all-age race (257 runners in total), we finished 14th out of 34 counting teams; in the 40+ category, we finished ninth out of 41 teams, and in the 50+ category, we finished 11th out of 27 teams. Our lead runner was Alistair Galt, again finishing in the top 30. Congratulations and thanks to Alistair, Ed Broadberry, Marcel Aerts, Neville Chapman, Steve Randle, Richard Charley, Chris Hackett and Bob Brandon.

Over these last years, we have always performed very creditably, and the organisers have been so pleased to see KHVIII back at the race and doing well, usually with more numbers than most other

schools. We have had four runners – Alistair Galt, Ed Gazeley (our fastest so far in 28.14), Matthew Halliday and Harrison McCartney (our only 'top ten' so far) – who have all got below 30 minutes on the course. In Sarah Saxton, we had the fastest lady (33.20) back in 2014, and, if there had been a ladies' team trophy back then (which there is now thanks to the Old Coventrians) we would have won it. All this is to say that, given the right runners, in good shape, we can get ourselves on all the podiums for the different categories. Come on!!!

Regardless of performance, however, it has always been a lot of fun; old friendships renewed, and new ones made, especially in the pub socialising afterwards. Long may it continue and prosper.

One week later, in similar conditions, 13 runners (surprisingly low!) enjoyed our

lovely 3.3 mile Crackley Run – HS2 has not yet messed this up, though a woodland protest camp is now part of the scenery. Three new runners, and four ladies. Emma Garnett repeated her 2017 feat of being the first lady back (25.19), but the outstanding run belonged to Harrison McCartney who smashed the previous course record to clock 18.13. Given the conditions, from 'cow corner' through to the Cryfield Grange road, it will be a real challenge to lower this without a firmer surface over this stretch. So that is a gauntlet thrown down. Come on!!!

Cleaning-up facilities and lunch afterwards, round the corner at the Kenilworth Sports Club, added to the enjoyment.

Dave Butler



Cricket Stump Wows Antiques Expert

Fans of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* may have seen a fascinating item on a piece of King Henry VIII School memorabilia on the 29th September edition from Compton Verney in Warwickshire.

Year 7 cricketers from the school, accompanied by the school's marketing manager Suzanne Jackson, took along a cricket stump which originated in one of the most famous, and certainly most controversial, test series. This was the 1932-33 Ashes series where England's bodyline bowling, targeting Australian batsmen and in particular Don Bradman, nearly led to a terminal breakdown in cricket relations and beyond that to major diplomatic and political arguments.

At the conclusion of the fifth and final test match in Sydney when the winning six was hit by the legendary Wally Hammond, the batsman at the other end was the vice-captain R. E. S. (Bob) Wyatt of Warwickshire, an Old Coventrian. With admirable foresight Wyatt seized one of the stumps as the players left the field, presumably as a souvenir but such was the febrile atmosphere it may have been for his own protection. Nonetheless the spirit in the dressing rooms must have been restored to the extent that Wyatt was able to persuade all the players of both sides to autograph the stump.

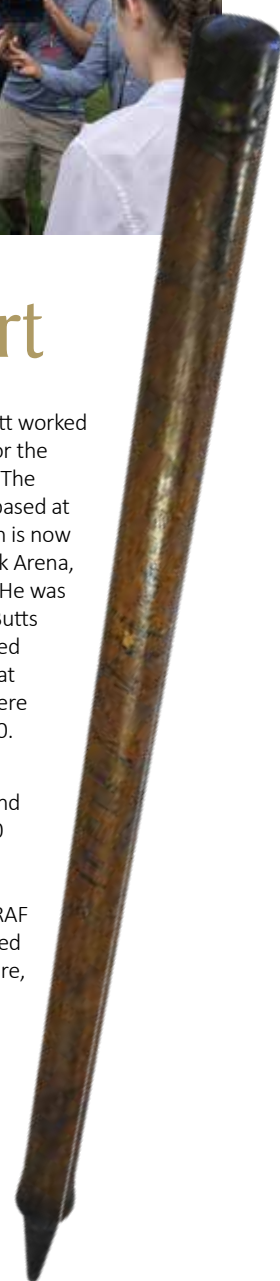
A few months later, on 1st June 1933, Wyatt returned to the school and, to a great ovation, presented the stump to Jack Oughton, captain of the school 1st XI. The stump spent 20 years in the school pavilion, surviving the bombing of the school in 1941, and appears to have been moved to the main part of the school in the 1950s, when the pavilion was replaced. Thereafter, the stump slipped off the radar until, fast forwarding to 2010, the stump reappeared during refurbishment of the school staff room.

Fortunately, Rob Phillips, himself an OC and also Sports Manager and acting School Archivist, was on hand to identify the item, and its importance, otherwise it might well have been lost for good in the clear-out. It seems that even then, and despite it being exhibited and featured on tours of the school, its full value was not appreciated. Until now, that is, when with a very enthusiastic reaction Cristian Beadman, the expert valuer from the *Antiques Roadshow*, placed a valuation of £10,000 on it. As such it is now securely under lock and key!

Although born in Surrey and resident in Meriden during his time at King Henry VIII School, a period which more or less coincided with the First World War, R. E. S. Wyatt has another connection with Coventry. After

leaving the school, Wyatt worked for a number of years for the Rover Motor Company. The Rover Sports Club was based at the Butts grounds which is now the site of the Butts Park Arena, home of Coventry RFC. He was a regular visitor to the Butts in that era. He also played in first-class matches that Warwickshire staged there between 1925 and 1930.

He made his debut for Warwickshire in 1923 and played for England in 40 tests from 1927-37, 15 times as captain. After wartime service in the RAF he subsequently switched to play for Worcestershire, retiring from cricket in 1951. He died on 20th April 1995, aged 93.



SAD LOSSES

We are sad to record the passing of the following Old Coventrians. Many of their obituaries are printed in the 'Old Coventrian' newsletter.

Tony Vincent (Class of 1955)
Roger Fielding (Class of 1962)
David Blundell (Class of 1964)
Nick Dodd (Class of 1969)

Helen Lewis (Class of 1998)
Chisom Apakama (Class of 2002)
Adrian Spaak (Class of 1955)
John Courts (Class of 1953)
Basil Heatley (Class of 1945)
Mike O'Carroll (Class of 1951)
Peter Whittingham (Class of 1995)
Barry Parker (Class of 1955)
Bob Long (Class of 1959)
Keith Morris (Class of 1943)

Colin Fairbrother (Class of 1948)
Graham French (Class of 1947)
Brian 'Kip' Rawlings (Class of 1946)
John Storer (Class of 1934)
Keith Aldridge (Class of 1952)

As well as the following former staff:

Margaret Wynn Evans
Kate Starkey
Pam Startin

97th ANNUAL DINNER



By common consent the 97th Annual Dinner, which took place in the school hall on Saturday 23rd November, was one of the best that people could remember, the usual spirit of camaraderie enhanced by the carryover from the preceding daytime events.

There were nostalgic reunions for groups from the Class of 1969, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their joining the school, and the Class of 1992, 20 years after their leaving. Both groups had socialised during the day and enjoyed tours of the school.

For the more energetic, there was a run around the War Memorial Park for a large group of runners marking the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the KHVIII Running Club.

After what was rated a particularly outstanding meal, MC Paul Montes, OCA Chair, led a moment of tribute to the OCs and former staff who have passed away in the last year.

He then introduced the speakers – George Gawthorpe and Giulia Szubart, current Head Boy and Head Girl, Julia McNaney, Chair of Governors, and Principal Guest, Graham Wigley, attending both as a former runner and a member of the class of '69. There were also some words from Ted Norrish to mark the Running Club anniversary.

Finally Stephen Teers, OC from the Class of 1973, accompanied a rousing rendition of the school song on the piano.





OCS BY THE MERSEY

On 21st September a group of OCA members went on what we hope will be the first of many semi-organised day trips.

The destination was Liverpool, inspired by one of the most distinguished Old Coventrians, Sir Frederick Gibberd, who was the architect of the city's magnificent 1960s Roman Catholic Cathedral. (See Old Coventrian no. 17 from July 2017.)

We travelled up by train early on Saturday morning in time for a prearranged guided tour. After expressing polite initial surprise that a group of people associated with King Henry VIII were visiting a Catholic place of worship, our guide, Derek, was the perfect host and gave us a full explanation of the history, religious and aesthetic delights of the Cathedral, including the unusually visible

centrally positioned high altar, the series of chapels around the circular walls, the stations of the cross, and the tomb of the RC Archbishop of Liverpool, Derek Worlock, whose ecumenical efforts with his Anglican counterpart, ex test cricketer Bishop David Sheppard, had breached the historic divide between Catholics and Protestants in the city in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

After lunching at the Cathedral's own café, the group split various ways, with some of us opting for museums and others for Pier Head where we embarked on the legendary Ferry Across the Mersey, taking the triangular route to New Brighton, Birkenhead and back to Liverpool.

Back on dry land the group split further with a couple of us opting for some

liquid refreshment, giving a swerve to an establishment called the Slaughterhouse in favour of the rather less disturbingly named Cornmarket.

Assembling back at Lime Street station for an early-evening train home, we were less than delighted at the cancellation of not one but three successive trains back to the Midlands, meaning we left the north west 90 minutes later than planned and eventually got back to Coventry a couple of hours behind schedule. It was testimony to a grand day out to a fascinating location with great company that we took all this in our stride and immediately started working on the plans for next year's outing.

Cardiff, anyone?

Keith Bushnell



Dean Close Girls' Hockey

On Sunday 27th October, we once again made our way to Dean Close School in Cheltenham for the annual girls' alumni 'Sixes' hockey tournament. The weather was once again, as last year, fantastic and the astroturf pitches were in perfect condition. It has only taken us three years to work out that you don't stand anywhere near the water sprinklers after lunch, as the pitches are given a full soaking for the afternoon matches!

This was our finest performance in four years and we ended up in third place with nine points, only one point behind being second! Our team this year was an impressive line-up, with the ever-present Llian Trew in goal (her fourth consecutive year) and our captain, who lets her defensive team-mates know exactly what she expects from them. Jane McQuitty, Rachel Cross, Rosie Hopley, Sarah Ginn and Emma and Charlotte Crutchlow all made repeat appearances and all played some outstanding hockey, as did Alex Flynn-Shepherd, who looked very at home on her debut. The tournament changed format this year from a league and then knockout to a round robin with three points for a win and one for a draw. Annie Darling (GK) also played; we lent her to Cheltenham College prior to the tournament and this ensured that Cheltenham could enter a team, as without a

GK, they were going to withdraw... more on this at the end!

As always, with a team that only plays once a year, we started slowly but Pat (Head), Shaun (Schofield) and I saw enough in the first game to know that, although losing to Cheltenham College 4-1, there was some really good team play. Rachel scored the goal and it would prove to be the first of many for her and the team during the day. Credit to Annie, in goal for Cheltenham, and keeping us at bay.

Our next match was against Sedburgh and this was an incredibly tight match, which we lost 1-0 right at the end and despite our two late short corners, we just couldn't find the net. Some of our attacking play in that match was superb though and we knew that someone was going to suffer shortly. It was to be Malvern St James in our very next match. We went 2-0 up, then 3-1 with goals from Rachel (2) and Emma, only for MSJ to hit back twice to make it 3-3. With seconds to spare, Rachel went on one of her powerful runs and executed an unstoppable finish... a great hat-trick!

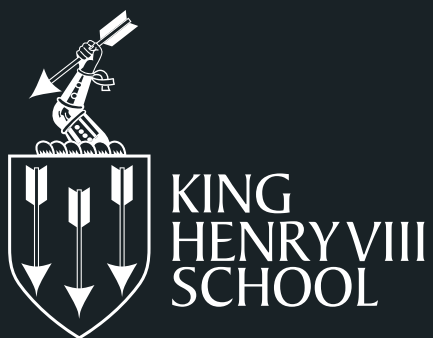
We broke for lunch and then played two more matches; the first was versus

Rendcomb which was a tight match but which we scored (Rachel again) and held them off, winning 1-0. The final match was versus Malvern College and again, this was another tight match which we won 1-0, this time with a goal from Rosie Hopley.

The overall winners were Cheltenham College with OC Annie Darling getting her medal and bottle of bubbly as part of the winning team. We are hugely indebted to Alex Hume at Dean Close for organising this great tournament and their kind hospitality.


David Summers





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