

# THE ARROW

ISSUE 23 | SUMMER 2022



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HENRY VIII  
SCHOOL

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## KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## A HIVE OF ACTIVITY AT HENRY'S

Welcome to the summer term and the relief that challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic are finally easing. It has been exhilarating to watch, hear, admire, and wonder at such incredible creativity from our pupils this year. After the enforced hiatus, and the void it created, to once again be able to share with you their amazing successes and achievements fills me with immense

pride. Without doubt my personal highlight was the Butterworth Hall Concert at a packed-out Warwick Arts Centre, with over 350 pupils from both prep and senior schools performing together live on stage. It is simply fabulous that the School is so alive again with activities and opportunities, cornerstones that makes King Henry's so special!

*Philip Dearden, Headmaster*





## SCHOOL NEWS

Our own Reverend Slavic was recently invited by The Lord Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, to become an Honorary Canon of Coventry Cathedral. The installation service took place at the Cathedral on 20th March.

Voting took place prior to the Easter holiday to elect the Heads of School for 2022-23. We are delighted to announce Felix & Gurnika were the successful nominees, and they will be supported by Alizeh & Charlie as deputies.

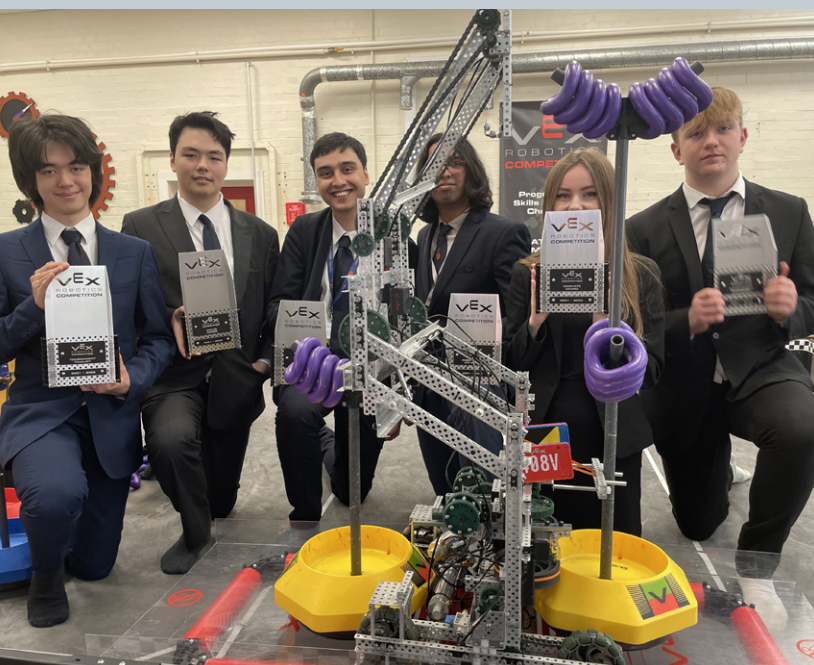
Year 6 have been spending time in the Senior School, experiencing a variety of lessons including English, Chemistry, Latin, Art, Drama, History and Computing, followed by a chance to attend some lunchtime clubs.



## BREAKING NEWS

Congratulations to our Year 12 robotics team who have been selected to represent the UK at the VEX Robotics World Finals in Dallas, Texas at the start of May. A full report of their adventure will be made in our next edition.

Good luck to recent leaver Lauren Cox, who has been named in Team England's swimming squad for this summer's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Look out for Lauren in the backstroke events 29th July-3rd August.





# Spring Concert at Butterworth Hall



Pupils from both Prep and Senior School were joined by students of Bablake Prep for the Spring Concert at Warwick Arts Centre. A packed audience were treated to incredible musical performances – truly an uplifting experience. The joy on the faces of those taking part, combined with quality music made for a fabulous evening. A huge thank you to Mr Newton and Dr Coull, along with Mr Ross, Mrs Wilshaw, Mrs Pandaya and all the VMTs. We have certainly missed such memorable experiences in the last two years and it was great to be back!

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

It had been some time since an audience had been allowed to attend a live performance in School and Miss Spring & her team made sure it was worth the wait. All those watching were wowed by the amazing performance of *Little Shop of Horrors*. It takes a huge amount of dedication and collaboration by cast & crew to bring a show like this together – well done to all involved!







# Maths success keeps adding up!

Pupils throughout the Prep and Senior Schools have been putting their mathematical abilities to the test, with some outstanding performances.

Six pupils won certificates in the Bonus Round of the Primary Maths Challenge, with three silver and two gold badges awarded.

In years 7 & 8 over half the year groups received awards in the Junior Maths Challenge, including an incredible 14 gold, 24 silver and 37 bronze awards.

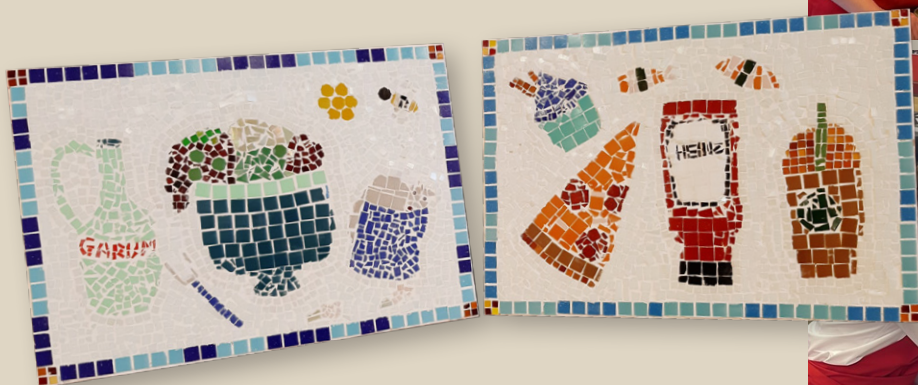
Finally, congratulations to Mia and Belle for their top prize of MERIT in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Well done to everyone that competed.



## CLASSICS MOSAICS!

Throughout the spring term a dedicated team of year 8 & 9s have been working through lunch to create these fantastic mosaics. The brief was to design and make a pair of mosaics depicting the food and drink of the ancient and modern world for display at the Warwick University Resonate Festival, before transferring to the Herbert Art Gallery in the summer. Great work team - they look good enough to eat!







## NETBALL

The netball season reached its climax just before the Easter holiday with the Coventry Schools tournaments, with an amazing six KHVIII teams reaching finals.

The U13A, U14A and U16A teams all finished runners-up of their respective competitions, receiving silver medals, while gold medals were awarded to the U12Bs and city champions U12A and U15A VIIIs.

The U12A team secured victories against Bishop Ullathorne 5-1, Bluecoat 4-1, President

Kennedy 4-1 in the semi-final and Bablake 7-2 in the final.

The U15A's route to trophy took them past President Kennedy 24-0, Bishop Ullathorne 23-1, Coundon 18-2, Bablake 'B' 15-2, Finham 20-3 in the semi-final and Bablake 'A' 19-8 in the final. The team scored 119 goals and conceded only 16 throughout the whole tournament!

Congratulations to all involved!



## ROCK CONCERT







## KING HENRY VIII RELAY RACE @ 50!

On Wednesday 2nd February, 82 teams attended the 50th King Henry VIII Relay Race in The War Memorial Park. Conditions on the day were perfect: dry but overcast skies meant no glare for runners, and generally dry weather in the lead up to the race, with just a little light rain, created good ground with no boggy mud to slow down the athletes in the off-road sections of the course.

The boys' race saw the fastest run since 1980, with eventual winners being The Judd School, in 70.44 (6x 2.3 miles). Bradford Grammar School defended their title as 2020 winners of the girls' race, with a new record race time of 52.32 (4x 2.3 miles), beating the previous holders by over two clear minutes!

As part of the 'Golden' 50-year celebrations for this year's event, there was also a one-off

Alumni race for former students, teachers and coaches. A varied field, with some familiar faces, made for a memorable race. In first place was Matthew Watson of Ermysted's School, in the 40-49 age group, who finished his lap in an astonishing 11.05. This would put him 14th equal in the boys' race records and was apparently an improvement on his times competing as a school-aged runner, a couple of decades earlier!

It was wonderful to see many long-time supporters of the event spectating. Prizes were distributed by special guest speaker David Moorcroft OBE, who has a long association with the KHVIII Relay. He was accompanied in presenting by Ges Cosgrove, a member of the original winning team (Bishop Ullathorne School, Coventry) back in 1972.

## Ted Norrish

The entire KHVIII community was devastated to hear of the passing of Relay Race founder Ted Norrish just a few weeks after he had attended the 50th event as a guest of honour. In addition to his role as a Classics master, Ted revolutionised school athletics and cross country, as well as introducing orienteering. Our thoughts are with Ted's wife Emi at this difficult time.







# WORLD BOOK DAY®

3 MARCH 2022

25 YEARS

To celebrate 25 years of changing lives through a love of shared reading on World Book Day, the children and staff at KHPS dressed up as their favourite book characters!



## PANCAKE RACE

Always hotly contested, the annual Year 7 Pancake Race took place once again on Shrove Tuesday. No one in School can remember how long this Henry's tradition has been going – at least 30 years! Perhaps some Old Coventrians who recall the first event could get in touch?





# HOUSE EVENTS



## House music – winners Hales'

It was wonderful to have an audience back in the Burgess Hall to witness the delight that is House Music. The four 30-minute programmes put together by the House Captains were a triumph for both the musical diversity (from Brahms Hungarian Dance to the Wii theme tune!) and inclusion, with pupils from every year group performing. Our thanks to Mr Kerry Beaumont for offering his expert ear as adjudicator.

## CROSS COUNTRY



GIRLS EVENT  
HOLLAND'S



BOYS EVENT  
SHERWYN'S



## House drama – winners Hales'

Covid-19 may have denied House Drama a live audience at short notice but in the best theatrical tradition the players were determined that 'the show must go on'! Performances included 'Nativity', 'The Grinch', 'The Play That Goes Wrong' and eventual winner 'Mamma Mia'. Well done to all!





# Congratulations to...



...Krish, Jai, Myah and Amrit for getting through to the **finals** and **winning** the Ovid Challenge in the CSCP Classical Tales competition.

...Upper Sixth student Sharan, who was nominated for the **Who Cares Wins Young Heroes Category** and invited to a dazzling ceremony in London attended by Prince William, David Beckham and Boris Johnson.



...Harvey, who is now a national northern ice hockey **championship winner** and also on his selection for the **GB Prospects Camp**!



... Arianna, who has had a fantastic golfing year. Amongst her many successes, she is reigning U14, U16 and U18 **Warwickshire champion** and 2021 **British Kids Champion** for her age group!



...recent leaver Alfie Bell, who made three appearances for **England** in the U20 Six Nations competition this spring.



...Hanaa & Yuanyou in achieving their iDEA **Silver Award**. The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme that helps students develop digital, enterprise and employability skills through a series of online challenges.

**iDEA**





## UKRAINE

The stories of destruction and suffering coming out of Ukraine have shocked everyone in our School community. Mr Dearden presented an assembly explaining the background to the conflict and an update on the current situation, as well as discussing the importance of reliable media sources to avoid misinformation.

Fundraising has continued throughout the spring term, with bake sales and House Cross Country entry fees all contributing to a running total of £800 towards the DEC appeal.

A number of former pupils with close family ties to Ukraine have been doing amazing work coordinating local appeals for medical and humanitarian supplies.

Our thoughts continue to be with all those suffering.

## YEAR 2 DANCE WORKSHOP

A fantastic morning of dance workshops in Year 2! Thank you to Ricky Brown for his choreography and enthusiasm!



## Year 3 & 4 Play

In April Year 3 & 4 performed a hysterical historical adventure. Social media savvy children whizzed from the time of the ancient Egyptians, the Viking invasion of Britain and on to the Court of Queen Elizabeth I. Congratulations to all on a super performance!





# Preston Montford

Year 5 travelled to the Shropshire/Welsh border for their residential visit to undertake river investigations in the beautiful Carding Mill Valley, identify the adaptations of invertebrates in different habitats and tackle team-building challenges including developing survival techniques!



## BLUE PERIS MOUNTAIN CENTRE

In February half-term Year 8 spent four exhilarating days mountain biking, orienteering and abseiling their way around Snowdonia with Mr Boyllin.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO END ALL BULLYING

Prep and Senior Schools have been working with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to ensure our community continues to provide a safe environment for our young people to live, grow, play and learn. Both schools took part in 'Odd Socks Day', to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate

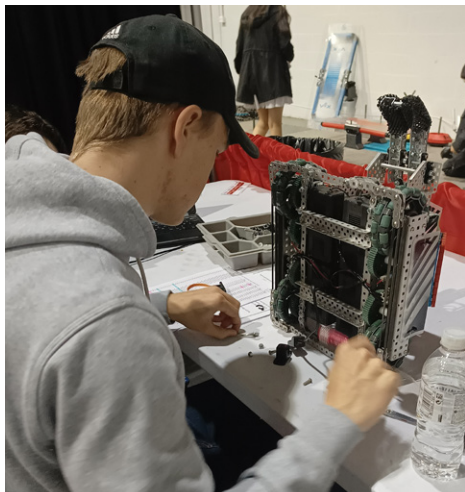


their individuality and what makes us all unique! This was followed up with Senior School Anti-Bullying Ambassadors running workshops for Year 6 about Online Safety, Mobile Phones and Social Media.





# VEX ROBOTICS National Awards



Our VEX robotics teams have had an amazing season, with a record 10 teams reaching the national finals at the International Centre in Telford at the end of the Easter holiday.

The VRC category, covering years 10-13 were first to compete, with all four King Henry's teams having qualified over the course of the season. 1408V (Vector) and 1408F (Floppy) made it all the way to the semi-finals, where they were narrowly defeated. The disappointment was

short lived, with teams picking up two judges awards; 1408S (Spicy) being presented with the 'Build Award' for their well-crafted robot; and 1408F (Floppy) receiving the 'Create Award' for their innovative engineering design.

The IQ competition for years 7-9 was up next. An impressive six King Henry's teams qualified for the event, a number matched by only one other school in the country! After two days of competition, five of our teams made it through

to the final round, with 1408C (Caution!) finishing highest in eighth position. Another three judges' awards came our way, with 1408D (Dumbo) collecting the 'Energy Award' for their extraordinary enthusiasm, 1408K (Dune) receiving the 'Sportsmanship Award' in recognition of their respect and interactions with teams and officials, and finally 1408C (Caution!), who also collected the 'Create Award' for innovative engineering design.







## SWALLOWS

The Lord Mayor visited Swallows in January to unveil two blue plaques. The first celebrates Ernest Instone, who was the last private resident of 'The Firs' between 1907 & 1920. Instone was a pioneer of the early motor industry and one-time General Manager and Engineer with Daimler. The second plaque commemorates first three Headmasters of Coventry Preparatory School, founder Rev Kenelm Swallow MC (1920-52), John Sykes (1952-66) and John Phipps (1966-92).



## Year 6 World War II Experience

With Mr Phillips as their guide, Year 6 toured the Senior School hearing how the daily lives of pupils were affected by the war and the devastating impact of the Blitz of April 1941. They then learnt to cook on rations, dishing up sago pudding and syrup loaf!



## YEAR 4 INDIA DAY

Year 4 had a wonderful time celebrating 'India day', with Bollywood dancing, art and even a special menu for everyone in the lunch hall that day. Thank you to all our Year 4 parents for helping their children look so brilliant in their outfits!

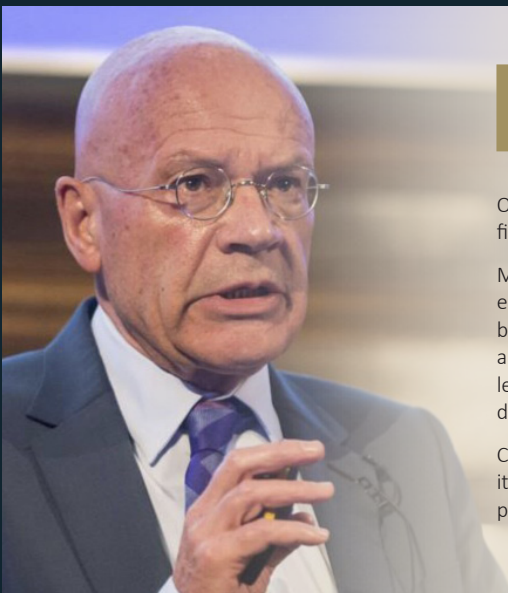




# Light Up Henry's



Wyatt Way was transformed in December, with a 14ft Christmas tree, carol singing and a pop-up stall, offering hot drinks, mince pies and KHVIII tree decorations, all in support of the Myton Hospices. It was wonderful to hear some live music again thanks to various music ensembles from both Senior and Prep Schools. Over £400 was raised in what is sure to become a Christmas tradition.



## MARTIN JACQUES LECTURE

On Saturday 9th April, former pupil of King Henry VIII, Martin Jacques returned to his old school for the first time since 1964 to present a lecture titled *"Understanding China on the global political stage"*.

Martin is one of the most highly-respected political commentators of the late Twentieth and early Twenty-First Centuries. In 2009 he published *'When China Rules the World'*, which has been highly influential both in China and the West. It has been translated into sixteen languages and sold 400,000 copies. In the book Martin prophetically argued that China would become the leading country in the world and, far from becoming a Western-style society, would remain highly distinctive.

China continues to be his main interest, arguing that to make sense of China we need to understand it in its own terms rather than through a Western prism. His aim is to appeal to a broad range of political opinion and to encourage a wide audience to think about China in a different way.





## OLD COVENTRIANS HONOUR SPORTING LEGENDS

On 26th March, in glorious sunshine, a group of Old Coventrians got together on the old 1st XV pitch on the school field for a rugby match in memory of two giants of KHVIII sport, Keith McGawley and Geoff Courtois. Mr McGawley was Director of Sport between 1958 and 1990, and was supported through much of that period by Mr Courtois as Head of Boys Sport 1964-1993.

Before kick-off two benches, presented by the players, were positioned overlooking the field, each with a dedication plaque bearing words of advice and encouragement to ensure these legends of KHVIII sport continue to inspire pupils for many years to come.

The game was skilfully and sympathetically refereed by Mr Huxford, who had coached many of the players during his first years at King Henry's in the late 1980s, and was watched by a bumper crowd of over 100 friends of the School. With the warmth of a golden spring day, the lush green turf of the hallowed field and the joyful bond of forty-year-old friendships, the final score line of 6 tries to 4 was very much an afterthought to those in attendance. All agreed that Keith and Geoff would be looking down on their former charges with immense pride and affection, with the words inscribed on Geoff's bench eerily poignant, "It's a beauty".

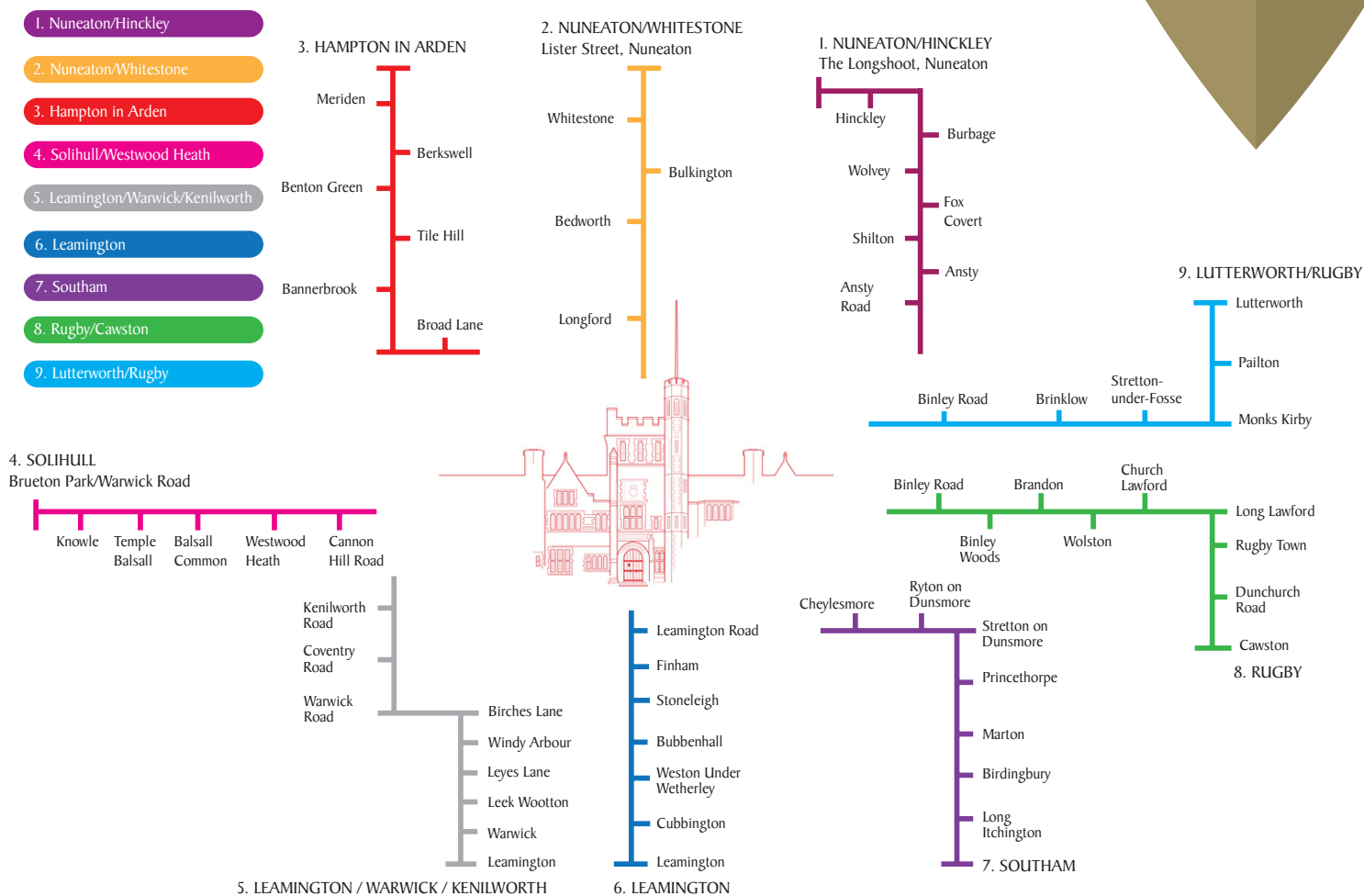






# TRANSPORT

Work on the station redevelopment has finally finished, providing safe and easy access to the rail network and the new bus interchange for pupils and staff from the School side of Warwick Road.



Coventry School Foundation is a registered charity (charity number: 528961) whose registered office is at 15 Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 3EG.

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