

The Oakhamian

The magazine of Oakham School

Life-Changing Experiences

Celebrating 15 years of the Kenya Schools Trip

2023/24

Academic year





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the word!

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Thank you to everyone
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and photographs, plus
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to create this edition.

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Front cover: Form 6
pupils at Kingwede Primary
School, Kenya. Photo
by Charlotte Woodward.

Front cover
Old Oakhamian Magazine:
Celebrating Milestones – 40
years of the QET, 10 years of
the Mehra Faculty of Science,
10 years of BAFS Pavilion, 30
years of the Smallbone Library,
20 years of the Wilson Pavilion
and Pitches, 50 years of Lower
School, 100 years of Chapel.

Welcome!

However you are reading this 210th issue of *The Oakhamian* and 120th issue of the *Old Oakhamian* magazine – either online or as a printed copy – I hope you enjoy this celebration of the 2023–24 academic year at Oakham School.

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire regarding your preferences on how to receive *The Oakhamian* & *Old Oakhamian* magazines. We really appreciate your feedback, and it was lovely to read so many positive comments about the magazine and to hear how you look forward to receiving it.

In this edition, in addition to our regular sections – House and sports team reports, academic stories and achievements, musical and dramatic performances – we applaud our U16 hockey girls' remarkable cup run (pages 92–93). After our boys' 1st XV rugby cup success in 2023, it was wonderful to get behind another sports team as they pursued their dream to play at the highest level. The teamwork the girls displayed and ability to communicate with one another on the hockey pitch were exemplary.

Teamwork and communication skills are a key element of our cover story 'Life-Changing Experiences' (pages 52–55), where we celebrate the long-running Kenya Schools trip and the multiple, mutual educational benefits it has had on our students and children in Kenyan primary schools. As we look back at 15 years of Oakhamians travelling to Africa to help renovate school buildings and classrooms, to experience life in a culture unlike their own, and to explore the sights and sounds of a foreign country, there is a common thread running through the feature – that of the transformative power of education in all its forms. Each year Oakhamians return from the Kenya trip talking about what a life-changing experience it was for them, and it is a pleasure to illustrate this within our magazine.



In a new academic series that focuses on the breadth of our academic curriculum, we shine a spotlight on our Classics Department (pages 30–31). We explore how the study of Classics – Latin, Classical Greek and Classical Civilisation – helps with learning almost every other subject at Oakham School, to form an integral part of our Connected Curriculum.

The *Old Oakhamian* Magazine celebrates significant birthdays that some of our most iconic school buildings are celebrating in 2024–2025 and the hugely positive impact these teaching spaces have had on Oakhamians past and present. 'The People Behind the Places' on pages 11–15 focuses on some of the people whose generosity and vision have helped transform our campus, and on pages 28–35 we look at the people, performances and props that have helped bring the magic of theatre to Oakham School in '40 years of the QET'. With exciting plans afoot to enhance further our performing arts and sporting facilities, I look forward to recording how these new learning spaces will benefit our School Community in future magazines.

Best wishes,
Rachel



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Number: 1131425**



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The Headmaster Writes



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Shortlisted
'Best Public School'
by TATLER

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The Headmaster Writes

“
When it comes to holistic education, we really can and should hold our heads up high as experts in the field.



“As we consider our children’s relationship with technology and their busy teenage lives, we want them to learn balance, to interact with others confidently and communicate articulately in writing and in person.”

‘Exam results open important doors to opportunity for young people; they show what pupils know and can do; they are and will continue to be the anchor of our education system. But A*s alone do not set young people up for a healthy and happy life.’

These are the words of Bridget Phillipson to the Confederation of School Trusts on 7 November. In her speech, the Education Secretary championed standards, achievement and aspiration, pointing to the ‘curriculum and assessment review’ which promises to deliver a ‘curriculum that is rich in knowledge, strong on skills and led by the evidence’.

More broadly, she focused on children’s wellbeing alongside attainment; ‘because exam results are only achieved when children’s wellbeing is prized too. Because that’s what parents tell us they care about – the academic success of their children, and their happiness too.’

A final theme stood out; ‘Achieving and thriving – the two pillars of our plans for pupils – are not in opposition. They work in tandem, one strengthening the other. The best schools understand this.’ They do indeed. Oakham is clear that our priority is ‘The wellbeing and care of our pupils’ and that our purpose is ‘To teach pupils the knowledge, skills and values to flourish at Oakham School and beyond.’ Based on a firm foundation and deep DNA of pastoral care, our Connected Curriculum is all about achieving and thriving.

Whilst the Independent Sector is feeling the bruises of recent government policy, we must not lose sight of our uniting and universal aims in education. We have never claimed to have a monopoly on best practice, but when it comes to holistic education, we really can and should hold our heads up high as experts in the field. It is encouraging to see a government moving in this direction and one hopes that this will provide a common ground for ongoing dialogue, partnership and mutual benefit.

As we approach five years since the emergence of Covid, we quickly harnessed the benefits of learning online, but also learned its limits, particularly for children who must not only grow academically and intellectually, but socially, culturally, and physically. This is why the school community matters, and our education at Oakham remains deeply, deliberately and distinctively holistic. As artificial intelligence accelerates, society evolves, and new jobs emerge, these human virtues grow in importance yet remain constant. Knowledge is not a mere tool of attainment but builds the understanding and the confidence to communicate and take one’s place in the world. It also links directly into the five Skills (Research, Thinking, Social, Self-Management and Communication), which we are articulating and embedding across the curriculum.

In the thirtieth year of the Smallbone Library, we want pupils to research with care and think about what they have learned. As we consider our children’s relationship with technology and their busy teenage lives, we want them to learn balance, to interact with others confidently and communicate articulately in writing and in person. The key skill of

Communication links to another pillar of the Government’s proposed educational vision.

‘We need to talk’ is the title of the Oracy Education Commission report, published in October. In his introduction, the well-respected Chair of the Commission, Geoff Barton, writes in familiar language about preparing ‘children and young people to become citizens who can flourish, living happy and successful lives’. He talks of their need to ‘formulate powerful arguments, to deepen their sense of belonging, to listen actively and critically, and to be well-steeped in a fundamental principle of a liberal democracy – that is being able to disagree agreeably’. In short, the Commission sees oracy as the fourth ‘R’ alongside reading, writing and arithmetic.

As a classicist, and someone who regularly finds myself speaking, I am happy to see oracy placed alongside literacy and numeracy. Oracy links back to oratory and rhetoric, which formed a cornerstone of an ancient education, as a key tool of participation and persuasion in the public and political sphere. This skill remains vital in the professional sphere, yet its true value lies in our personal lives and relationships as we communicate with those closest to us empathy and care.

In a world of contrasting, conflicting and often confusing ideas, the definition of oracy ‘Articulating ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through speaking, listening and communication’, is a useful mantra, with listening the word that should not be overlooked.

It is a shame that listening has not really occurred in the recent debate around VAT on fees, but we hope that this will not be the case during this parliament as the desire for the Independent Sector to be a force for good in the educational and economic ecosystem has not changed. Both schools of which I have been Head are major employers and positive influences in their area, supporting business, playing their part in the local community and engaging with their educational neighbours.

Indeed, on the day of the election result, three senior leaders from Oakham and the Rutland Learning Trust were discussing our ongoing partnership and will continue to take our place in the community with energy and pride.

All places of education face financial decisions in the decade ahead, and the Independent Sector will need to justify its value more than ever in the years to come. At Oakham, we are ready for that. Founded in 1584, as you know, we have called our latest development plan *440 Forwards*, and we must ensure that the current challenges do not daunt us, but inspire us as we look ahead to 450 years, protecting and promoting our unique and precious education.

Quasi Cursors

Henry Price

Henry Price
Headmaster

Oakham Shortlisted 'Best Public School' by Tatler

We were delighted and honoured to be shortlisted for 'Best Public School' in the Tatler Schools Awards 2025 following an outstanding review in Tatler's annual Schools Guide.

Only 300 institutions are chosen to feature in the *Tatler Schools Guide* following a rigorous selection process "touring the nation's finest prep and public schools... and combing through the nearly 2,500 answers to their questionnaires" and Oakham is delighted to have been included each year.

In this year's review the *Tatler Schools Guide* team picked out for particular praise our welcoming and inclusive community, our exceptional pastoral care, and our "authentically holistic approach to education".

After receiving such a fabulous review, it was a huge accolade for Oakham School to then be nominated for the 'Best Public School in the Land' Award out of the best independent schools in the UK – one of just five schools to be shortlisted in this category and the only one in the East Midlands region.



Shortlisted
'Best Public School'
by TATLER



What Tatler loves about Oakham School:

"Pastoral care is a key strength of the school, but so, too, is its authentically holistic approach to education."

"There's a distinctly warm and welcoming atmosphere."

"Parents are particularly grateful to the 'amazing' housemasters and mistresses who go 'above and beyond' to help children settle in and feel like part of the family."

Oakham in the News

From heralding our sporting successes to highlighting the wealth of our academic, pastoral and co-curricular offering, Oakham School has had a great year of coverage in the local, regional, national, and specialist press.



How Co-educational Boarding Empowers Girls
The BSA *TheirFuture* Magazine featured this insightful thought piece from Buchanans Housemistress Lianne Aherne on how co-educational boarding can empower girls. In the feature, Lianne talks about how co-educational boarding provides “a very natural and healthy way for girls and boys to interact with one another, helping them to develop into confident adults, ready to fulfil their potential and take their place in the world”.



Humanities in Focus
Absolutely Education spoke to Deputy Head Academic Dr Leo Dudin and the Heads of Oakham’s Humanities and Careers Departments about how integral the arts and humanities subjects are to the School’s Connected Curriculum. Dr Dudin explained how “the School’s curriculum is designed to enhance students’ understanding of both the interconnectedness and transferable skills of subjects studied”. “We emphasise to our students that SHAPE (social sciences, humanities and arts for people and the economy) and STEM graduates are equally employable in the UK workforce.”



National Finalists
Following on from the 1st XV boys’ rugby cup-winning success at Twickenham in 2023, our U16 girls’ hockey, U14 girls’ sevens, and U16 boys’ sevens teams rightfully made the headlines for their success in National Cup competitions.



Sporting Futures
Oakham School’s inaugural Sporting Futures evening attracted the attention of the press with *The Rutland Times*, *Stamford Mercury*, *Active Magazine*, and *Lincolnshire Life* all reporting on the successful evening of talks and networking for young people in talent pathways and academies.



Serving the Local Community
Oakham pupils’ work within the local community was championed by *Active magazine* in April. The article focused on the different ways that Oakhamians were connecting with the community as part of our Spring Service Weekend. These ranged from hosting lunch for members of Rutland’s elderly community at Oakham School, to improving a pathway along the Oakham Canal for local residents, weapons training and field craft at St George’s Barracks in North Luffenham, to kayaking along the River Nene.



Rutland Learning Trust Collaboration
Active reported on the exciting new collaboration between Oakham School and The Rutland Learning Trust and Catmose, to provide an opportunity for local primary school pupils to develop their cricketing skills. Budding cricketers trained every Saturday morning throughout the winter at Oakham School and played together as the Rutland Learning Trust team in several fixtures during the Summer Term.



Celebrating the Class of 2024

The class of 2024 celebrated the end of their schooldays at a very special Speech Day and Leavers' Ball.

In a first for Oakham School, Speech Day and the Leavers' Ball were combined into a single day of festivities starting with the Leavers' Service in the Chapel and followed by a prize giving ceremony in the marquee on Doncaster Close and picnics on the Round House lawn and in the School House quad.

Later that evening, leavers, their parents and members of staff gathered for a final time in the transformed marquee for the Leavers' Ball. As well as a drinks reception that included a highly popular mocktail bar and dinner in the form of street food from around the world, guests danced the night away to live music from band Shut Up and Dance and a disco. In place of the traditional fireworks display, the evening concluded with a spectacular drone light show in the skies above the playing fields with a special message of congratulation to the class of 2024.







Celebrating Oakham's Lower School

Lower School pupils, parents and staff came together to celebrate the end of another successful year at their annual Prize Giving Ceremony and Sports Day.

Families gathered on Doncaster Close to participate in a variety of 'Experience Oakham' fun activities and quizzes in different subject areas before the formal prize giving began.

The marquee on Doncaster Close then played host to a prize giving ceremony that included uplifting and joyful performances from the Lower School choir and the cast of the fabulous Lower School Production of *The Lion King JR.*

As well as prizes being awarded for academic, co-curricular and community efforts, there was the traditional Form 2 graduation from the Lower School, which involved the presentation of commemorative House mugs.

After family picnic lunches on Doncaster Close, everyone reconvened on Farside for Lower School Sports Day.







Celebrating

the Connected Curriculum

Connected Curriculum Day (CC24) offered the perfect opportunity for the Oakham School Community to celebrate the School's holistic education.

The magnificent Choral Concert in the Chapel, the mixed cricket match on Doncaster Close, the spectacular Art and DT exhibitions and academic displays and excerpts from *Les Misérables* in the QET showcased the strength of academic, pastoral and co-curricular learning at Oakham.

Families could also try their hand at activities such as archery, wall climbing, virtual reality cooking, and a golf simulator to test their skills and knowledge in a series of fun challenges before joining their Houses for picnics and speeches.





New Faces and New Roles

In 2024 we welcomed several new faces to our School community and saw some members of staff take on new roles. Here we highlight some of these key appointments.

New Look to our Senior Leadership Team



Carly Latham has taken on the role of Deputy Head Pastoral following the retirement of Sarah Gomm. Carly has vast pastoral experience of the Oakham School community, having spent the past 13 years in different pastoral roles within the School. She spent 11 years as Housemistress of Buchanans, six of which with the additional responsibility of Senior Housemistress. She was appointed as Assistant Head Pastoral in 2022 and combined this role with leading Round House for a year and acting Head of Lower School during the last academic year.



Qin Wiseman joined the School as Senior Deputy Head in April 2024, taking over from Arthur Mayhew. Qin brings with him a wealth of experience having held the position of Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Designated Safeguarding Lead at his previous school, Wellingborough School. Prior to that, Qin was a Boarding Housemaster, a Head of Geography, a Sports Coach, and Master in Charge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



Having spent 11 years as Director of External Relations, **Samantha Rowntree** is now focusing on strengthening further our links with the our alumni community and overseeing our fundraising projects in the newly created post of Director of Development and Engagement.



David Williams moves from his role as Housemaster of Sargants to become the Head of Lower School.



Justine Rimington joins the School as Director of Safeguarding, having previously held the same position at Trent College.



Helen Pearce-McNeill takes on the new role of Director of Admissions and Marketing, having held the position of Director of Admissions at Trent College.

Sport and Music



Steve May joins Oakham as Director of Sport, bringing with him a wealth of experience from Hurst College where he held the positions of Head of Athletics, Head of Academic PE, and Assistant Head of Sport.



After 18 hugely successful years as Director of Sport, **Dr Iain Simpson** takes on the exciting new role of Head of Sports Partnerships to build new relationships and manage existing partnerships within the School and the wider community.



Following Peter Davis's retirement, **John Mountford** joins Oakham School as Director of Music. John brings with him a wealth of experience, having held the position of Director of Music at King's School, Rochester, and before that Head of Co-Curricular Music at Bradfield College.

New HMs

Congratulations to the following members of staff as they take on new HM roles this academic year:



Wendy Pound takes on the role of Housemistress of Clipsham after several years working as Assistant Head of Middle School and Resident Tutor in Stevens.



Sarah Madden moves from her role as Senior Tutor in Gunthorpe to become Housemistress of Stevens.



Matthew Sutterby succeeds David Williams as Housemaster of Sargants, after several years working as Senior Tutor.

Academic

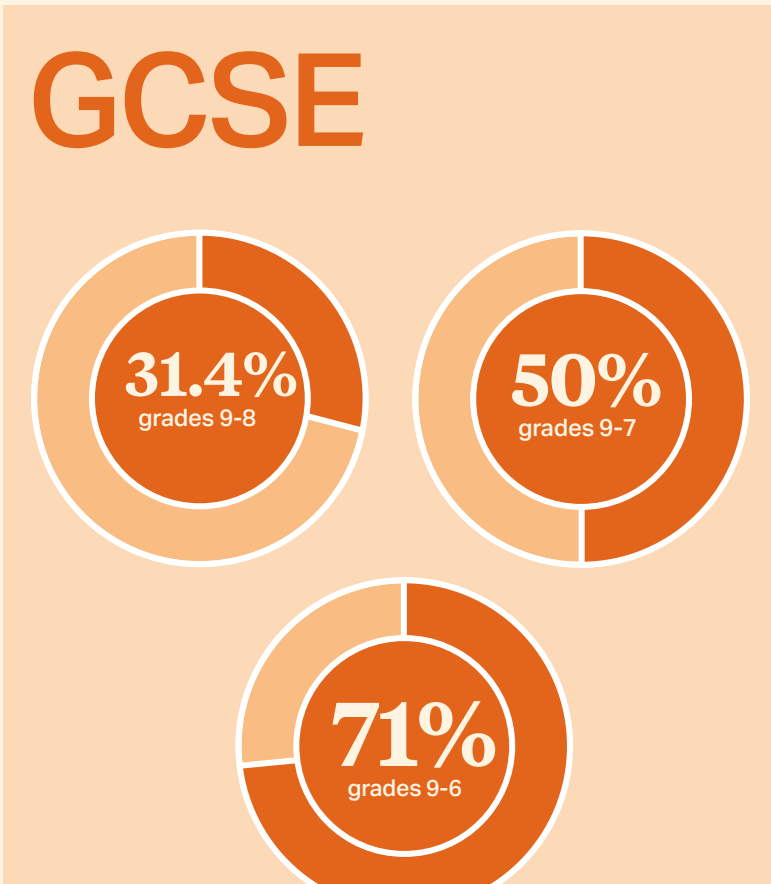
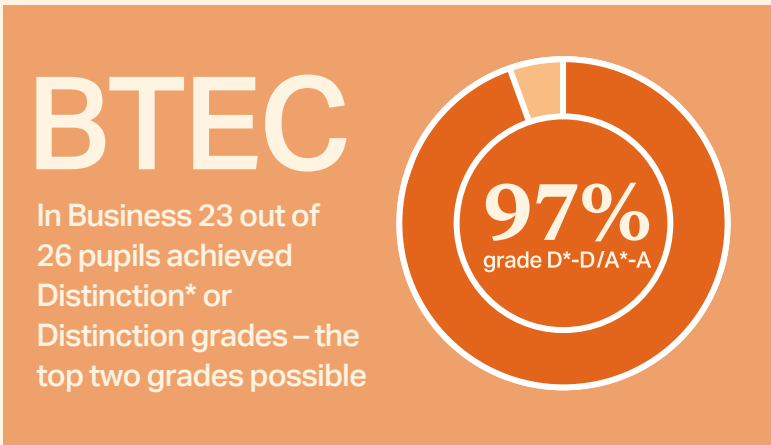
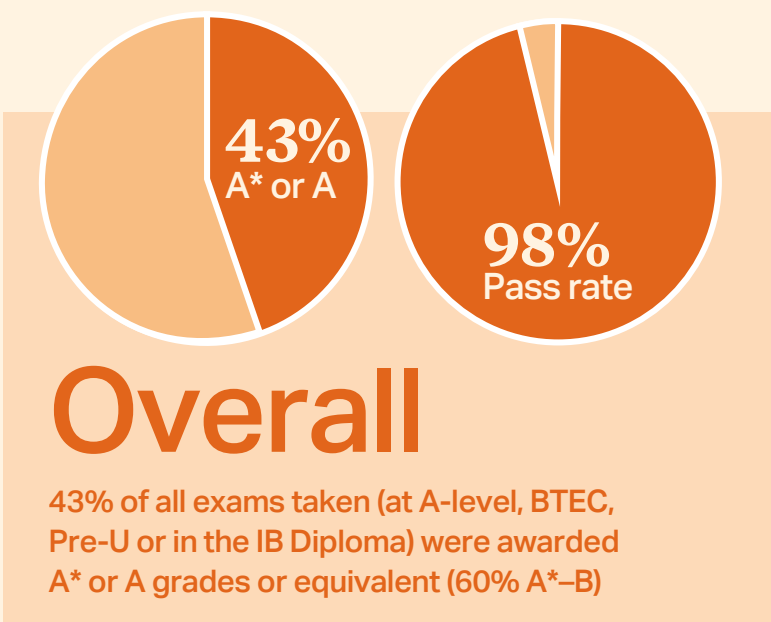
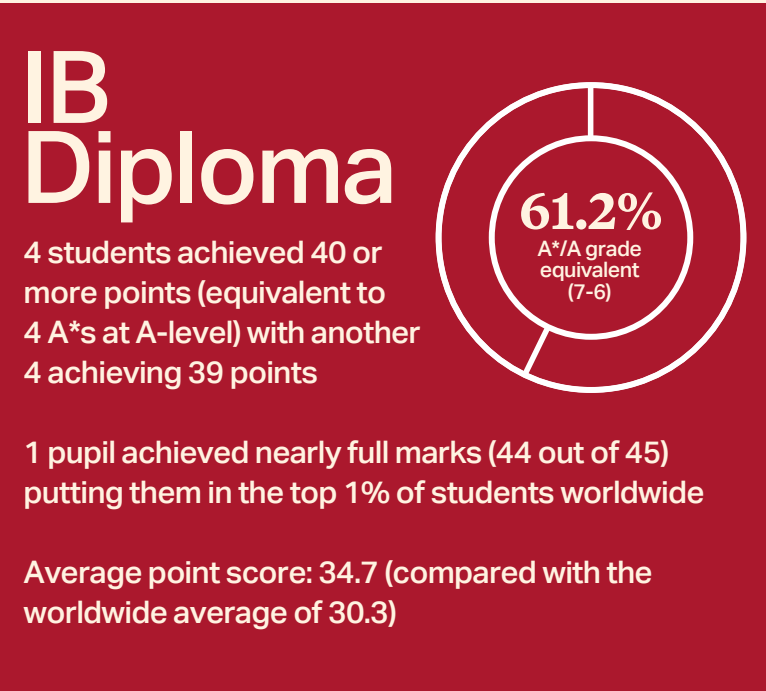
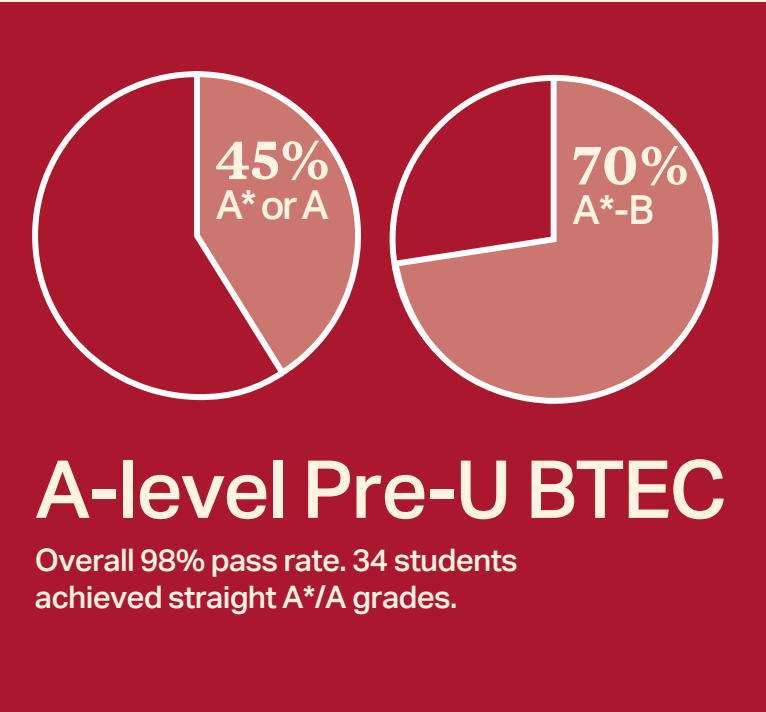




Pupils trying their hand at some virtual reality cooking on Connected Curriculum Day 2024

Results 2024 Highlights

We celebrate the results headlines and individual success stories of our students in their 2024 public exams.



Individual Success Stories

US Scholarship

Talented hockey player Ash was awarded a prestigious scholarship to study at Ohio University in the USA, combining her passion for sport with her academic studies.

Ash has embarked on an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences with a specialism in Neuroscience. Not only has Ash received a full ride offer meaning all her tuition, board and books are paid for, but she has also been accepted to the Honours Tutorial College. Around only eight applicants are accepted each year, highlighting what a great achievement this is for Ash.



Medical Offers

14 students received offers for clinical courses, health science courses or subjects allied to Medicine or Veterinary Science. This includes Kiril who is studying Medicine at Edinburgh University, Damien who is studying Veterinary Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, and Ethan who is studying Medicine at the University of Sheffield.



Heads of School

Former Heads of School David and Annie-May have both gone to university following their magnificent contribution to all aspects of school life. David is reading English at UCL and Annie-May is studying Psychology at Loughborough University.



Overseas

Joining Ash and Violet studying at overseas universities are:



Diana is studying at IE, Madrid



Alexandra is studying at McGill, Canada



David is at Fordham in the USA



Sofia is attending the University of Maastricht



Marcus is at UBC in Canada



Violet



Felix



Eddie

Top Marks

Felix, who achieved 44 points out of 45 in the IB Diploma, is reading PPE at the University of Warwick. Eddie, who achieved top grades in his A-levels is studying Mathematics at Durham University. Violet, who also achieved top marks in her A-levels is studying English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin.

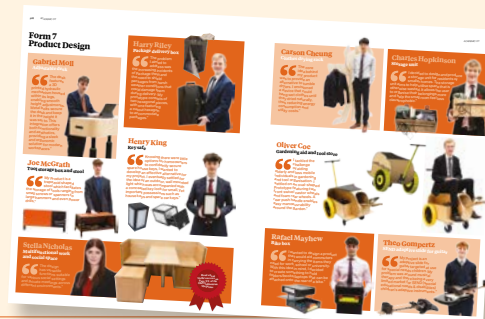
Art and Design

Seven leavers are studying specialist Art and Design courses to pursue their artistic dreams. Read more about what inspires some of these artists and where they are studying this year on pages 24–25.



Engineering

Six leavers are studying specialist Engineering courses after successfully completing their academic studies. Read more about some of their D&T product designs on pages 34–35.



Drama and Music

Mesi, who has starred in 16 productions since joining Oakham in Lower 1, is embarking on a Theatre and Performance Studies degree at the University of Warwick. Maxim is studying Acting for Stage and Screen at the Northern School of Art and Sofia is studying Music and Sound Recording at the University of Surrey.



Maxim



Mesi



Sofia



The Careers Year

The Careers Department enjoyed another varied academic year in 2023-24, helping students with their post-school aspirations.

The annual Careers Fair in October featured over forty employers visiting the School to speak with students in Forms 5–7. There were representatives from a range of professions from doctors to mechanical engineers and even a working airline pilot. It was followed by a networking dinner for Form 7 students, a now annual event where Old Oakhamians returned to their former school to share their advice and wisdom with current pupils in a more informal setting.

In April we held our annual Higher Education Day, where pupils could participate in transferable skills sessions, various career-based talks, and a University Fair with representatives from over 30 universities and other higher education institutions.

We also hosted two international university roadshows, allowing students to connect with universities in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, the US and Canada,

In June, Oakham School was delighted to successfully retain its Career Mark Award, the national Quality in Careers Standard mark of excellence, after taking part in an assessment by the Licensed Awarding Body. Oakham was first awarded the Gold Mark in 2015, which validates the School's excellence in providing pupils with outstanding career information, advice and guidance.

Over the summer, students from Forms 5 and 6 participated in work experience placements across various fields, including engineering, fashion, politics, and law. Their enthusiastic feedback highlighted the immense value of these opportunities. Many students are now inspired to pursue university courses related to their placements, while others have gained a deeper understanding of the connections between their classroom learning and the professional skills they developed.



Leavers Destinations 2024

88% of our sixth form leavers are at the university of their choice

1 student is studying for a prestigious Degree Apprenticeship with Amazon

12% have chosen a gap year of travel, volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships

Most Popular University Destinations

- 1 = Newcastle
- 2 = Durham
- 2 = Manchester
- 4 = Northumbria
- 5 = Exeter
- 6 = Bristol
- 6 = Nottingham
- 6 = Oxford Brookes
- 9 = Nottingham Trent
- 10 = Edinburgh
- 10 = Warwick



Overseas

9 students are at international universities, including: IE Madrid, McGill and UBC in Canada, Fordham and Ohio in the USA, Trinity College Dublin in the Republic of Ireland, and Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Popular university courses 2024



29
Business and Management



14
Medicine and Medical Courses



9
Law



6
Engineering



15
Politics and International Relations



7
Art and Design



9
Marketing



11
History



Form 7 Artists

We spoke to six of our talented Form 7 artists about their work, what inspires them and their plans for the future.



Beth Hiley

This piece is loud and vivid which grips the viewer. The theatrical elements of the piece are captivating and unique, reminiscent of my childhood with the bright and bold patterns and textures.

I live in a coastal town which gives me lots of inspiration as the harbour and seafront have the bold vivid colours which are contrasted by the sea. There are also many woods and nature which I draw inspiration from.

Next year I am going to study Business Management and Marketing at Nottingham Trent University.



Emily Pamihova

I have multiple pieces including constructed compositions, clay work and plaster pieces.

My coursework explores the theme of balance through the human body, while my exam project is based on the idea of conflict.

I have interpreted the human body expressively as well as geometrically, considering the creative possibilities different materials offer me. My exam project is an exploration of how seamlessly the anguish and chaos appear to blend in scenes of conflict, becoming a representation of the extent of human suffering, loss and triumph.

For inspiration, I find that other artists' work is always a good place to start! But most of all, my art is a reflection of my experiences. Playing with new materials could be a starting point for a project too. I am hoping to study Dentistry.



Mima Wardle

My art is focused on biomorphic shapes that reflect the female body and round organic shapes. I enjoy playing around with ways I can manipulate plaster whilst it sets, and I aim to capture an action or movement during the casting process. All my pieces are made of either clay or plaster and I like creating different outcomes but with the same materials so that all my pieces are cohesive together in a set of series.

I get the most inspiration through the making process, seeing my ideas in 3D helps me think of developments and ways to progress from where I am. Also, artists such as Maria Bartuszo, Richard Serra and Henry Moore have been massive inspiration for my pieces. I am going on to study Planning and Real Estate next year at Manchester University.



Liv Tyler

My art is expressive and unique, with a lot of illustrative qualities and unusual shapes. Through my designs, I seek to explore the creative side of fashion and design, focusing on colour, pattern, and form to do so.

A lot of my inspiration evolves from garments I see in magazines and online, particularly those found on the runway or the red carpet as it is the dynamic designs of haute couture which give me the most ideas.

I am going to Loughborough University to study Fashion Design and Technology so that I may continue my development into design at an industry standard level.



Sienna Stones

This exam piece was inspired by intricate aspects of nature specifically focusing on trees and lichen. I used forms, colours and texture all inspired by woodlands and the close-up image of tree bark. This piece homes in on the delicate intricacies of the natural world.

I often use Pinterest to find ideas and inspiration, but I also get inspiration from the natural world. Observing natural forms and exploring diverse colour palettes helps me use these within my organic themed work.

I am planning to pursue a degree in fashion marketing at university, where I aim to merge my artistic skills alongside my business knowledge. This combination will allow me to excel in both creative and commercial aspects of the fashion industry.



Saeka Tanaka

My work explores delicacy within simplicity. Some of them connect to my culture and nature.

My inspiration comes from my home in Japan and when I'm outside looking at nature. Also, on art books and online looking for artists.

I am going to Edinburgh University to study History of Art.

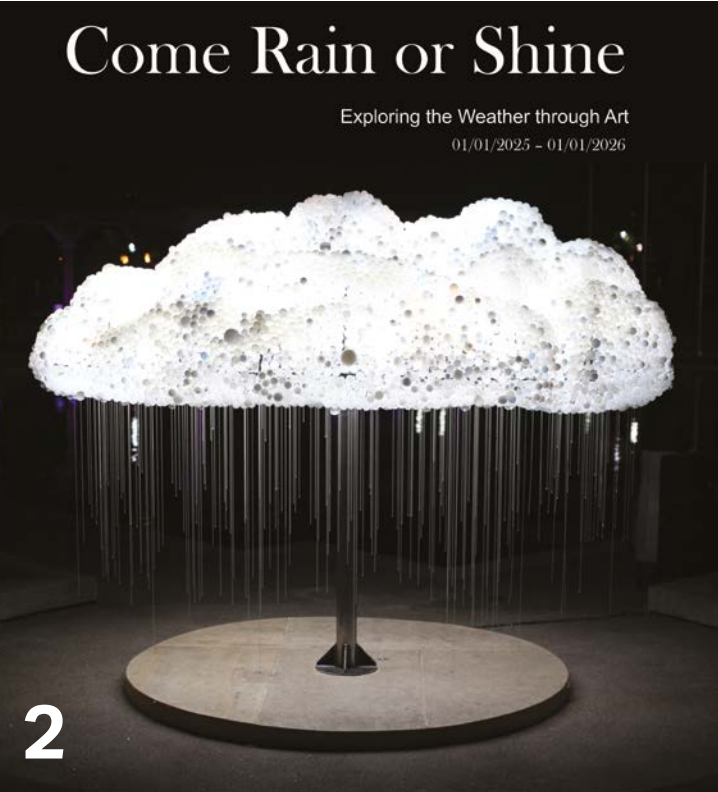
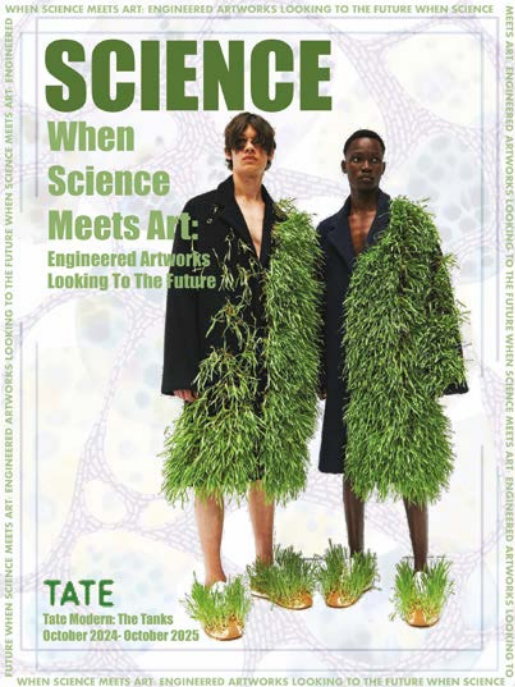
Scan this code to view a gallery of all our Form 7 artists' work.



Form 7 Critical and Contextual Studies

The Critical and Contextual Studies (CSS) course centres on understanding and articulating thoughts about art. It aims to build confidence in expressing personal perspectives on visual imagery, with a special emphasis on curation, the art market, galleries, and museums, which are essential components of the art world.

1



- 1 Olivia Tyler
- 2 Saeka Tanaka
- 3 Imogen Barton
- 4 Kitty Collins
- 5 Lulu Allison

GCSE Art and Design

Our GCSE students engaged in a wide array of personal projects, delving into areas such as printmaking, textiles, painting, and three-dimensional design. Their exploration spanned various fields, including architectural design, interior design, and sculpture, allowing them to develop a broad skill set and artistic perspective.



- 1 Ching Tsang
- 2 Lucia Leach
- 3 Isabelle Pepper
- 4 Betsy Healey
- 5 Phoebe Hopper
- 6 Justin Lam
- 7 Zach Derry
- 8 Alexander Smith
- 9 Edward Fairweather

Form 3 Art

The Form 3 Art projects are planned around Painting, Sculpture and Textiles, with an exciting range of approaches to give students the chance to make ambitious work.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1 Maddie Cartwright
2 Sofia Calvo
3 Isabel Mitchell
4 Macie Chen

5 Maisie Gowling
6 From the Form 3 Art Project Day
7 Isobel Hurst

Form Lower School Art

Lower School artists enjoyed exploring a broad range of media and techniques over the course of the year.

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4



5



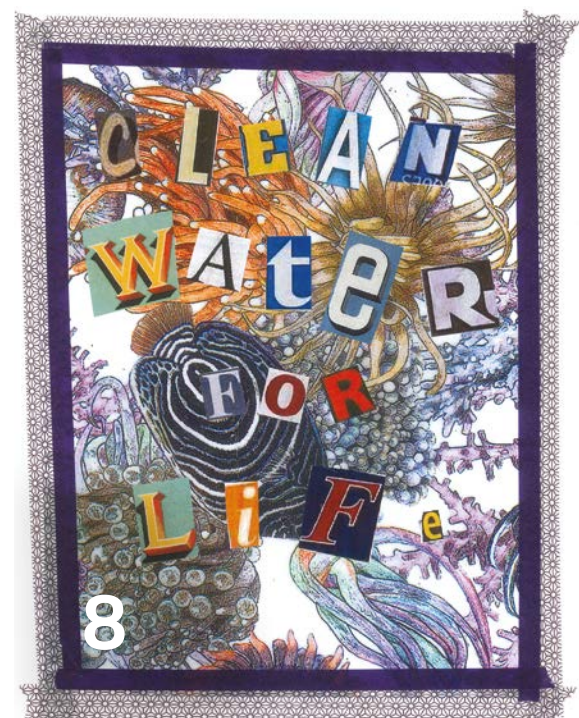
6



7



8



9



10



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Sophie Steveney, Form 2 | 6 Luke Miller, Form 1 |
| 2 Maxwell Hewson, Form 2 | 7 Mathew Hollingshead, Form 1 |
| 3 Darcey Benton-Jones, Form Lower 1 | 8 Claudia Wood, Form 2 |
| 4 Ethan Webb, Form 1 | 9 Emma Chotrani, Form Lower 1 |
| 5 Harry Lepley, Form 2 | 10 Isabella Steiger, Form Lower 1 |

Spotlight on Classics

In this new series we look at our different academic departments and how they help to encourage interdisciplinary learning via our Connected Curriculum.

Classics within the Connected Curriculum

Classics is the ultimate interdisciplinary subject, as its teaching encompasses skills with languages and with humanities at Oakham School. Through studying Latin and Classical Greek, Oakhamians strengthen their language skills and understanding of modern languages and English, as well as developing algorithmic thinking, beneficial for Maths and Computer Science. Additionally they deepen their understanding of history, philosophy, politics and art through studying Classical Civilisation (Class Civ).

This means that studying Classics helps with studying almost every other subject in Oakham's curriculum. What's more, studying Classics develops critical thinking and analytical skills, challenging readers to interpret complex ideas and moral dilemmas, enabling them to think

about sensitive issues through the safe lens of looking at a culture very removed in time. Works like those of Homer and Virgil delve into universal themes – love, power, betrayal – and offer timeless insights into human nature. It also provides a historical perspective, helping students better understand the values and practices of ancient societies and their influence on the present. Classics encourages moral reflection, offering guidance on ethical questions that remain relevant today and a joyful learning environment.

Finally, studying Classics can inspire creativity and offer a deeper appreciation for modern culture, as many contemporary works are influenced by classical ideas. Ultimately, Classics provides a profound foundation for personal and intellectual growth.



Bringing Classics to Life

As soon as pupils reach the top floor of the Ashburton building, they step into a classical world quite different from the rest of the School, from the display of antiquities that includes Dr Leveritt's famous coin collection and artefacts generously donated to the Department by kind benefactors, to the specialist Classics library that pupils are free to use.

Head of Classics, Dr Will Leveritt, highlights some of the ways that the Classics team bring the subject to life:

Competitions: "In Forms 1 and 2 we enter a Latin reading competition and run an interhouse Latin quiz. Sixth Formers enter the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

Trips: "We run an annual trip for Form 3 pupils to Bath to explore this ancient city, as well as trips to performances of Greek plays, and the British Museum and University of Nottingham's numismatic collection to see and handle ancient artefacts.

Events: "We run regular "radio play" events for sixth formers where we read through a Greek tragedy with language and civilisation students together, immersing ourselves in the characters of some of the world's most famous plays. We invite external speakers to deliver talks as part of the Torch Lecture enrichment series – most recently Dr Andrew Fox from the University of Liverpool spoke to students on the subject of 'the Roman environment'."



Follow us on Instagram @OakhamClassics

Beyond Oakham

Latin and Greek lead naturally to further study at university as part of a Classics degree but also combine well with English, History, Philosophy and modern languages. The logical and ordered structure of Latin and Greek means that they also appeal to scientists and mathematicians.

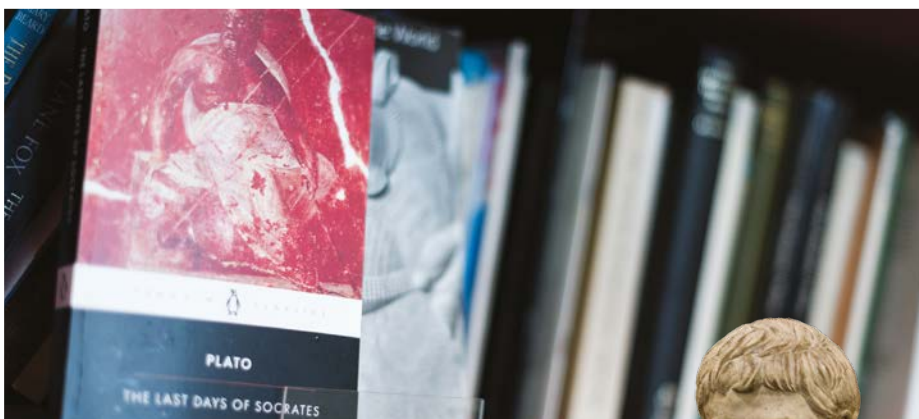
Classical Civilisation takes in a wide range of different materials – the study of literature, of history, of politics, of art – and so can contribute to a number of options for further study at university.

As far as career options are concerned, the choice is wide: law, Foreign Office, Civil Service, management consultancy, publishing and writing, archaeology and museum studies, academia and teaching... In short, while Classics is not a vocational degree, it equips graduates with an invaluable set of skills – critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, research, and cultural insight – that are applicable in many professions.



Archie Baker ('21) who is studying Classics at Durham University:

“Latin and Greek provided me with a great introduction to the Classical World, there was never a dull lesson and the teachers were clearly passionate and sparked the interest of everyone in the class.”



The Oakham Classics Journey

Form 1: All pupils learn Latin where they are introduced to the basics of the language, its grammar and Roman culture.

Forms 2 & 3: Pupils continue their studies of Latin; those entering the School are invited to take Classical Studies, where they focus more on the history and culture of Ancient Rome.

Forms 4 & 5: Pupils can choose from three separate courses at GCSE: Latin, Gratin (Classical Greek and Latin combined), and Classical Civilisation (Class Civ).

Forms 6 & 7: Students can choose either to follow the language route (Latin, Classical Greek) and/or the humanities route (Class Civ) via the IB Diploma and A-level.



Form 7 Product Design

Gabriel Moll Adjustable desk

“The desk features a 3D printed hydraulic mechanism housed within its legs, enabling smooth height adjustments. Metal bolts secure the desk and keep it in the height it was set to. This integration offers both functionality and aesthetics, providing a sleek and ergonomic solution for modern workspaces.”



Joe McGrath Tool storage box and stool

“My product is a trapezoid shaped stool which facilitates the storage of tools ranging from small screws or spanners to large hammers and even power drills.”



Harry Riley Package delivery box

“The problem I aimed to address was the increasing incidents of package theft and the need to shield packages from harsh weather conditions that could damage them during delivery. My prototype consists of two hexagonal pieces, with one featuring a cutout hexagon to accommodate packages.”



Henry King Key safe

“Knowing there were little options for homeowners to confidently secure spare house keys, I wanted to develop an effective alternative for my project. I eventually settled for the idea of an outdoor, wall mounted light which was accompanied with a concealed key lock for small, yet important possessions such as house keys and spare car keys.”



Stella Nicholas Multifunctional work and social space

“The design has versatile functions suitable for various social settings and private meetings across different environments.”



Read about Stella's success on page 10 of the Old Oakhamian Magazine

Carson Cheung

Clothes drying rack

“The core idea behind my product was to provide an alternative to tumble dryers. I envisioned a device that could hang wet clothes until they dried naturally, thus reducing energy consumption and utility costs.”



Charles Hopkinson

Storage unit

“I decided to design and produce a storage unit for residents of smaller homes. The storage unit aims to help utilise space that is otherwise wasted. It allows the user to organise their belongings more and help the small room feel less claustrophobic.”



Oliver Coe

Gardening aid and tool store

“I tackled the challenge of aiding elderly and less mobile individuals in gardening and tool organisation. I settled on an oval-shaped prototype featuring two front swivel castor wheels and foam rear wheels. A rear push handle enables easy manoeuvrability around the garden.”



Rafael Mayhew

Bike box

“I wanted to design a product that would aid commuters in carrying the items they need for work, school or university. With this idea in mind, I decided to create something to hold folders/books/laptops that can be attached onto the rear of a bike.”



Theo Gompertz

SEND adaptive slide for guitar

“My project is an adaptive slide for guitar targeted at use for special needs children. My problem was around musical therapy and there being a very limited market for SEND (special educational needs & disabilities) children's adaptive instruments.”



GCSE Product Design

GCSE pupils worked on different design contextual challenges for their final products: climate change, playing games, and storing personal possessions.

Environment

Oscar



Izzy



Storage

Mountain



George



Oliver



Lucia



Cammie



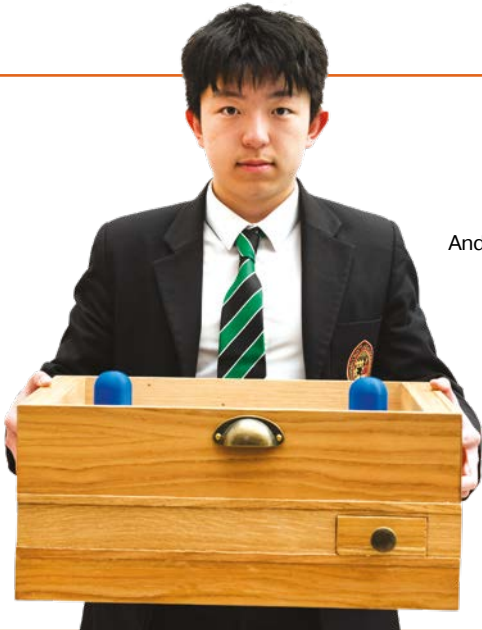
Georgie



Games



Jean-Pierre



Andy

Molly



Freya



James



Charlotte



Academic Highlights 2023 - 2024

Shakespeare Competition Success

Form 3 Drama Scholar Charlie was crowned the winner of the prestigious English Speaking Union Performing Shakespeare Competition 2024, held in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe. Charlie's powerful rendition of Hamlet's soliloquy from Act 1, scene 2 of Shakespeare's most famous play secured him the top prize.



Gold Maths Success

Eight pupils received Gold Awards in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge: Seventh Formers Eddie, Stanley, and Ethan, and Sixth Formers Carson, Eloise, Kylin, Rosie, and Steven. Amongst them, Eddie and Carson won Merit awards in the follow-on competition, the Senior Maths Kangaroo. More impressively still, Steven and Eddie achieved a Distinction and a Merit respectively in the highly distinguished British Maths Olympiad, a 3 ½ hour challenge consisting of six Olympiad style questions.

Inspirational Author Visits

Oakham's library team were honoured to welcome several award-winning children's authors to the School, to inspire a love of reading and writing in our pupils. A M Dassu, Phil Earle, and Andrew Ashwin shared with pupils their author journey and gave advice on how to find inspiration for their own writing.

Renowned children's author and comedian David Walliams charmed an audience of children from Oakham's six primary schools with readings from his bestselling books at a special event held in the Summer Term.



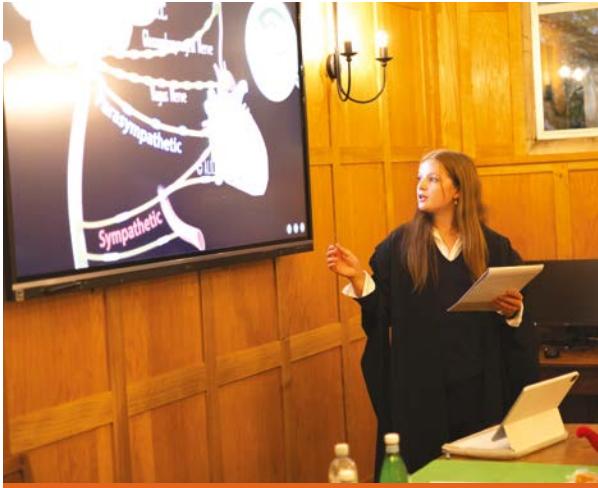
Mock UK General Election Hustings

Form 6 Politics students Henry B, Theo H, Christian H, Aidan R, Liv S, and Eleanor H stood as party candidates and made campaign speeches on policy areas including the Economy, Law & Order and Foreign Policy at a mock UK General Election hustling in June. They then answered a variety of questions from an audience in the WA, demonstrating their ability to think on their feet.



MUN Conference Success

MUN pupils demonstrated their planning and debating skills at MUN conferences held in the UK and overseas. A team travelled to Cheshire to represent the Ukraine and Syria at Cheadle Hulme School in the autumn, earning praise for their performances. In the Summer Term a trio of Form 6 students attended the prestigious IMUNA debating conference hosted at Mummellius Gymnasium in Alkmaar, Holland.



Inspirational New Torch Lecture Series

The 2023–24 academic year saw the introduction of a new weekly lecture series focusing on academic enrichment across all subjects. Every Wednesday evening, academic departments took it in turns to host a Torch Lecture, named in honour of our school motto to celebrate the sharing of knowledge. These fun events, often accompanied by food and drink, included lectures from outside speakers, quizzes or screenings of films relating to the topic being studied.



Bringing Language to Life

Celebrating El Día de los Muertos, watching a play in French, partaking in a German Frühstück, or developing their vocabulary and language skills on the football pitch, pupils studying French, German and Spanish have enjoyed a wealth of cultural events, competitions and activities to inspire in them a love of language learning.



SpOken Magazine goes from Strength to Strength

SpOken Magazine, Oakham's pupil-led literary magazine has gone from strength to strength with six issues now published. It's great to see pupils of all ages from Lower 1 to Form 7 get their work published – both artistic and written pieces.



Pupils Succeed in Global Journalism Competition

Three Form 2 pupils achieved success in the Global Young Journalist of the Year Awards 2024, a writing competition open to children around the world. Jessica came runner-up in the science category while Ted and Manaav were shortlisted for their entries into the politics and equality categories (age 7-13) respectively.



D&T Pupils Embrace GTT Wireless Engineering Challenge

Sixth Form students Gabriele, Jack and Freddy used their design knowledge and skills to embrace an engineering challenge set them by local technological company GTT Wireless. The aspiring engineers successfully developed a prototype of a flexible mounting board to house a range of Raspberry Pi PCBs in GTTW m-Smart electronic enclosures. They will now develop further prototypes in collaboration with the GTT Wireless team and test them for environmental monitoring at School.

Performing Arts





The Middle School Production
of A Monster Calls

Music

The 2023-2024 academic year was packed with musical achievements, concerts, and competitions. Here we look at a few of the highlights over the past 12 months. Steve Foster (Head of Brass)



Gala Concert

Oakham School's Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Chamber Choir and Chapel Choir came together to produce a truly stunning evening of music at the annual Gala Concert on Sunday 17 March. Hosted in the superb acoustic setting of Cambridge's West Road Concert Hall, Oakham's talented musicians displayed an extraordinary wealth and range of virtuosity throughout the evening. The diverse programme embraced a celebration of music by Black composers including music by Margaret Bonds and Duke Ellington, as well as a captivating suite of spiritual arrangements by John Rutter and a cello concerto by Kabalevsky.

The concert opened with an enthralling performance by the Concert Band, accompanied by conductor Steve Foster, of Jay Chattaway's composition 'Mazama', transporting listeners to the panoramic terrain of the Pacific Northwest.

Soloist George's soulful interpretation of Duke Ellington's timeless melody of 'Come Sunday' marked the 50th anniversary of his passing with reverence. 'Duke Ellington in Concert', arranged by Paul Murtha, concluded with a special performance unifying the Concert Band and highlighting the beauty and diversity of their repertoire.

The Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Keith Slade, were next on stage with Ethan as the cello soloist in Kabalevsky's glorious Cello concerto No.1. Ethan's poise and sheer brilliance shone through in what was a sublime performance of this fantastic piece. The audience were totally enraptured and in awe of what Ethan and the orchestra were producing. It was simply stunning and a real 'I was there' moment.

Following the concerto, the Symphony Orchestra's performance of the musical themes and motifs within *Montgomery Variations*

by Margaret Bonds took the audience on a journey. Inspired by the renowned writer, poet and activist Langston Hughes, the Orchestra were confident and precise with their execution of the tapestry of melodies reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Hughes' work woven into Bonds' masterpiece. Importantly, the significant cultural and historical context of the piece was retained through the mature performance by the Symphony Orchestra.

The second half of the concert saw the Chamber and Chapel Choir take centre stage. The Chamber Choir immediately proved their fine-tuned talents and dedication through their superb renditions of Reginal Wright's 'We are the Music Makers' followed by 'I believe in the Prince of Peace' by Margaret Bonds.

To conclude the evening, the Chapel Choir accompanied the Chamber Choir and vocal soloist Sofia in a massed choirs arrangement of John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit!* From the jubilant energy of 'Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho' to the poignant introspection of 'Steal Away', each spiritual was brought to life with exquisite care and execution. Sofia's wonderful voice shone above the texture of the choir throughout, but it was her performance of 'Steal Away' that sent shivers down the spine of each and every audience member. Oakham has unearthed another very special talent.

The audience's applause at the end was a ringing endorsement for a special evening of music making.



Big Band

The Big Band's annual summer concert in the Doncaster Close marquee wowed audiences with outstanding performances and showcasing the work of our wonderful instrumentalists and singers this year.

Under the leadership of Steve Foster, the band performed two sets of classic jazz and swing hits, interspersed with stunning instrumental and vocal solos. A special mention to our singers (Hallé, Simi, David, Lily, Sophie and Will) and instrumental soloists (George, Rebecca, Jason, Dan M and Wilfie) for their performances.

The evening is always hugely popular, and one which brings the whole school community together to celebrate our talented musicians here at Oakham. On a summery evening on the penultimate day of term, it made for a perfect way to finish Oakham's concert calendar and conclude another fantastic year of music-making at the School.





Brandenberg Festival

The School's acclaimed Chamber Choir made their annual visit to London on Thursday 1 February to perform in the Brandenburg Choral Festival. This year's concert took them to a new venue – Holy Sepulchre London, the National Musicians' Church.

Their 1-hour concert programme featured two major choral works by English composers – Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands*. Form 7 baritone Will was the distinguished soloist in the Vaughan Williams, supported by excellent choral singing from the rest of the choir, who really came into their own in the concluding movements, 'The Call' and 'Let all the world'.

At the heart of the programme, the choir sang exquisitely in a sequence of unaccompanied works by Villetta, Florence Price and Elgar, as well as performing a moving encore of 'Bewitched, bothered and bewildered' especially arranged by Director of Music Peter Davis.

Their programme concluded with Elgar's set of songs, accompanied brilliantly by Head of Piano, Anne Bolt. These were a massive test for a small choir, but they rose to the challenge with real aplomb. In the words of the Festival Director, "Bravo. A very impressive performance."

Competitions

Oakham School's annual **Singing Competition** took place on Sunday 4 February, involving large numbers of individual vocal pupils performing solo pieces in year group classes throughout the afternoon. We were privileged to be joined by visiting professional singers, Sarah Fox and Gaynor Keeble, as our adjudicators, whose positivity and encouragement were hugely appreciated by the pupils involved. They were fulsome in their praise of Oakham's five excellent singing teachers, regularly referencing how well prepared and well taught the pupils were.

Each year group class led to the award of certificates to a winner and runner-up, and many pupils were also highly commended. We enjoyed a superb final recital at 4.30pm featuring all the class winners and runners-up, and particular congratulations are due to Lily (overall winner), Will (overall runner-up) and Charlie (most promising young singer).

Now in its fifteenth year, Oakham School's annual **Piano Duet Festival** took place on the afternoon and evening of Thursday 29 February, under the direction of our inspiring and indefatigable Head of Piano, Anne Bolt. We were privileged to have Frances Angell from the Junior Guildhall School of Music as our expert and supportive adjudicator, and she was full of praise for both the quality of the pupils' performances and the teaching of our excellent piano faculty. Her insightful comments after each class (Lower, Intermediate and Upper Grades) offered great advice to our young pianists, as well as specific and positive feedback on every performance throughout.

The highest plaudits went to the first, second and third prize winners in every class, and particular congratulations are due to class winners Elizabeth and Isabella (Lower Grades), Gracie and Maddie (Intermediate Grades) and Ibtis and Rosie (Higher Grades).

A huge thanks to Ms Bolt and our brilliant team of piano teachers for their encouragement and support of the pupils throughout the year.



Music at Lunchtime

Our weekly Music at Lunchtime series contained a wide selection of instrumental and vocal performances. Special mention to our Form 7 students who have contributed so much to Oakham School Music. Their final performances as Oakhamians were impressive and highly polished. Congratulations and thank you to: Joshua, Maxim, Will, Sofia, Eddie and Ethan for some superb Music at Lunchtime recitals over the years.



Autumn Concert

The Oakham School Chapel was witness to some stunning concerts over the course of the academic year, showcasing the breadth of talent amongst Oakhamians. The first major concert was the Autumn Concert full of variety and excellence.

The Concert Band opened the concert with Holst's dramatic Mars from *The Planets*, before entertaining us with two medleys of Duke Ellington swing hits and famous polkas. Despite the young age of many of the pupils in the band, they rose to the challenge of their first public performance very well.

The Symphony Orchestra then took to the stage to perform a major work – Strauss' first horn concerto – accompanying Form 7 Music Scholar, Joshua. He gave a virtuoso performance of this demanding work, ably assisted by the distinguished orchestral playing of his peers in accompaniment. Three movements of Britten's *Soirées Musicales* completed their part of the concert, in which they performed these characterful arrangements of music by Rossini with aplomb.

After the interval, the Chamber Orchestra took on a major work for string orchestra – Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony in C minor, op. 110a. Their focussed and fearless playing in this deeply personal work was both intense and hugely captivating, as they held the audience spellbound throughout the work's five challenging movements.

To conclude the programme, the Big Band was on highly entertaining form, performing five contrasting pieces pop styles, from the up-tempo Elton John classic "I'm still standing" to the sultry swing of Bernstein's "Cool" from *West Side Story*.



Individual Successes

Congratulations to two brilliant Upper School Music Scholars – soprano Evie and horn player Joshua for winning two of the three major prizes awarded at the finals of this year's Nottingham Young Musician of the Year competition. Both pupils performed on Sunday 21 January at the Djanogly Recital Hall at the University of Nottingham in a hotly contested final adjudicated by professional singer Marcus Farnsworth.

We were thrilled that Evie was chosen as the overall winner of the Nottingham Young Singer of the Year competition, joining the names of two Old Oakhamian

tenors Edwin Lambert and William Collison who were former winners in 2015 and 2019.

Joshua gave a superb performance of works by Richard Strauss, Peter Davis and Gilbert Vinter in the instrumental finals. When the prizes were announced, we were delighted that Joshua was chosen to receive the prize awarded by one of the competition sponsors (the Bluecoat Singers), who felt that his performance spoke to them above all the others. Joshua was also awarded his trophy as Nottingham Young Brass Player of the Year.



Drama



Dance Showcase

Audiences enjoyed a joyful and uplifting night in the QET as pupils of all ages showcased their talent and passion for dance.

Throughout the show, there was an array of dance styles on display including: a tap number to “I Wanna Be Like You”, a classical ballet duet to the hit song “What Was I Made For”, an energetic musical theatre number to “The Nicest Kids in Town” and many, many more. All 32 dancers came together for a Grand Finale which consisted of duets and solos – to a mash-up of songs – which were choreographed by the dancers themselves, earning them a standing ovation from the delighted audience. **Written by Megan Johnson**



Steel Magnolias

An almost entirely female ensemble cast of Oakham’s Drama Scholars made audiences laugh and cry in equal measure with a fast-paced production full of whip smart dialogue that moved effortlessly from comedy to tragedy in the blink of the eye.

Set in 1980s northwestern Louisiana, *Steel Magnolias* is a comedy drama centring on the everyday lives of a friendship group of eccentric women ranging across all age groups and lifestyles, with the hair salon as the melting pot for their interactions. The play is a captivating blend of both heart-wrenching tragedy and absurd wit, both sides of the coin expertly portrayed by each actor under the ever-skillful, nuanced leadership of the fantastic director, Gilly Norell.

The owner of this salon is the steadfast Truvy, wonderfully played by Tarisai M, who adopts the younger Anelle as both an employee and a surrogate daughter. Over the course of the play, the likes of which would not be complete without the comic radio interludes of the DJ Rowley M, Annie-May C brings to life Anelle’s journey from meagre mystery to eccentric Christianity, the likes of which frequently brought the audience to laughter.

However, the main subject of the day for these women is the wedding of Shelby, who is skilfully embodied by Lottie B throughout her tragic descent from prosperity into woe. Shelby, the daughter of Mesi J’s astutely portrayed, motherly and over-bearing M’Lynn, during the course of the play finds happiness in marriage and an ill-advised childbirth, only for her blossoming life to be dashed on account of her lifelong ailment. The culmination of this tragedy is heart-wrenchingly depicted by M’Lynn’s epic, tear-jerking soliloquy at the end of the play, where she lays her heart bare and finally finds comfort in her compassionate group of friends. This cathartic tragedy is swiftly balanced by the humour of Clairee and Ouiser, each brilliantly represented by Lily R and Tilly G respectively, which had the audience once more laughing through their tears.

The intricate, multi-layered and beautifully crafted set was designed by Justine Harrison, which really brought the audience into the atmosphere and lively bustle of the women’s hub of socialisation. It was lit and emphasised by the technological prowess of Matthew ‘Dougie’ Douglas, who also contributed to its building.

Written by Noris Norokobb





Les Misérables

An immensely talented 40-strong cast of pupils from Forms 3 to 7 produced some phenomenal vocal and acting performances to transport Victor Hugo's epic tale of passion and redemption in the French Revolution era to the stage of the QET.

The stage production of *Les Misérables* is a powerful and exciting musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic novel. This epic tale of passion, sacrifice, and redemption is set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, as it captures the struggles and triumphs of its characters, including Jean-Val-Jean (David H), Fantine (Annie-May C/Eloise S), and the ultimate antagonist; Javert (Adam J). The production is renowned for its sweeping score by Claude-Michel Schonberg, with unforgettable songs like "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," and "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

In Oakham's production, set designers impressed both the cast and audience with the grand and immersive staging, featuring intricate sets that transformed from the gritty streets of Paris to the barricades of the revolution, so that the dynamic action characteristics of the play could be enjoyed to the fullest.

The cast performances were outstanding, with each actor bringing depth and humanity to their roles. The ensemble gave their everything to make the well-known factory songs and street scenes come to life, bringing both tragedy and delight to the stage. In "Master of the House", we saw impressive performances from both Liv S and Mesi J and Thomas J as the infamous deceptive duo, leaving the audience laughing and smiling with their hilarious antics. "Empty chairs at empty tables" sung by Will F and "Bring him home" sung by David H washed a wave of sadness over the stage, capturing both the hearts of the cast and audience.

Director Gilly Norell and her production team working behind the scenes and beside her toiled tirelessly to ensure the evocation of a wide range of emotions – from heart-wrenching sorrow to exhilarating hope – to make it a truly unforgettable theatrical experience. **Written by Milo Wailing-Omens**



A Monster Calls

Oakham's Middle School actors displayed exceptional maturity and talent to bring this adaptation of Patrick Ness's beloved novel to the QET.

A Monster Calls is an almost tragic play portraying the sad themes of death, denial, and acceptance that all apply to modern life. Conor's denial to accept the impending death of his mother and the Monster who is there to help him find his way to acceptance of this.

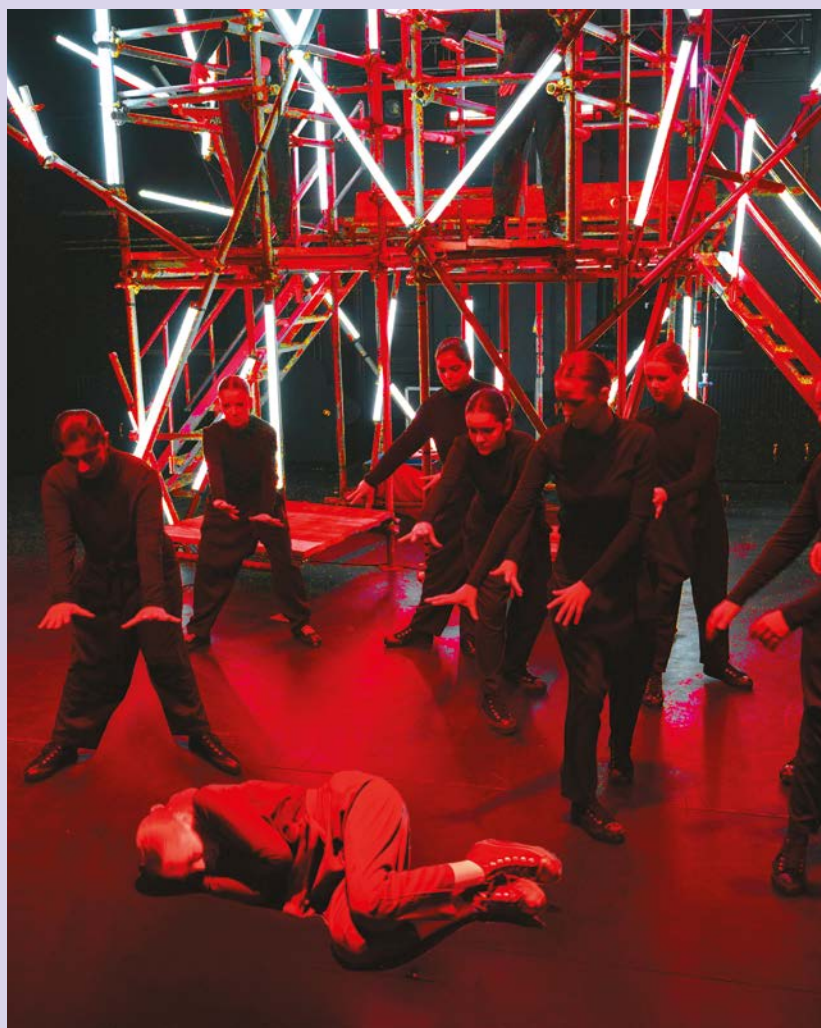
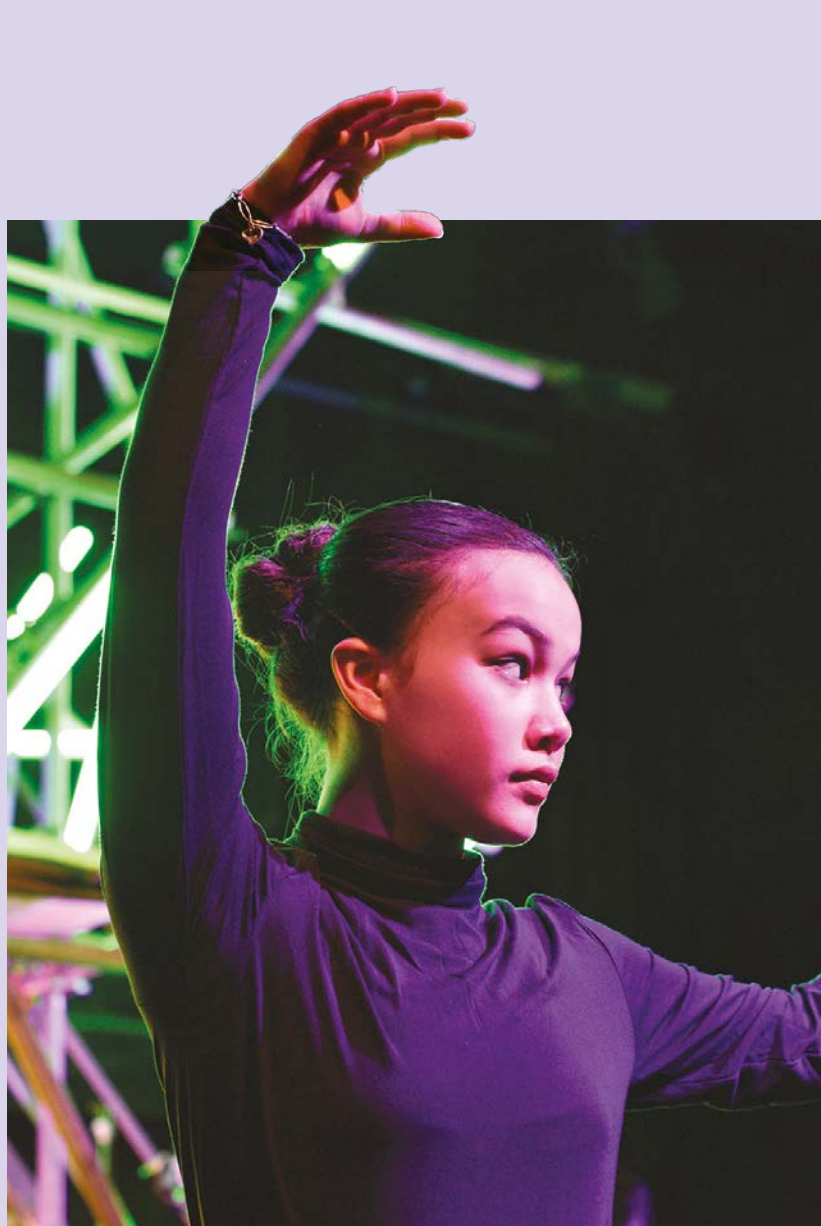
Two people played the key, but difficult, part of Conor: Isla D and Charlie P, taking him from an irate yet sorrowful young boy to an accepting and more imperturbable teenager who still has much to endure through the death of his mother. Isla and Charlie both brought Conor's character to life as they made his body language very tense and almost completely closed off from the outside world (at the beginning of Conor's journey). To add more layers to Conor's character Isla and Charlie were always reacting differently to the array of different characters in ways that worked for their relationship at the time; for example in scenes with Conor's Grandma they would present his character as much more hateful than with any other character, but also looking slightly happy that she was there to help, to let the audience see the small amount of hope that something will get better.

Mrs Norell's and Justine's remarkable set design really brought Patrick Ness' imaginary world to life as it included LED lights that changed colour to convey different emotions: a sense of happiness at the mention of the Yew tree and then the mournfulness of the hospital. One of my favourite elements of the set was the intertwining structure of the tree as it could be used to emphasise scenes where the characters are looking for someone or are trying to sleep in the tree, illustrating that the tree is old and knows how things work and how people use it. The use of chairs for most of the scenes emphasised the scenes that the lights have already created, be that taking down monsters, dragons, wizards, or just a regular classroom.

The use of the clock was both beautiful and almost terrifying as it showed that everything seemed to depend on the clock working and telling the time the right way, however even after Conor broke it, it still showed that terrible time of 12:07.

The performances of the Monster were phenomenal. I found that the actors of the Monster (Holly P, Cressie W, Anna S and Poppy L) brought genuine truthfulness to the play, especially in intense scenes that allowed the audience to end up agreeing with the Monster's viewpoint even after their questionable actions of trying to get Conor to do the right thing. Two actresses playing the role of the Monster on alternate nights emphasised how complex that character really is. Throughout the play the actresses demonstrated how intertwined the Monster actually gets to the person they are helping and highlighted how the Monster can show emotion. This part is especially emphasised right at the end of the play, where the Monster finally convinces Conor to do the right thing for himself and others around him. They showed this transformation beautifully whilst also showing the Monster's feelings regarding Conor's current life and situation and how they would react to the older stories and people they have met (walked for).

The ensemble pieces wouldn't have been so effective without so much dedication shown by the minor parts in the play. Finally, I must praise all the work that the rest of the crew have done. This play wouldn't have been the same without everyone behind the scenes: Miss Halse's organisation, Justine's stunning, lifelike costumes and the naturalistic makeup and lastly, Mrs Norell's visionary ideas. **Written by Stella Derry (Form 4)**





The Lion King JR

Filled with memorable moments and inspiring performances, the Lower School cast produced a delightful theatrical experience that showcased their talents whilst staying true to the spirit of the original concept and film.

The stage production of *The Lion King Jr* is a vibrant and engaging adaptation of Disney's beloved animated film, tailored specifically for young performers and audiences. This condensed version of the full Broadway musical retains all the magic and heart of the original story, making it accessible and enjoyable for children and families alike.

The production was a visual feast, with stunning costumes (from the innovative and creative work of Oakham's costume designer Justine Harrison) and puppetry that brought the African savanna to life and captivated the audience. The young actors embodied their characters with enthusiasm and charm, capturing the essence of Simba's journey from a carefree cub to the brave king of the Pride Lands. The iconic songs by Elton John and Tim Rice, including

"Circle of Life", "Hakuna Matata", and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" were performed with infectious energy and joy by the Lower School cast. The set design and lighting were simple, creative, and colourful, effectively transforming the stage into a dynamic and immersive environment. In addition to this, the choreography was lively and well-coordinated, adding to the overall excitement and spectacle of the show. In *The Lion King Jr* the actors managed to convey the key themes of courage, responsibility, and the circle of life, through emotive singing and dancing; and together with an impressive depth of acting from such young children, displayed so much skill and understanding of what the essence of theatre is.

Written by Milo Wailing-Omens



Form 6 students
enjoying their
immersion trip
to Madrid





Trips & Activities

Around the World

From overseas expeditions to educational trips closer to home, the 2023–2024 year saw Oakhamians globetrotting all over the world to enhance their learning beyond the classroom.



Upper School Politics and MUN students travelled stateside to explore the political and historical sights of New York and Washington.



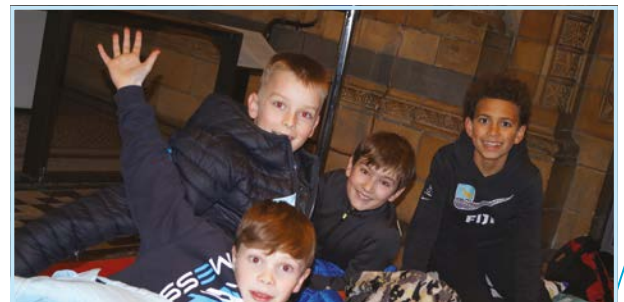
Form 3 Latinists visited Bath to explore this spectacular Roman city.



Form 6 Business students enjoyed a fascinating insight into the business of Premiership Football on a visit to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.



Artists found inspiration for their work in a variety of locations throughout the UK in indoor and outdoor locations.



London museums were popular destinations for pupils this year: from a sleepover for Lower 1 in the Natural History Museum to Classical Civilisation students exploring ancient artefacts in the British Museum.

Form 4 Spanish students enjoyed a 5-day immersion experience in Murcia, Spain

Upper School Hispanists took a lightning visit to the Spanish capital city.



Divers journeyed to Egypt for an undersea odyssey.

A group of intrepid Form 6 pupils combined volunteering with tourism travelling to the Indian Ocean to support two primary schools in Kenya.

Europe

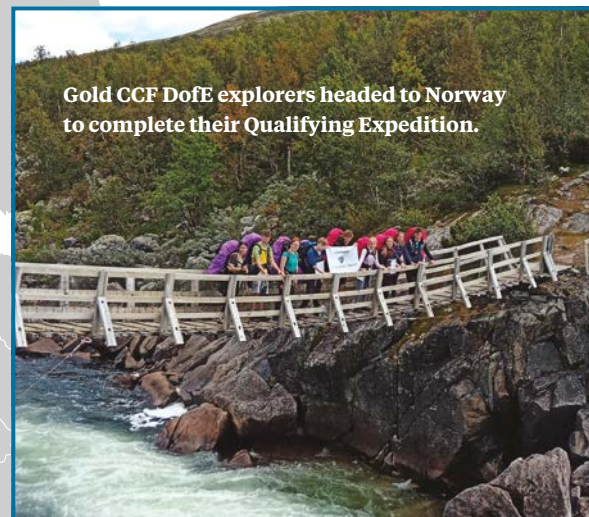
Form 3 experienced a moving trip to the World War 1 battlefields of northern France.



Pupils in Forms 4 and 5 studying French enjoyed a taste of France on their trip to Normandy.



Two groups of pupils from Forms Lower 1 to Form 7 travelled to Sestriere in Italy to hone their skiing skills.



Gold CCF DofE explorers headed to Norway to complete their Qualifying Expedition.



Our talented musicians conducted a highly successful music tour to the cities of Essen, Köln, Bochum in Germany and Maastricht in the Netherlands.



Students doing MUN attended the prestigious IMUNA debating conference in Alkmaar, Holland



Upper School DT, Geography and Business students toured the stunning cities of Venice and Bologna on their trip to explore the supercar factories and artisan food producers of northern Italy.



Transforming Lives

“The trip was not only an amazing opportunity for us all, but it proved an eye-opening and life-changing experience for each person in the group.”

These words were written by former pupil Ed Langford ('11) in the 2010 Spring *Oakhamian* but could have been written – and indeed were written – after every subsequent trip to Africa since that inaugural trip.

What makes the Kenya Schools trip so special and has kept pupils and staff returning year after year is that it combines both volunteering with tourism. Oakhamians travel every February to primary schools in Kenya, to donate much-needed items and volunteer their time to improve the buildings and classrooms. The destinations within Kenya, and for one year to Uganda, have changed each year,

but the purpose and format of the trip have remained the same.

In preparation for the trip, pupils must fundraise money for supplies to take with them. They then spend a week renovating classrooms and desks, trying their hand at teaching lessons, running a sports day for the children and then rounding the trip off with a safari.

The experience is life-changing for both our pupils and the pupils they are helping.

As Ed concludes: “Words cannot describe the memories every one of us has and although it now just feels like a distant dream, our experiences will not be forgotten.”



2024: Destination Kingwede and Milalani

Memories of the Kenya Schools Trip 2024 in the words of our pupils.

Day 1

After a long bus ride and a tireless search for clean water, we finally got to the Wildebeest campsite and enjoyed a delightful four hours of sleep. **Caitlin and Phebe**

Day 2

After checking into the hotel in Diani, we split into our two groups and headed to the schools. Both groups were welcomed immediately with all the school children running to the buses and giving lots of high fives and handshakes. The children then performed songs and poems to welcome us into their school. **Scarlett and Ro**

Day 3

Milalani: We cleaned, sanded, varnished and painted in three different classrooms. It was tough work in the heat but there was a lot of team spirit from pupils sneaking in on a Saturday. They joined us for lots of dancing and singing, which we all really enjoyed.

Tabby, Bessie and Ellie

Kingwede: We began by allocating jobs to our other members and started scrubbing and sanding, as well as putting layers of paint on the walls. We scrubbed the rust from the playground facilities and added a thin layer of baby blue paint as a first layer. I enjoyed seeing the kids and I invited them over and we began painting together for a bit because they explained their love for colour. **Tari and Andrada**





Day 4

Milalani: When we arrived, we were greeted by the kids' smiling faces, waving and overjoyed to spend another day with us (we felt the same). We immediately began to carry on our work from yesterday, which got very messy but was actually quite enjoyable as we were doing it for the kids.

Lily, Maddie, Sophia and Ella

Kingwede: Our aims for today were to finish the two classrooms that had to be painted with primer and a top coat, to paint the playground facilities, to paint the entrance gate and to sand and varnish the 15 tables and 15 chairs that we bought for the children in the school. **Ruth and Heloise**

Day 5

Milalani: We got to work painting the outside of the school, varnishing desks and chairs, and also creating the school mural and our wall of fame. After we finished this, we had a quick lunch followed by the painting of a climbing frame and swings for the special needs school – in the hot sun!

Then we began the highlight of the week so far – sports day! We split into five teams, where we created a sports circuit including relays, hopping races and limbo dancing, along with other primary games. This ended in a huge circle of hokey kokey – with Mrs Gomm leading the dance in the middle, which was fab! **Tilly, Lilly and Halle**

Kingwede: The jobs we were continuing with were varnishing desks and chairs, painting the front gate, hanging up a tire swing and painting the final classroom. As we were finishing off,

we noticed the young children playing with and enjoying the swing that we had created. It was really satisfying to see how much we had achieved at the end of the day, and we were really grateful that we got everything finished and that we were so warmly welcomed to the school. **Amelie and Eleanor**

Day 6

Milalani: We taught three lessons on a range of subjects including: Portuguese, Geography, Italian, Maths, Art and Music. We then went to the final ceremony in the communal area of the school, where over a thousand pupils performed a wide range of songs and dances, such as “If you're happy and you know it clap your hands”. We then performed an absolute banger of a song and dance (“Dancing Queen”). We gave our goodbye gifts before heading off to the ‘Hidden Paradise Restaurant’ where we enjoyed pizza and other food while enjoying scenic beach views. We then returned to Diani Campsite where we enjoyed spending time at the beach and pool, before leaving to feed bush babies at 6:15pm. **Harry and Nikhel**

Kingwede: Today was bittersweet as we knew this was our last day with the children. We all split off into our separate groups and taught them different lessons (English, French, Chemistry, Spanish). All the children engaged so amazingly with what they were taught. After we had taught our lessons, we did a performance to the whole school in which we sang and danced to “Mamma Mia” followed by the

“Macarena”. It was then time to depart, so we gave out lots of little things for the children like bags and t-shirts and then finally said our goodbyes which was very upsetting while also being heartwarming. We then travelled back to our accommodation and relaxed in the pool while various of the group spent the evening at the beach. At around 6pm we went to go feed some bush babies. **Eddie and Asa**

Day 7

Today was a sad day as we left Diani and headed back to Nairobi. After lunch we went to visit the giraffe centre, where we fed the giraffes which was a very unique experience. We then had a bit of downtime by the pool at the Eco Camp. As for dinner we went to Carnivore for a lovely Valentine's Day inspired meal that put our tastes to the test, to say the least! **Andrada**

Day 8 – The Final Day

For our final morning in Kenya we were up bright and early at 6am ready to embark on a safari. We were greeted by hyenas and saw a range of animals, with the highlights being giraffes, buffalo and hippos. We had the true off-road experience in the bus as we chased after lions with little success but still managed to channel our inner David Attenborough as we watched the crocodiles eye up their lunch. After seemingly getting slightly lost in the wilderness we arrived at the elephant orphanage just in time to see the last two groups get fed and play in the mud. **Caitlin**

Celebrating the Kenya Schools Trip

Between 2010 and 2024, with a gap due to Covid and one year spent in Uganda, Oakham School pupils have visited Kenyan schools an impressive 12 times. Here we look back at the incredible memories our pupils have made over the years and the difference they have made to the lives of children in African schools.



2010



2011



2012



2015



2016



2020



2023



2013



2014



2017



2018



2019

Since 2010...

Over **500**
Oakham School
pupils have
participated in the trip

Raising nearly
£125,000
in teaching
equipment, paint,
and cement.

With around
1,000
children in each of the
primary schools that our
children have visited

Nearly
20,000
children have had
their lives impacted

...And most importantly know the lyrics to "*Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!*"

Willen
nicht
sein

Amsterdam 1948
Vollversammlung
des Weltkirchenrates

Music Tour to Germany

The 2024 Oakham School music tour to Germany was a great success. In total, 41 pupils embarked on the long coach trip to Essen, where we would be based for the next five days. Germany was certainly made aware of our arrival by the massive cheer of relief when we finally saw the sign of the Niu Cobbles hotel in Essen! It was an early night, preparing us for the music-filled days to come.

We began the tour with a visit to the historical town of Köln (Cologne). Although the grandiose gothic cathedral was the highlight of the city for most, others enjoyed the vast shopping experience Köln had to offer. The afternoon brought a mixture of sightseeing and music. The culture and atmosphere that emanated from Köln's Old Town was heightened by a sense of anticipation as Germany prepared to play Spain in the Euros later that night. After enjoying some sightseeing, we took the bus to our venue for the day: the beautiful church of St Heribert. Our rehearsal attracted a number of locals as they enjoyed the sound of Holst and Elgar's orchestral pieces, Haydn's *Missa Brevis* and an enthralling xylophone piece performed by Ryan. The sound of our music harmonised with the roars of the German crowds as they scored their equalising goal against Spain, creating a memorable atmosphere for our first of four concerts.

The following day, we visited the traditional German town of Bochum where we were left to explore the multicultural streets, featuring an expansive underground Asian supermarket among other local shops where we took the chance to practise our German skills. It was an honour to perform to so many locals, parents and former students at St Maria Magdalena, under the modern, geometric drapes of the ceiling. This concert featured

the technically challenging 'Summer Movement' from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, expertly performed by soloist Elsa and the Chamber Orchestra, as well as other works by our musicians. After a standing ovation, soloist Eloise led the Chamber Choir through Esénvalds' 'Only in Sleep' in an impactful encore. Following the concert, we made a swift exit in order to watch the England Euros match against Switzerland on the big screen at a traditional German restaurant. The restaurant also proved to be the ideal place to celebrate the successes of our IB results with drinks and cheesecake provided by Dr Nicoll. The Euros win put us in good spirits for the coming days of the tour.

“It was an honour to perform to so many locals, parents and former students at St Maria Magdalena...”

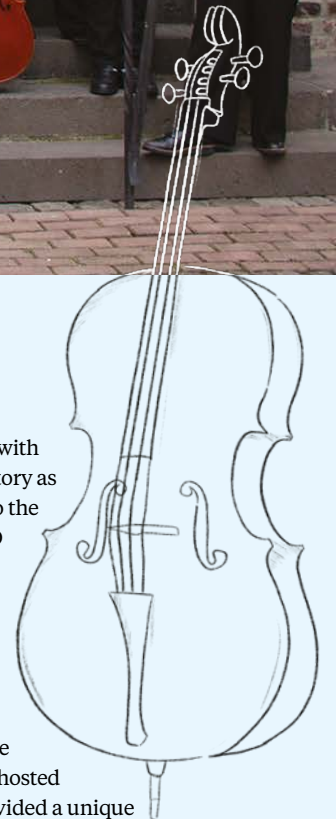
On day four we crossed the border and headed for Maastricht in the Netherlands. Our morning was spent exploring the beautiful, cobbled streets and enjoying local cuisine. Personal highlights include Maastricht's famous and awe-inspiring library inside a medieval church, as well as treasure hunting in the local flea-market. Day four also saw us perform at the most impressive venue of the tour: the Basilica. Despite competing with Andre Rieu who was performing simultaneously nearby, we drew a large crowd and, through Evie's confident singing of Haydn's *Benedictus* and the uplifting 'Bare necessities' (*Jungle Book*), we earned our second standing ovation.

Our final day of the tour came with mixed emotions as we and our fellow Form 7 musicians prepared to perform for the last time as Oakhamians.

The day started, however, with a trip through German history as we were treated to a visit to the Ruhr Museum - a UNESCO world heritage site. We particularly enjoyed the extraordinary feats of engineering exhibited in the inactive mine, now overgrown with vibrant greenery. The Evangelische Stadtkirche, Moers kindly hosted us for our last concert, provided a unique acoustic and subsequently a beautiful sound. The programme consisted of familiar favourites of the repertoire, including the traditional American folk song - 'Wayfaring Stranger' - featuring a talented flautist. We received high praises for a fantastic last performance, and even requests for a return tour!

The 2024 Germany music tour ended in high spirits with the singing of a few school favourites on the bus - 'Jerusalem' included - before the return journey home.

Written by Felix Pinder, Zadie Berkin-Evans and Ethan Taylor (Form 7)



The Italian Job

Upper School Design & Technology, Geography and Business Studies students visited Italy for an action-packed half-term trip, taking in stunning cities, supercar factories and artisan food producers.

Day 1: Bologna, a City of Towers, Cars and Gelato

The day in Bologna started with a walking tour of the city taking in the city's medieval and modern attractions and landmark. This included Piazza Maggiore, the heart of the city, where the students admired the Basilica of San Petronio, one of the largest churches in the world, and the Fountain of Neptune, a symbol of Bologna's power and prosperity. They also learnt about the history and culture of Bologna, home to Europe's oldest university, with over 40 kilometres of porticoes (covered walkways) and famous for its wonderful food. The main highlight of the walking tour was climbing the nearly 400 steps to the top of Torre Accursi, also known as the Clock Tower. From the top of Torre Accursi, the pupils enjoyed a breathtaking view of the city and its surroundings. After an afternoon spent exploring the city on their own and a friendly but exciting race at a nearby karting venue, the group travelled to the Lamborghini Museum to view both modern and classic versions of this Italian car manufacturer, including the Miura, Countach, and Sian.



Day 2: Venice, a City of Water, Art, and Romance

After an early morning train journey from Bologna to Venice, pupils enjoyed a guided tour through the busy streets of Venice, where they could admire the colourful buildings and bridges that lined the canals, as well as the gondolas and water taxis that glided on the water.

The tour took in the famous landmarks of the Rialto Bridge and St Mark's Square, surrounded by some of the most important buildings and monuments of Venice, such as St Mark's Basilica, St Mark's Campanile, Doge's Palace, and the Clock Tower. One of the highlights of St Mark's Square was the demonstration of glassblowing at a nearby workshop. The group watched in awe as a skilled glassblower created a vase out of glass.

After free time for the pupils to explore Venice on their own, the day ended with a river taxi ride back to the railway station where they enjoyed the view of Venice from a different perspective, as well as the sunset over the water.



Day 3: Parmesan, Ferrari and Pagani, a Day of Speed and Flavour

The day started with a tour of a parmesan farm and factory, where pupils learned how the world-renowned Parmigiano Reggiano is produced. This was followed by a trip to the Ferrari Museum in Maranello, where they explored the history and achievements of the legendary sports car manufacturer and learned about the life and vision of Enzo Ferrari. Some pupils had the chance to experience the thrill of driving a Ferrari in a professional simulator.

The pupils visited a workshop focused on aerodynamics, where they discovered how science and technology are applied to improve the performance and design of cars, then boarded a shuttle bus that took them around the factory complex and along the Fiorano track, where they witnessed some of the cars being driven on the track by professional drivers. The final visit of the day was to the Pagani museum and factory, where pupils learned about another remarkable car brand that combines art and engineering. In the museum the group saw some of the models and exhibits that showcase the innovation and design of Pagani over the years. They also learned about Horacio Pagani, the founder of Pagani, who started as a mechanic and became a master craftsman.

Day 4: Ducati and Balsamic, a Day of Taste and Power

Day 4 started with a visit to the Ducati Museum and factory, where pupils learned how Ducati motorcycles are designed, assembled, and tested. They saw a collection of bikes from throughout Ducati's history and witnessed stories of the life and vision of Antonio Cavalieri Ducati. They also participated in a physics workshop that included an understanding of material properties and the forces acting on a motorcycle at different speeds.

The final visit of the day and tour was to Acetaia Sereni, a traditional balsamic vineyard and factory. The students learned how balsamic vinegar is produced from local grapes, following a centuries-old recipe and technique. They visited the ageing cellars, where the vinegar is stored for at least 12 years before being inspected and certified. They tasted the full range of balsamic vinegars produced by Acetaia Sereni, from young to old, from sweet to sour. After this, the group enjoyed a meal of traditional tortellini with balsamic vinegar, and ice cream (with balsamic vinegar of course).



Political Education

Upper School pupils gained a fascinating insight into American politics and global issues during their Politics and MUN trip to New York and Washington DC. Over eight days they visited a number of iconic monuments and museums of significant historical and political importance.



Day 1 of the trip began in New York at Ground Zero. We then moved to Central Park and saw the Statue of Liberty before ending the day with a spectacular Broadway show.

On day 2 we enjoyed an insightful tour of the UN building before making the 5-hour journey to Washington DC for some more important academic enrichment within the capital starting with an evening NHL game watching the Washington Capitals.

On the following day, the group enjoyed a tour of the Capitol building, the symbol of US democracy, and a central part of the trip.

The final day included an informative walking tour that took in visits to several places of historic and cultural importance: the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and key WW2, Korean and Vietnam War memorials. The day concluded with another important educational experience: a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Which left the students in a reflective mood.

Laurence said: "It was fitting that students had the opportunity to visit the

African-American museum during Black History Month, the world's largest museum dedicated to African-American history and culture. Students were surprised that it is the second-most visited museum in the US after the Smithsonian Museum with over 1 million visitors a year.

"The students were touched and reflective when we finished the tour at the Holocaust Memorial Museum."

A huge thank you to all the staff who attended the trip, especially Mr Farrar for leading it.





Spanish Trips to Madrid and Murcia

The Spanish Department organised two fabulous opportunities for pupils to immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of Spain, to improve their language skills and knowledge.

At Easter, Form 4 pupils travelled to Murcia, where they combined daily language lessons with fun, hands-on experiences and activities. These included swimming, beach sports, a boat trip, a professionally instructed watersports session, a Spanish cooking workshop, a salsa lesson and a tour of Águilas and its castle. All in Spanish!

In the Summer Term, Form 6 students visited Madrid where they enjoyed a walking tour of the city, plus visits to some of the famous sights of the Spanish capital, such as the Museo del Prado, the Museo Reina Sofia, and the Barrio de las Letras. Among the many trip highlights was watching a magnificent flamenco performance at Cardamomo.



An Adventurous Year

Director of Adventure Matty Powell looks back at a year filled with outdoor adventures.

SEPTEMBER

We started September with the Form 1 camp in the beautiful woodland setting of Boughton Woods in Northamptonshire, giving some of our youngest Oakhamians their first taste of adventurous learning – from lighting a campfire to cook their own lunch to shelter building, the rules of camouflage and concealment, and emergency first aid.



OCTOBER

October Service Weekend with Gold Sailing at Rutland Water in dinghies to refresh our sailors' knowledge of sailing basics. Bronze Walking at Yarwell (27km) with Silver and Gold Walking in the Peak District and Swaledale, Yorkshire. Silver Canoeing paddled 77km along the River Ouse, whereas Bronze and Silver Cycling travelled 230km around Norfolk. We also saw our divers visit Egypt to explore the Red Sea.





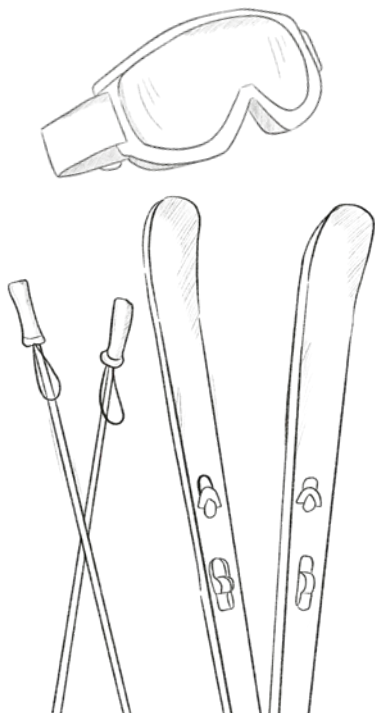
MARCH

A quiet winter, followed by March Service Weekend. We saw our Gold Sailors sail 38ft yachts in the Solent with the British Offshore Sailing School, where they were learning how to handle a yacht, navigate, deal with tides and cope with living and provisioning on-board in a small space. All Gold pupils completed an Emergency First Aid at Work qualification. Our Gold and Silver Cyclists travelled a combined 150km, and our Walkers 36km, locally around Rutland. All camped locally too despite it being cold. Our canoeists travelled the River Nene on a local Practice Expedition.



APRIL

April saw the annual ski trip to Sestriere, Italy with 140 pupils enjoying the chance to learn new skills and develop existing ones.



MAY

In May, Mr Powell and Mrs Fearn accompanied 21 OOs to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Award. We also saw the Duke of Edinburgh visit Oakham and 11 of our students were able to meet him and talk about their DofE experience.

Also in May, our Lower 1 pupils travelled to Lea Green in Derbyshire for a residential trip that saw them try a variety of outdoor activities including stream walking, paddleboarding, bell boating, building a campfire, an orienteering activity around the local fields, and a night walk in the woodland.



JUNE AND JULY

Our Form 3 Camp at Wing and Fineshade Wood took place where pupils were able to experience DofE, Voluntary Action and CCF before making their option choices for Form 4. The last week of term saw various qualifying expeditions with Bronze Walkers hiking in the Peaks and our Bronze Cyclists completing the Rutland Round. Gold Walkers completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks (Pen-Y-Ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside) and Gold Cyclists completed the Coast to Cost (Irish Sea to the North Sea).





DofE

Bronze

(Walking, Cycling) 1-night expedition

In July, we saw our current Form 4 walk in the Peaks. From September 2024, we will see our Form 3 begin to attain their Bronze Award, completing their final expedition during Form 3 Camp in 2025.

Silver

(Cycling, Canoeing, Walking) – 2-night expedition

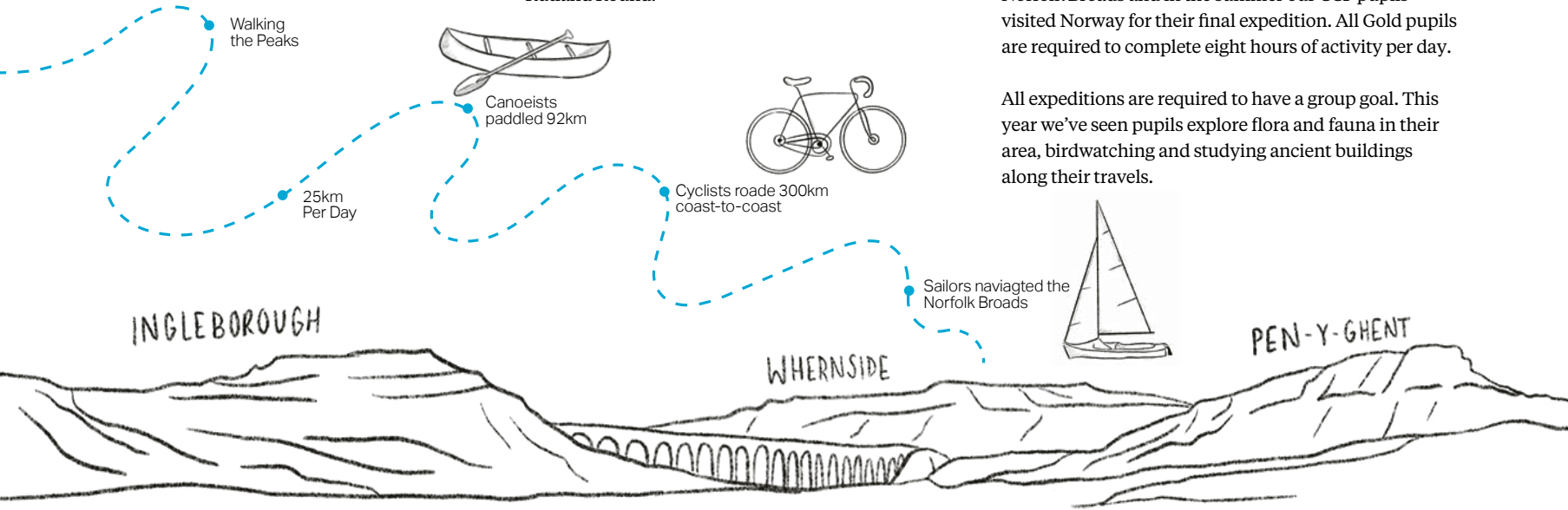
Pupils are required to complete seven hours of activity per day, meaning our Walkers could travel 25km per day. This year, our groups visited the Peaks and Trough of Bowland. Our Canoeists paddled 92km on the River Wye and our Cyclists peddled along the Rutland Round.

Gold

(Walking, Cycling, Sailing) – 3-night expedition

Pupils can commence the Gold Award without completing Bronze or Silver, and many of our pupils do this. This year we saw our Walkers traverse the Yorkshire Three Peaks, our Cyclists rode 300km coast-to-coast, which had a 5000m ascent. Our Sailors navigated the Norfolk Broads and in the summer our CCF pupils visited Norway for their final expedition. All Gold pupils are required to complete eight hours of activity per day.

All expeditions are required to have a group goal. This year we've seen pupils explore flora and fauna in their area, birdwatching and studying ancient buildings along their travels.



DofE in numbers 2023-2024



Newfound skills:

Completing DofE isn't just about the expedition, pupils are required to develop a skill, engage in physical activity and evidence volunteering, which varies in length for each award (from 3 months to 18 months).

This year we saw pupils develop skills in:



Music singing or playing instruments



Cooking



Crocheting



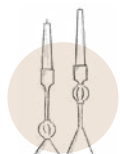
Care of Animals



Clay Modelling



Drawing



Creative Arts
i.e. candle making



Performance Arts
i.e. acting



Photography



Chess



Billiards



Training, Camps, and Expeditions

The CCF Year

With a good crop of new recruits in Form 4, we also welcomed for the first time in many years new recruits in Form 6 too, including some who had never been in the cadets before. The first few weeks of the year were spent preparing for Service Weekend which saw us make the long trek north to Otterburn training area, north of Newcastle. Here the cadets from both sections were kept busy with a variety of training; Form 4 recruits went through a reinvigorated basic training package largely taught by Form 7 SNCOs and Form 6 were out in the field. Form 5 went on their usual adventurous training weekend in the Peaks.

The annual Remembrance events saw the CCF front and centre in Oakham with the largest contingent of marchers for some years on the Sunday afternoon. The year continued into 2024, being punctuated by the DofE and BTEC programme for Form 6 and then the last ever March Service Weekend for all years. This year saw cadets and staff bravely battle dreadful weather to complete a number of attacks on the training area at St George's Barracks, North Luffenham.

The Summer Term also brought big changes with the RAF and Army sections undertaking their own, separate training for the first time in many years – laser tag at Rumble for the Army and using flight simulators as well as drone and cyber training for the RAF.

As term gave way to the summer holidays, we had the usual flurry of camps for the RAF and Army as well as the Gold DofE practice in the North Pennines in advance of them heading to Norway. As ever, none of these events nor those outlined elsewhere would have happened without the merry band of staff we have who give up their time on a weekly basis and in holidays to make it all happen! My sincere thanks, as ever.

Written by Major Duncan Wright, Contingent Commander





Summer Camps

The RAF cadets travelled to Inskip Training Centre in Lancashire for their 2024 summer camp. Throughout the week, they participated in a wide range of activities, including electronic rifle ranges (DCCTs), air rifle and civilian ranges, where they had the unique opportunity to fire weapons not typically available to cadets. Additionally, they engaged in adventurous training such as rock climbing and kayaking for a day. The packed week also included drill practice, sports, and leadership challenges, culminating in an exciting yet relaxing day trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, where cadets enjoyed full access to the theme park. Overall, it was a fantastic week for all involved.

A merry band of Army cadets made the short journey to Beckingham in Lincolnshire for their week of fun at Army summer camp. Over the course of the week, the cadets enjoyed weapon handling revision on the cadet rifle, as well as having a go at competitive paintball shooting; a full range day with junior cadets shooting at 25 metres and firing the air rifle and senior cadets firing at 100 metres and further; an overnight exercise where the cadets had their first experience of sleeping out overnight in a basha in the woods with some heading out on recce patrols to see the area they would be attacking the following day. The last day saw the cadets travel to the reservoir at King's Mill near Mansfield where they had a great day building rafts, abandoning sinking rafts and kayaking. A great few days away, rounded off with all the Form 4 cadets being promoted to Lance Corporal – well deserved after their hard work through the week!



Gold DofE Expedition to Norway

August 2024 saw 15 cadets and 5 staff travel to Norway for our annual overseas assessed Gold DofE Award expedition. This was the culmination of months of training and a practice expedition in scorching weather in the North Pennines a couple of months before.

Following an acclimatisation walk tackling the Saboteurs Path up to the edge of the Hardangervidda – the same route the 'Heroes of Telemark' took as they escaped after their brave acts of World War 2 – the cadets embarked on their 4-day assessed trek out onto the Hardangervidda. The weather was kind and whilst chilly, it was at least dry! The teams worked hard and really enjoyed a well-deserved R&R phase in Oslo, with a moving trip to the museum in Vermork to learn more about the Heroes of Telemark.



Voluntary Action

Voluntary Action pupils enjoyed an action-packed programme of weekly placements, a fortnightly Phab ‘Chill and Chat’ club and two stand-out Service Weekends.

Below: The fortnightly Phab ‘Chill and Chat’ club



October Service Weekend

Over 100 pupils involved in Voluntary Action spent Service Weekend helping in a number of different areas within the local community. Activities included clearing the footpaths of the Oakham Canal, sanding and painting locomotives at Rocks by Rail Living Ironstone Museum, weeding for Oakham in Bloom and collecting and sorting Harvest donations for the Rutland Foodbank.

A group of pupils hosted an afternoon tea party to the residents of the Rutland Care Village, bringing cakes they had baked and providing musical entertainment. Form 6 pupils entertained members of Phab with a movie afternoon on the Saturday and on the Monday of Service Weekend, the annual Harvest Party saw VA pupils host nearly 150 members of Oakham’s elderly community for afternoon tea, with musical entertainment and games.



Top left: The Harvest party
Above left: Rocks by Rail
Above: Oakham Canal Project
From left to right: Oakham in Bloom, Phab movie afternoon in the Odd House, hosting afternoon tea at the Rutland Care Village

March Service Weekend

VA pupils engaged in four different community projects over the weekend. As well as entertaining 63 members of the local elderly community for lunch and a movie in the Barraclough Dining Hall and Wilson Auditorium, pupils welcomed families from the local Phab Club to an Easter Party held at BAFS Cricket Pavilion. Form 6 students ran a carousel of Easter-themed activities for their young guests that included an Easter Egg hunt, egg and spoon races, outdoor games, and crafts. Off campus, one group of VA pupils continued the work they've been doing with Oakham Canal Project to renovate the footpaths on the outskirts of Oakham. Students laid chippings down to secure a lovely route for the local community to walk along. Meanwhile another group of students travelled to Rocks by Rail in Cottesmore with whom the School has a long-standing connection, to paint fences and generally tidy up the area.

Form 5 pupil Charlotte, who helped at the Spring Luncheon, said: "It's lovely to have this experience. It's a bit different and you get to know people a bit more."



We say goodbye and thank you to two teachers who have contributed so much for Voluntary Action at Oakham School. Alison Petit for her sterling work developing our links with the Phab Club and Chris West-Sadler who has run a successful Voluntary Action programme for many years.



Form 2 enjoying a day of rafting
and other outdoor adventures
at Rutland Water

Community

Sports 20 Days 24



Middle/Upper School Sports Day

WINNERS

- 1 Clipsham and Stevens **1296 points**
- 2 Barrow and Hambleton **1220 points**
- 3 Haywoods and Gunthorpe **1130 points**
- 4 Wharflands and Buchanans **1062 points**
- 5 Chapmans and Rushebrookes **944 points**



VICTOR AND VICTRIX WINNERS

- Inter Girls – **H Jackson & L Carr**
Senior Girls – **B Healey**
Inter Boys – **S Upton & M Jones**
Senior Boys – **O Marr**

SPORTS DAY RECORDS

- J Flint – **Senior Boys 800m – 2.06.1s**
J Braddock – **Senior Boys 800m – 2.06.3s**
S Munro – **Inter Girls Javelin – 28.59m**





Lower School Sports Day

OVERALL WINNERS

Peterborough and Ancaster **3040 points**

Sargants and Lincoln **2602 points**

Mixed Winners **Ancaster and Sargants**

VICTOR AND VICTRIX WINNERS

L1 Girls – **B Steiger**

F1 Girls – **B Griffiths**

F2 Girls – **A Peberdy and P Jackson**

L1 Boys – **A Nablu**

F1 Boys – **G Aspinall**

F2 Boys – **W Beaty and M Hazard**

SPORTS DAY RECORDS

B Griffiths – **F1 Girls 800m – 2.29s**

B Griffiths – **F1 Girls 1200m – 4.08s**

A Nablu – **L1 Boys 75m – 11s**

A Nablu – **L1 Boys 100m – 14.8s**

Sargants – **L1 Boys Relay – 65.1s**



Ancaster

Lower School Girls' House



We started off this year by welcoming new Ancaster members with a House glow-up. This featured new bean bags, lighting, and plants in the common room to help make it cosy and relaxing to make sure everyone felt right at home.

We enjoyed success in the Harvest Festival competition with Ellie and Izzy building the tallest vegetable tower (the large carrot on top certainly helped) and Clemmie winning the best receipt prize. In addition, the House won a tub of chocolates for the most donations, which were gratefully received and eaten within a day. However, our success did not stop there; with amazing teamwork across all year groups, we won House Hockey and House Cross Country! This was a great achievement for us as we all worked so hard. We took part in many House socials throughout the Winter Term, such as the start of term BBQ, the F1/L1 Halloween party, and then finished off the term with a fantastic festive Christmas celebration full of traditional games and House family lip sync battles (there was some serious competition and Christmas themed tunes to set the mood).

After the Christmas break, the Spring Term was packed full of many amazing activities that brought the House together in spirit, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The many activities varied from Mario Kart competitions and House socials to House Netball and House Swimming – there was never a dull moment in Ancaster. We worked as a team and tried our best in all of our House matches, and in the end, we won both competitions. Ancaster is having a comeback!

Our social events, which included a trip to eat fantastic Indian food at Sarpech, a F2 pamper night with a Chinese takeaway, face masks, matching PJs and popcorn, all left us with lasting memories of laughter and excitement. The Nintendo Switch was so much fun; we spent many break times playing Mario Kart, Just Dance and Nintendo sports, although we sometimes became a little bit too competitive. On top of this, all the girls in House joined in with a long skipping rope with F2 encouraging their younger Ancaster sisters to join in the game. The sense of joy and friendship in the House created lasting bonds and cherished moments that we will remember forever.

With high expectations and a tense atmosphere for the desire to continue our winning streak after a successful two terms, Ancaster had an incredible Summer Term, excelling in academics, drama and sports. We were awarded many prizes at Prize Giving, for our academics, sporting achievements and services to the School which felt great to celebrate all of our House friends' achievements. The Lower School production of *The Lion King* was also a standout moment. The cast performed fantastically and the musical was so captivating to watch. With so many of the cast from Ancaster – Emily and Georgia H playing Nala; Martha as Zazu; Ellie B as Shenzi; Feena as Sarabi; Alana as Sarafina and all the dancers making up the cast of animals – the girls' talent and commitment are something that we as

a House are very proud of. With continued sporting success we won the House Cricket, Tennis, and even Sports Day! But, of all the events that took place this term, in our opinion Sports Day was the most important for Ancaster. On that day, we came together as a House and supported each other. Everyone took part and tried their best, even if they doubted themselves. Ancaster's House spirit shone brightly on Sports Day, and, at the end of the day, our hard work paid off and we won overall, with Vitrix Ludorum awards going to Bella, Beth, and Alexi. Beth even broke multiple Lower School records in the 800m and 1200m races, which added an extra layer of success to an already amazing day. To finish the term off, F2 enjoyed their activity day of rafting and Rumble, with some fierce competition against PH for the best rafts. Sadly, we now have to say goodbye to Ancaster as we move into Middle School to our new Houses. We pass on the baton to F1, who we know will lead by good example, continuing the House spirit and traditions that we have grown over time. In conclusion, Ancaster has had a spectacular end to the year, filled with outstanding achievements, collective victories, and lots of House spirit!

Written by Elizabeth Bagnall, Alexandra Peberdy, Jessica Warke (Form 2)

“The sense of joy and friendship in the House created lasting bonds and cherished moments that we will remember forever.”





Lincoln

Lower School Girls' House



House Socials

Throughout the year there have been many house socials. Lower 1 and Form 1 dressed up for a Halloween social and we had a fun Christmas social with hot chocolate and sweets where we exchanged Secret Santa gifts. One highlight was the whole house trip out for a curry, where lots of naan bread and curry was eaten while we all spent time with our friends. At the end of the year Form 2 had a day out at Rutland Water, doing raft building and playing laser tag, finished off with a BBQ back at School. In the last week of term, we all had a house lunch of pizza together Out Back with our tutors which was a great way to end the year.

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The girls all displayed excellent House spirit and cheered each other on with faces painted red and ribbons in their hair.

Charitable Events

Lincoln teamed up with Peterborough to host a bake sale to raise money for Comic Relief. We raised over £200 from selling the delicious homemade cakes at breaktime. In June we all participated in a charity walk and cycle round Rutland Water to raise money for Loros. It was a fun day raising money for a local charity close to our hearts.

House Sport

House sport was a lot of fun this year but unfortunately, we came runner-up to Ancaster in all the events. The girls all displayed excellent House spirit and cheered each other on with faces painted red and ribbons in their hair. Sports Day was a highlight of the Summer Term. All the girls got involved competing in at least one event each, with many stepping in at the last moment to help with events even if they had never tried them before.

House Fun

This year in House we have all enjoyed the delicious house breakfasts and some treats of doughnuts and cookies at break times for gaining many rewards. We all look forward to the rewards raffle draw where we have the chance to win bars

of chocolate. Happy Jars were made for each other over half-term in October and everyone enjoyed both thinking of what to get for the person they had been given and receiving their Happy Jar full of treats. Lots of the girls have enjoyed playing Mario Kart on the wii throughout the year and we have also completed many jigsaws together, especially in the winter when it was too cold and wet to go outside at break and lunch times. We have also enjoyed playing card games together, dancing to Just Dance on the TV and watching movies together. One highlight was house bingo, organised and called by some of the Form 2 girls during one of the long Wednesday lunch breaks before matches.

Thank You

We would like to thank Mrs Singhal, Mr Banham, Mrs Sykes, Miss Gilbert and Mr Hartley for looking after us this year. We wish Mr Hartley and Mr Banham all the best as they move to other Houses next year and Mrs Sykes as she moves on from Oakham. We would also like to thank the Gap students – Miss S who left at Christmas and Miss Byrne who joined us in January – they have both been lots of fun to have in House.

Written by Heidi Beeson (Form 2) and Mrs Singhal



Peterborough

Lower School Boys' House



PH was very successful in the Winter Term with our most prominent victory being House Rugby. We had a plethora of rewards coming into the House, meaning the Totaliser filled up really quickly. The Lower 1s had a full term as always but their highlight was the sleepover at the Natural History Museum. The Winter Term Prefect team were efficient in their work and did their jobs well. They were quite busy when doing rewards as there were so many. Form 1 had a great time at Bushcraft in the Form 1 camp. The Hog Roast at Christmas time was AMAZING. In the Winter Term PH really shone and showed what we could do on the sport fields and in the classroom.

Written by Elija Radomilovic
(Term I Head of House)

The Spring Term was a great term of success from start to finish, for example in House Swimming and House Hockey which we won, through great PH might, despite being the underdogs. We have to give an honourable mention to the February PHeast in The Hornblower which, after I had finished my speech and we had left, caught fire. It was a cold rainy term with many hockey matches and with people moving around teams we had to train hard to keep our position and even

move up towards the end of the term. The Form 2s started playing a few games of Xi-a-side to see what we had in store for next year and start experiencing what it feels like and the new strategies because the old ones would not work anymore.

Written by Henry Botham
(Term II Head of House)

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PH managed to retain the 1937 trophy shield for the second year in a row. The last time PH achieved this was in 2001–2!

The Summer Term was an outstanding term across all years with an amazing performance from everyone in Sports Day. PH managed to retain the 1937 trophy shield for the second year in a row. The last time PH achieved this was in 2001–2! House Cricket was an extremely tight match, and it came down to a bowl-off. In House Tennis there were skilled players on both teams and it came down to a couple of points. It was great to see the whole of Lower

School taking part in our annual charity event which included cycling and walking round Rutland water. In Lower 1 they had great fun doing Bikeability and they enjoyed a fabulous residential to Lea Green which put a smile on all their faces. Form 2 said goodbye to the House at the Rumble and Rafts event at Rutland Water. This was a great way to end the year and the build-a-burger afterwards was the best. A new House event that is really enjoyable is 'The Out Back Cup', in which both Boys' Houses compete Out Back in a touch rugby match and a football match to decide who will win the cup. PH were delighted to win it for the second year in a row!

Written by William Beaty
(Term III Head of House)



Sargants

Lower School Boys' House



House Socials

The House Socials have been a great part of this amazing year. One of the best would have to be when we, as a House, went to The Angler in Oakham Town and had burgers as well as fish and chips. Christmas was another highlight with all the street food, hot chocolate, and bags of sweets, all accompanied by some Christmas hits being played. Other enjoyable socials include the ones where we combined all four Houses as a Jerwoods community and had a barbecue Out Back in the summer. We were lucky with the weather, and it was lots of fun.

Charity

This year, we joined forces with Ancaster House and had a bake sale. Together we raised lots of money by bringing delicious homemade cakes to sell to raise money for a brilliant cause in aid of 'Coming Together', a charity based in Shropshire that supports young people with learning disabilities and autism. We received a card from the charity thanking us for our efforts and we will certainly keep in touch with them. Another big event this year was when the Harvest Festival happened. We all got together to celebrate the harvest in the Chapel. We also collected lots of food for the Rutland Foodbank. Everybody was as generous as ever and spent five pounds of their own money on nonperishable items which the local food bank had asked for. In the Summer Term we all enjoyed participating in the Lower School Charity bike ride or walk around part or all of Rutland Water in aid of LOROS. It was a

great effort by everyone in Lower School, not just Sargants House. The weather was not good to start off with, but the sun came out as we got to the finish line.

House Sport

There have been mixed fortunes in House sport this year, but it has been very, very fun and competitive. One thing that has really stuck out is the way the House has come together as one and everyone has done their bit to support. First was the inter-house rugby where we fought a long and hard battle but, in the end, we lost 1-3 overall to PH. Next up was inter-house hockey where we performed well but could not grab a winner. Inter-house swimming was enjoyable and we all performed brilliantly; many people took part and were cheered on and supported by the rest of the House. Following on from this we had House cricket where both Sargants A and B team won with a very tense, nail-biting final bowl-off by George Aspinall and Matthew Irving-Walker. Sports Day was a real highlight. The weather was great and there were some amazing performances on the track and field; there were some personal and school records broken. We did not win the overall boys' trophy, however we won overall with Ancaster. It was a great day full of House spirit and supporting each other. We

will look forward to next year and hopefully get some more trophies for the House.

House Fun

Life in the House has been brilliant this year. We have all enjoyed our Thursday activities, and many of us got to see the Lower School Production of The Lion King, with some members of Sargants playing lead roles. We have enjoyed participating in Drama Showcases and Lower School live concerts in the Chapel too. We have enjoyed the inter-house Latin competition, where we came out victorious. Another enjoyable thing was everyone just being Out Back where we can talk, play sport and have the company of others not in our House.

As some of us move to Middle School, our HM, Mr Williams, is moving from Head of Sargants to Head of Lower School and Mr Sutterby is moving from Senior Tutor to HM. From Sargants, we wish both of them the best of luck in their new posts. The year has passed really quickly, and we all look forward to another brilliant year from September.

Written by Jacob Littlewood
(Term III Head of House)

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Other enjoyable socials include the ones where we combined all four Houses as a Jerwoods community and had a barbecue Out Back in the summer.



Barrow

Middle School Boys' House



This school year, Barrow has enjoyed a wide range of success in sport and interhouse competitions. This success has been made possible by full House commitment, dedication, determination, and teamwork. Barrow started the year off strongly with a win in the Junior Tom Grant Football Festival, retaining the Junior Cup for the third year in a row. The House Steeplechase was also a good day at the "Races" – an overall win with Jack B, George C and Maxie W the first three seniors home and Rufus I in 1st place for the Juniors.

In the Spring Term, Barrow Boys then moved swiftly onto House Hockey where both the Junior and Senior teams won gold – pleasing Mr Denman no end!!!! Showing off the House spirit and great teamwork from all the boys who participated. Just a few days later, the boys put out a show-stopping performance in house swimming, winning every race and coming away with all the honours and then going on to win the much coveted Senior House Water Polo title – sadly, no silverware was presented, so Mr Denman promises to buy a cup for the cabinet! House cricket was the closest and most exhilarating interhouse competition of them all – a humdinger of a final against Wharflands, which Barrow came out on top – Harry G leading the House to victory.

Barrow rounded off the year with

a magnificent team effort at Sports Day. Many boys competed, showing indomitable House spirit as always. The Senior Boys managed to secure a win, the Junior Boys came a respectable third – placing us narrowly second overall to

“the boys put out a show-stopping performance in house swimming, winning every race and coming away with all the honours.”

Clipsham. Not a perfect end to the year, but we needed to let our fellow brothers have a taste of victory in something this year.

Debate – this is something the boys in Barrow take seriously, we won our first two rounds, but failed to qualify for the final, as three doesn't divide into two – yes very confusing for the boys, but heads were held up high for an unbeaten season of debate.

Music has been ably led by George M, our outstanding saxophone player. He is backed up by Harry K on his clarinet. Our choristers Toby J, Alex M and Harry K have also sung their hearts out over the year.

Form 5 boy Jacob M has shown yet again his exceptional talent in being selected for GB Juniors – he is the fastest GB Junior at 50m, 100m and 200m Freestyle in the Country at 18 & Under – incredible! It was wonderful to be part of the ceremony to award Jacob his International Colours Cap. We wish him well in the next chapter of his school and swimming careers. Congratulations go to Maxie W and Harry G, this year's Barrow Confirmation candidates. The Barrow Common Room has a new addition; some wonderful wall art designed by Howie P in Form 6 – leaving his mark on House! Thank you, Howie.

The big charity focus of the second half of the year was our support for Ambitious About

Autism. The boys took time from their Sundays to raise money or raise awareness by doing activities to support Mr Denman's 220-mile cycle ride from Manchester to London. Car wash, 12-hr cricket nets, 22 holes of golf, to 22-mile cycling around Rutland Water and Jack B's amazing 21km run! Barrovians embodied Mr Denman's House spirit and gave of their best for a great cause.

This year the boys have put in some great academic work and effort... It is always great to see Barrovians being SMART in all of their school life. A big well done to Adam D for winning the Arkwright DT Scholarship. Congratulations for Barrovians who won Speech Day prizes: Eddie E, Harry C, Lloyd B, Matthew S, George M, Oliver C-L.

Finally, thank you to this year's Prefects – Nate O, Asa S, Freddy A, Elliot M, Max C, Adam D and our Head of House Jack B – who is simply the best of the best. **Written by Ashley Denman**





Buchanans

Middle School Girls' House



This has been another fantastic year for Buchanans which has been characterised by laughter, joy and smiles. We started the year by welcoming all the new Buchanans girls into the House where they all quickly settled in bringing new characters and energy to the team.

We also welcomed two incredible residents this year, Miss Northcott and Mrs Clithero, who have been kind and supportive throughout, making sure there was no burnt toast and no late nights for the girls! We couldn't be more grateful for their ongoing support and guidance. We also appreciate our incredible Matron Claire, who spent her Wednesday afternoons baking cakes for us all (a highlight of the week after the longest day of lessons). Additionally, we are immensely grateful for having Miss Aherne as our Housemistress; she is always there for us, is incredibly thoughtful, and has our best intentions at heart. Her support has been invaluable, and we are extremely grateful. We would also like to thank the Tutors in House, who give up their evenings to look after us and ensure we are okay.

A welcome addition to our common room this year was a new table tennis table which, since arriving, has been the home of some very competitive matches, notably bringing us together during breaks and evenings. Like every other year, the girls in Buchanans have always approached inter-house competitions with great enthusiasm because, as we all know, the House spirit never fails to go unnoticed! Hockey was where we shone this year, with determination and teamwork, both on the

pitch and cheering from the sidelines, we were victorious. We showcased the true spirit of sportsmanship and brought the trophy back to House. Although we put up a strong fight, we came second in the House Lacrosse tournament and were proud that our energy and passion were evident. Also, a big well done to F4 for winning their tennis competition. The unity and camaraderie within the House have been remarkable throughout the year, from cheering on our teammates, to preparing for a match, and practising for a performance (House Singing Competition – we always have next year!). The House has not only been filled with sports, but we also shone by reaching the finals of the Interhouse Debating Competition. The dedication the girls put into the competition truly paid off, showcasing our commitment to excellence and teamwork.

Furthermore, our House socials and events have also been a highlight. From movie nights with popcorn, Sunday dog walks, Just Dance in the Common Room, to Halloween

parties and Easter egg hunts, these events have brought us all together. They have brought joy to the House and allowed us to make lasting memories that I know we will remember forever. The sense of community and belonging within the House (where we have girls from all over the world) has always been the reason why we love being part of the Buchanans family and we do everything we can to support and uplift each other. The Christmas dinner with Haywoods House was great fun; we have enjoyed all the opportunities to get dressed up and celebrate key milestones throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to express a massive thank you to all the staff and Tutors in House, to the girls, you all made it such a special place and certainly made my last year memorable. You are the ones who make the Buchanans House such a special place to stay. I would like to give a special mention to our incredible resident Miss Northcott, who is moving on to her next chapter. I know all the girls are very sad not to have you in the House next year, as we have all built such a close bond and love chatting with you in the PCR. We wish you the very best as you begin your next chapter. Finally, Miss Aherne, who has done so much for the House and impacted the girls immensely with everything she does for us. This year has been truly special to be able to work with you, and I know the whole of Form 6 will miss you and the House dearly next year as we move into Round House.

Written by Tiantian Hu (Head of House)

“The sense of community and belonging within the House (where we have girls from all over the world) has always been the reason why we love being part of the Buchanans family...”

Chapmans

Middle School Boys' House



The 2023-24 academic year has been a happy and fulfilling one for the Chapmans boys. Boarding life provides a host of great opportunities, and the Chapmans boys have grabbed hold of these at the right time. One such opportunity came along in the form of Inter-house Debating, with the Chapmans dream team of Jean-Pierre DT (F5), Cameron K (F5), Oliver W (F5) and Solomon D (F4) harnessing their combined powers to sweep through to the semi-finals, where their somewhat combative style counted against them when facing Barrow.

Academic success is measured differently by every pupil, but it's important to recognise excellence when we see it. Well done to Solomon D (F4) who was part of the team that made the winning presentation in the Form 4 Project. Following his success in the Maclaurin Maths Olympiad last year, Steven T (F6) found an even tougher maths competition to enter this year (the glamorously titled 'BMO2', the premier senior maths challenge in the UK) and once again performed with distinction. Chapmanians certainly love their maths, and praise should also go to Carson W, Conor B, Leo W (all F6), Lucas W, Justin L (both F5), Taiga S and Ryan H (both F4) for their terrific achievements in the UK Maths Trust challenge. Lucas P and Max S (both F6) received recognition for their success in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, with Solomon D and Taiga S (both F4) achieving praise for their

entries in the Biology version of the competition. Very pleasingly, Max S, Anders Y (both F6), Jimmy L, Jean-Pierre DT (both F5), and Theo A (F3) and Jack J (F3) all had their creative writing published in *Spoken* this year.

Chapmanians have acquitted themselves well on the sports pitches too. The Tom Grant Football Festival saw the much-hyped senior boys teams struggle to convert chances to goals – but admittedly, the build-up play did look good. A more ruthless and pragmatic approach style will be needed next year...

The Chapmans team finished as runners-up in the House Senior Swimming Competition. Terrific swims followed from many Chapmanians, but particular praise must go to Conor B (F6), Benedikt H (F6), Egor G (F4), Oliver W (F5) and Rowley M (F) for getting the job done in style. On the basketball court, the senior boys team went through the tournament unbeaten, recording victories against every House. Sports Day was another highlight, with Victor Ludorum winner Mackinley J (F4) helping push the intermediate team to the dizzy heights of second place, narrowly losing out to Clipsham.

Music and drama involvement was ever-present over the course of the year. Ryan H (F4) and Alex F (F4) were heavily involved with the School's Concert Band, and both played with distinction and poise in multiple concerts throughout the year, including Music at Lunchtime in All Saints' Church. Ryan even treated the whole House to a morning of music when he played his marimba for 50 mesmerised Chapmanians after Roll Call.

In terms of drama, Rowley M (F6) was cast in *Les Misérables* and performed to a packed QET over five evenings in December.

“On the basketball court, the senior boys team went through the tournament unbeaten, recording victories against every House.”

The Chapmans boys enjoyed plenty of trips out over the course of the year as well; cinema, bowling, shopping in Nottingham, sight-seeing in Cambridge, Rutland Water Aqua Park and Rumble Live Action Gaming were all popular, but many also went to support the U16 hockey girls' team in the national final against Wellington School and enjoyed a fantastic day out in the process.

At the end of a successful year, my thanks go to the brilliant House team who keep Chapmans running and in good shape; Sarah, our residents Mr Arnold and Mr Tunley and our tutor team of Ms Stephenson, Dr Headley, Mr Wills, Mr Wright, Mrs Latham, Miss Berkin and Mr Fell. All have offered great academic support and advice to the boys. Katrina, Da, Ryan, Angelika and Kiki have worked diligently to keep the House looking good and the Prefect Team have showcased all that is good about Chapmans through their excellent leadership. A huge thank you goes to Luke F (Head of House), Oliver W (Deputy Head of House), Matthew C, Nikhel M, Rowley M, Lucas P, Askar S and Steven T – all have served the House with tremendous distinction, and we also wish good luck to all our Form 6 Chapmanians as they move to School House and Form 7.

Written by Owen Hughes



Clipsham

Middle School Boys' House



As we conclude another enjoyable year in Clipsham, we take pride in the many achievements and milestones the boys have achieved individually and as a House. This report reflects the vibrant spirit of the boys' camaraderie, diversity and collective growth during the 2023/2024 academic year.

Clipsham displayed exceptional teamwork and determination during the annual Sports Day competition. The ethos of 'everyone does something' was largely observed, and those who went out of their comfort zone can look back with pride in their efforts. The boys demonstrated fantastic athleticism, skill and sportsmanship, culminating in an impressive overall victory, with James F awarded Victor Ludorum 2024. The energy and enthusiasm shown by all participants, whether competing or cheering from the sidelines, created an inspiring atmosphere that truly showcased the spirit of Clipsham. Congratulations to everyone

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The energy and enthusiasm shown by all participants, whether competing or cheering from the sidelines, created an inspiring atmosphere that truly showcased the spirit of Clipsham.

involved, from our budding stars to those whose enthusiasm uplifted their peers!

In addition to our achievements on track and field, Clipsham also shone brightly in the academic arena. All were thrilled with our triumph in the Interhouse Debating Competition. Our debating team of Joe M, Eddie N, Fergus M and Lander L displayed remarkable speaking confidence and analytical skill, tackling challenging topics with

clarity and persuasive power. Their success is a testament to the dedication and intellectual prowess of the boys, and we look forward to nurturing this talent further in the competition in 2024/2025.

Clipshamites were deeply involved in the theatre this year. It was great to see Adam J, Tom J, Lander L, and Charlie P all performing in the Main School Production of *Les Misérables*. It was a great show week, and we cannot wait to see what next year's show holds. Many gained Distinction Awards in their Lamda acting courses too. We are especially proud of Charlie P for his later success at the English-Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition and also his remarkable performance in the Middle School Production of *A Monster Calls*. Charlie was also voted the Most Promising Young Singer in the Oakham School Singing Competition. We can't wait to see how our performers will develop and refine their performances in the next academic year!

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed countless socials which were both enjoyable and inclusive. One that is particularly memorable is when Mr Dachtler took Form 5 to The George Inn for breakfast after completing their mock exams. Another highlight was the Clipsham Fair where there were games to play, prizes to be won, made-to-order pizzas and even an ice-cream van.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Mrs Pound as our new Housemistress for the 2024/2025 academic year. In her tenth year at Oakham, she joined as an English teacher but has extensive pastoral experience gained in her roles as Assistant Head of Middle School and Resident Tutor in Stevens. She has a passion for fostering a supportive and inclusive environment and we are confident that she will lead Clipsham House into a new chapter of growth and achievement: we look forward to her guidance and the innovative ideas she will bring to enhance the Clipsham culture. Mrs Pound replaces Mr Dachtler as he moves on to Canadian pastures new and exciting adventures

abroad with Mrs Hayes-Dachtler. We thank them both for their combined efforts in looking after the Clipsham boys over the last four years.

As we bid farewell to our leavers, we want to express our heartfelt wishes for their success as they embark on their transition to School House for their final year at Oakham. Each of them has made a significant impact on Clipsham House in their own diverse ways. Some have been more noticeable than others, but all, however big or small, are truly appreciated in helping to grow the House in a positive direction. We are proud of what they achieved while they were in House and are confident that they will carry the values and memories of Clipsham with them as they take on new challenges and adventures both in Form 7 and beyond.

In summary, this past year has been filled with triumphs and new beginnings for Clipsham House. Our members have shown resilience, versatility, teamwork, and an unwavering spirit that defines our community. With new leadership on the horizon and exciting opportunities ahead, we eagerly anticipate the future. Together, we will continue to create a house culture where every member feels valued and inspired to find their purpose, give opportunity to add value and for all to reach their potential.

Clipsham – together, we achieve! **Written by Patrick Latham and the Clipsham Boys**





Gunthorpe

Middle School Girls' House



Gunthorpe has truly shone this year, whether it be through our House spirit or sense of community, the girls have constantly tried their hardest in all aspects of Gunthorpe life. Firstly, this has been evident through our victories in House Badminton and House Singing, our song choice of "Don't Stop Believing" inspired the girls throughout the year to throw themselves into new challenges. The key part of this year was the annual Christmas Dinner; whether it was helping each other get ready or taking photos outside of House, the girls were kind and caring in every way. However, the most popular part of the night was the Skits. This year we had an array of performances, through song, dance or acting, the girls covered it all with a 10/10 from us! Likewise, our favourite House event this year was definitely the Form 3 sleepover; collaborating with our Form 6 to host a creative, fun and scary event was truly memorable. It helped connect the Form 3 and Form 6, creating bonds which will hopefully last into the future. Also, a few girls combined for House drama. Although we didn't win, our *Cinderella* performance was remarkable, and we appreciate those who dedicated their time and took part.

On the sports side, girls rugby has truly developed, which Gunthorpe girls have shown extreme enthusiasm for. Whether it be during a scrum or on the sidelines supporting each other, the care the girls have for each other is constantly shown. We want to congratulate Sam M as we couldn't be prouder of your team for being runners-up at Rosslyn Park. We are also proud of the girls for their participation in all sporting events throughout the year – you have shown

“Whether it be during a scrum or on the sidelines supporting each other, the care the girls have for each other is constantly shown.

extreme passion and commitment. Thank you for volunteering and contributing to the House, especially for Sports Day. Thank you to Phoebe P for organising all our sports teams throughout the year.

This year we have connected ourselves to the wider community by raising money through multiple events. The bake sale at the start of the year was extremely successful, with the help of all the girls baking delicious treats. In March, Form 6 led another charity event called the 'Pink Party' where everyone dressed in a pink item of clothing, ate pink food and enjoyed some karaoke and games including our world-renowned doughnut eating competition. This

year we had the biggest turnout in years. We were able to donate money to the End Violence Against Women Charity which meant a great deal to the girls. Overall, we raised around £800 combined with both events; thank you to everyone for contributing.

Furthermore, many thanks to all the staff who work and maintain the House, keeping us motivated and helping us with all our needs. We appreciate all you have done for us. Mrs Dunbavand, the girls are thankful each and every day for your efforts. In addition, it is fair to say that Form 6 will be leaving on a high note; we will miss the girls and staff, but we will be back to visit regularly. Form 5 good luck in leading the House next year. Make the most of it as time goes quickly and keep smiling! Finally, we wanted to thank the Gunthorpe Girls for making our time as Heads of House so special. We will forever remember our time with you, and you will always be in the centre of our hearts.

Written by Gracie Siddall and Olutomilola Akinyosoye (Heads of House)





Hambleton

Middle School Girls' House



Hambleton House has, of course, been involved in so many great achievements this year that I wouldn't be able to mention everything, but I have tried to gather and write about some of the best.

Starting with our success in sport, in the Winter Term we had the Tom Grant Football Tournament in which, to our surprise, we managed to be both the junior and overall winners, taking home a World Cup sized trophy! We also showed great determination and teamwork during House Hockey. The Spring Term was another great term for us as we had excellent participation in netball and won both the seniors and intermediates. Many of the House took part in weekly netball matches at different levels, with Maya playing for the year above, and Izzy N playing for the first team. For athletics many girls from the House were involved in weekly meets as well as taking part in the annual House Lacrosse Tournament. To our surprise, we didn't lose (just)! At Sports Day, we showed great courage and House spirit. Every event was filled, with not only strong performances from athletes, but also great determination from girls having never competed in that event before. The team effort helped us do very well overall, coming 3rd in the inters, 2nd in the seniors and 2nd overall! Hattie Jackson shone, winning *Victrix Ludorum* overall! I would like to mention some individual sporting successes, which may have gone unnoticed. Firstly, in Form 3 Lara took part in many squash tournaments and is very impressively the County Champion! Also a big well done to Hattie, who had continued successes with her running, making it to English Schools for cross country. In rugby, Iona was part of the U14 girls' rugby team who had a very impressive victory at the Rosslyn Park Tournament. Continuing with rugby, in Form 4, we had many girls play at a high

level of competitive rugby, including Maya, Karis and Alice, who played for the Leicestershire county team. Form 5 have had a great year of hockey, where Izzy L, Izzy N, Grace, Millie and Sammy made it to the finals of the Tier 1 hockey competition at Twickenham, coming an amazing 2nd place. In Form 6, Hope's very talented riding often goes very unnoticed, so I would like to take the time to acknowledge her amazing achievements, including only being a few percent away from competing for Team GB in her dressage competition.

“
...in the Winter Term we had the Tom Grant Football Tournament in which, to our surprise, we managed to be both the junior and overall winners, taking home a World Cup sized trophy!

Hambleton has also taken part in Debating this year showing such confidence from those competing, including Eloise, Hattie, Sara and Izzy, who had never done anything like this before. I would also like to give a special mention to Danté who helped organise and coach the whole team throughout, which added to their successes.

There has been lots of involvement this year in drama. Starting in the Winter Term, many from the House enjoyed watching and supporting Eloise, Christina, Aggie, Anna and Maddie in the Main School Production of *Les Misérables*, and it was

amazing to see all the time and effort they had put into it, pay off. Also more recently, the Middle School Production of *A Monster Calls* involved Sara, Maddie, Izzy H, Aggie and Anna, with Izzy M helping with front of House, and Nicole in the tech.

Hambleton House has many talented musicians. One big event to celebrate this year was the House Singing, where we managed to come an impressive 2nd. Out of two! Many girls performed very well in the Piano Duet Competition, with a special mention to Form 3 Maddie, who won in her age category. Evie, in Form 6 won the award of Nottingham Singer of the Year, which is a wonderful achievement. Continuing with singing, I am sure many of us enjoyed watching Simi sing at Big Band, so well done with that!

The Hambleton girls have been very involved in charity this year. We started the year with our annual Children in Need bake sale, together raising over £700. We also had a very successful Easter charity event, where each of us donated an Easter egg, and these were collected and donated to the Rutland Foodbank, which I know was greatly appreciated!

Written by Scarlett Blackman (Head of House)



Haywoods

Middle School Boys' House



This academic year has been an exceptional one for Haywoods House, marked by numerous achievements and spirited participation. Our House has shown remarkable perseverance, teamwork, and enthusiasm, making us proud to be Haywoodians.

Political Engagement

Theo, Henry, and Aidan impressed all in a mock election hustings as part of their politics class. Representing different UK parties, they demonstrated confidence and a deep understanding of political processes. Their performance was highly praised by both peers and teachers.

Debating Triumph

Haywoods were proud winners of the Inter-house Debating Competition. Henry and Dozie displayed great perseverance and exceptional debating skills, securing a well-deserved victory. Their arguments were well-researched, and their ability to think on their feet was commendable.

Football Glory

Another significant highlight was playing football in the Kilburn Cup against Chapmans. The match was a true testament to our House spirit, with all the boys participating and playing with triumph. The teamwork and dedication shown by the players were inspirational, and their victory brought immense pride to both Houses.

Christmas Dinner

This festive occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for the boys to interact with teachers on a more informal front. The dinner was filled with laughter, delicious food, and heartwarming conversations, strengthening the bond between students and staff.

Tennis Victory

Summer was highlighted by our victory in both the junior and senior Inter-house Tennis Competitions. Our team displayed excellent skills and sportsmanship, ultimately emerging victorious against the other Houses. The House spirit was palpable, and the support from fellow House members was unwavering.

While we didn't win in water polo and golf, the participation and pride shown by our players were commendable. They played with determination and represented Haywoods with dignity and respect. These events fostered camaraderie and teamwork among the boys.

The Summer Term was packed with enthusiasm and hard work as everyone geared up for Sports Day. The boys worked tirelessly, and their efforts paid off in several events. Though we didn't win the overall championship, the determination and team spirit displayed were exceptional.

Part of the House activities also featured numerous Tutor meals and outings, providing opportunities for the boys to socialise with their Tutors in an informal setting. These gatherings were invaluable in fostering closer relationships and building a strong sense of community. Every term featured many weekend trips that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Activities such as paintballing, visits to the Aqua Park, and laser tag outings provided exciting breaks from the routine and fostered strong bonds among the House members.

Weekly House Football

Every Thursday, House football sessions are a tradition where the boys mingle and have fun in a less competitive environment. These sessions boosted friendships and provided a much-needed break from academic pressures, contributing to the overall wellbeing of the House members.

Sandra's Amazing Cakes

One of the highlights was Sandra, our incredible Matron, and her amazing cakes every Wednesday evening. These delicious treats were a joy to many of our weeks, bringing everyone together and creating a warm, homely atmosphere. Sandra is amazing and has always been there as a helping hand or just someone to talk to.

Reflecting on the past year, it's evident that Haywoods House has thrived in various areas. From our debating victories and football triumphs to our engagement in politics and diverse sports, the dedication and spirit of our House members has been truly inspiring. Our collective achievements are a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and camaraderie that define our House.

Thank you to Sandra, Louise, Sarnie, Becky, Elaine, India, Mavis, Mr Dryell, Mr and Mrs Ward and Mr and Mrs Gelderbloom for their care, encouragement and above all, PATIENCE!

Written by The Prefect team of Theo Hart, Oliver Marr, Nnadozie Osuji, Richard Tober, Gabriele Spota

“

From our debating victories and football triumphs to our engagement in politics and diverse sports, the dedication and spirit of our House members has been truly inspiring.





Rushebrookes

Middle School Girls' House



Memorable and magical. The words I would use to describe the 2023-2024 academic year in Rushebrookes House. Looking back on the last three terms, I want to express my gratitude to the girls and staff who battled their way through a long year but, as always, each and every one of you continued to shine with positivity. This, as always, raised the spirit of the House to sky high levels, with Mrs Robinson being a Monday morning positivity culprit.

We began the year by welcoming many charismatic and charming new girls in every form who filled the House with laughter and love down every corridor. For many of us, these walls have been a sanctuary, a place where we've grown, learnt, made unbreakable bonds, fought, hugged it out, cried, and most definitely been doubled over with uncontrolled laughter. With the pleasure of being a Rushebrookes girl for three years, I've never known there to be such a close, connected bond across this family and it never fails to surprise me. Our brilliant Prefect team of Davina, Caitlin, Maria, Erin, Abi, Lottie and Georgie have worked together closely to ensure a well-organised but energetic sense of community, from forming new friendships across different age groups to creating outrageous House family competitions. The success of these events clearly shone through, with the excitement of our traditional 'trashion show' with the girls showing off their runway skills whilst in a 'costume' designed by their group, reminiscent of a walking skip and THE egg show, experiencing eggs being lobbed across the Rushebrookes car park in attempts to crack them, whilst dodging the staff's vehicles. We will never forget Matron's fashionable Porsche, rolling in and out of the of car park with such pride, with the shades on and music blasting, a true rockstar! Our traditional Easter Egg Hunt was filled with chaos and madness, with spirits still high despite the cold and damp weather conditions. It was a fiercely contested affair, as we competed for big eggs and small eggs alike.

During both the Winter and Spring Terms, the two debating competitions took place, with Rushebrookes being brilliantly represented by Erin and Abi in the senior competition, and Holly, Sae, Lizzie, and Hannah for the juniors. Even though not crowned overall winners, they made the House proud, with Abi and Erin taking second place overall and the juniors reaching the semi-final. Well done, girls! There was much anticipation for House singing. We took on the challenging song "Rolling in the Deep", which was beautifully sung and harmonized, not once, but twice due to technical issues for the second year in a row. The girls nevertheless smashed it, with the help of our brilliant conductors Evie and Salome.

“Our brilliant Prefect team of Davina, Caitlin, Maria, Erin, Abi, Lottie and Georgie have worked together closely to ensure a well-organised but energetic sense of community, forming new friendships across different age groups.

Our girls embraced the challenge of inter-house competitions this year, showcasing their epic sporting skills, participation, and placing 2nd in the first EVER Girls' House Cricket. We also took part in the annual cross-country run, where at every corner laid a pile of mud, the challenge being not to create a domino effect in front of the whole School. For each competition we wore our fluorescent green tops with pride, making us

stand out like glowsticks and recognisable from the other side of campus. Towards the end of our year, the OSCA Reps organised and gathered care packages with items that the girls from each House Family kindly donated to help families struggling to buy essentials this summer. I could not be prouder of the independent young girls they have flourished into over the past year, and I will forever keep it in my heart how they have taught me to be a role model through the eyes of an older sister. Rushebrookes has truly been a very special environment we have all thrived in and will miss dearly. As our current Form 6 hand over the leadership and the responsibility of the House to our new incoming Form 6, we wish you the very best 2024/2025 year, and we know you will continue to grow the lively spirit of the House. A huge thank you to the girls for their company, giggles, and resilience over the past few years. Rushebrookes will always hold a very special place in our hearts, no matter what.

Written by Arabella Lloyd-Edwards
(Head of House)





Stevens

Middle School Girls' House



Stevens has had another amazing, jam-packed year, full of work, sport, fun and all things pink. The year kicked off with our first boarding weekend, welcoming the new Form 3 and Form 6 girls to the House through some of our favourite traditions: baking, karaoke, and garden games. This was closely followed by the Tom Grant Football Festival, which was very much enjoyed by us all, with some memorable goals by Alice as usual. Winter Term was a busy one with highlights of pumpkin carving, the Prefects' 'House of Horrors', gingerbread house competitions and endless hot chocolate (a Form 3 special). We rounded off the term with our annual Christmas dinner, where we had a lovely Hollywood-themed night with the charming Wharflands boys. The night was very entertaining, particularly the fantastic Prefect performance and the Oscar Awards later in the evening.

After a much-needed Christmas break, we came back to House ready and rested for another busy term, which unfortunately for Form 5, started with GCSE mocks, where their hard work paid off with the success of their results. Form 6 started the term with a 'Jolly

January' dinner, celebrating the new year with the rest of our year group. The Spring Term was filled with many House events. Inter-house Netball was a favourite, with a narrow loss to Hambleton House despite our senior girls taking the win. We also had House singing, after weeks of practice, where we performed "Rule the World" by Take That, with some beautiful solos by Halle, Alvina, Bea and Ruby. We sadly didn't win, but we made up for our lack of tune with an abundance of team spirit. The term also involved a big trip to Kenya for some Form 6 girls, where we visited two schools in Diani, helping to renovate and refurbish classrooms with new furniture and paint. We also enjoyed the beach trips and going on safari, but most of all, meeting all the incredible children. A final, and huge highlight of the Spring Term was the U16 team reaching the National Hockey Finals, featuring seven very talented Stevens girls. The support of the team was incredible, and many of us enjoyed a lovely day down in Lee Valley watching and cheering them on.

We then enjoyed a very long Easter break, involving a lot of revision for Forms 5 and 6, which was of course well balanced with lots of rest and fun with friends. We started the Summer Term with lots of socials, first the Form 5 summer dinner, followed by the Form 6 dinner, then a Prefect dinner. All were very special occasions, to celebrate everyone's hard work throughout the year. We also had a very

successful bake sale for the charity Cancer Research, raising just over £750, most of which probably came from Stevens girls. We have ourselves to thank for the very impressive baking! Sports Day was another huge success for Stevens this year, securing our first win in six years, with Betsy and Lucy also winning the Victrix Ludorum. The Stevens garden was put to good use this term as usual: sunbathing, sports and picnics were a few highlights, but the most memorable of all was our 'Pink and White Summer Party'. We devoured a lovely BBQ from the famous duo of Mrs Roe and Katie, and then moved on to a series of garden games, prepared and led by the Prefect team. This included an egg and spoon race, sack races, wheelbarrow racing, backwards running and finished with an impromptu game of musical chairs which ended in a lot of laughter...and a few broken chairs.

It has been a very special year in Stevens, and the last year for Mrs Roe and Form 6. I think I can speak for the rest of my year when I say our beloved pink House will be very much missed when we move onto Round House, but there's no doubt we will return every now and then to make sure Katie's brownies are as good as ever.

Written by Tabitha Abbott (Head of House)



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The Stevens garden was put to good use this term as usual: sunbathing, sports and picnics were a few highlights, but the most memorable of all was our 'Pink and White Summer Party'.

Wharflands

Middle School Boys' House



The boys in Wharflands have had a successful year in the many aspects of Oakham life. We started the year with an influx of boys into Forms 3, 4, and 5 as Wharflands transitioned from a flexi-boarding house to also accompanying full boarders. The new boys all adapted well to Wharflands life and helped to contribute to some impressive wins in interhouse rugby and the Tom Grant Football Festival.

Whilst sport is always at the heart of Wharflands, we also proudly boasted a win in the Interhouse Singing competition this year to our surprise, singing "Piano Man" by Billie Joel, with the controversial use of a harmonica to add to our performance. House swimming was less successful in terms of performance, however it created a great bond throughout the House as boys put their humility on the line for each other.

Boys contributed to 1st teams in all the major sports, took part in lunchtime concerts and expressed themselves on the stage in the QET, which are all things they should look back on with fond memories and be very proud of. The dedication and

determination of Wharflands boys this year was there to be seen for all, as boys posed themselves as role models in not only the House, but across the School.

The Prefects hosted a cheerful Christmas dinner with Stevens, where the boys were able to dress up in their black tie and experience some wonderful Christmas food prepared by the Barraclough. Christmas carols were sung around the table and a few speeches were made. The night then continued in House with some well-chosen House awards and an entertaining Secret Santa in the 6th form.

Many boys tried their best to grow a moustache for Movember in order to raise awareness for prostate cancer, led by our charity rep George W. Ed D led the food council for all his four years in Wharflands, voicing the opinions from all the boys in the House, whilst also being the sole leader of our ritual DISCO chant at the start of any house event. Archie W was always a key role in the

House debating competitions and Lysander S led from the front as Deputy Head of House. Boys presented with Wharflands House Colours were: Lysander S, Ed D, Archie W, Oliver N and Fred C.

As the end of the year rapidly drew upon us, the Form 6 boys said an emotional farewell to Wharflands as we move on to School House for our final year. Last but not least, we say goodbye to a true Wharflands legend that is our Matron Sue, who retires after the end of a truly remarkable Oakham career. Sue spent 33 years as a member of staff at Oakham, with 17 of those years being in Wharflands. A massive thank you from all of the boys, past and present, to Sue as she completes her 101st and final term at Oakham School.

Written by Fred Cox (Head of House)

“Whilst sport is always at the heart of Wharflands, we also proudly boasted a win in the Interhouse Singing competition.”



Highlights, Heartbreaks & Strong Foundations

Fr Tim takes a look back at the 2023-24 Chaplaincy year.

September October

Get The Party Started*

The first Sunday Night Chapel celebrated the Birth of Mary, with a name that tune quiz and how the tune is tenuously linked to the life of Mary. Bob Marley, Guns 'n' Roses, the Fugees & Pink were all in the mix.

**This song by Pink was linked to the life of Mary as she encouraged Jesus to convert water into wine. Told you it was tenuous!*

Towering Vegetables

Lower School celebrated the Harvest with a family service in Chapel. All of the usual fun: bunting made of receipts full of nonperishable items purchased for the Foodbank, plus the forever collapsing root vegetable towers that send the occasional spud or carrot rolling down the nave.



November

'5 Trumpets'

Houses paired up to lead their own Armistice Acts of Remembrance. The sound of the Last Post played by five trumpets, each at different locations across the School, marking the start of the silence, could be heard in every corner of the school site, from Lower School to Farside and from Schanschieffs to Chapel Close. 'We will remember them.'



December

Christmas at Home for a Change

Last year, carols were at Peterborough Cathedral. The years before that they were online as we couldn't gather for risk of a Covid spike. So good to be back in our candlelit chapel with Lessons & Carols, the perfect prelude to House Christmas Dinners.



January

Johnny

Oundle's Chapel was way beyond standing room only with people gathering outside peering through doorways for the memorial service for Johnny Reynolds OO who died while on his gap year in Australia. Dress code was checked shirts and sport club ties. There were many tears, much laughter at joyful memories as we celebrated the life of this kind and brilliant young man.



February

Shrove Tuesday

Lower School marked the start of Lent with a service of Ashes and the annual pancake flipping competition won by Harry L of Sargants with a record-breaking number of flips.



Confirmation

Presided over by Bishop Jonathan Meyrick.



March

Shine On

Jesus washed the feet of disciples to show that He was the Servant King. As a nod to this the Chaplain polished over 450 pairs of school shoes, the majority of which were DMs. Annoyingly you have to carefully avoid the iconic stitching.



April

'Hide Away They Say'

The Decem Service chose *The Greatest Showman* as its theme with strong messages of inclusion and resilience. These services are always fun and upbeat and this service was no different, but Elizabeth Roytberg's heartfelt solo was exceptionally moving and powerful.

May

The Life of Di

Mrs Di German, our friend, colleague and Oakham 'Mom' was laid to rest in the most beautiful natural burial ground. Where there traditionally would have been hymns, there was singalong 80's pop. Where clothes would traditionally be black, there was a sea of bright colours. Where there would have been tears, she left strict instructions for us to celebrate. An extraordinary lady, an extraordinary life, a fitting and beautiful send off. It was exactly as she wanted it.



June Through the Chapel DOors

The tradition is, and we are not big on tradition, that when Form 7 walk through the Chapel doors after the Leavers' Service that is the moment they become an Old Oakhamian. Among our staff leavers are two absolute champions of the Chapel and Chaplaincy: Sarah Gomm, Deputy Head Pastoral, and Peter Davis, Director of Music. Generations of Chaplains and Oakhamians will forever be grateful for their dedication, faithfulness and encouragement. Sarah for sorting the logistics, literally getting our services moving and Peter for sorting the music, literally making our services moving!

Read our farewells to Sarah and Peter on page 6 of the Old Oakhamian Magazine.



July

Chapel Foundation Stone

The 28th July marked the centenary of the laying of the Chapel's Foundation Stone. A trough made of scaffolding boards and roof slates was filled with builders' sand and at its centre was placed a piece of masonry representing the Chapel's Foundation Stone. Candles were lit and placed in the sand in thanksgiving for the Chapel and those in whose memory it was built.

Giving Time and Raising Money

Raising money for worthy causes is a cornerstone of Oakham School life. The 2023-24 academic year saw the return of some much-loved fundraising activities, as well as the introduction of new initiatives.



Renovating the Canal

A group of Form 6 pupils successfully raised £1,500 during the Summer Term to see their project to renovate Oakham School's canal become a reality.

Adam, Mouse, Norman and Tabby won the 'We are the Torch Bearers' fundraising challenge set by the Foundation team earlier in the year by impressing the judging panel with their vision to revitalise this much-loved part of the School campus and leave a legacy for future generations of Oakhamians.

The pupils raised the money for the project by hosting charity events at Sports Day, CC24, and a Krispy Kreme Sale which was a big hit with fellow pupils.

Work has already started on the project, with lights being added to the bridge linking Rushebrookes to Doncaster Close, as the Grounds and Gardens team support the pupils to make their Foundation Project come to life.



Lower School Rutland Water Walk and Cycle Ride

In May nearly two hundred Lower School pupils, parents, and staff took part in a charity walk and bike ride at Rutland Water, raising money for LOROS Hospice.

Setting off from Whitwell, the cyclists covered the 37-kilometre circuit of Rutland Water, whilst the walkers completed a 10km return trip to Normanton Church. Around forty canine friends joined the walkers, making it a truly family friendly event. Lionel the LOROS mascot made an appearance at the start of the event, providing additional motivation for the cyclists and walkers. Despite the damp and misty start, everyone set off in good spirits and their efforts were rewarded by brilliant sunshine halfway through the morning.



Bake Sales

Over the year, pupils baked up a storm to raise funds for favourite charities. This included Hambleton raising over £700 for Children in Need, Sargants and Ancaster joining forces to raise money for the charity 'Working Together', and PH and Lincoln running a bake sale for Comic Relief.



Open Mic Night

Pupils in Forms 3-7 relished the opportunity to display their musical talent and gain performing experience in front of a supportive live audience at our hugely successful inaugural Open Mic Night held in October 2023 – so much so that a second night was held in 1584 at the start of the Summer Term. We look forward to enjoying this showcase of a wide range of musical styles in this termly addition to the school calendar, which will raise money for our chosen school charities.





Pupils celebrating at the mixed
U15 cricket match on Connected
Curriculum Day 2024

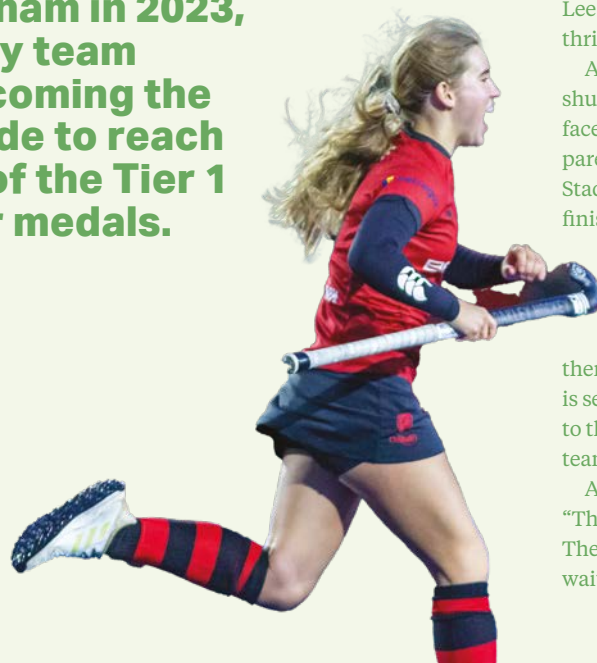


Sport



Dream Team

Perhaps inspired by our 1st XV boys' rugby cup-winning success at Twickenham in 2023, our U16 girls' hockey team made history by becoming the first Oakham U16 side to reach the National Finals of the Tier 1 Cup and claim silver medals.



Whilst Oakham's senior girls' and boys' hockey teams have a long and illustrious history of success in the National Finals, this was the first time an Oakham U16 side had reached this stage. After a magnificent cup run, going unbeaten in 13 games, with 12 wins and 1 draw, the team travelled to the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre for two days of thrilling hockey.

After beating Epsom College 3-2 on penalty shuffles in the semi-final match on day 1, the girls faced Wellington in the final. A crowd of 250 pupils, parents and teachers travelled to the Olympic Stadium to cheer on their team and watch the girls finish runners-up of the national competition.

Director of Hockey, Neil Evans, said: "I am so proud of the U16 team's achievements; there is so much that they can take away from the competition. The way they conducted themselves was exemplary. The team's work ethic is second to none and I put the girls' success down to their hard work and how committed they are as a team."

Assistant Director of Hockey, Alex Cooper, added: "These are two days that those girls will never forget. They have been on an amazing journey, and we can't wait to see what the future holds in store for them."



All-Round Excellence

The team's strengths don't just lie in hockey; the girls contribute to all aspects of Oakham School life – academic, music, and other sports. Six members of the squad also represented the School at the netball National Finals in March; Sammy, Olivia, Betsy, Millie and Claudia are in the U16 team and Issy N played in the U19 team.

Sammy also plays for Leicester FC, representing the U12 and junior age groups, while Alexa, Bibi, Libby, Izzy and Jess play club hockey for Beeston Hockey Club.

The U16 team is led by Fifth Former Grace, who as well as having captained the hockey A team since Form 1, plays the trumpet and sings in the School Choir. The All-Rounder Scholar took the addition of a National Cup Final into her schedule in her stride, saying: "There is a lot going on, but I do enjoy it."

Lucky Purple

As well as their fantastic team spirit, the girls could perhaps credit their success to an unusual item of clothing: purple socks. They had a kit clash in their first cup match against Westbourne School, so Assistant Director of Hockey, Alex Cooper, had to quickly find an alternative to the School's trademark red and black socks. He came upon a stash of purple socks in a cupboard in the Sports Department, the girls put them on, won their game 9-0, and wore them to every subsequent game.



Further National Success



English Schools Cross Country

Three cross country runners were selected to represent Leicester & Rutland Athletics Association (LRAA) at English Schools in Pontefract, helping the team to earn 37th place overall.



Netball Nationals

As well as our U16 hockey girls' success, our 1st and U16A netball teams reached the National Finals of the National Netball Championships. The first team earned an 8th place finish.

Rosslyn Park Double Success

Rosslyn Park Sevens saw our U14 girls play some great rugby, surging through the group stages, and overcoming some strong opposition. The girls came up against strong opposition in the final, falling short by just one point, leaving them second in the tournament but the top sevens team in the country for their age group.

The U16 boys had a fantastic tournament, bringing home Oakham School's first silverware from Rosslyn. Losing one game all season, with a positive points difference of 460, the boys had a fantastic sevens campaign bringing home the plate and proving these boys have much to look forward to in the future.



Bowling Brilliance

At the BOWS Cricket Festival in July, Sophia R took 5 wickets in an innings, earning her a place in the Oakham School history books.



Read about how our athletes broke records and achieved Personal Bests over the athletics season on pages 117–119.



Athletics: Performance Highlights 2024

County Championships Leicestershire			
Event	Gender	Age Group	Personal Best
100m	Male	U16	12.5s
200m	Male	U16	28.5s
400m	Male	U16	1:05.0s
800m	Male	U16	2:15.0s
1600m	Male	U16	5:45.0s
3200m	Male	U16	12:15.0s
6400m	Male	U16	25:45.0s
12800m	Male	U16	52:15.0s
25600m	Male	U16	1:04:15.0s
51200m	Male	U16	2:08:15.0s
102400m	Male	U16	4:16:15.0s
204800m	Male	U16	8:32:15.0s
409600m	Male	U16	16:64:15.0s
819200m	Male	U16	32:12:15.0s
1638400m	Male	U16	64:24:15.0s
3276800m	Male	U16	128:48:15.0s
6553600m	Male	U16	257:36:15.0s
13107200m	Male	U16	515:12:15.0s
26214400m	Male	U16	1030:24:15.0s
52428800m	Male	U16	2060:48:15.0s
104857600m	Male	U16	4121:36:15.0s
209715200m	Male	U16	8243:12:15.0s
419430400m	Male	U16	16486:24:15.0s
838860800m	Male	U16	32972:48:15.0s
1677721600m	Male	U16	65945:36:15.0s
3355443200m	Male	U16	131891:12:15.0s
6710886400m	Male	U16	263782:24:15.0s
13421772800m	Male	U16	527564:48:15.0s
26843545600m	Male	U16	1055129:36:15.0s
53687091200m	Male	U16	2110258:72:15.0s
107374182400m	Male	U16	4220517:48:15.0s
214748364800m	Male	U16	8441035:36:15.0s
429496729600m	Male	U16	16882070:72:15.0s
858993459200m	Male	U16	33764141:48:15.0s
1717986918400m	Male	U16	67528283:36:15.0s
3435973836800m	Male	U16	135056566:72:15.0s
6871947673600m	Male	U16	270113133:48:15.0s
13743895347200m	Male	U16	540226267:36:15.0s
27487790694400m	Male	U16	1080452534:72:15.0s
54975581388800m	Male	U16	2160905069:48:15.0s
109951162777600m	Male	U16	4321810139:36:15.0s
219902325555200m	Male	U16	8643620278:72:15.0s
439804651110400m	Male	U16	17287240557:48:15.0s
879609302220800m	Male	U16	34574481115:36:15.0s
1759218604441600m	Male	U16	69148962231:12:15.0s
3518437208883200m	Male	U16	138297924462:24:15.0s
7036874417766400m	Male	U16	276595848924:48:15.0s
14073748835532800m	Male	U16	553191697849:36:15.0s
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Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
12	7	1	4

1st XV Boys Rugby

The 1st XV rugby team was almost entirely new this year, with only three boys retaining their first-team place from the previous year’s national cup-winning squad. We also welcomed a new Director of Rugby, Mr Harden, to the School, joining Mr Rice. Both were determined to build on the foundations left from the team’s previous year’s performance and grow the strength, depth, and experience of the whole team.

Our pre-season started with the much-anticipated 17-day tour of South Africa, where the boys played five games against St Andrews, Maritzburg, Pioneer High, Paarl Boys and Bishops. All the games were exhausting in the heat and hard ground but proved to be excellent for the development of the team, winning 3 games. After each game we socialised with the opposition, sharing stories about rugby, school and the differing cultures. Off the pitch, we had some welcome downtime, which involved much exploring, a three-night safari, visiting Liv Village, which the School has supported for many years, as well as many steak dinners! It was a fascinating country, and many memories were made that will last a lifetime. The tour is an incredible bonding experience as well as a real Oakham Sport highlight.

Pre-season training brought us closer as a team sparking enthusiasm as we approached our first fixture of the year at Rugby School during their 200th year of rugby celebrations. It seems ages ago now but the buzz whilst getting off the bus looking out on ‘The Close’ still gets us excited. Streaming cameras watched on as we beat Rugby 42-24, a big win to start the season. Shout out to the Sixth Formers starting and coming off the bench to give their all in a tough debut game.

A season highlight was our victory over neighbouring school Uppingham. Winning 22-20 after being 17-0 down after 20 minutes showed our determination, massively helped by the hundreds of OOs coming from far afield to cheer us on. After losing to Stamford in the cup, our focus was on proving our ability to play them again in the schools’ block fixture. The opportunity did not go to waste as we won 17-13 in a big upset against a strong Stamford team. Next was a fixture against Australian touring side King’s Parramatta. Despite losing in this friendly, we had the opportunity to host them in our homes, share experiences and see different rugby formats.

No doubt that some of us will pick up with the lads when we travel down under in years to come.

The final highlight was beating Oundle (11-10). After a difficult week, the boys still put on the shirt and gave everything for one another in some unpleasant conditions. With Howard scoring the winning penalty in the last few seconds, that day demonstrated rugby is more than the time on the pitch.

On behalf of the leaving Form 7 boys, I would like to thank all the coaching staff, especially Mr Harden and Mr Rice, for making Oakham Rugby an amazing experience that gave us lifelong memories and friendships.

It has been a real privilege to be this year’s 1st XV captain. The boys came together when it mattered most, with laughs and smiles most days. I really cannot think of a better group to be a part of. The future of rugby at this School is looking bright and I’m excited to see the future years carry the legacy of Oakham School rugby. Good luck to all teams next year.

Written by Thomas Ross (captain)



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
9	5	0	4

2nd XV Rugby

The 2nd XV enjoyed a season of progression. Building from a tough start on tour against challenging South African opposition, we became a proven competitor with 2 wins against Uppingham by the end of the season. The transformation was largely thanks to the dynamic coaching duo of SDD and TDD who added to the versatility of the pack with former backline players such as Donald placing emphasis on speed and skill as opposed to physicality in the backline.

The 2nd XV also benefited from the passionate leadership of the vice-captain general, often galvanising the team in the pre-match talks with his inspirational one-liners regarding “energy”. Highlights of the season included a crushing victory against Old Swinford Hospital 75-5 where the majority of the team had their name on the score sheet. Another highlight was the successful triangular fixtures against Mill Hill and particularly Bedford. An inspired team performance saw the 2nd XV come back from 10-0 to win 17-10 with a strong defensive set to finish the game. Throughout the season, the 2nd XV gained a number of talented players, such as Raf Mayhew, with his aggressive tackling adding to the strength of the forwards and the kicking skills from Harry G, giving us another attacking option.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable season, and every member of the 2nd XV can be proud of the progress we made as a collective and the performances they put in whilst wearing the Oakham shirt.

Written by Thomas Studdert-Kennedy (captain)

“Highlights of the season included a crushing victory against Old Swinford Hospital 75-5 where the majority of the team had their name on the score sheet.”





Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
8	7	0	1

3rd XV Rugby

The 3rd XV enjoyed a very strong season, winning all but one game. We started the season well defeating Rugby School 12-0 on a scorching September afternoon. The game was won in part due to the fact that several of the squad had recently return from the senior tour of South Africa. One of these tourists, fly half Harry Gilman, played particularly well in both attack and defence, holing up Rugby's attempt to score in the first half. The following fixture saw a convincing 52-0 win against Uppingham. In doing so the 3rd XV continued their record of not conceding to Uppingham since 2017, and not losing to them since 2014. A standout away win against Bromsgrove saw another strong 61-0 win the following week. Scrum half Marcus Peck stood out in this game as he guided loosehead prop Theo Moore from a dummy maul into a gap on the blindside. As did our blockbuster centres, Eric Walker and Finlay Turner, who crossed the gain line on several occasions. Finally, winger James H chased a deep kick and turned the ball over which helped back row Dozie O to score in the corner. A dogged defensive effort followed at home as we hosted Stamford. Stamford scored the first points from a driving maul at the lineout, but Freddie Hunt scored a brilliant try in reply and we went on to win a close game 17-10. Following almost an entire month without a game due to half-term, a 7th Form squad made up of 3rd and 4th team squad players went to Uppingham to play in the block fixture. A shaky performance followed but Oakham managed to finish victors, thanks in part to eventual winner of the Pat Pearce Trophy, Ben Waberski, who scored an impressive pick and go try from 20m out. Special mention must also be made of Wilfie Price, who after being moved from fly half to full back by Mr Edwards, scythed through the Uppingham defensive line and scored the winning try under the posts making the final score 19-17. Three days later we took on the Leicester Grammar 2nd XV. This game saw the first try of the season for skipper Reuben Derry as we marched to a comfortable 46-7 win. We then hosted a strong Bedford side at home winning 23-0, continuing our record of not conceding at home on Farside. Our penultimate game of the season saw the return of Stamford. Our forwards were bolstered by the return of back rower Ernst Kung but our back line was weakened due to the promotion of for of our backs to the 2nd XV including both of our centres and our full back. Stamford were the better side on the day and finished the game worthy victors by a scoreline of 33-19. We showed our resilience, however, by bouncing back with a convincing win away at Oundle which left us with a final points difference this season of +182. On behalf of the whole squad, I would like to state how proud we all are to have represented the Oakham School 3rd XV and how we have contributed to our excellent record. I would also like to thank everyone who represented our fine side this season for their efforts and to all of our parents for their loyal support, especially Freddie Hunt's dad, Stephen, who provided us with oranges and cold water every week. **Written by Ben Edwards (coach)**

“The following fixture saw a convincing 52-0 win against Uppingham. In doing so the 3rd XV continued their record of not conceding to Uppingham since 2017, and not losing to them since 2014.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	4	1	1

4th XV Boys Rugby

The Senior 4th team had a very good season, training well, enjoying their rugby and supporting each other in all circumstances. As usual, injuries throughout the Senior teams ensured many last-minute match-day personnel changes; to their credit they coped admirably. The season began with a hard-earned win against Rugby School before two relatively easy victories versus Uppingham (56-10) and Bromsgrove (57-0). Unbeaten local rivals Stamford provided a sterner test which resulted in a 12-12 draw, George Atkinson successfully kicking a conversion with the last play of the game. A rematch was contested later in the season leading to another Oakham victory. The team easily beat Bedford School before the final match against an unbeaten Oundle team. The match was of a very standard for a 4th XV fixture with Oundle edging it 12-7.

It is difficult to mention only a few players; whoever was selected gave their full commitment to the team and it was a complete squad effort. The half-back pairing of Maxie W and Wilfie Price regularly outplayed their opponents, putting the team on the offensive. Marcus Lo, Hiro Yagi and George Atkinson provided the pace in both attack and defence. In the forwards George H and Paul Polenske both had excellent seasons – they were unlucky not be in the 3rd team. Rhys T, Leo Morris, Douwe T and Aiden (amongst others) were consistent in both attitude and performance, often turning the ball over for Oakham.

Overall it was a hugely enjoyable season, the whole squad listened attentively, improved their skills and rugby understanding and gave their all in matches. They were a pleasure to coach and I thank them for their positivity throughout. **Written by Nigel Paddock (coach)**





Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
8	5	1	2

U16A Boys Rugby

The boys' season got underway in South Africa, playing 4 games across 17 days, and what a trip it was. We flew into Johannesburg and spent two days training at Konka Camp, spending some quality time with each other. We moved onto St Andrews College where the boys narrowly lost deep into extra time. From there, the boys really started to kick on, beating their next two opponents mixed in with some quality safari experiences. Their final game was an absolute thriller, beating Bishops College 21-7, playing some fantastic rugby in some miserable conditions. It was certainly an experience the boys will not forget for a long time.

Back in England, the boys carried on their hard work, starting with a great win against Rugby on the 200th anniversary of William Webb Ellis picking up a football and running. The squad came a long way, picking up new ideas and methods well whilst adding their own bits of flair along the way.

We turned around two results from the previous year, beating Rugby, as mentioned, and Bromsgrove on Doncaster Close 22-12. The season was finished off with a brilliant performance against Oundle in the wet where we came away 27-7 winners. A big mention should go to the four boys who played 1st XV rugby this year: Henry J, Marcus S, Will C and James F. An unforgettable season, both here and overseas. Well done to the squad and thank you for your efforts this year.

Written by Ed Hales (coach)



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
13	6	2	5

U15 Boys Rugby

The **U15As** had a great season which saw significant development and growth especially in their skills and mental approach to the game. The boys found it within themselves to bring physicality to the fore showing huge improvements at the tackle and breakdown. A big thank you to Mr Passey and our rugby graduates Mr Hurley and Mr Joule for all of their efforts and focused training sessions.

The players must take credit for their application and willingness to learn. As the season went on, the boys were outstanding in attack and tenacious in defence leading to notable performances against Uppingham and Bedford.

I look forward to watching this group impress even further in the future.

Written by Glenn Gelderbloom (coach)



U14 Boys Rugby

The **U14As** had a very progressive season. A couple of days of pre-season set them up well for their first game against Rugby School. It was a tough, physical contest with Rugby running out deserved winners. After the boys earned a comfortable lead at half-time against Old Swinford Hospital, they showed a glorious defensive performance to prevent going behind in the last minute. Two games against Uppingham and one against Bromsgrove proved challenging due to injury and illness, however, the boys should be proud of their fine defensive performances. Back-to-back wins over Bedford and Stamford lifted the U14A's spirits, where impressive, flowing rugby was on display. In their final game of the season, the U14As played Oundle. In the blink of an eye, they found themselves 12-0 down. However, two quick scores left things at 12-12 at half time. In the second half, points were hard to come by in the wind and rain. In the final moments, Oundle scored in the corner to win. Although not the finish the boys desired, they have all come on in leaps and bounds and are well set for the step up to U15s.

Written by Sam Wills (coach)

A great 10-10 draw with Rugby started the **U14B** season with a bang. The team's focus this season was simple: win the ball, keep it, and then use it – in that order. After working hard to win the ball, the determination to keep it was clear in the few errors made in possession. Although just falling short, Uppingham at home was a cracker! The boys should be proud of their individual and team performance. Robbo, TD and Greeny with great runs in the forwards and JH and HS proving a deadly half-back pairing.

One thing to take from the season is that never give up attitude. Well done, boys!

Written by Tref Vadoros (coach)

“Uppingham at home was a cracker! The boys should be proud of their individual and team performance.”

U13 Boys Rugby

Core skills have been developed, along with the learning of key rugby values: hard work, selflessness, and respect for others.

The group was filled with extremely talented players, four of whom were called up to play U14 rugby. The **U13As** were constantly changing due to boys from the B's pushing for places. They became more clinical and physical as the season went on, outmuscling almost every opponent. The coaches placed an emphasis on hard work and physicality throughout the year and this came to fruition against Trent at home where each player put their body on the line and worked extremely hard.

The **U13Bs** were competitive, constantly fighting for a position in the As bringing further desire driving the quality in matches and training.

It has been a pleasure to coach this group, and I feel incredibly lucky to have been involved with such a talented group of players. I look forward to watching them develop as players and people.

Written by Niall Hurley (coach)



U12 Boys Rugby

The **U12s'** first introduction to Oakham Rugby was an enjoyable and very successful one. The boys developed their understanding, skills and teamwork throughout the year. They were stretched and challenged by playing across different positions which will benefit them in the long run. Whilst results at this age aren't the main thing, it should be mentioned that they only lost one game which was early on in the triangular tournament at Bedford School. The future is very bright for this team and we all look forward to watching them grow into what could be a very successful squad.

Written by Ed Hales (coach)

U11 Boys Rugby

The team was made up of strong players, like Aloya and Eddie who loved ball in hand, showing outright pace and precision and Ben and Monty who were hunters who locked onto their target, hitting them with gritted teeth.

My highlights from the season were the triangular at home in front of BAFS and an extremely physical end-of-season Stamford Festival where the boys faced two giant teams.

The boys proved what they have learned and put it into action. Strong carries, strong support, great timing of the pass and the off load in the tackle. Solid in the contact, the tackle, and the ruck. Teamwork a coach can be proud of for a lifetime. Well done, boys. **Written by Tref Vadoros (coach)**

1 U12A Boys Rugby

2 U16A Girls Rugby Sevens



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
3	1	0	2

U16A Girls Rugby Sevens

The Spring Term saw a first season of U16 rugby for girls in Forms 4 and 5. After their successful participation in the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens tournament the previous year, a high number of the Form 4 players returned to training and as interest grew, they combined well with the Form 5 girls to put out two small squads in their first outing. The A squad were undefeated in 3 matches at the first mini event at the Oakham Girls' Sevens and put in an impressive performance at Oundle in the Northampton Saints Sevens to win the Plate Competition. As the main event at Rosslyn Park started for the U16s on the last Monday of term, the girls enjoyed an extended trip down to London on the Sunday afternoon and were well rested ahead of their first match in the morning. With a few illnesses and injuries sustained in the season, including right up until the day before, we should be proud of the outcome and the performances the girls put in. As the Form 5 players move into the U18s they will bolster the numbers in the senior team and have another chance for success next season. With the potential for next year's U16 having two high quality year groups combining, it will be an exciting time for Girls' Rugby next year. Well done on an excellent season. **Written by Sammy Hanrahan (coach)**

U14 Girls Rugby Sevens

The U14 girls became just the second cohort of Oakham girls' rugby teams to compete at the international festival at Rosslyn Park. Only four of the 12 members of the squad had ever played any rugby at all before the tournament, so to reach the final and compete so well against some very established teams from the Middle East was an enormous accomplishment. When the team reflect on all they achieved in future years – completing Friday night light sessions on the astro, learning new contact skills in the puddles after netball on Saturdays or staying late after leave-out to squeeze in another hour to prepare – I hope they will look back with incredible pride, in themselves and each other. These girls are deservedly the best U14 girls' team in England, and more importantly they achieved this incredible level of success whilst always acting as shining examples of Oakhamians, on and off the field. I, your coaches and all the rugby staff are incredibly proud of you. Congratulations.

Written by Sammy Hanrahan (coach)



These girls are deservedly the best U14 girls' team in England.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
16	12	3	1

1st XI Girls Hockey

The 1st XI had a remarkable run of form this year. Their unbeaten tour to South Africa in July set them up well for the season ahead, giving an excellent foundation to build on.

A nervy start to the season on a scorching Saturday in September saw the girls overcome their first hurdle against Rugby. Going a goal down in the first half, the girls momentarily thought their hard work in pre-season had not paid off, but their determination, resilience, and persistence to not give in saw them turn the game into a 2-1 victory, and they never looked back.

The Tier 1 National Cup competition saw some long away games. The girls embraced the bus journeys and enjoyed testing themselves against the best schools in the North, whilst bonding well and enjoying documenting their memorable experiences with many a video and photo. Blackpool and Scarborough were the seaside towns on this year's visits, both proving fruitful for the squad.

A close encounter away at Repton saw the girls push the reigning National Champions hard in a well-contested game. The girls lost out 2-1 but put in a performance to be incredibly proud of and one that will stay long in the memories of those involved.

The Oakham 1st XI have dominated their Saturday block fixtures, remaining unbeaten throughout with 21 girls representing the squad over the term.

The indoor season was short and sweet, and again, a year to be so proud of for the squad. After qualifying for the Midlands Finals, Oakham showed huge progress over the two tournament days. Topping the pool, Oakham faced Rugby who had pushed them in their outdoor fixture earlier in the season. Oakham dispatched them convincingly playing some superb hockey to set up a final against the reigning indoor National Champions Repton, where hosts Repton ran out eventual winners to progress to the National Finals. Silver medals for the Oakham girls showed not only their excellent improvement from last year but what a force to be reckoned with against the region's best.

The season ended with two convincing wins in the Tier 1 Cup – 5-1 v RGS Newcastle and 2-0 v Sedbergh. Unfortunately the girls narrowly lost out on progressing through to the National knock out stages on goal difference. This was a huge disappointment for such a talented team but the 1st XI squad should be proud of their achievement this season.

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach these determined and talented young women not only this year but in seasons gone by. We say goodbye and thank you to a large contingent of Form 7 leavers. They have certainly left their mark on hockey at Oakham; and as some famous rugby team once alluded to, many of our leavers have most certainly left their jersey in a better place.

Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, and endless humour, girls. It's been an absolute blast!

1st XI squad 2023-24: Ash Stephenson, Arabella L-E, Coco K, Emma M, Alice S, Fran Benham, Emily Burlison, Orla Frankland, Beth Hiley, Emily Hilton, Daisy Jackson (captain), Ruby Morton, Violet O'Neill, Evie Smith, Hannah Suchan **Written by Katie Long (coach)**

“
The Oakham
1st XI have
dominated
their Saturday
block fixtures,
remaining
unbeaten
throughout.”



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
13	10	1	2

2nd XI Girls Hockey

The 2nd XI girls' hockey team had an outstanding season, led by captain Martha Hoyles. A motivated and dedicated team of individuals, their consistency in training and matches supported a streak of success throughout the Saturday block fixtures. Saturday statistics show 10 out of 10 game wins, with a positive goal difference of 48, the biggest score line being against Bromsgrove (a) 12-0. The team also rose to the challenge of competing in the England Hockey Tier 2 competition, facing various 1st XI teams, with a memorable victory over Stamford 1st XI, winning on penalty flicks to proceed to the second round. Throughout their cup run, the girls proved themselves to be an incredible team, one that challenges other 1st XI teams in the local area and, of course, plays a clinical and competitive game. They should be entirely proud of their efforts displayed throughout the entirety of the 2023 season. Fantastic effort, all! **Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)**



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
9	5	1	3

3rd XI Girls Hockey

The 3rd hockey team were a force to be reckoned with from their first training session. The positive attitude to training and competitive nature of every session set the team up brilliantly for an impressive 2023-24 season. The girls' commitment to every game was unmatched and this paid off with some impressive wins against local rivals, Uppingham (2-0 and 7-0), Leicester Grammar (2-0), Haileybury (7-1) and Stamford (2-0). Some superb performances from the Form 7 girls really cemented these wins and in a standout game against Uppingham, Olivia H scored a hat-trick, showing her class and confidence on the ball in attack. All girls progressed immensely throughout the season in both attack and defence and the girls really bonded by the end of the Winter Term, celebrating their wins as a tight-knit team unit.

Written by Jade Potter (coach)



4th XI Girls Hockey

Squad: Ruby N (captain), Vicky H, Bessie B, Isabelle C, Georgina P, Sophia W, Chloe M, Tabby A, Isabella K, Lulu A, Isabella M, Cecilia P C, Nancy B, Livvy B, Sofia M V.

A huge strength for Oakham sport is opportunities for all! This was certainly highlighted with our truly brilliant 4th XI squad, aka the social hockey team. Throughout the season, all the girls trained hard on their individual skills, listened to key advice and tactical play. They developed into a strong squad. Come rain or shine, every girl put 100% into training and there were lots of laughs. Towards the end of the season Mr Cooper was so impressed he organised a match against Uppingham. This match has to go down in history! Mr Cooper organised for the team to wear 1st team hockey shirts, which the team was extremely proud to wear. Every player did Oakham proud. This was to be the last match to be played by many Oakham School girls as well as for parents/grandparents watching. The team certainly did not disappoint, and they will always remember our final match of the season. Our truly great 4th squad played so well, they finished with a convincing win over Uppingham School. Well done girls on a fantastic season. It has been an honour coaching you all!

Written by Michelle Northcott (coach)



“The team scored 61 goals across the season and went into the National Finals having conceded only 4!”



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
16	14	1	1

U16A Girls Hockey

This team is arguably the best U16A side we have fielded in the last twenty years. Played 16, won 14, drawn 1, lost 1 and that was the National Cup final! The team scored 61 goals across the season and went into the National Finals having conceded only 4!

Many of the girls got their hockey going on tour in the Senior 2nd XI – on return we worked hard to start the season off well, opening up with a handsome 5-0 win against Rugby School. Our next match was trickier, Kimbolton 1st XI away - missing a couple of key players, we had to work hard for our 3-1 win.

As early as Week 3 we could see that we had the potential to do well – the Cup team beat Oundle away in a training game, a side we had lost 3-0 to the previous year. Our road trip to Sheffield in the Cup was memorable winning 9-0. We then went on to beat Bromsgrove 9-0 the following week. Wins in the cup against Trent College 3-0, The Perse 3-1 and a well-deserved if not unlucky draw against Repton 1-1, put us second in the Tier 1 table, taking us through to the last 16 of the National Draw.

Wins against Uppingham 4-1, Haileybury 4-0, Stamford 3-0 and Oundle 4-0 finished off the term’s incredible run of great form – not once have the girls turned up and played badly – there’s been no ugly win! Izzy L in goal was fantastic, conceding only 4 goals in 11 matches. Our defence was admirably led by Issy N – our two screens have been the brains of our operation: Alexa B-E and Grace H. Our attacking midfield were fast, aggressive, and skilful: Sammy K, Liv C and Bibi H were tireless in their efforts to press and drive forward. Our striking force of Besty H, Millie C, Claudia H and Helle – were all extraordinarily good in and around the circle, sharing the scoring on a weekly basis. Molly S and Shonali B played key roles in the Back 4 defensive effort throughout the season, helping to keep the team sheet clean, strong and determined in the tackle...

Our squad was strengthened with four talented U15 players - Annie W, Sophia W, Libby H, and Jessica D all added skill, athleticism and competitive spirit to the cup squad, increasing the quality of the team and giving us better options to make an impact from the bench when rest was needed playing 70-minute hockey. A great opportunity for the juniors, which I hope will inspire them to push for their own National success next year.

The team ethos has evolved as we have gone on, it is now an unbreakable bond – led brilliantly by Grace H. I have never known such maturity, independence, and drive from an U16 team. Player of the season is tough to pick but it must go to Sammy K, for her huge work rate to win the ball back and her speed in attack - scoring 13 of our 48 goals this season: an outstanding achievement.

Written by Ashley Denman (coach)

Read about the girls’ cup success on pages 92-93.





U16 Girls Hockey

Captained by Issy O, the **U16Bs** had a very successful season, winning 5 games, drawing 2 and losing just 1. These included a 6-0 win against Haileybury, a 6-1 win at home to Stamford, a 2-0 win away to Bromsgrove, a 3-0 win against Uppingham and a 1-0 win at home to Rugby. All the girls displayed excellent progress throughout the season, growing both as a team and as individual players, with each and every one of them providing a valuable contribution in each and every match. **Written by Will Hartley (coach)**

What an absolute honour it was to coach the **U16Cs** (24 girls in total, which has to be a squad record!) It was an extremely successful season for many reasons, 4 wins and 2 losses. The work rate in training certainly paid off in matches each week, with notable wins over Rugby, Bromsgrove, and Uppingham. The results have not always reflected the performances, especially when the girls played against U18 sides, however, our girls never gave up. We must remember that the super Cs certainly had some excellent results. Our strong defence led from the back with our key match-day goalkeeper Lara who was inspirational in every match! Her defensive unit was Rosie B, Solange, Cammie, Maisie, Ryewin, Elsa, Audrey, Iwinosa, and Grace. The dream team. Adding so much strength, they certainly saved the day on many. Several of our midfield players continuously worked at full capacity driving the ball to the forwards with pace and determination whilst supporting the defence. Darcey, Olivia, Jemma, Emily, Freya, Elsa, Annabella, Elsie, Francesca, Tahliya are super girls who never gave up. The communication and links with the key forwards certainly were a driving force, especially when put under pressure. Captain Hannah C, Lucia, Ryewin, Isabel, and Hannah opened up many goal opportunities against strong teams. A special mention must go to Hannah C as captain; great leadership was shown in training and on match days. A final mention must go to the Super C parents, our chief cheerleaders! Thank you for your support and huge cheers when goals were scored! It never goes unnoticed. A truly great season of hockey.

Written by Michelle Northcott (coach)



U15 Girls Hockey

The **U15As** had another fantastic season, going from strength to strength. The team started with a strong 2-0 win at Rugby, with both goals coming from Wattie. Strong home wins against Kimbolton and Bromsgrove took the team into half-term unbeaten. A 3-1 loss away at Haileybury was the team's only loss of the year but Reading scored the goal of the season in the process. Outstanding performances at The Perse and Stamford saw two fantastic wins (4-2 and 2-0).

Going into half-time 0-0 in the final game of the season against Oundle, a big second half was needed. Led by Hoyles, the team scored 3 in the second-half, 2 through Carr, and 1 from Grant. This second-half performance highlighted how far they've come over the last two seasons. As a team they should be proud of their achievements. **Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)**

Led by Hoyles, the team scored 3 in the second-half, 2 through Carr, and 1 from Grant. This second-half performance highlighted how far they've come over the last two seasons.

The **U15Bs** enjoyed an encouraging season of mixed results. As a group of girls, they were wonderful to coach and brought enjoyment to each session and match. Led ably by Daisy P, the season got off to a fantastic start with an away win at Rugby. A 1-1 draw with Kimbolton could have gone either way and a hard-fought 3-2 win against Uppingham followed. Penny in goal, assisted by Elena, Anna, Mimi, Emma and Imogen in front of her made for a defence growing in confidence. Through the midfield, Daisy, Annabelle, Felicity, Coco and Jytte were joined by Marni, giving us plenty of options in the middle of the pitch. Sophia, Elizabeth and Holly were a growing trio, understanding how to work together higher up the pitch and create opportunities for us to work the ball into the circle.

A trip to Haileybury with a number of girls missing saw the girls work incredibly hard for a much deserved 1-0 win. The **U15C** team had a thrilling season, playing 9 engaging matches that highlighted the players' dedication and enthusiasm. The team celebrated fantastic victories against Kimbolton, Bromsgrove, and Haileybury, showcasing impressive teamwork and skill. Each game was filled with excitement, contributing to a fun and supportive atmosphere both on and off the field. The experiences gained this year will serve as a solid foundation for continued growth and success in the future! This is a fantastic group of girls who I hope continue to enjoy playing their hockey as an U16 team next year, with a few progressing in their play to push for U16A consideration.

Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)



U14 Girls Hockey

Captained by Lucy C, the **U14A** girls' hockey team had a fantastic season of development since moving to the 11-a-side format. The team saw seven new players come in and the team all gelled and became a cohesive unit. The season started strongly with an away draw against Rugby, followed by wins against Kimbolton and local rivals Uppingham twice. The biggest success story of the season however is the team's run in the U14 National Tier 1 Cup. After a first round bye, the team were drawn away at The Perse. After a close game that finished 1-1, it moved to penalty shuffles. After 5 shuffles each, it finished 2-2 and went to sudden death. A fantastic all-round performance and save by Sam M in goal gave captain Lucy C the last shuffle to seal a place in the next round. Lucy rounded the goalie and capped off an amazing performance. The next round saw a home game versus The Leys which the girls won 3-0 and secured their place in the last 16 of the competition. Sadly a narrow loss to Ipswich School 1-2 meant they didn't progress to a national semi-final, but this is a team to watch for the future. Since moving to the 11-a-side format, the girls have quickly learnt how to use the extended pitch space but also have continued to work on their skill base, ready for further development next season. All in all the team made huge amounts of progress collectively and individually. **Written by Neil Evans (Director of Hockey)**

The **U14Bs** showed great progress winning 3 games across the term, a standout 8-0 win vs Kimbolton, an impressive 3-1 win over Bromsgrove and a well-fought 3-2 victory against local rivals Uppingham. All of the team should be very proud of their efforts this season and take the positives into their next term as U15s. **Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)**

The **U14Cs** had an exciting season, playing a total of 9 games. The team demonstrated determination and sportsmanship, leading to memorable moments on the field. The team secured 2 fantastic wins, particularly a standout performance against Uppingham, showcasing teamwork and skill. Throughout the season, players fostered a positive atmosphere, making every game enjoyable and building strong camaraderie among teammates. **Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)**

The **U14D** team worked incredibly hard on Tuesdays and Thursdays, no matter the conditions! They had some great wins throughout the term, most notably 2 wins over Uppingham and a great 3-0 win against Bromsgrove. The team had great fixtures against Rugby School, winning 1 and losing 1. The girls were a pleasure to coach all year and I look forward to seeing them progress through the School as hockey players.

Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)

U13 Girls Hockey

The **U13As** were an absolute pleasure to coach this season. The girls took part in 14 games and 2 tournaments over the course of the season. A great start to the half-term saw the team win at home to Spratton and Oundle, with a narrow loss to Kimbolton as a curtain-raiser for the Saturday block fixture. The girls reached the final of the Oakham U13 festival, sadly losing out 3-1 in the final. A strong 2-0 win over Denstone took the team into a well-earned half-term break. The team continued to impress in the second half of term. Bella

P, in goal, was outstanding all season, commanding the defence and making some amazing saves! Just in front of Bella, Mollie and Georgia made a solid defensive pair. Georgia would be often seen making a break down the right side. Captain Kinnear ran the show all season, scoring some outstanding goals and changing games! Sophie S, Sophie H and Darcy ran the midfield like a V8 engine! Hats off to them all for all their hard work this season. Our two star strikers were Alexi and Ophelia, both scoring some great goals and pressing well all season! A big thank you to all the girls for their hard work this season! We look forward to seeing you progress into 11-a-side hockey next year!

Written by Alex Cooper and Ashley Denman (coaches)

The **U13Bs** had an exceptional season under the guidance of coach Mrs Nicholls. Competing in 11 games, the team showcased their skill and determination, finishing with an impressive record of only one loss. The **U13Cs** had a jam-packed season, competing in 13 fixtures and celebrating impressive victories against Denstone, Maidwell, and Kimbolton. The **U13Ds** had a short but impactful season, playing 3 great games. Each match was filled with enthusiasm and determination, showcasing the players' commitment to the sport.

Written by Alex Cooper and Ashley Denman (coaches)

U12 Girls Hockey

The **U12As** were a pleasure to coach, showing an immense amount of development throughout the season, growing in confidence and ability. Individuals showed their ability to use newly learnt technical skills on the pitch. The focus of the season was to hone the basic hockey techniques and work together on and off the pitch and develop an overall understanding of hockey. Anabelle exemplified goal-scoring ability combined with looking up and finding open passes; Georgia made huge improvements in the defensive line, gaining confidence with every game, and Safi, tenacious every week, made some incredible and important saves for the team. **Written by Lizza Ryan (coach)**

A keen and enthusiastic group, the **U12Bs** were open to new ideas, and all developed their understanding of how we wanted them to play. All 11 girls in the squad contributed to a successful season, but special mention must be made to a few who showed real progress. Arriving with little hockey experience at the start of the year, Carra blossomed into a front-runner with her athleticism and speed. Martha, Beth and Hollie were excellent, always positive, engaged and enthusiastic. This group has been wonderful to work with, lots of fun and ready to test themselves. I look forward to seeing them progress as U13 players next year. **Written by Patrick Latham (coach)**

The **U12C** team played just 1 match this season and won it by delivering a fantastic performance, where they showcased excellent teamwork and determination to lead them to victory. This win sets a positive tone for future seasons. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done! **Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)**

U11 Girls Hockey

The **U11** girls approached the hockey season with energy and enthusiasm, training and playing with resilience and determination. The most memorable Wednesday fixture was playing at Brooke Priory in their 5-a-side quick sticks tournament, where all players faced a variety of teams, adapting their play to be successful throughout the afternoon. A new team that developed together over the term, showing commitment in all weathers with a smile. Well done, girls!

Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)



1st XI Boys Hockey

For many of the 1st XI boys the season started with a tour to South Africa, travelling the country playing against some of the nation's top sides. The tour provided some great memories and opportunities, on and off the hockey pitch. In the final game, the boys came out 3-0 victors over Pinelands to finish off the tour in great fashion.

The first term offered great exposure in both outdoor and indoor hockey, with the boys set to play four Tier 1 games, alongside the national indoor competition. The boys had success at the indoor zonal rounds, qualifying for the Midland Finals the following week. The finals presented the opportunity to contest with the top 8 sides in the region for a place at the National Finals. Strong wins over Notts High and Trent College saw Oakham qualify for the semi-finals. Sadly, Oakham exited with a 4-1 loss to Repton who were the eventual winners of the region.

As Christmas came the block season soon arrived. The boys faced Stowe away in their first game of the season. With a late push back in Buckingham, the boys rose to the challenge fantastically. An early Fred C goal gave the Rutland boys a lead in the first half. Short corner goals from captain Finn M and Fourth Former Johann T earned Oakham a 3-1 win on the road to start January well. The first half of term was jam packed with Oundle, Stamford, Repton, Ipswich, and Gresham's all before the break. The team had close losses to Oundle and Ipswich by a single goal and drew with Gresham's 2-2. The 1st XI beat Stamford in a resounding 4-1 win at home under the lights in a fantastic team performance. Close losses to Rugby, Bedford and Uppingham concluded the season in the second half of term. A special mention must go to our two Form 4 boys, Johann T and Mattis J who completed a full season in the 1st XI, playing well out of their age group and putting in some fantastic performances.

I'd like to take the time to thank all the boys for their efforts this year in what hasn't been the easiest season. The team have shown grit, determination, and character in some tough games. To the Form 7 departing: Finn, Wilf, Eric, Theo, Felix, Ollie, Mees, Archie, Raf and Magnus, thank you for your services to Oakham Hockey which has spanned many years! We wish you all the best with your next step and we hope it involves some hockey at some point!

1st XI squad 2023-24: Leonardo Balke, Felix Morgan, Johann Thies, Theo Gompertz, Finn Moloney (captain), Wilfie Price, Philipp Schmidt, Mees Timmermans, Matthew Smith, Archie Ryan, Rafael Mayhew, Mattis Jensen, Eddie Ricketts, Jack Wilson, Harry Gilman, Eric Walker, Fred Cox, Leonard Dux.

Written by Alex Cooper (Assistant Director of Hockey)

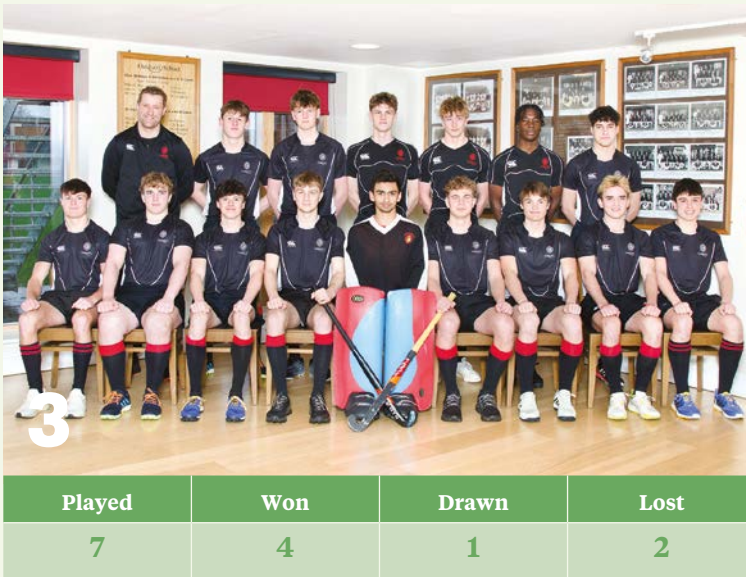


Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
14	2	2	10



“

The 1st XI beat Stamford in a resounding 4-1 win at home under the lights in a fantastic team performance.



2nd XI Boys Hockey

The 2nd XI's season can be summed up in a couple of words: attitude and application. In their first game, they started slowly away at Stowe. However, a solid second half saw them run away 4-2 victors. A loss to Oundle followed, having led 2-0. This was a big turning point in the season, highlighting that plenty of work was to be done on positional awareness and the press. An early evening push back at home to Uppingham saw the 2nd XI put in their strongest showing, winning 3-2, never fading and working tirelessly throughout. This followed with a 3-1 win over Stamford and a 1-1 draw with Rugby. Although the side was missing players against Rugby, the way in which those involved stepped up was simply superb. Unfortunately, a 3-1 loss away to Bedford left the boys a little disheartened. However, having gone back to the training pitch and worked on the fundamentals of the game, they put in their most impressive performance to date in the reverse fixture at Uppingham. Having gone 1-0 down, they quickly bounced back to win 3-1. It has been an absolute pleasure coaching them. **Written by Sam Wills (coach)**



3rd XI Boys Hockey

The 3rd XI hockey season has been a thoroughly enjoyable one, thanks to the positive attitude and team spirit shown by the players. On the pitch, the team showed steady improvement throughout the season. Although results were mixed, there were moments of brilliance, particularly in our more competitive fixtures. One of the standout moments was Conor B's fantastic hat-trick, which demonstrated both his skill and the team's growing ability to capitalize on offensive opportunities. His performance was a real highlight, sparking a strong team effort in the victory against Stamford. Defensively, the boys improved their structure and discipline, and their attacking play became more cohesive as the season progressed. What made this season especially memorable was the camaraderie within the squad. The players supported each other both on and off the field, fostering a sense of unity that was evident throughout. **Written by Ed Hales (coach)**



U16A Boys Hockey

This team started with learning the basics and ended up playing some high-level tactical hockey. After a slow start losing 1-0 away, the boys rallied and came out with 2 very positive results against Oundle and Felsted in the Tier 1 competition. Representing the School in a Tier 1 competition is something to be extremely proud of and the boys can hold their heads up high with some strong and spirited performances. After a string of losses, the boys had to rally again when playing Rugby School in an end-to-end entertaining fixture. It resulted in a 3-2 win with the last hit of the game. All in all, a successful season for a very close-knit team. They were a joy to coach and they worked hard across the entire season for the School and for each other.

Written by Neil Evans (Director of Hockey)



U16 Boys Hockey

The **U16B** boys had a strong season, showing great improvements both technically and tactically as the season progressed. Goal scoring was a particular strength of the team, with notable wins being 5-1 against Oundle, 7-1 against Stamford and 6-0 against Rugby. There was a large squad and each and every boy played their part, showing great dedication to their hockey. Well done boys and good luck for senior hockey. **Written by Will Hartley (coach)**

“ Goal scoring was a particular strength of the team, with notable wins being 5-1 against Oundle, 7-1 against Stamford and 6-0 against Rugby.

U15 Boys Hockey

Coaching the **U15A** boys was a pleasure as they showed much improvement, especially in understanding play patterns and teamwork. The season focused on better goal-scoring and creating more chances by ball possession. Despite setbacks, several individuals stood out: Toby’s selfless decision-making on ball and stick work improved goal-scoring by creating more chances; Felix’s athleticism, consistency and work ethic provided security and motivation; Harry who made significant improvements as an attacker, scored many key goals; and Charlie’s leadership skills helped the team throughout the season. **Written by Lizza Ryan (coach)**

The **U15B** team discovered their ability to compete with any opposition. After a slow start and a defeat to Stamford, some players made a stand and showed what they could do in terms of leading the boys on the field. Their determination and enjoyment led to a victory over Rugby School. In the final game, they triumphed against Uppingham in a close match. Success came from supporting each other and following captain Thomas J, whose leadership was exemplary. I hope the boys carry this confidence into other sports, knowing that with teamwork and determination, they can challenge anyone. **Written by Patrick Latham (coach)**

U14 Boys Hockey

The **U14A** boys trained hard over the Winter Term and pre-season week, starting their 9-match campaign with a 5-0 win against Stamford. They then beat Stowe 5-0 and Oundle 2-0. However, in Week 3, they lost 3-1 to Uppingham, with struggling to finish. The season emphasised training on skills and tactics, showing that hard work reaps rewards. Despite setbacks, including cancelled matches and a loss to Rugby School, they ended on a high by beating Uppingham 1-0 in their return match. The team shows great promise with standout players like Stephen, Felix, and the Ingram twins. Samuel C was also a superb player and we will sorely miss him next season – good luck for the future. **Written by Ashley Denman (coach)**



The **U14B** boys showed great spirit throughout the hockey season, with a balanced mix of wins, draws, and losses. Their standout performance was an early away game at Uppingham, showcasing excellent free-flowing hockey. Will in goal made good saves, while the back line stood strong against opposition attacks. The forward line created many chances, missing only due to misfortune, not lack of effort. A special mention to Taran for his huge progress and stepping up to the B squad. Well done boys, lots of great foundations to build on for the future. **Written by Katie Long (coach)**

The **U14C** team was a pleasure to coach this season, with highlights being a 3-0 win away at Stamford and home victories against Stowe (2-0) and Uppingham (1-0). William and Tristan excelled on the wings, while Felix and Freddie scored several goals. Olly played powerfully at the top of midfield, and Ned, as captain, led well with Guido and Hiro adding speed. All players contributed to a great season, and I hope many continue with hockey in the coming years. **Written by Andy Rice (coach)**

The **U14D** boys had a fantastic season with just 3 losses, thanks to their effort and commitment in their training sessions. After a slow start with 2 narrow losses and a draw, the team won 3 matches in a row, building excitement for their final game against local rivals Uppingham. It was sadly not to be. Players of note include Freddie and Henry who were an impressive duo up front. Hiro and Guido, both new to the sport, were quickly promoted to play for the C team. Barney not only captained the side but was also nominated MVP three times. **Written by Tim Tregunno (coach)**

- 1 U16B Boys Hockey
- 2 U15A Boys Hockey
- 3 U14A Boys Hockey
- 4 U13A Boys Hockey
- 5 U13B Boys Hockey
- 6 U12A Boys Hockey



U13 Hockey

The **U13A** team had a positive yet mixed season, gaining valuable experience. They started strong with wins against Repton, Oundle, and a robust Worksop side. A tough loss to Stamford followed, but the team quickly recovered, qualifying for the Regional Finals and defeating Witham Hall in both 7-a-side and 11-a-side games. This gave them the confidence for the Regional Finals. The season provided many tactical and technical lessons, which will be beneficial as they transition permanently to the 11-a-side format. The boys can be proud of their achievements and progress. **Written by Will Hartley (coach)**

“After a challenging game with Stamford, the U13Bs achieved back-to-back wins against Witham Hall in both 7-a-side and 11-a-side formats, showcasing their progress.

The **U13Bs** had an impressive season, starting with a comfortable win over Oundle and a draw against Repton. Despite a tough match against Worksop College, they won 2-1. After a challenging game with Stamford, the U13Bs achieved back-to-back wins against Witham Hall in both 7-a-side and 11-a-side formats, showcasing their progress. The season included a draw with Bilton Grange and a loss to Spratton Hall. They ended with a 2-2 draw at Leicester Grammar, conceding twice late despite leading 2-0. The team should be proud of their high-level hockey and overall achievements. **Written by Sam Wills (coach)**

The **U12As** enjoyed a great start to the season winning their first 3 games and a very competitive draw with Stamford. This meant they went into the U12 County Cup with momentum and finished a credible 5th place in the county. Two more wins after the tournament and the boys had a chance of going unbeaten in their official season. An end-to-end game finishing in a 3-2 loss to Bilton Grange prevented this, but didn't dampen the fantastic season the boys had. A great team for the future. **Written by Neil Evans (Director of Hockey)**

Although many of the players were new to hockey, the **U12Bs** displayed remarkable progress, particularly in their attacking play. The team was incredibly clinical in front of goal, averaging over three goals per game – a testament to their ability to capitalise on scoring opportunities. Their composure and finishing in the circle were outstanding all year.

The boys worked hard to develop their understanding of positioning, passing, and teamwork, and their efforts paid off with some impressive wins. Defensively, they showed solid improvement, with a growing sense of awareness and tactical discipline, but it was their attacking instinct that truly set them apart.

It has been a pleasure to see them grow as a team, and I look forward to their continued development in the coming years.

The **U12C** boys were a pleasure to coach and showed fantastic development throughout the season, growing their confidence and understanding of play. Key focuses were making positive leads, controlling the ball, maintaining composure in front of the goal, and improving passing and decision-making. Standout performances included Miles in goal, who made incredible saves throughout the season; Albie who made such significant improvements in front of goal, taking chances by the end of the season; and Arjun, whose decision-making in defence and passing out to midfield kept on improving throughout. Well done to all the boys, and best of luck for the U13 hockey season.

Written by Patrick Latham (coach)





Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
19	17	0	2

1st VII Netball

Coaches: Lauren Nicholls, Jade Potter, Louisa Connolly
Captain: Evie S

The 1st VII Netball enjoyed an outstanding netball season and dominated in all performances. The tour to South Africa set the tone for the season, with a 100% win rate in Durban and winning by 1 goal on national TV in Cape Town. With two new girls to the School and several players progressing into the 1st VII for the first time, the girls gelled and worked together seamlessly on court. Their season success began back on home soil in the county round of the National Qualifying Tournament, where the girls progressed to the next round as Leicestershire County Champions. Next came a superb run of performances in the National Cup, progressing through to the fourth round. The girls played against teams from across the country, winning convincingly against The King’s High School for Girls and Norwich School. Girls from Form 5 made their 1st team debut throughout these rounds and commanded the court with impressive performances at all ends of the court. The success continued in the Sisters in Sport Cup, where the team reached the quarter-final, beating Trent College (43-13), NGHS (53-28), Stamford (35-23) and Wrekin (38-37). The round 4 game against Wrekin was fiercely contested, going goal-for-goal for the majority of the game. An impressive performance from Joanna W kept the team in the contest throughout, but it was Isabella N who was able to keep her composure. She scored the winning goal to secure the team a place in the quarter-finals.

An invitation to the Limitless Independent Schools League showed the impressive reputation the 1st VII have built over the last few seasons. The team started the day by drawing to the reigning national champions in a nail-biter of a game. The girls also led against Millfield for the majority of their second game and took a solid win against Wrekin in round 4, making the trip to Worcester University more than worthwhile. Evie S was awarded the overall defender of the tournament and Bella F won shooter of the tournament respectively after outstanding performances all day.

The regional round of the National Qualifying Tournament fast approached and the girls dominated the opposition all the way to the semi-finals, without tasting defeat. An unexpected twist unfolded as the team were pitted against likely finalists, Ratcliffe College, in the deciding semi-final. Despite racing to an early 4-goal advantage, momentum swung in Ratcliffe’s favour, challenging the 1st VII’s grit and determination to stay in the contest. Fearless defence from Fran B and the Smith sisters meant it was all tied up at half time. Superb court craft and patience paid off and in an extra-time thriller, Isabella N stepped up to secure the winning goal of the game. The team rounded off the day with a 15-2 win against Repton in the final to take home the trophy as East Midlands Champions. Charlotte W stole the show in the final, with her creative court craft and clever options in the attacking third.

In the regular netball season, the 1st VII were unbeaten, with particularly convincing wins over Oundle (45-35), Loughborough High School (65-30), Rugby School (39-22) and Uppingham (42-26). The team were challenged by Stowe, who had a number of international players in their line-up, however, the team put their trust in each other and ground out a superb win, with the final score standing at 43-37.



This set the team up for the National Finals Tournament where the top U19 teams across the country battle out for the final time. The team performed with maturity and resilience and ended up finishing 8th overall. This was testament to their commitment and growth throughout the season. For some of Form 7, this was their fourth National Final tournament, an impressive accolade to hold in their final year at Oakham.
Written by Jade Potter (coach)

“ Superb court craft and patience paid off and in an extra-time thriller, Isabella N stepped up to secure the winning goal of the game.

2nd VII Netball

The 2nd VII netball team have been a force to be reckoned with this term. Despite an unfortunate loss in the first game of the season, the squad went on to be victorious in the remainder of their matches. Highlights this season include: fixtures against Stamford (34-22), Rugby School (32-26), and Uppingham School (29-25) were excellent match ups, showing the girls’ hard work, talent, and determination to come out on top. I could not be prouder of the girls’ progression throughout the term, and the maturity and resilience they demonstrated in every match. Overall, a victorious season for the 2nd VII, graciously captained by Clemmie B. **Written by Lydia Musk (coach)**



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	5	0	1



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	4	1	1

3rd VII Netball

Coached by Mrs Orton, the girls were determined and enthusiastic, maintaining an excellent work rate in training and in fixtures. By the end of the season the girls achieved a positive goal difference of 58, with 4 wins, 1 draw and only 1 loss. Their most memorable game was against Oundle, where the team were successful in a 31-4 win. Very well done.

Written by Caroline Orton (coach)



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
4	2	0	2

4th VII Netball

Coached by Miss Northcott, over the term, the 4th VII team developed their strategic understanding, using set plays to achieve successful interceptions throughout court. Their consistent determination and commitment were evidenced by their 50% success rate with memorable wins over Stamford and Stowe. Turning up with a smile, the girls remained enthusiastic and should be commended for their ongoing efforts. Well done.

Written by Annabelle Northcott (coach)

“there were some super performances; slick and fast attacking passages from our shooters and midcourt, and some strong defending from our back four.”



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	5	0	1

U16A Netball

This season was not an easy one for the **U16As**. Over two-thirds of the team were a part of the U16A hockey cup team, whose success rained clashes upon training and preparation for the domestic netball season, and national competition. There was no doubt this group of girls were capable and there were some super performances; slick and fast attacking passages from our shooters and midcourt, and some strong defending from our back four. However, they also learnt that even though sport is a competition where winning and losing are the primary foci, and results the measure of the season's success, it is actually the true essence of sport that goes beyond and is lasting. Time and again this season the team were exposed to the importance of teamwork, the value of resilience, and the power of perseverance; progression through to the National Finals showed this, though sadly we could not sustain the level of performance required to place higher. The team handled victories with humility and had to learn to take defeat with grace. Well done girls, much to be proud of and hopefully a few more seasons for you all to enjoy! **Written by Carly Latham (coach)**



What a truly great season with a super **U16B** team! Captain Millie D, always 100% commitment and dedication to her team. I am very proud of the U16B team especially when faced with playing A teams along our netball journey. This opportunity only improved our play throughout the season with truly great results. Fantastic shooting under pressure from Isobel Y, Lou F S, Jemma M and Liberty D. The shooting circle remained strong no matter what combination was in place. The centre court provided many opportunities to convert Oakham's possession to goals scored. Well done and thank you to Fia S, Molly S and Millie D always ready to pounce onto a turnover and ensure the ball is delivered well to our shooters. In defence, Cammie O, Renée L, Charlotte B and Georgia M worked tirelessly. They communicated well, put the pressure on the opposition and never gave up until possession was gained. **Written by Michelle Northcott (coach)**



U15 Netball

The **U15A** team faced a challenging season with strong opposition. Team selection was difficult due to the U16 hockey final rounds and U16 netball regional and national finals, which took several key players. Despite these hurdles, the team made significant progress and showed excellent contributions and flexibility in playing different positions. The collective spirit of working together and supporting one another, especially when playing out of position, was outstanding. I have every confidence this team will achieve big things next season, and with a full team, success will only continue to grow.

Written by Heidi Cannie (coach)

The **U15Bs** coached by Miss Northcott were undefeated throughout the season, concluding with a positive goal difference of 69 goals. A fantastic achievement. Their most significant win was over Stamford with a scoreline of 24-9. Their success reflects the hard work and commitment that the girls proved in training, throughout tough weather conditions, they were persistent and remained enthusiastic. A very successful and positive season for the U15B team. Well done all.

Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)

The **U15C** girls had a challenging season, having played 6 fixtures competing strongly against very tough teams. The closest game being against Stamford where the girls narrowly lost by 5 goals with a goal for the final quarter. Throughout the season, the girls remained resilient and approached every game with a smile. Well done on a highly fought season.

Written by Lucy Thomas (coach)

The **U15D** team had a stellar season, winning 4 out of 5 fixtures, with the most convincing win being against Uppingham 24-11. The girls have persevered throughout all weathers, showing courage and resilience in training, thus often outperforming their opponents in their Saturday fixtures. Well done to all the players.

The girls have persevered throughout all weathers, showing courage and resilience in training, thus often outperforming their opponents in their Saturday fixtures.

U14 Netball

What a busy and testing season for the **U14As**. They have had many fixtures this term, and despite facing some losses, never lost momentum, turning up to every match and training session roaring to go! Despite injuries, absences, and different starting line ups, the girls got stuck in and clubbed together as a team. I could not be prouder of the girl's progression throughout the term, and the maturity and resilience they demonstrated in every match. Overall, a season full of learning opportunities, and development. Well done!

Written by Lydia Musk (coach)



The **U14B** team have made good progress over the season, developing their set play and game strategy. Week after week, the girls worked tirelessly, coming together as a team to apply their practice into their game play. Their hard work and commitment was reflected in their final match of the season where they took the win over Uppingham 19-18. The girls should be pleased with their efforts, well done! **Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)**

The **U14C** team have made great progress over the term. Working hard on developing their positional awareness and core skills which was evident in their game play on Saturdays. The girls tried to take everything they worked on in training to their matches, whilst also showing great sportsmanship and courage throughout. Their most victorious win was against Stowe with a positive 19-13 feat. Well worked girls, you should be pleased with your growth and progress achieved this season.

Written by Victoria Crosby (coach)

The **U14D** team worked with resilience throughout the winter months and faced a series of tough competitors. They finished off their season with a nail-biting game against Uppingham which concluded 15-15. A well fought draw where they remained focused and driven to perform to their best. Well done, girls. **Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)**

The **U14E** team grew over their season, developing awareness of positioning and movement on court to get around opponents and be successful in the circle. Their greatest success was in their match against Stamford; working tirelessly to show great defensive skills and achieve multiple turnovers and interceptions, they took the win 14-4. Well done, girls, for your continued efforts.

Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)

The **U14F** team worked resiliently over the netball season. Developing their knowledge and understanding of the game, they incorporated tactics to overcome opponents at Saturday fixtures. This team demonstrated courage and connection, representing Oakham with excellent sportsmanship and morale. The team concluded their season with a tremendous win against Uppingham, winning 18-15, a very well-deserved victory. Excellent work this season girls.

Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)



- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 U15A Netball | 3 U14B Netball | 5 U13C&D Netball |
| 2 U14A Netball | 4 U13A Netball | 6 U12A Netball |

U13 Netball

The **U13A** team have had a fantastic netball season, only facing one loss throughout the whole term! Seven fixtures complete, and many team combinations, the girls turned up to each one with their competitive edge and a drive to win. To name a few highlights of the season; fixtures against Spratton (31-29), Oundle (24-22), and Witham (17-15), showed the excellent display of talent and determination the U13As have. It has been a pleasure to work with such a positive, fun, and driven group of girls. Well done on your hard work this season, I look forward to seeing you progress as U14s. **Written by Lydia Musk (coach)**

The **U13Bs**, coached by Mrs Northcott developed a greater level of technical and tactical understanding over the season and used this to successfully intercept the ball from their opponents, whilst also maximising their chances when in possession. They concluded the season on a positive goal difference having worked tirelessly on court in training and matches and with a memorable win over Witham, 14-8.

The **U13C** netball girls were fantastic this season, developing massively over the term by working tirelessly on their core skills and applying this to their gameplay in fixtures on Wednesday afternoons. They faced a series of tough competitors; however, they kept their heads high, remaining positive throughout. Concluding their season with a tight game against Oundle where they scored 12 goals. A very well done to all girls in the team.

Written by Annabelle Northcott (coach)

“ Our final tournament at Stamford certainly highlighted that this team never lost hope. Fine wins in every match and great teamwork certainly ended the season on a truly great high.

U12 Netball

The **U12A** team was fantastic to coach this season. They arrived at every training session with energy and enthusiasm, rain or shine. They were eager to develop as individuals and as a team, working hard week by week to establish game strategy that they could apply to their match play. Taking it in turns to captain the team, they remained victorious throughout, scoring a total of 61 goals in 4 games. Their most memorable game concluded their winning streak by beating Oundle 19-6. It was a fantastic season, and the girls should be proud of their efforts. Very well done! **Written by Charlotte Rogers (coach)**

It has been an enjoyable yet difficult season for the **U12B** team, often competing against strong opposition. However, it was pleasing to see that the girls made great progress, especially with their movement around the court and their footwork. Their most notable performances this season came against Nottingham High School with a solid 10-7 victory and a convincing 14-6 win against Maidwell, finishing the season on a high. The girls were great fun to work with this term and their enthusiasm never faded despite some difficult results which will stand them in good stead as they progress through the school. **Written by Tom Fell (coach)**

This season has been a wonderful journey for our **U12Cs**! Although we didn't secure a win, the growth and teamwork displayed by every player was joyous to watch. Each practice was filled with energy, and our players showed dedication to improving their skills. The spirit and camaraderie on and off the court were second to none, with teammates encouraging one another throughout the season. Thank you, team, for your hard work and determination. I'm excited to see what next season brings!

Written by Ollie Hooper (coach)

U11 Netball

The **U11A** netball season has to be one of the greatest highlights of my teaching career. The team had a challenging start to the season with a few losses in the first netball festival at Stamford School. However, our super team managed to gain first place in the team tea's line after the tournament! Something they were very proud of. It has never been a dull moment with the U11As. Every training session and match was certainly full-on energy and enthusiasm and this was also replicated with our parents supporting this truly great team. Our Bob the Builder "Can we fix it, yes we can" team chant before every match lifted all the players' spirits and ensured that everyone was fully focussed and ready for action. To experience a team that has been determined to improve so much throughout the season has been wonderful to see. Our final tournament at Stamford certainly highlighted that this team never lost hope. Fine wins in every match and great teamwork certainly ended the season on a truly great high. Well done all U11 girls and thank you to our parents for their support and cheers on the sideline. **Written by Michelle Northcott (coach)**



1st XI Boys Cricket

It has been a mixed season in terms of results for the 1st XI this summer, with some memorable wins along with some disappointing losses. It all started with a wet pre-season meaning there was limited match preparation heading into our opening fixtures against a strong Worksoop side. This consisted of two T20 matches which saw some positive performances, particularly from Ollie C, who struck an impressive half century in his first knock of the season. Unfortunately, both games ended in defeat but plenty of positives considering it was our first run out of the season. A disappointing loss to Uppingham followed, however, the boys bounced back fantastically well with an outstanding win away at Bedford which saw an excellent partnership between Harry G and the captain, Will H, who helped us achieve the target set with 8 wickets to spare. The season felt like it was starting to gather some momentum with a comfortable win against The Priory Ruskin Academy in the T20 cup, followed by a superb win in the second round against Uppingham with one of our best performances of the season. Unfortunately, our cup run ended in the next round against Norwich School, however, the performance against a strong Uppingham side was a sign of the capabilities of this team when everything came together. A common theme of this season was being close, but not close enough and this was certainly the case against Denstone College and the two fixtures against Stamford. Both were games where we felt on another day, had we performed nearer to the standard that we had set, the result could have been very different. The Denstone game showed that this team has some resilience and character as we battled back from being 50-5 chasing 250, to 220 all out. This included an outstanding century from Freddie J, along with some great support from the lower order to get us close to the target.

A highlight of every season is when we welcome teams such as The XL Club, The Leicestershire Gents and, of course, The MCC. Another fixture which was added to the schedule this season was our game against The British Army which was a great occasion and a chance for some of the boys to meet some interesting people and learn about life and potential careers within The Army.

The second half of our season saw a few more positive results, most notably convincing wins against Oundle and Kimbolton before heading back to Bedford for the annual T10 competition in the last week of term. This was a great day for the boys as we performed excellently in all 3 of our games against Bedford, Felsted and Norwich to win the tournament and come home with some silverware. Our season finished, as it always does, with the BOWS Festival which was held in Sedbergh this year. The weather played its part and we only managed to complete 2 out of the 3 matches, both of which we lost and thus bringing our season to a close.

Although we may not have had all the results we were hoping for, I believe there were enough positives to be taken which we can take confidence from heading into next season with a good proportion of the side still being with us. I'd like to thank all the boys for their efforts throughout the season and look forward to working hard with them this winter.

Written by Tom Fell (Head of Cricket Development)



“the annual T10 competition was a great day for the boys as we performed excellently in all 3 of our games against Bedford, Felsted and Norwich to win the tournament and come home with some silverware.”



Played	Won	Drawn	Tied	Lost	Abandoned
20	7	0	0	12	1



2

Played	Won	Drawn	Tied	Lost	Abandoned
8	4	0	0	4	0



3


Played	Won	Drawn	Tied	Lost	Abandoned
6	3	0	0	3	0

2nd XI Boys Cricket

The 2nd XI have had a successful and progressive season. An opening loss to Nottingham High School 1st Team by 3 runs demonstrated the level that the team could operate at, performing consistently was going to be key. A 6-wicket victory against local rivals Uppingham followed, with some superb batting on display, with Oliver W top scoring with 60 not out. A 44-run victory over Bedford was a real highlight, having batted first and reaching 126-7 off 20 overs, there was no margin for error with ball in hand. The 2s went on to bowl and field superbly, taking their catches and ultimately coming away with a win, with Freddie T taking 5-5 off 3 overs. Losses to Denstone and Stamford left the boys slightly deflated, however the win of the season, away at Oundle, followed. Oundle batted first reaching 120-7 off 20 overs. In reply, Oakham started very slowly, requiring 9 an over in the final overs. Pleasingly, an excellent partnership saw the 2nd XI over the line in the final ball of the game, with Jack W scoring 53 not out. In their final match of the season, the boys played Kimbolton in a 25 over format. Batting first, Oakham reached 202-2. Kimbolton fell short, losing by 127 runs. Notable performances, Ezrah S, 51 and Alex C 52 not out respectively, as well as, Qasim M 5-12 off 5 overs. It was a great way to end the season, with a strong side and every individual performing well. **Written by Sam Wills (coach)**

3rd XI Boys Cricket

The 2024 cricket season for the 3rd XI was a stern test, not only through the unseasonably chilly and damp weather, but also through some excellent fixtures against some tough opponents. In the six matches played, in excess of 25 boys represented the 3rd XI, with many showcasing some high-level skill and rising into the 2nd and 1st XIs. Captain Finlay M led the team throughout the season, providing top performances with both ball and bat. Will C rapidly rose through the ranks as a tremendous keeper-batsman, scoring 90 against Stamford and Charlie B displayed a similar progression with his fantastic batting performances. On the bowling front, Freddie T put on a fantastic



4

Played	Won	Drawn	Tied	Lost	Abandoned
3	1	0	0	1	1

display in the early part of the season, taking several wickets in the first couple of games, seeing him quickly rise to the 2nd XI. Finn W proved to be a tricky spinner for the opposition, providing many vital wickets in the middle overs of matches. Overall, this season showed a fantastic degree of sportsmanship, integrity and drive from all of the boys involved. With further work and progression, I am sure that all of these boys will see further success on the pitch next season. **Written by Evan Bett (coach)**

4th XI Boys Cricket

The 4th XI opened their season at home to Uppingham on a cold Saturday afternoon. Batting first, Oakham set Uppingham 131 to win, thanks in part to some destructive hitting from Alex G to close the innings. Uppingham started well in response, but Oakham’s bowlers managed to reel them back in with Finn W bowling a good line and length, restricting the runs and chipping in with key wickets, to secure the win by 5 runs.

The second fixture was a long trip down the A1 to Bedford. After winning the toss and electing to field, the team were quickly on the back foot due to a combination of wayward bowling and big hitting from the Bedford opening batters. The game began to turn in Oakham’s favour after the introduction of Reuben D who bowled with pace and accuracy, tearing through the Bedford middle order and ending the innings with 4 wickets to his name. Unfortunately, Oakham were denied the chance to chase down their target of 133 due to a nasty injury to a Bedford player. Whilst it was disappointing that the game was abandoned, the boys were exemplary in their behaviour and the Bedford staff went out of their way to express their gratitude for the support they offered.

An away trip to Oundle ended the 4th XI season. Chasing 141, the boys were all out for 115 against a strong opposition. There has been plenty of progress this season and it has been a pleasure to work with these boys!

Written by Ed Breeze (coach)

5th XI Boys Cricket

A short but fun cricket season began and ended at Uppingham. The cricketers, led marvellously by Ed D, trekked up to the top of the hill to play a T20 fixture. Uppingham won the toss and decided the green wicket was one in which they wanted first use of. The opposition scored 178 with Ollie N the standout bowler with 1-24 in his first ever spell of bowling in a match. There were also a couple of fabulous fielding moments with Jack G the standout nominee for Jonty Rhodes impersonation with a fantastic catch. When it was our turn to bat, Nicholas W and the skipper started us off excellently with the latter hitting it to all parts of Rutland county with 62 from 42 before we lost our way a little in the midst of a tough run-chase. The players held themselves to great account and showed impeccable cricket values throughout. For most of these players, it was the first game of many as a large number went on to represent higher teams and their names will crop up in other reports. Well done to all!

Written by Kyle McDonald (coach)



U15 Boys Cricket

Results don't always give a true reflection of a team's progress or indeed their enthusiasm for the game. The **U15As**, captained by Charlie M, always gave 100% and clearly enjoyed their cricket, continually working hard to improve. Charlie led by example, showing genuine potential as a bowling all-rounder and increasing knowledge as a captain and student of the game. Kai M showed he had the ability to bowl with pace and with improving accuracy he is a real prospect. Charlie N bowled good medium pace away swing delivering consistent performances with the ball. Alex F was the other seam bowler and very much set the standard for others to aspire to as a fielder. Harry K opened the batting with a top score of 48 against Oundle. Harry will, I am sure, develop into a good all-round cricketer. He is a dedicated boy who really likes the game. Toby R has obvious ability with the bat although his potential did not materialise into runs. I think he will go on to be successful as his understanding of "cricket situations" grows. Teddy S scored 60 in the fixture against Uppingham and crucial runs in the win at Kimbolton. Freddie H scored runs at Stamford and bowls challenging spin. Tom R was the other spin bowler who again loves the game and will get better with age.

After an early season win in the cup in a very competitive tussle against Rushey Mead Academy, the boys' season ended on a similar high with a comprehensive victory away at Kimbolton with Oakham scoring 94 runs in the last 10 overs of our innings; an acceleration based on a crucial partnership between Toby J 29 and Josh R 63 (no), ably supported by Teddy S 21, allowing Oakham to reach 144-5 from a position of 50-4 after 10 overs. Other regulars included Lloyd who worked very hard on his game hitting the ball hard and fielding exceptionally well in the deep. Max W and Felix C, an improving wicketkeeper, were the other regulars in the side both making their contributions to a thoroughly enjoyable season. My thanks to the all boys, Mr Roberts and Mr Russell. **Written by Andy Rice (coach)**

The **U15B** team enjoyed a challenging season, not least from the wet weather that kept us off the grass for long periods. The excellent all-weather nets were our saviour, enabling the boys to practise and develop their skills with bat and ball. Perhaps our best performance was at home to Stamford when we had them wobbling at 47-5 in their pursuit of 99 to win, but unfortunately we failed to convert. Leading performers were joint captains William H and Toby J, with Toby's 39 at Stamford being the outstanding individual contribution. An honourable mention also to Angus O, Henry E, Archie I and Finley J, who all worked consistently well, with enthusiasm, to develop their skills.

Written by David Russell (coach)

U14 Boys Cricket

After a difficult start to the season, the **U14As** finished strongly and whilst they did not manage to get that elusive victory, they played some very good cricket. Jack J was the standout all-rounder, scoring an unbeaten 75 against Denstone College and 92 in the final match against Kimbolton. His bowling was very consistent, and he was rarely hit for many runs. We found scoring runs tricky at times, but Felix M's brutal 34 against Oundle, Henry J's unbeaten 39 against Uppingham and Harry B's composed 30 against Stamford showed there is potential with the bat. Ned C led the bowling attack well and took 4-27 at home against Stamford. Ned was ably assisted by Wilfred G, Felix M, and Harry L (playing up a year) and they formed a potent seam attack which shows a great deal of promise for the future. Jenson H was excellent behind the stumps; a very natural gloveman and his talents have already been rewarded with a 1st XI debut. The U14As are a tight knit group who supported each other throughout the season and were a pleasure to coach. **Written by James Hutter (coach)**

2024 proved to be a difficult season in terms of results for the **U14B** boys' team. However, the boys learnt a lot about the game and showed genuine improvements in all areas as the season progressed, and they should be pleased with their general attitude and conduct. While we did not achieve the wins we would have liked, we were competitive in a number of games and, on another day, could have turned some close defeats into victories. This was particularly the case in an excellent game away at Oundle, where we ran them very close, only to lose by just 9 runs right at the death. There were some notable individual performances throughout the season: Rollo S and William W took wickets with their accurate seam bowling, Aston W captained the team with calmness and assurance and scored some vital runs, while Tommy R showed marked improvement with bat and ball, deservedly winning the players' player of the year award. Others who definitely improved their cricketing awareness, confidence and bravery include Taran D, Freddie M and Barney C.

Written by Jonathan Kay (coach)

Lower School 1st XI Cricket

There were a lot of positives to take from the Lower School 1st XI this summer with some excellent results and some good cricket played throughout. The season kicked off with an impressive victory over a strong Maidwell Hall team where we restricted the opposition to just 100 runs from their 20 overs with some economical bowling. A positive start with the bat, led by a quickfire 30 from Matthew I-W, saw Oakham to victory with 5 wickets to spare. This was followed by an exciting game of cricket at Witham Hall with Oakham falling 32 runs short of the target, despite an inspiring half century from Harry L that nearly got us over the line. The team's confidence was beginning to grow which was reinforced by a convincing win in the drizzle over Sedbergh in our next fixture. Unfortunately, the weather seemed to play its part for a large portion of the season and saw a number of games cancelled due to rain. However, the return of Witham in our penultimate game of the season was a thrilling encounter played by two good sides. A heroic rear guard led by Max H got Oakham needing 9 runs off the final over with 2 wickets in hand. Unfortunately, we fell just 2 runs short in an outstanding game of cricket played on Doncaster 1. Oakham rounded off their season with a win away to Worksop led by the skipper, Harry L, whose destructive 72 not out off 45 balls saw us home with 7 wickets to spare. With 3 wins and 4 losses this season, the boys can be very pleased with their efforts after coming up against some strong opposition. Well done all. **Written by Tom Fell (Head of Cricket Development)**

The **U13As** have been a pleasure to coach this season. In the early stages, tough matches were played against Maidwell Hall and Repton, where the boys learned a lot about both batting and bowling; ensuring that they took quick singles with clear calling was key, combined with bowling at the stumps and making the batter play. A win over Witham at home was followed by victory over Stonegate. In both matches, what really stood out was the excellent bowling and fielding. Good lines and lengths were hit and every member of the U13A side took difficult catches. In their final two matches, the boys played Witham and Worksop College in glorious sunshine, continuing on an upward trajectory and more importantly, playing for each other and representing the School brilliantly. **Written by Sam Wills (coach)**



Played	Won	Drawn	Tied	Lost	Abandoned
12	1	0	2	8	1

1st XI Girls Cricket

This summer saw another superb season of girls' cricket at Oakham School. The season started with a tough fixture against Marko Marvels, a senior women's side that resulted in a close game with Marvels emerging the victor by 5 wickets. The second weekend saw Oakham have the pleasure of hosting Marylebone Cricket Club. This was an excellent opportunity for the girls to see more exposure to senior women's cricket and presents a different avenue that they could pursue within the game after Oakham.

Once again, this season the squad were superb, approaching every training session and game with an attitude that made them a pleasure to coach. This was reflected in their performance against Leicester Grammar that resulted in a 92-run win and featured a superb effort with both bat and ball. Although further wins seemed to evade the squad as the season progressed, their attitude never diminished, at times getting in good positions to win but not quite able to get over the line.

The end of the season bought the second girls' BOWS cricket tournament, with the team heading away to Wellington College for three games of cricket inside two days! After a tough defeat on the first day to the hosts, the girls rallied brilliantly to produce two excellent team performances on the second day, with notable 50s scored in both innings by Rosie S-Y! The tournament also saw a first in Oakhamian girls' cricket, with Sophia R taking 5 wickets for just 19 runs against Sedbergh School to record the first ever occurrence of a 5-wicket haul in senior girls' cricket!

It has been an absolute pleasure for Miss Pearson and me to coach the team this summer, where they have shown a brilliant level of application and enthusiasm for the game. **Written by Josh Arnold (coach)**

“this season the squad were superb. This was reflected in their performance against Leicester Grammar that resulted in a 92-run win.”





U15 Girls Cricket

A number of the girls in this age group had impressed the Girls' 1st XI Coaches, Mr Arnold and Ms Pearson, enough to deservedly be drafted into the Girls' 1st XI for the majority of the season. Although this left the team light on experience at this level, it also provided opportunities for girls from the U15B Team to move into the A Team and impress.

Our first game of the season at home to Uppingham in defence of our Leicestershire Schools Cup ended in a close defeat, which highlighted the girls' inexperience of game management knowledge, but showed me enough that I had a team that would learn fast.

They bounced back with a convincing win against Leicester Grammar by 9 wickets, which seemed to follow suit for the rest of the summer, with good wins and avoidable losses if they had more experience.

We ended the season on a high with a 6-wicket win at Kimbolton, which I hope will leave the girls feeling positive about their summer of cricket.

The girls' enthusiasm will ensure they come back next season with renewed vigour, and with a well-attended winter programme, will hold them in good stead for 2025.

Written by Mark Hudson (coach)



U13 Girls Cricket

It was a season of learning for the U13 girls' cricket team, but the number of girls involved in the sport at Oakham is a great sign for the future. 10 fixtures were played in total, with wins coming against Copthill and Stonegate. The commitment the girls showed was reflected in the improvements they have made across the term, both in terms of their technique and understanding of the game. The team has been made up of all year groups in the Lower School, and it was particularly brilliant to see Lower 1 students Ellie P and Darcey B-J step up and play against much older students for the A team. The team was led expertly by Form 2 students Emily K and Bella P, who showed great leadership to encourage the team around them as well as lead the way with their bowling and batting, a particular highlight being Emily scoring 50 against Stamford. It was a good season and good luck to all of the girls in their cricket next year, especially the Form 2 girls in their step up to the Middle School. **Written by Will Hartley (coach)**

Athletics Legends

We say goodbye to some genuine legends but here we focus on just three of the best.



Fabian Powell

Fabian is Oakham's speed merchant. Super-fast on the track, so fast we don't even see him. He is now the proud School Record holder for the 100m in a time of 10.6s and the 200m in a time of 20.8s. More importantly Fabian is the New English Schools 200m Champion, who has set the fastest ever 200m time at this event since records began. From day one he has set his sights

on sprinting at English Schools, and he has achieved that every year. Fabian's athletics drive at Oakham began in 2020 in Wharflands in F3. Although hindered by the onset of the Covid pandemic, he made use of whatever opportunity was available. In the summer of 2020, he achieved two Number 1 UK rankings in two different disciplines. He broke Evan Blackman's Oakham U14 Boys 300m record, 36.06s, and ran a time of 11.16s in Doncaster to secure a top UK rank in the 100m.

In 2021, Fabian secured top times in 100m (10.97s, ranked 12th), 200m (22.7s, ranked 39) but realised the competition was only getting harder and the need for more speed to stay in the game was the key to success. The demand for more work, harder work and more sacrifice was the only way. This same year Fabian was part of the very successful 100m, 200m and 400m Oakham U17 Boys Achilles Relay Team. They won the 100m (43.8s) breaking the School and Achilles Records and although they only came 2nd in the 200m and 400m, both races set new School Records for those distances. In 2022, Fabian won the Gold for the U17 Inter Boys 100m to be crowned County Champion. His top 100m time was 11.07s (ranked 32) and his 200m time 22.67s (ranked 44).

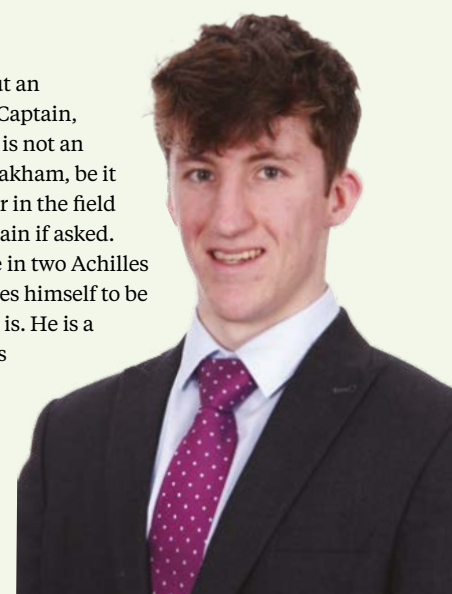
In 2023, Fabian's light began to shine. Perseverance was paying off. It began with a bang at the Loughborough Open – 100m in 10.72s and he equalled the School 100m Record. Here he knocked huge chunks off his PBs. Half a second in his 100m (10.7s, ranked 15) and more than a second in the 200m (21.6s, ranked 13). What a year indeed.

Birmingham, English Schools at Alexander International featured Fabian fighting hard for, not just success, but the winds on the 100m straight. Fabian earned 2nd place in his heat in a time of 11.2s against a head wind of -3.7. Not a friend for any runner, especially a sprinter determined to prove himself. It was a real dampener to his year, but being knocked down and then getting up is just what Fabian is made for.

This year, 2024, Fabian set his sights on superseding this target, not just to race in the finals of English Schools but to represent Great Britain and we look forward to what this achievement brings. Magic at the Olympic Trials, with a 10.6s in his back pocket and a ranking of 4th in the UK, being a typical Powell... knows he can do better. Hence a historic effort at English Schools, round the bend and up the home straight for the perfect 200m, Number 1 in a time of 20.8s.

Archie Ryan

Archie is an athlete with a difference but an athlete through and through. As Team Captain, he leads his army from the front. There is not an event he has not done in his career at Oakham, be it on the track from the 100m to 1500m, or in the field jumping or throwing. He would do it again if asked. Archie has competed as a senior athlete in two Achilles competitions. He is someone who pushes himself to be his best in everything no matter what it is. He is a team player and wants his team to be its best too. He is driven and determined. Watching him run with a fight in every step, every throw, and every jump. Archie will leave a huge hole behind that will take a whole team to fill when he is gone.



Annie-May Cannings

Team Captain Annie-May has had a superb track season, she has been a committed member of the speed endurance training group, where she has chased the boys on a weekly basis, and regularly beats the Head Boy. Annie has led from the front and the highlight of her time at Oakham, proving hard work always pays, is winning back-to-back medals for the Mixed 4x 400m Relay at the National Achilles Relays ('23 & '24). But it doesn't stop there. Annie-May represented Rutland at the County Championships and proved the impossible, qualifying for English Schools in not just the 400m but the 200m too! There is no stopping this girl. We are so pleased for her that she broke 60 seconds for 400m at the Rugby School meet, which is a benchmark time to go under. Annie-May has been a stalwart member of the Athletics team, she is incredibly tough and determined; both will serve her well in her future life. We wish Annie-May the very best, she will be missed. She has nagged Mr D to say: Yes, she is his favourite Canning!

Written by Tref Vandroos
(Director of Athletics)



Athletics: Performance Highlights 2024

Power of 10 Championships

Fabian Powell - U20 Boys
100m – 10.6s Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships 12 May (NEW SCHOOL RECORD) UK RANK 4
200m – 21.26s Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships 12 May (NEW SCHOOL RECORD)
200m – 21.23s Be Fit Today TA Outdoor Series 2 Lee Valley 23 June (NEW SCHOOL RECORD) UK RANK 3

Lloyd Blackman - U17 Boys
100m – 11.6s Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships
200m – 23.6s Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships
400m – 53.3s Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships

William Griffiths - U17 Boys
800m – 2.13m Northamptonshire County Championships inc. Leicestershire & Rutland Championships
1500m – 4.29m Leicestershire & Rutland County Schools Championships

Hattie Jackson- U15 Girls
Multi Event Pentathlon – Placed 2nd 2,155 Points Northamptonshire and Leicestershire & Rutland Schools Combined Events Championships
Multi Event Pentathlon – Placed 4 2,259 Points Midland Counties Senior & U20 Championships inc. U17/U15 Combined Events UK Rank 75

Beth Griffiths- U13 Girls
1500m – 5.006m Charnwood AC Opens UK Rank 13

7 New School Records 2024

Senior 100m & 200m – Fabian Powell 100m 10.6s, 200m 20.8s
Mixed 4x400m – 3.47.3m D Osuji, J Braddock, A-M Cannings, Betsy Healey

Junior Boys	Triple Jump -12.30m Stephen Upton
Junior Girls	100m -12.05s H Flint 200m -25.05 G Flint 800m -2.23.3m H Jackson 1500m- 5.01.95m H Jackson

County Championships Loughborough: Representing Rutland: 40 Athletes, 17 Gold, 10 Silver, 4 Bronze

Under 13 Girls	
G Debenham	200m 29.6s 2nd
A Williams	200m 30.7s 6th
A Robinson	800m 2.49m 4th
B Griffiths	1200m 4.06m 1st
H Hobill	Shot 7.09m 1st
Relay	57.2s 2nd

Junior Girls	
G Flint	200m 26s 1st
M Gowling	300m 46.1s 3rd
I Skins	800m 3.04 12th
L Carr	Hurdles 12.87s 2nd
G Hall	Hurdles 15.16s 5th
F Lloyd	Long Jump 4.50m 1st
A Peberdy	Javelin 17.33m 5th
Relay	53.4s 1st

Inter Girls	
S Kaczmar	100m 12.5s 1st
A Windham	1500m 6.03m 5th
C Hill	Hurdles 13.7s 2nd
S Rice	Triple Jump 8.60m 2nd

Senior Girls	
S Blackman	100m 13.6s 1st Shot 7.70m 1st Hurdles 18.4s 1st
A-M Cannings	200m 26.0s 1st 400m 58.5s 1st
E Salome	Shot 19.1m 1st Discus 6.77m 2nd

Under 13 Boys	
A Nablu	200m 29.89s 11th
J White	800m 2.35m 4th
T Swann	800m 2.51m 12th
G Aspinall	1500m 5.10m 3rd
Relay	55.4s 2nd

Junior Boys	
T Ryan	100m 12.6s 9th
J Passey	300m 40.16s 4th
T Botham	800m 2.22m 8th
J Roberts	Hurdles 14.6s 6th
S Chou	High Jump 1.50m 4th
S Upton	Triple Jump 12.25m (SR) 1st
H Botham	Discus 20.8m 7th
Relay	48.8s 1st

Inter Boys	
L Blackman	200m 23.8s 3rd
J Flint	400m 52.1s 1st
W Griffiths	1500m 4.30m 3rd
S Jacklin	High Jump 1.70m 2nd
F Hobill	Shot 10.30m 1st
I Krutkov	Discus 26.6m 1st

Senior Boys	
D Osuji	400m 52.6s 2nd Triple Jump 11.43m 2nd

English Schools Selection

Another truly inspirational day, where athletes from Leicester & Rutland and specifically Oakham School, set the stage alight. Massive efforts made by Kaczmar and Flint on the track, and Upton in the field. The pressure of the day is always a contender, for it can boost an athlete as they thrive in the environment, or it can take a hold of them and anchor them to the ground. Regardless of the outcome, we must recognise the awesome achievement made by all our athletes and the hard work that they have put into making such an opportunity happen.

We must also, however, recognise excellence. S Kaczmar achieved a PB in her IG 100m and G Flint made it through to the finals of the JG 200m. F Powell finished our sporting weekend with a 'flash of brilliance', pushing himself beyond his own belief and conquering the Senior Boys 200m in a Championship Record Time of 20.8s. Yes, if you blinked, he was finished. The race of his life was over before it began, and for the first time there was immense emotion within him having realised his achievement. An outstanding finish to a weekend of brilliance.

F Powell Senior Boys 200m – 1st in heat 21.76s, 1st Place Gold Medal, School & Championship Record of 20.8s

A-M Cannings Senior Girls 400m – DNC due to illness

J Flint Inter Boys 400m – 6th place in his heat in 51.83s

S Kaczmar Inter Girls 100m – 7th place in her heat, PB of 12.45s

S Upton Junior Boys Triple Jump – 9th place with a jump of 11.83m

G Flint Junior Girls 200m – 3rd in heat 26.2s, 7th in the final in 26.3s



National Achilles Relays – Oxford University 2nd May

**Just another very extraordinary day for Oakham on the track.
19 Athletes, 9 Events, 6 Finals, 3 Golds, 2 Silvers**

Oakham sent a smaller team this year. Small that may be, but impactful and determined to repeat the successes of the past. Without doubt, plans changed, as athletes began to shine in training, prove their metal and rise in front of a crowd. However, the inevitable injuries also took their toll, not to mention the stranglehold of exam pressure. Nonetheless, Oakham had a team that would fight to the finish, give their all, and show just what they can do on the track as a team.

Junior Girls – G Flint, L Carr, F Lloyd, M Martin, L Fairman

Junior Boys – T Ryan, S Upton, J Passey, S Chou

Inter Girls – Be Healey, Bi Healey, O Courtman, S Kaczmar

Senior Boys – O Marr, J Braddock, D Osuji, A Ryan, J Lockett

Senior Girls – A-M Cannings

Open Mixed 4x 400m: Gold – A-M Cannings, Be Healey, D Osuji, J Braddock

4x100m – 1 Gold, 1 Silver

Silver: G Flint, L Carr, F Lloyd, M Martin

Gold: Be Healey, Bi Healey, O Courtman, S Kaczmar

Inter Girls made easy work of their heat, Sammy slowing it down to maintain energy levels in the final straight and perhaps hiding just what she could do if she had to. For in the final, it was down to just that. Courtman start, Healey changeovers immaculate and a hand over that opened all eyes on the final straight. However, Millfield had a 10m advantage. Kaczmar saw this challenge as her chance to shine. She was gaining, step by step. With 50 to go, Kaczmar had pulled 5m closer, with 30 to go, 2m separated the two. With 10 to go they were neck and neck. The finish separated them both by 0.1s... and Oakham Girls had pulled the hat right out of the rabbit! It was magical. An exceptional race that proved, no race is over 'ever!'

“Oakham Girls had pulled the hat right out of the rabbit! It was magical. An exceptional race that proved, no race is over 'ever!'”

4x 200m – 1 Silver

Silver: G Flint, L Carr, F Lloyd, L Fairman

Junior Girls again shone their light for Oakham. A true battle for 1st in their heat fighting the rivals, Coopers, who were winners in the 100m. 2nd in the heat and 2nd in the final. Once more, left with a taste that will hopefully leave them hungry for next year.

4x 300m – Gold

Gold: Be Healey, Bi Healey, O Courtman, S Kaczmar

This was the final race of the day for our Oakham Athletes. Inter Girls, having won it last year, expectations and pressure were on. Having already run the 100s twice and Be Healey into her 4th race of the day, anything could have happened. But these girls were on a mission and in an impressive time of 3min and 1sec, they showed just what excellence and perfection looks like. Winning the 100m followed by the 300m is no walk in the park. Speed and then an enduring race that asks more than you can sometimes give. Definitely not something taken for granted. These girls earned the respect of their team and those who had the fortune to watch dedication and determination at its finest.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	6	0	4

Reports written by Tom Dryell (Director of Tennis)

1st VI Girls Tennis

This year our Senior Girls’ 1st team had a strong selection of players who have set the standard high for years to come. It was a real privilege to coach these girls as there was a natural feel to the team; each player knew what was expected of them and the goals they had to achieve in order to be successful together. The 1st team faced Ratcliffe College in their opening match. This was a great test for the players as it allowed them to understand their partners and build partnerships for the rest of the season. Their second match saw them draw Lincoln Minster School in Round 1 of the LTA National Championships. Due to the rain this match was postponed, but the following week the girls played extremely well and managed to progress to the next round, facing a strong Trent College. Sadly, despite the girls showcasing some amazing tennis, Trent College was incredibly strong and ended our cup run.

However, losing to Trent College allowed the 1st team to go away and analyse their performance and think about what specific technical and tactical aspects needed to be improved. Their goal across the season was to think about how they can win through utilising strengths and focus more on adapting their tactical skills to dictate match and point outcomes.

The desire to work towards and achieve these goals gave the girls a boost in confidence and match performance. The team won 6 out of 10 matches. This is the greatest number of games won in a single season at Oakham, so the players should be really proud of themselves. Throughout the term the girls played some high-level tennis against some tough schools, which saw them narrowly lose by a set against both Oundle and Uppingham School. Notable victories were against Rugby, Kimbolton, Trent College ‘B’ and Stamford School where all girls played some exceptional tennis.

Overall, it has been a pleasure to coach the 1st XI girls. They have developed themselves individually not only as tennis players but also as people; learning new skills such as how to communicate together, how to win and lose as a pair, how to play to your strengths, how to dictate points from technical and tactical elements, and most importantly how to play as a team. Each player should be very proud of their overall achievements and performances. They are great role models for our younger girls wanting to progress to the Senior 1st team.

“

The team won 6 out of 10 matches. This is the greatest number of games won in a single season at Oakham, so the players should be really proud of themselves.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
8	5	0	3

2nd VI Girls Tennis

The 2023-2024 campaign was a positive season for our Girls’ 2nd team. Over the course of the term, there was a real sense of togetherness and partnerships forming within the team. The girls conducted themselves extremely well and played some fantastic tennis against some talented schools across the country. These relationships built, allowing the girls to understand their teammate and how they as a pair can use their strengths to their advantage when facing strong opponents. I set the 2nd team girls a goal of focusing more tactically instead of technically during training. This clear objective helped them to focus on how to build and develop as a pair instead of as an individual.

This goal clearly had an impact in their performances as the team went on to win 5 out of 8 matches taking notable victories against Ratcliffe College, Stamford School, Trent College, Uppingham School and Kimbolton School. The match against Uppingham School highlighted the girls’ strength of character and perseverance as until the last row of matches they were down 2-3 and came back to win 5-4 against a strong Uppingham line-up.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
3	0	0	3

3rd VI Girls Tennis

This was a difficult season for our 3rd VI girls’ team, as commitments and exams caused an inconsistent line-up. Despite that, all players showed great grit and determination playing against three competitive schools which saw them narrowly lose by 2 sets against Oundle School. The positives from the 2023-2024 season were that there was a lot of development within the lower senior teams as players moved up to represent the 2nd team, which was due to their hard work week in, week out during training. Additionally, each player showed a positive mentality towards each match and despite their losses, they continued to make progress. I’m extremely proud of each individual in the way they conducted themselves each week and they have built a solid foundation for next year as they continue to improve as Oakham tennis players.



Written by Iain Simpson (coach)

U15 Girls Tennis

The Girls' U15 tennis teams have shown a real sense of commitment and improvement over the course of this tennis season, building upon current skills but also developing new ones. The **U15A** team had an unbelievable season which saw them win 5 matches out of 8 only narrowly losing to Rugby School by a single set. Each pair formed a strong partnership which made them play with confidence, taking notable victories against strong opponents Repton and Uppingham School. The **U15B** team also had an impressive season which saw them win consecutive fixtures against Stamford and Uppingham School. The **U15C** team went from strength to strength throughout their season winning 4 out of 5 matches against Stamford, Repton, Uppingham and Oundle School, only losing to a very good Rugby School team. Lastly, the **U15D** team, despite lower numbers throughout the season, managed to get a well-earned victory against Uppingham.

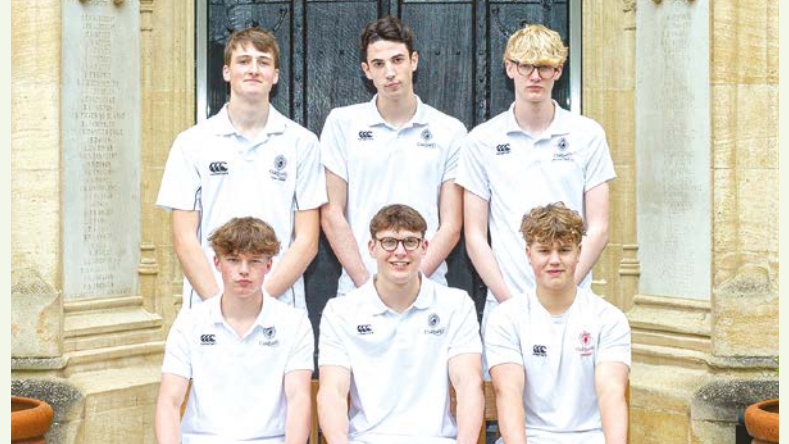
“The U15A team had an unbelievable season which saw them win 5 matches out of 8 only narrowly losing to Rugby School by a single set.”

U14 Girls Tennis

The U14 tennis teams have shown pleasing progress across the term. With the main focus on doubles play, many players had to learn how to score, position themselves on court and work alongside their partner; all skills many had not done before. The U14A team maintained a consistent six-player line-up for the whole term and had a strong season. They have developed strong partnerships allowing them to work on their consistency and improve their tactical awareness. Notable victories against Rugby, Leicester Grammar and Kimbolton, while narrowly losing to Stamford by a single set, were highlights for the season. The other U14 teams have demonstrated flexibility, with players rotating across three teams, showcasing the group's depth and overall improvement. The season concluded with House tennis matches with many from all teams featuring. The depth and progress made by players in all three teams have been excellent and has set a solid foundation on which to build next season.

U13 Girls Tennis

The U13 Girls' teams had a stellar season throughout the tennis term. This year saw a great amount of Lower School Girls wanting to participate in tennis, no matter their ability, which was great to see. Across the term, each player attended Games sessions with great enthusiasm and excitement to learn, engage and enjoy understanding and playing tennis. The goal of all the Girls' U13 teams was to learn and develop their skills through experience and enjoyment. Each player had the opportunity to play against top prep schools within the area and resulted in notable victories against Trent College, Witham Hall School and Worksop. Each individual should be immensely proud of their commitment and development this term.



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
7	3	0	4

Senior Boys Tennis

Senior Boys tennis kicked into full swing following pre-season training at the Vale do Lobo Tennis Academy in Portugal, and a training camp back here at Oakham. The rhythm of the term saw training interspersed with fixtures on Saturdays as well as mid-week, giving a good chance for lots of competitive tennis for lots of boys, balanced alongside the demands of exams for F5 and F7. The standard of schoolboy tennis remains high and the doubles format allows boys to play to their strengths and work as a pair with good tactics and strategy. The mantra of “make them play one more shot” holds as a truism and protects against beating yourself. The 1st VI drew from the top three year groups in the School with Ollie D finishing out his time at School with some fine performances, alongside Andrea P, playing his first competitive tennis for Oakham. Jamie A and Alfie B stepped up from the junior ranks the previous year and joined by Hugh W and Eddie P P, created some good pairings to take on the local opposition. Across the age groups the boys managed on occasion to put out four competitive senior teams allowing for over thirty boys to represent the School over the term.

The season saw some mixed results, which gave different challenges and experiences to the boys; all of which they rose to with positive attitudes and no little determination. However, wins against Ratcliffe College, Worksop College, Stamford and Kimbolton all demonstrated the quality within the squad and promise for the future.

U15/U14Boys Tennis

Our U14 boys Guido S, Harry I, Rufus I, Olly W, Adam B and James A all played their part in some fantastic matches across the course of the term. It seemed that on numerous occasions that matches went down to the final rubber in the nine-rubber format, which put the nerves to the test and provided fantastic learning opportunities. Of these we saw a loss to Oundle 4-5, whilst coming out on the other side 5-4 against Uppingham and Rugby School – which was won on a deciding championship tie-break. The U15s had an equally good season with lots of competitive tennis played by lots of different boys and an A team that over the term distilled down to Ivan K, Johan T, Alex C, Oliver A, Xavi M G and Mattis J. One highlight for the boys was the Staff, Pupil, Parent tennis festival, which for the first time this year encompassed the girls and their parents and moved to a Friday night.

U13 Boys Tennis

The U13 Boys' teams had a real sense of commitment and started the term off with great levels of confidence and determination to succeed. Each player made it their mission to attend training sessions and matches in a positive spirit, with an overall goal of learning to enjoy the game through opportunities and developing from experiences. The U13 Boys' teams played against strong opponents on a weekly basis and managed to take notable victories against Stamford School, Repton School, Trent College and Witham Hall School. Each player should be extremely proud of themselves as they have demonstrated how working hard and enjoying the sport first enables them to play with confidence no matter ability levels.

1st XI Boys Football

Despite losing three key players to season-long injuries, the 2024 season was another successful one for our elite senior boys. Having to contend with the wettest weather for at least a decade was another handicap, meaning that we went into half term with only the OO game and one league fixture completed: a hard-fought victory at Oundle.

The games came thick and fast in late February and March, including convincing wins against Rugby and Loughborough but narrow defeats on the road, such as the controversial game at Wellingborough. As fatigue and injuries took their toll, the season ended with excellent draws against Stamford and Princethorpe and a narrow loss to Bedford.

Overall, this meant a creditable third-place finish in the ISFA Mercian Premier League, which was just reward for the boys’ consistent hard work and the dedication of the coaching team, ably led by the Director of Football Matt Wilsher and his veteran assistant, Steve Bent.

With a core of excellent Form 6 players having gained valuable experience, we can look forward to next season with considerable optimism.

Written by David Russell (coach)

Captain – Dozie O

Golden Boot – Jonas T (6 goals)

Colours – Archie Richmond, Henry Rodger, Farid Zeitoun, Ollie Medcraft, Marcus Peck, Freddie Evans, Hector Green, Freddie Tuck, William Howard

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	3	3	4

2nd XI Boys Football

What a fantastic season it was for the 2nd XI. Played 10, lost 0. League champions. Simple football played well.

The boys’ attitude to training was spot on, and they quickly built up a superb team spirit that carried them through the season. There were some brilliant individual performances all over the pitch, but it was the team ethic, camaraderie and resilience that really impressed JJK and DJR all term. This was driven by a core group of Form 7 boys who deservedly leave Oakham with league winners’ medals and a whole host of great memories of their final year on the football field. Nicolas Z was inspirational in goal, making brilliant saves and starting many attacks with his incredible long throws and accurate clearances. A solid defence was ably led by captain Alex P-P and marshalled by Crispin H, Archie G, Freddie G, George A and Zach M. The midfield engine room included various combinations, including Elliot M, Henry B, Howie P, Luke F and George W. They dominated most games and provided a strong platform which allowed the attacking players to dominate the opposition. Gabriel M and Ibrahim B provided trickery and pace on the right wing and were constant threats. But it was the deadly duo, Toby and James H, who provided most of the assists and goals. They were sensational all season and it was an absolute pleasure to coach this group. Oakham football is very much on the up. Bring on 2025.

Written by Jonny Kay (coach)

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
10	8	2	0

“What a fantastic season it was for the 2nd XI. Played 10, lost 0. League champions. Simple football played well.”



Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
2	2	0	0

3rd XI Boys Football

The 2024 season for the 3rd XI is a story of resilience and triumph. Despite facing weather-related match cancellations, the team secured a 100% record in the two competitive matches they played, scoring 17 goals, and conceding only 2. Their attacking prowess, led by players like Jamie F, along with the creative support from Thomas T, Asa S, and Leo W, showcased the team’s determination and skill. Notably, the steadfast defence, marshalled by captain Felix F and goalkeeper Oliver W, proved to be an impenetrable force, conceding just two goals throughout the season.

The first game was against Rugby, in which they scored 15 goals. Notably, Jamie F scored 4 of those goals. The second and final game of the season was also against Rugby, which proved to be a tougher match, but the team still managed to secure a 2-1 win. **Written by Jack Jordan (coach)**



U16 Boys Football

The boys were lucky enough to play 6 matches against tough opponents (Stamford, Oundle, Rugby, Loughborough Grammar, Uppingham, and Bedford). The focus and team ethos were togetherness and connection. Throughout the season, the boys faced a lot of challenges, but most importantly, together, they adapted and developed as a group of individuals into a connected team.

While on the road for most of the term, their most notable victory came against Uppingham, in which they showed great efforts and determination to overcome a tough period of results. Overall, the 2023-2024 season was extremely promising, and I look forward to seeing those boys develop throughout their footballing journey at Oakham. **Written by Simon Woodward and Tom Dryell (coaches)**

U15 Boys Football

There were some promising performances from the U15s this season, most notably an excellent 6-1 win against an U16 Rugby School side. This saw goal contributions from several players and was a complete team performance. Due to a number of cancellations, there was a lack of fixtures this season, however, the talent of the team was clear as many of the boys earned call-ups to the U16s where they stood out as some of the better performers. This included an outstanding hat-trick from Alex F against Uppingham. Overall, it was an enjoyable season working with a talented bunch of players who I look forward to seeing progress as they move through the School. **Written by Tom Fell (coach)**