



School Musical: Harry

Wednesday 9 January 2008

Harry...a huge success

"Playing to sell out audiences each night the new musical drama written by Peter Fanning and John Moore was a huge success. " **Shropshire Star November 2007**

"Harry" at Shrewsbury School - review

Wow! What a show! "Harry" is the latest original Shrewsbury School musical and the best so far. It's clever, dynamic, extremely melodious and very professionally delivered by a young, high-octane ensemble that hurtles through the show, no messing.

Peter Fanning's modern metamorphosis of "Hamlet" has Harry as heir to a cardboard box company. When his father suddenly dies, Harry suspects his wicked uncle's hand, especially as he immediately woos the widow. But Fanning's repackaging gives Harry a twin brother (a trick Shakespeare missed) and together they plot revenge.

The script is stapled with top quality puns, outrageous rhymes and witty, slight of hand clichés; all richly overlaid with sensitive social commentary. It examines Philip Larkin's views on parenthood and the age-old conundrum, "Does art mirror life or life mirror art? Or both?"

John Moore's score soars from Max Jaffa to The Muppets, via Vaudeville, Salsa and Big Ballad. It's a great chorus show, peppered with tight tuneful solos. The company songs are superbly musical and structurally inventive. The brothers' melancholy duet "You Are Not Alone" shone very brightly.

And as if that's not enough, it's all multi-layered with joyous end-of-the-pier choreography and unfathomable magical disappearance tricks.

The kids are excellent without exception. Ben Edmunds is a powerful, highly empathetic Harry. Chris Jamieson plays a suitably slimy, self important wicked uncle and Emily Hurdiss, as mother, sings beautifully with great presence.

Patrick Higham and James Sutcliffe as a Music Hall style Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are lively enough to steal the show; if everyone else wasn't so strong.

All in all, "Harry" is a riotous but thought-provoking "Side By Side By Shakespeare". The Bard would be beaming. If it's not a smash in Edinburgh, I'll eat my codpiece.

Chris Eldon Lee



Spanish Trip: A Weekend in Barcelona, 7th & 8th March 2008

Wednesday 12 March 2008

What a hectic but fabulous weekend! We left school for Liverpool airport before lunch on Friday and returned on Sunday, just before the 5th form parents' meeting. In that short space of time, the six fifth formers on this trip caught more than a glimpse of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city, rich in culture and full of life.

As soon as we had settled in at the hotel, we headed for the famous Ramblas - an impressive tree lined avenue that leads from the main square to the port. After the initial bombardment of youth, noise, music, street acts, impressive architecture and the Spanish language all around us, we found a typical Spanish tapas bar and feasted on dishes that most of the pupils had never tried before. The evening concluded with a moonlit stroll around the harbour.

On Saturday we woke to bright sunshine and blue skies. The pupils took in the sights as we wandered through the Gothic area to one of Gaudi's most famous buildings, La Pedrera. Our Spanish language assistant, Maria de los Angeles, used to live there and arranged a tour of this stunning apartment overlooking the centre of Barcelona. Then a short open-top bus ride took us to perhaps the most famous landmark of all - Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. We were all amazed by the unique architecture. The architectural whirlwind tour was completed with a visit to Parc Guell - a fairy-tale park in a Barcelona suburb where Gaudi himself used to live.

The highlight of the trip for many boys was the visit to Barcelona's football stadium - the biggest in Europe with a capacity of just under 100,000. The tour bus then took us outside the centre towards Pueblo Espanyol - a representation of all the different regions of Spain, the Olympic village dating back to 1992 and the aquarium.

This busy day was punctuated with plenty of coffee stops along the route as the fifth formers began to adapt to their surroundings and relax into the laid-back feeling of Barcelona on a spring day.

One thing is for certain, the pupils are all keen to go back there to get to know this amazing city much better.

Mrs Wright.



Spanish Study Trip to Jerez, 21-28 March 2008

Monday 31 March 2008

During the first week of the Easter break eighteen pupils of Spanish embarked on a journey of Spanish language and cultural development in the Costa de la Luz region of southern Spain. The nervous expressions quickly disappeared as the boys showed typical Salopian charm and the host families from Jerez were open, warm and welcoming.

The flip-flops and sunglasses came out as we spent the first full day in Seville. The group enjoyed stunning views of the city from the *Giralda* tower followed by a guided visit to the *Maestranza* bull ring, Seville's cathedral - one of the largest in Europe - and then the *Alcazar*, a calm fortress of beautiful gardens and Arabic architecture in the middle of the vibrant city. The Spanish certainly know how to party! On the way back to the minibus we were caught up in one of the Easter celebrations and could hardly move through the streets. However, as we escaped the city one could not fail to be impressed.

Visits to other towns included Cadiz, Europe's oldest city, El Puerto de Santa Maria and the picturesque hilltop village of Arcos de la Frontera. The boys especially enjoyed the interactive conversation classes with Spanish teenagers from the host school, the sherry tasting session at the famous Tio Pepe bodega in Jerez and an afternoon on the beach in El Puerto. In fact, while temperatures were almost freezing back home, we enjoyed around 25 degrees most days.

To add to the Spanish flavour of the cultural experience the boys practised the sevillana flamenco dance with girls from the school and enjoyed making a Spanish *tortilla* and *gazpacho* during a cooking lesson at the local English Centre in El Puerto.

Overall, the experience was an eye-opening and enriching one. As well as improving considerably the boys' level of spoken Spanish, they all have begun to develop a taste for all that is great about the Andalusian people and this wonderful part of southern Spain.

Mr. Wright.



Double Gold at the re-arranged Schools' Regatta

Tuesday 1 July 2008

The RSSBC First VIII is the fastest schoolboy crew in the country this year. In its field, the RSSBC Second VIII is also the fastest schoolboy crew in the country this year. This was established on Saturday 7th June 2008, when they both led the field of all comers and returned home with Gold Medals. 2 weeks previously the National Schools Regatta was cancelled due to high winds: this was the re-arranged match held at Dorney Lake.

Having more or less cruised into the final, the Second Eight did not need to use their mid-race push at all, nor even to take her home, such was the almost unassailable lead they had established early in the race. Photos show nearly a length of clear water between them and the nearest opposition, and the stopwatch indicates a time that would have put them in 3rd place among other First VIII's (2 seconds off the winning time) and in the pack in the Championship eights final. This year's win adds to the gold medal scored last year and a silver the year before at the National Schools' Regatta.

1803 Final School Second Eights

	Lane		
1st	4	Shrewsbury School	06:06.2
2nd	3	Eton College	06:11.1
3rd	5	Latymer Upper School	06:11.2
4th	6	Abingdon School	06:17.8
5th	2	Radley College	06:22.8
6th	1	St Paul's School	06:36.1

In their eliminating heat the First Eight conserved energy and rowed only fast enough to qualify for the final; some observers – and possibly a few unwary competitors – thought that the mighty Shrewsbury machine was running rough and losing pace. Not so former Headmaster Eric Anderson, who (having also been Headmaster at Abingdon and Eton) was looking forward to a satisfying outcome no matter which of the three main contenders won. His enquiry as to whether the crew had raced tactically was met with an answer that implied he would have to be shot if he heard the affirmative.

In the event the final was a two horse race: Abingdon fell off the pace as first Eton then Shrewsbury pushed hard. Eton moved first and took 2 men back from Shrewsbury's small lead; Shrewsbury's reply was to extend their lead by a further 6 men. Thus it remained for a while, however with only a few hundred metres to go Eton charged for the line and started to reel in the 3/4 length lead stroke by frightening stroke. At that stage the hours of grit, training and preparation showed their merit, and the RSSBC First Eight emerged as victors by a margin of 0.3second - or about 6 feet. Not as close as Henley last year, but, as that result showed, every bit enough to put a smile on all Salopian faces. This year's gold adds to last year's silver medal at the National Schools' Regatta and the Queen Mother Cup gold medal of two years ago.



1824 Final Championship Eights

	Lane		
1st	5	Shrewsbury School	05:54.7
2nd	4	Eton College	05:55.0
3rd	3	Abingdon School	05:59.0
4th	2	Radley College	06:02.4
5th	6	St Paul's School	06:08.2
6th	1	Latymer Upper School	06:12.3

When added to the unprecedented Hat-trick of Double Gold in the Schools' Head of the River Race scored by the RSSBC First and Second VIII's these results are a truly remarkable demonstration of a near vice-like grip by RSSBC on the top schoolboy rowing in VIII's. Coaches over this period were: TT Jesdale, MA Orviss, NDJ Henderson.

Coaches: N.D.J. Henderson and M. Henderson.

First VIII

Bow: P Thorneycroft
2: E. Whitehead
3: E Stephenson
4: A Tenison-Collins
5: S Goodbody
6: H Davies
7: D Power
Str: P Lapage
Cox: N de Lisle

Second VIII

B: G Rae
2: H Williams
3: P Nickerson
4: J Lowrie
5: J Bennett
6: W Eaton
7: P Aylwin
Str: C Mertens
Cox: H Robertson



Henley Royal Regatta 2008

Sunday 6 July 2008

Both the first and second eights were in action today at Henley.

The first eight crew return to Henley to defend their 2007 win of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup.

The second eight crew are competing in the Temple Challenge Cup.

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup

The first eight drew St Paul's, a crew which Shrewsbury has previously vanquished on several occasions. The St Paul's crew are known to be fast off the blocks so the race was by no means a foregone conclusion. Initially St Paul's showed the Shrewsbury crew a clean pair of heels, extending their lead to to a margin of 3/4 length between the Barrier and Fawley. However the higher cruising pace of the Shrewsbury VIII kicked in and the opposition were soon reeled in; as the boats drew level, St Paul's sting had been drawn and the end result was a win for Shrewsbury by three lengths.

The Temple Challenge Cup

The second eight had a race on their hands, in the Temple Challenge Cup. Eton's J16's pride themselves this year on their speed and with good reason. Eton set off at a fast pace, hoping to unsettle their older opponents. Rating an unusual 40 strokes per minute, the Eton crew led for the first half of the race. However their rating, together with the experience and the determination of the Shrewsbury second VIII proved to be their undoing. With gritty effort and characteristically stylish rowing, the Shrewsbury crew wore down the Etonians with Shrewsbury winning by about a length.

Thursday 3rd July 2008

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup.

The first VIII faced Westminster: no easy pushover, despite having been kept at bay for the season so far. Shrewsbury produced a crisp start and denied the opposition any chance of establishing more than a man or two lead by the quarter mile. Not for Westminster the fly and die option of yesterday's opponents: they held on with some tenacity, yielding only slowly to the determined onslaught of the first VIII's pace. However while they never cracked as such they were just slower overall, and crossed the line between 2 and 3 lengths behind a composed Shrewsbury.

The Temple Challenge Cup

The second VIII faced a tough challenge in the form of a seeded crew; Grand Valley State, USA. The first surprise for this big well-muscled college crew was that the apparently innocuous fly-weight Salopians were level after the first 40 strokes. Then although they gradually opened up a small lead, these schoolboys, like flies around a plunging bull, would never go away. A quarter of a length at the quarter mile, half a length at the barrier, still half a length a Remenham, then - a length, but they were beginning to sweat.

A huge push took the second VIII back 3/4 length, but the odds were stacked somewhat against them, and as they entered the enclosures it was a length again, and a fraction more as the line was crossed. Shrewsbury had rowed brilliantly and remained in direct contact with a crew that will be worth looking out for on Friday. This loss was no real disappointment: the race came together brilliantly, with all the various parts at which they had worked fitting together seamlessly. Their opponents were, simply, faster than their very best. It was an exemplary race, rowed in the face of daunting odds: they never cracked.

Friday 4th July 2008

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup

Friday's race for the Shrewsbury 1st VIII saw the closest outcome yet, though the race profile and win-margin revealed a wealth of information. The opponents, Latymer Upper School set off with eager determination that gave them an early and sustained lead of up to 2/3 length at the Barrier. However, a mature and measured response from the Shrewsbury crew gnawed away at the difference, such that the boats were level a short way past Remenham. A spirited counter-attack from Latymer initially prevented Shrewsbury from drawing ahead right away, so it was only as the crews approached the enclosures that the emotionless commentary revealed that "Shrewsbury, rating 36, lead Latymer, rating 37, by one length".

Latymer raised their rating and threw the proverbial kitchen sink at Shrewsbury as they rowed past the grandstand, but without needing to respond, Shrewsbury calmly absorbed the thrusting and with their large-enough lead cruised to victory by 1/3 length. It was a great demonstration of a one-pace race from Shrewsbury, which dealt very effectively with the fluctuating speed of the opposition.

Saturday 5th July 2008

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup, Semi Final.

This race was always going to be the toughest yet for the first VIII. They faced Shawnigan Lake School, Canadian champions, who featured, among other attributes, a 17 stone oarsman. Conditions were blustery - even stormy - as the crews prepared to race, with a gusting cross head wind that whipped up spray and made it tricky for competitors to maintain much sense of rhythm. The old coaching quandry regarding the gearing on the oars was thoroughly rehearsed, and the crew went out to race well prepared.

Shawnigan gained a slender early lead. The lead grew slowly to half, then three quarters of a length by Remenham. Shrewsbury threw in a terrific burst, which they had prepared but not needed in previous races at this stage, and gained several seats back. The wind responded with a fierce blast that almost brought them to a standstill whereupon Shawnigan also launched a counter attack. The end result: three quarters of a length difference as the crews entered the enclosures.

Raising their rating steadily as they passed down the enclosures the Shrewsbury crew clawed back inch by inch, pushing themselves and Shawnigan to the absolute limits but never quite gaining the upper hand. As they passed the finish line with something less than half a length between them both crews slumped over in tribute to a very hard fought race: no joyous Canadians

punching the air, no deep despond in the Shrewsbury crew. Just - the wrong result when considered from this side of the Atlantic.

Sunday 6th July 2008

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup, Final.

Shawnigan Lake School, Canada against Eton College in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup.

Sunday's final gave Shawnigan the title over Eton by a significantly larger margin than their win over Shrewsbury on Saturday, Eton themselves having despatched the Australian and American champions.

In the light of earlier regattas this season, few could doubt that the Shrewsbury first VIII is the fastest schoolboy crew in the world this year bar one. A fitting tribute comes from an Etonian via the notorious 'Talk Rowing' site that a Shrewsbury-Eton final would have been an absolute thriller, but in the event was 'cold and unemotional'.

The tally of races over the last three years remains distinctly impressive, though. A PE medal at Henley and two semi-finals (fastest British schoolboy crew both times). Two gold and a silver at both 1st and 2nd VIII level at the National Schools' Regatta. A hat-trick of gold medals for both First VIII and Second VIII at the Schools' Head of River race. Add to that many small boat and other regatta successes, and a fine up and coming junior squad.

A final statistic: in the last three years the First VIII have lost only as many races as there are fingers on one hand, and one of those was a tactical semi-final, which event they subsequently won outright in the final. Let us pay tribute to the crews, and their coaches: Todd Jesdale, Martin Orviss, Nick Henderson and Morgan Henderson.

All commentary provided by Philip Lapage, River Master (July 2008)

History of results at Henley Royal Regatta

Ladies' Challenge Plate

The School first entered the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley Royal Regatta in 1912. In 1919 the regatta was named the Henley Peace Regatta and various Cups were loaned to the Regatta to mark the occasion. The Ladies' Challenge Plate was not available and instead Shrewsbury entered for the Elsenham Cup, which was presented by Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart. The qualification was the similar to the Ladies' Challenge Plate, being open to schools and universities. As the event is open to both schools and universities it is a great accomplishment for a school to reach the final or win. Other than Eton College Shrewsbury is the only school to have won the event more than once. In the 1931 final, the Shrewsbury School First VIII lost by just one third of a length to Jesus College, Cambridge.

1919 Elsenham Cup Winner

1924 Ladies' Challenge Plate Winner

1931 Ladies' Challenge Plate Finalist

1932 Ladies' Challenge Plate Winner

The Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup

This was instituted for eights in 1946 for public schools in the United Kingdom and opened to overseas entries in 1964.

1947 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Finalist

1955 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Winner

1957 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Finalist

1960 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Winner

1961 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Winner

2007 Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup Winner

Special Race for Schools

This event was introduced in 1974 for school VIIIs and held on the Saturday and Sunday of Henley due to problems with the A level exam timetable. Of the 16 occasions the event was run Shrewsbury won 7 times and lost in the final 4 times.

The Cup was later renamed the Fawley Challenge Cup for Quadruple Sculls.

1974 Finalist

1975 Winner

1976 Winner

1978 Finalist

1980 Winner

1981 Winner

1982 Winner

1983 Finalist

1984 Winner

1985 Winner

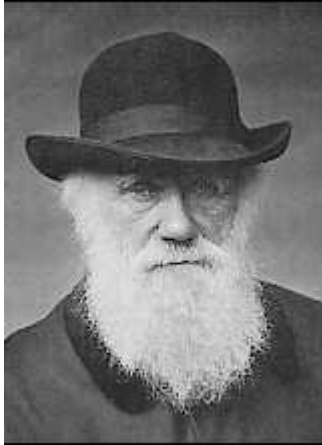
1986 Finalist

Since 1919 Shrewsbury has won more events at Henley Royal Regatta than any other school both in the UK and overseas with a total of 14 wins. Since 1987 Shrewsbury has entered the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup - 1988 was the last year for the Special Race for Schools. Since 1987 Shrewsbury has reached the Saturday Semi Final of The Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup on four occasions, 1994, 1997, 2006 and 2008. The 2007 Shrewsbury School First VIII won the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at HRR becoming the fastest UK and international school VIII (competitors included national schools champions from USA, Canada and Australia). The 1976, 1982 and 2006 First VIIIs were the National Schools Champions of Great Britain, winning the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Cup at the National Schools Regatta. The 2008 First VIII was also National Schools Champions of Great Britain, winning the Championship Eights event at the Eton Schools Regatta, after the National Schools Regatta was cancelled due to bad weather.



Darwin Primer: Darwin lecture series

Monday 1 September 2008



A lecture series to prepare for the Darwin anniversaries in 2009

19th September - 28th November 2008

Lectures will be held at 7.15pm in the Ashton Theatre at Shrewsbury School

ADMISSION FREE

Friday 19th September 2008 - Darwin's Life

Dr. John van Wyhe, Christ's College Cambridge.

John van Wyhe is an historian of science at the University of Cambridge, founder and director of The Complete Work of Charles Darwin online, and a Bye-Fellow of Christ's College (Darwin's own

college).

Friday 10th October 2008 - Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection

Andrew Allott, Shrewsbury School.

Andrew Allott is Head of Biology at Shrewsbury School, Darwin's former school. He is the author of text books for International Baccalaureate Biology and is currently writing a book on the natural history of the Welsh Marches.

Tuesday 4th November 2008 - Darwin's voyage on HMS Beagle

Professor Patrick Armstrong, Edith Cowan University, Perth.

Patrick Armstrong has visited 17 of the 40 islands visited by Charles Darwin during the voyage of HMS Beagle and has written widely on Darwin's life and work. His recent books include *All things Darwin* and *Darwin's Other Islands*.

Friday 28th November - Darwin's impact

Dr. Allan Chapman, Wadham College Oxford.

Allan Chapman is a scientific historian with a special interest in biography. He is the presenter of the *Great Scientists* series on television, which included a programme on the life and work of Darwin.

2008 Football tour to Barcelona

Friday 5 September 2008

Thursday 28th August to Thursday 4th September 2008

Results:

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
Sat 30 Aug	1st XI v Igualada CF	Igualada	Won 3-1
	U15XI v Igualada CF	Igualada	Lost 1-4
Sun 31 Aug	1st XI v Villa Nova CF	Villa Nova	Won 3-2
	U15XI v Villa Nova CF	Villa Nova	Lost 0-12
Tue 2 Sep	1st XI v Jupiter CE	Sta Maria Del Collet	Won 5-2
	U15XI v Jupiter CE	Sta Maria Del Collet	Won 5-3
Wed 3 Sep	1st XI v Vendrelli CE	Vendrelli	Won 3-1
	U15 XI v Vendrelli CE	Vendrelli	Won 5-1

Tour Report:

At the end of yet another miserable and damp summer the party assembled at Shrewsbury for a training day prior to the tour. This year the destination was Barcelona and, for the second year running, we decided to take an Under 15 team in addition to the 1st XI. Shrewsbury was very green and in perfect condition and a two-hour training session, followed by a swim and a quick lunch, provided a relaxing and yet very valuable start. After that we set off in three school minibuses to Luton Airport and flew with Easyjet without incident.

Day 1

Training at Barcelona with four coaches at their amazing complex. After another two-hour session the party enjoyed the afternoon on the beach at Castelldefels, the beach within walking distance of our hotel.

Day 2

An unbelievably hot day with the thermometer hovering around the 30 degree mark. We headed out to Igualada CF, a club just under an hour from Barcelona. A lovely stadium, a friendly café and plenty of home supporters greeted us. The Under 15 team played at 10am and acquitted themselves well despite the heat and strong opposition. They had to soak up a great deal of pressure but rode their luck and reached half-time at a very creditable 1-1: the goal being scored by Harry Croft. The second half saw us tire after a long summer holiday and in alien sunshine and in the end the team went down 4-1. They gave a decent account of themselves, however. At 12pm, in the heat of the day, the 1st XI took to the field and had to work hard against well-organized and talented opposition. We had the better of the possession, but failed to deliver a good final ball and the game ebbed and flowed. Alex Blofield then finished a flowing move brilliantly, but sadly it was into our own net and so we were 1-0 down. A number of substitutions were inevitable in the heat and, although they can disrupt play, we remained confident and finally hit back with an equaliser. Two more goals quickly followed and 3-1 at half-time was about right. A spiteful and competitive second half meant that we could not relax but in the end we were good value for our victory. The goal scorers were Pat White, George Wade-Smith and Raul Alexis. It was competitive, feisty and an ideal start.

Day 3

U15 v Villa Nova. Lost 0-12. Outclassed, outfought, out played. A mismatch against what looked like older players. Disappointing and showed the limitations of our squad.

1st XI v Villa Nova 4pm. Superb performance against very technically gifted opponents. One nil up after a minute and then scored two more against the run of play to turn round an unbelievable 3-0 up. Second half struggled with injuries and after conceding one and gifting another we had to ride our luck for the last 17 minutes. Finished 3-2 winners against talented, niggly and professional opponents. A great result.

Day 4

Two training sessions at CF Barcelona 10-12pm, followed by 2- 4pm and some well-earned beach time.

Day 5

A much needed lie-in and late breakfast was followed by a hearty pasta lunch and a long coach journey to Northern Spain (near Girona). The U15s played first on a good grass pitch, albeit a little narrow. They played some good football and battled hard against skilful opponents on their way to a solid 5-3 victory. Some good team goals were crafted and Harry Croft scored a screamer in the top left hand corner.

The 1st X1 played a determined and aggressive CF Jupiter side in a fierce encounter played at cup match tempo. Shrewsbury played the neater and more incisive football in the early stages and were justifiably rewarded by 2 well taken goals from Rory Griffiths. Defensive howlers cost us dear and we went in at half time 2-2. The second half substitutes quickly ensured that we took control of the game again and 3 more goals were scored. In the end a resolute performance against a niggly side who lost all discipline in the second half.

A late return to the hotel and a tasty supper for 43 hungry Salopians.

Day 6

Training at 10-12pm followed by The Nou Camp Stadium tour.

Good last session with 4 mixed teams of 1st XI and Under 15 players. Back to hotel for last two hours on the beach. Trip to CE Vendrelli, which was around 35 minutes away.

U15s played very well against a younger, but well-drilled side and registered a 5-1 victory. The 1st X1 also won 3-1 to complete an undefeated tour.

Day 7

An early start and and transfer to Barcelona Airport and a good flight home to a very wet England.

An excellent tour, with outstanding sessions provided at Barcelona Academy, where the coaches spoke good English and gave each player advice on how to improve their individual game. The fixtures were also very good, especially the seniors where the standard was evenly matched. It was great to get out into the community and play some good local sides.

Thank you to Cambrian Academy and our reps Christiano and Mike for looking after us so well.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Girls arrive in the Sixth Form

Monday 8 September 2008

The start of the 2008 Michaelmas Term was marked by the arrival of the first girls to join the school - 35 in total - entering the lower sixth and bringing the total number in that year group to 180. They are being housed in the newly built £3 million boarding house, Mary Sidney.

A great deal of careful planning and development has been undertaken to ensure that this new venture for the school is a complete success.

Headmaster, Jeremy Goulding, said 'I am absolutely delighted by the arrival of sixth form girls at Shrewsbury. I have no doubt at all (given my previous experience as Headmaster of a co-educational school) that the presence of girls will bring an invaluable cultural, social and academic richness to the life of the sixth form at Shrewsbury and to the school as a whole.'

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Third Form Race 2008

Monday 15 September 2008

The 2008 Third Form Race took place on Saturday 13th September.

It is a traditional way for the 3rd years to begin their time at Shrewsbury School with an introduction to the Hunt. This year they also had an introduction to the Beagles. The boys have a long warm up which includes a tour of the site and some basic information about the history of the school, site and most importantly the Hunt itself. They then race against themselves and the beagles (and Tim Foulger's dog) around the ancient Benjy route (a mile and a bit).

The winner this year was **Ed Mallett** closely followed by **George Carver** both from Severn Hill. So Severn Hill look to be the cross country House for the future!



Official opening of first girls' boarding house: Mary Sidney Hall

Wednesday 17 September 2008

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL'S FIRST BOARDING HOUSE FOR GIRLS SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2008

On Sunday 28th September, Lady ('Judy') Moody-Stuart will formally open Shrewsbury School's first girls' boarding house, Mary Sidney Hall.

The £3 million state of the art boarding house was designed by local architects Baart, Harries, Newall and will in time house 70 sixth form girls. Three weeks ago, Shrewsbury School opened its doors to the first cohort of 35 lower sixth form girls in the history of the 450 year-old school, with Mrs Sara Hankin as housemistress. Mrs Hankin was formerly in charge of Port Hill, one of the Day Boy houses.

Mary Sidney was sister to Sir Philip Sidney, one of the School's most famous old boys. Sir Philip was a celebrated courtier, statesman, soldier and poet from the reign of Elizabeth I. Mary herself was reputed to be an accomplished poet in her own right and was known as a lively patroness of the arts.

Lady Moody-Stuart is a Governor of Shrewsbury School and on the boards of Cecily's Fund for Zambian AIDS orphans' education, The Wakefield Trust, Quaker Social Action in London's East End, Westmeston Parish Room, Westreach local history society, Transparency International (UK) and the Asian University for Women, (Bangladesh) along with the Outpost Family Archive Centre in The Hague. She has travelled widely with her husband (Sir Mark Moody-Stuart KCMG, current chairman of Anglo-American mining company) when he worked for Shell, living abroad for 30 years in Brunei, Australia, Nigeria, Turkey, Holland and Malaysia.

Timetable:

11.30 a.m. Chamber Concert – Maidment Building

12.30 p.m. Opening of Mary Sidney Hall

For further information:

Sara Hankin (01743 280800)

Peter Fanning (Senior Master) Tel. 01743 280515/500 07828 892109 (mobile)

[Read More about Mary Sidney](#)



Shrewsbury cricket coach wins National Coach of the Year Award

Friday 26 September 2008

Ross Stephen (WACA) Level 4 coach working at Shrewsbury School and in association with Shrewsbury Cricket Club this week received the highest national coaching award at a prestigious ceremony at the Oval. The award is the **Chance to Shine National Coach of the Year**. John Major was on hand to present the award in front of 1,000 guests. Ross can add the award to ACB National recognition he received two years ago.

His ability to communicate and manage diverse groups together with his energy, knowledge of the game, unique character and coaching initiatives were all heralded as key points in his success.

Shrewsbury School in association with Shrewsbury Cricket Club have provided coaches and facilities to coach a large number of state schools in the community. Presently there are 5 senior schools and 7 primary schools benefitting from the programme.

The Cricket Foundation's Chance to Shine campaign aims to provide high quality sustainable coaching and competition to a third of all state schools throughout England & Wales.

By creating a strong culture of cricket and in re-establishing cricket as the summer sport in state schools, we will be providing vital educational opportunities to boys and girls from all backgrounds.



The Tucks 2008

Thursday 9 October 2008

The Tucks this year for the first time ever opened its field to school girls! MSH put out an impressive team, which certainly rather increased the competitiveness amongst most of the boys.

The race was won by **George Jarvis** (PH) in a good time (18:42), but slightly slower than expected due to the sticky plough this year.

Just in second place was our star signing from Lorreto school **Mr P J Middleton**, in 3rd was **Alex Blake** (S), 4th **Max Bromage** (O) and 5th **Tom Davis** (Rt)

The first 3rd year was **Ed Mallet** (S) - 24th

The first 4th year was **Ali Hibbert** (R) - 17th

5th year **Max Bromage** (O) - 4th

L6th **Alex Mackay** (I) - 6th with **Alice Walker** (89th) being the very first ever Shrewsbury School girl.

The House competition was again incredibly close with Severn Hill just nudging out Port Hill, in 3rd place was Ingrams.

Overall it was a great race, in which all 560 competitors competed in fine spirit.

Tim Foulger

9th October 2008



The Pairs Head of the River Race 2008

Saturday 11 October 2008

The Pairs Head of the River Race – run on the Thames Tideway from Chiswick Bridge to Hammersmith Bridge – is not a traditional fixture on the RSSBC calendar, but on October 11th, 2008, Shrewsbury raced three pairs: Chris Cox (M) and Alex Blake (S) in the J18 2- event, Jack Lowrie (M) and Ed Thomason (R) in J18 2- event, and Perry Nickerson (SH) and James Scott (M) in the S3 2- event. The result? An **outright win** for Cox and Blake; 7th place for Lowrie and Thomason (despite having run into two bouys!); and a 4th place finish for Nickerson and Scott in a time which would have put them in the top-10 junior pairs (out of a field of 30). Well done to all!

The winning pair deserves special congratulations. Last term, **Chris Cox** and **Alex Blake** trained and raced in the pair, putting in many hours and many hard miles. Now, this work appears to have paid off, with dividends. Cox and Blake beat, among others, boys who had raced at the Junior World Rowing Championships; boys who were more powerful on the ergometer; and certainly boys who were bigger and stronger. Cox and Blake raced with courage and focus – steering well and handling themselves with aplomb, despite a minor collision – and not only pulled away from the Eton pair just behind them but passed the Eton pair just in front of them! A great day and a great result for two tenacious individuals.



Shrewsbury's 1st XI defeat Eton

Thursday 16 October 2008

The 1st XI recorded a fine 2-0 win over Eton on Wednesday 15th October.

This was a very hard fought victory against a physical and well drilled Eton side. It was 0-0 at half time, as both sides cancelled each other out. Pat White looked like he had broken the deadlock, but his shot was cleared off the line. In the second half we played some good attacking football and were justifiably rewarded with a penalty, as skipper George Wade-Smith was felled in the box. Rory Griffiths stepped up and calmly slotted the spot kick. Eton fought back and Shrewsbury had to weather some pressure and attempts on their goal. The lead was extended with ten minutes to go by a fine left footed strike off the post from Raul Alexis.

This was a top quality performance and continues an excellent run of away victories in the South.



Astronomy: Boys' accounts of the spectacular achievement of winning the Space Experiment Competition

Monday 20 October 2008

Charlie Jones wrote an account of his experience of being part of the winning team that was announced at the International Astronautical Conference, and Philipp Legner wrote an email to the Headmaster about it. Both accounts are reproduced below.

Dear Headmaster,

It is my great pleasure to tell you that Shrewsbury School won the Space Experiment Competition.

The Space Experiment Competition was a national school competition offered by BNSC (British National Space Centre) and SSTL (Surrey Satellite Technology Limited) in order to get pupils interested in astronomy and space engineering. The task was to design an innovative experiment for a satellite and as prize the winning experiment was going to be built by SSTL and sent into space. The data that will be received can then be used for scientific research.

Designed should be a sensor or experiment of the size of a 10*10*10 cm cube and a mass not greater than 1 kg. The budget for the experiment is £ 100,000.

Shrewsbury School entered the competition with an experiment exploring Ionospheric Scintillation; an effect which can cause inaccuracies of GPS signals. The first design was submitted in February 2008.

The six finalists were announced at the National Space Congress 2008 in Charterhouse. We were one of them!

- Helston Community College, Cornwall – Bacteria in space
- Langton Star Centre, Canterbury, Kent – Cosmic rays
- Shome Park Project – Earthshine
- Shrewsbury School, Shropshire – Ionospheric Scintillation
- UK High Altitude Society, Hampshire – Micro meteorites
- St George's College, Addlestone, Surrey – Space dust

As one of the finalists, we were invited to a visit to SSTL, where we saw the Clean-room and met different engineers. We invited Professor Cathryn Mitchell from the University of Bath, who is working on a similar topic and we also went to the Farnborough Airshow, where we gave a presentation to the minister of Science and where we met all other teams. The deadline for our final submission was the 19th of September.

Last Thursday and Friday, we were invited to the 59th International Astronautical Congress in Glasgow where we had dinner with several astronauts and space experts. On Friday, the winner was announced.



Our experiment will have finished construction by September 2009 and the Satellite will be launched in 2010. Then the data collection will begin and research could be continued by the present 4th and 5th form. The satellite will be in orbit at least until 2013, but maybe even longer. Our results will be presented at a future UK Space Conference

While writing our submission, we worked together with the Cornell University in New York and the University of Bath, and we hope that we can continue this correspondence now that we have won.

We would also like to work together with Shrewsbury International School Bangkok as Scintillation is most severe around the equator.

With our Experiment we will observe "Ionospheric Scintillation", an effect which is caused by free electrons in the outer atmosphere. Similar to the refraction of light, those free electrons can delay or interrupt Radio Signals. With our experiment we are looking at the effects on GPS signals; especially important for safety critical applications as in planes or for military uses. Only a more detailed understanding of the origins and characteristics of Ionospheric Scintillation will in the future lead to more reliable satellite based navigation and communication systems.

These Internet pages might also be worth visiting:

http://www.sstl.co.uk/News_and_Events/Latest_News/?story=1274

http://www.engineeringbritain.com/prgallery/space_experiment

<http://www.spaceexperiment.info>.

Yours sincerely,

Philipp Legner

Charlie Jones (PH) wrote this short report after returning from the International Astronomical Conference in Glasgow in October 2008, where he and the team were announced as winners of the UK Space Experiment Competition.

On a cold October morning Philipp Legner, Mr Chalfin (the Harvard Fellow) and I all travelled up to Glasgow for the annual International Astronautical Congress (IAC). Over the course of two days we would be attending various events. The first night was very relaxing; we simply had a presentation, were shown a video and then had a very enjoyable planetarium show in the science centre. The following morning we headed to the congress in the exhibition centre. By this time the nerves were really on edge because it would be just a couple of hours time until we would find out if we were the team selected from the six finalists to have a chance to be the first school in the UK, or maybe the world, to have our own experiment in space. This would not just mean access to data, but the chance to have our very own experiment on a satellite. Truly a unique opportunity for any seventeen year old!

We were in Glasgow with the other finalists and also the winners of various other youth space competitions. On the day of the announcement we were joined by our former Astronomy Society President, Charlie Hughes, who's now studying Chemical Physics at Edinburgh University. After a tense morning of going round the congress acquiring free pens, umbrellas and hats it was time to form up in the main lecture hall for the announcements and prize giving. It turned out to be a long and drawn-out process and certainly got our hearts pounding! At first we were called up to receive memberships to the British Interplanetary



Society, and so, many shaky legged young men and women weaved across the stage, much to the amusement of the photographer. As time passed on we drew nearer to the announcement; then out of the blue there it was, and gore blimey was it scary. After a brief introduction of each experiment, they announced the winner. Sir Martin Sweeting said 'Shrewsbury School' after a pause that seemed to last for decades. At first we were stunned to say the least and speechless. As we stood up and headed towards the stage to meet the first Korean astronaut, Sir Martin Sweeting, Dr Stuart Eaves and various other VIPs to have our pictures taken I was literally flabbergasted. It was about twenty minutes later when reality hit us and we realised what we had accomplished.

I am so pleased that I was able to be there at that moment, it was so intense. However, what is pleasing me most is that right now we have an amazing opportunity to do something truly worthwhile and fun; however, the real work is yet to begin!

By Charlie Jones (PH)

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



GCSE Music pupil is interviewed by the BBC's World Service

Thursday 27 November 2008

Sam Wilson's GCSE composition (inspired by the people of Chernobyl's reaction to the nuclear disaster) was broadcast to Ukraine by the BBC's World Service on 30th October 2008. Sam was interviewed by Natalia Skofenko, given a tour of Bush House and played a clip of his music before it was translated and transmitted to Ukraine. It was later also transmitted to Russia.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Sir Ranulph Fiennes Lecture at RGS November 2008

Saturday 29 November 2008

A small group of pupils were lucky enough to attend a lecture by Sir Ranulph Fiennes at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, which was organised by the Trans Globe trust.

The pupils heard how Sir Ran decided to run 7 marathons in 7 days on 7 continents, not letting a heart attack get in his way; how he attempted to climb Everest twice, almost suffering another heart attack at 24,000ft; and how, wishing to get rid of his vertigo, he climbed the north face of the Eiger.

As guests of Old Salopian Peter Bowring, the pupils were fortunate to meet Sir Ranulph after the lecture, who said "I owe a lot to Shrewsbury, for it produced such a fantastic man as Peter". He chatted to the pupils for 10 minutes, answering their questions and giving them a personal insight into what it takes to face such challenges."

The boys from l-r are: Callum Harvey-Scholes, Tom Leslie, Stefan Hindmarsh, Masanori Asai, Michael Houston and John Schneider (with Sir Ran and Peter Bowring next to them).

A fascinating evening!

Toby Percival



Senior School Play 2008: Pravda

Tuesday 9 December 2008

November 26th to 29th 2008

Reviving a twenty-year-old satire on the newspaper wars of the early eighties for a contemporary school audience is a gamble. But in Des Hann's obsessively symmetrical open-plan office we were clearly in the Canary Wharf of 2008 (where, after all, Rupert Murdoch's influence still descends daily from the Sky if not the Thunderer); and certainly, the curdling ghastliness of newspaper tycoon Lambert LeRoux should have been immediately recognizable to the present generation. Once a media bully, always a media bully. Add to the mix Armani and a multi-gym, swap the swagger of 'strine' for the clipped menace of a totally convincing South African accent, and the transformation was complete. Reuben Curteis (PH) provided exactly the right degree of chill in a performance that was, in every way, terrifying. His emergence into our benighted world through the frictionless doors of a brightly-lit elevator was a well-pointed irony in a technically impressive production.

And where would such magnates be without their editors, their lackeys and their thugs? Obviously, at the top of the pile. As the ambitious LeRoux bullies his way through the British establishment, allies and enemies are eaten whole. James McLoughlin (Rb) as smarmy business manager Eaton Sylvester, Eoin Bentick (Rb) as the hapless Andrew May, Nigel Fullerton (O) as old-school editor Elliot Fruit-Norton, and Chris Jamieson (G) as Michael Quince MP, all, literally, go the dogs as LeRoux grows in stature and power. And despite the warnings of the strong-willed Rebecca Foley, played by Charlotte Finley (MSH), each is eventually reduced to nothing by LeRoux's manipulative politicking.

The most extraordinary moment occurs when May is summoned to a wild landscape far from Fleet Street. Here he comes to a quasi-religious acceptance of LeRoux, who appears (thanks, appropriately, to excellently stage-managed video trickery) in a transfiguration scene atop a symbolic mountain crag. In LeRoux's universe no-one is safe, no-one is guaranteed a job, and no-one exempt from being bought up or bought out. This was a depressing play for those of us who have had to put up with Murdoch for so long, but convincing enough to suggest that the next generation, armed with Hare and Brenton, may be able to do something about it: so to all those fifth and sixth formers involved, whether journo, hacks or newsboys, tecchies, paparazzi or just plain partygoers... go for it – your country needs you!

Alex Went