

## Another excellent year for A Level results

Thursday 15 August 2019

*Shrewsbury School is celebrating another enormously successful set of results.*



*L-R: Oscar Mattinson, Maddy Baly, Sophia Dixon, Ali Davies, Adam Pattenden*

This year's Upper Sixth cohort are now poised to take up a raft of prestigious university places following an examination session that saw nearly three-quarters of all papers graded at A\* - B level. Nine pupils achieved a clean sweep of A\* or equivalent grades across their disciplines and a total of 37 pupils obtained all A or A\* grades.

High attainment was demonstrated across the whole breadth of Shrewsbury's diverse Sixth Form curriculum, with notable successes in the creative world of Theatre Studies and the technical and complex subject of Economics (in both of which over half the cohort was awarded either an A or an A\*).

The English Faculty celebrates ongoing success with over 90% of candidates awarded one of the top three grades for the third consecutive year. And Salopians studying Biology have done the School's most famous alumnus, Charles Darwin, proud, with 26 achieving a Distinction in the challenging and demanding Cambridge Pre-U qualification.

Lower Sixth pupils were also given cause for celebration with the publication of results for the Extended Project Qualification. This programme, which inculcates skills of project management



and development in preparation for Higher Education, allows pupils to explore self-devised research questions under the careful guidance of a devoted supervisor.

Some extraordinary projects were completed this year, ranging from detailed assessments of the impact of Astrology or the developing world of artificial intelligence in sport through to one pupil who even constructed his own road-bicycle from scratch!

This year's cohort have been rewarded for their inspirational and intensely detailed work with a stunning set of results – over 60% of them at A\* and A.

For details of results by subject, please see [A Level and Pre-U results 2019 in detail.](#)



# Training the teachers to rebuild a country...

Wednesday 21 August 2019

*Shrewsbury's Head of Drama, Dr Helen Brown and Head of Spanish, Trish Henderson spent the first part of their summer volunteering with the Ankawa Foundation in northern Iraq. Dr Brown explains why...*

*"The whole country's a refugee camp; everyone's just looking for a way out."*

Over the last few years, the Shrewsbury School community has given generous support to the Ankawa Foundation, supporting refugees in Iraq.

Iraq has been a war zone for as long as I can remember. The first Iraq war started while I was at prep school, and conflicts in the Middle East have rumbled on ever since. There is a whole generation of children who have grown up without any kind of stability or security; a whole generation of children whose education has been compromised or interrupted. Some of you – as you force yourselves back into the daily grind of school life in September – might think that sounds like a pretty good thing. But if you fail to give a child an education, you give them a gun.



In 2018, Bashar Warda, the Archbishop of Erbil, approached the Foundation with a request. The region is now relatively stable; ISIS has been driven back to a tiny territory in the south of Iraq and displaced people are starting to return to their homes and communities. However, Archbishop Warda believed that the greatest factor in the success or failure of the rebuilding programme would be the quality of the education system. Education not only enables young people to access jobs and financial security but is also proven to combat radicalisation. His request therefore, was simple: could we help train teachers to deliver an international curriculum?

With the right teachers, he believed, he could build a ladder out of war and poverty for his people.

With a certain amount of trepidation, we took a deep breath and said yes. At the start of the summer holiday, therefore, a group of five UK teachers – including Shrewsbury’s own inimitable Head of Spanish, Trish Henderson – flew to Erbil to deliver a fledgling teacher training programme to a group of Iraqi teachers.



One was in her forties. Her childhood home had been bombed in the first Gulf War. She had been driven from Baghdad by Saddam and from Mosul by ISIS – all without chipping one of her immaculate, inch-long acrylics. She expressed her horror at the state of my nails and insisted on giving me a proper manicure – because “when all you have left is self-respect, it matters”.

One had studied at the University of Mosul. When ISIS came, his family escaped to Sweden. He cannot get a visa to visit them and may never see them again.

One was 25, with biceps wider than his neck (Iraqis never do leg day). When we said we were glad to see the refugee camps closing as people returned home, he said, “The whole country’s a refugee camp; everyone’s just looking for a way out.”



Our training programme was designed to help these teachers provide an education that will rebuild their country; as well as EAL classes, we provided resources on curriculum planning, classroom management, safeguarding and pastoral care. However, as is so often the case with volunteering, we found that we learned far more than we taught; not only about the region and about educational philosophy, but about the tenacity of a community that has bent so far without breaking. The courage and commitment we witnessed was humbling: an important reminder of how incredibly privileged we are, and how absolute is the moral imperative to share that privilege with others.



If you would like further information about the Foundation's projects, or to donate to our work, please visit [www.ankawafoundation.org](http://www.ankawafoundation.org).



## Shrewsbury School celebrates impressive GCSE results

Thursday 22 August 2019

*A week after celebrating the success of our 2019 Upper Sixth leavers in their A level and Pre-U examinations, a very impressive set of results for our GCSE pupils brought more cause for celebration.*



*L-R: Will Owen, Natalie Dee, Issie Halfpenny-Edwards, Lucy Lees, Chris Beard*

With 40% of all grades awarded an A\* (or equivalent) and nearly two-thirds of all examinations graded at A\* or A, the pupils will have much of which to be proud. Across all qualifications taken on the new and more challenging 9-1 specifications, nearly half of all grades were at 8/9 level.

At the very top end, 26 pupils gained the equivalent of a complete spread of A\* and A grades across all their subjects and 82 pupils gained at least one of the new, much sought-after grade 9s (a grade designed to reflect the very highest levels of scholarship).

As with the A Level results, the high achievement is demonstrable right across the board, from the 15 A\* grades in Music and the 23 A\*s in Design through to spectacular performances in the three sciences, each producing over 80 A\* and A grades from the cohort, and notable successes for candidates in the challenging discipline of Physical Education.



Languages, both Ancient and Modern, continue to be a real strength and it is particularly pleasing to see Spanish and German producing such excellent results against a background of declining interest in the languages elsewhere in the UK.

These fantastic results will certainly be the signal for celebration on the part of the pupils but more importantly, they will provide an impressive foundation as they embark upon the variety and challenge of a Sixth Form career at Shrewsbury School.

Headmaster Leo Winkley paid tribute to all the pupils and staff whose love of learning and shared endeavour has led to this excellent crop of GCSE examination results. With a bright array of A Level and Pre-U courses now in prospect, as well as the wider opportunities of Sixth Form life, they can embark on the new level of study with great confidence.

For details of results by subject, please see [A Level, Pre-U and GCSE results 2019 in detail.](#)

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



## Summer Gliding Camp

Monday 26 August 2019

*Now an annual fixture in the Shrewsbury School CCF calendar, the Summer Gliding Camp is of huge benefit to aspiring pilots in the School CCF RAF Section due, with six days of focused, individual training.*

Situated on the Long Mynd just a few miles south of Shrewsbury, the Midland Gliding Club often provides the ideal conditions for soaring flight, coupled with the exciting challenge of landing atop a hill, as well as exquisite views of the surrounding Shropshire countryside.



*View east from the Long Mynd*

As June and the Summer Term were drawing to a close, a sustained period of high winds and significant rainfall threatened the success of the 2019 Gliding Camp, scheduled to take place from Sunday 28th June to Friday 5th June. However, the sun fortunately broke through just in time and, for the first time in five years, the cadets were able to fly all day and every day of the Camp.



*Launching a K13 to the south*





Cadets mainly flew in the Club's AS-K21 and AS-K13 gliders, which are moderate-performance gliders and quite forgiving. However, training was supplemented with 30 - 60 minutes of powered flight in the Falke 2000 'motor-glider', and most also flew the open-cockpit vintage T21, which is a rare treat!



*Open-cockpit T21*



*Falke 2000 motor-glider*

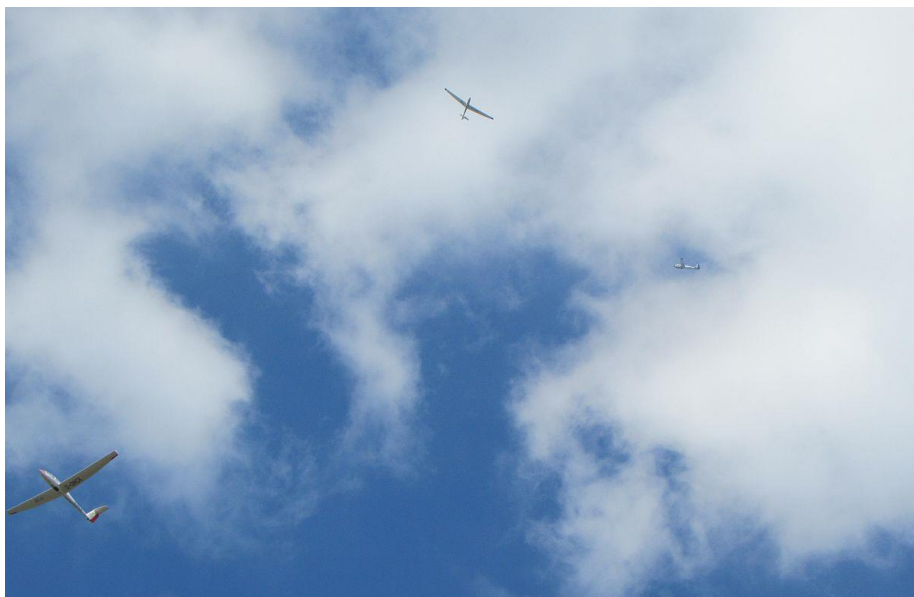


The training during the week is not just about controlling an aircraft, but also the accompanying aspects of aviation. Students attended a morning briefing regarding the layout of the airfield each day, based on interpreting weather maps and cross-sections of the air mass over the Club. In addition, being an effective member of the ground crew is essential.



*The cadets completing a Daily Inspection of the K21*

On the ground, responsibilities included unpacking gliders from the hangar each morning, completing a daily inspection of each glider, checking parachutes, manoeuvring gliders around the airfield, signalling for launch, driving the cable-retrieving winch, clearing the landing area of sheep and horses (at which Jasper proved most proficient!) and packing the gliders back into the hangar again.



*Gliders soaring in a thermal*

Unfortunately, a combination of factors (including particularly poor weather on Thursdays throughout the year) meant that our Fifth Form were more rusty than usual at the very beginning of the camp. It therefore wasn't quite possible to get anybody to the standard required for solo flight. However, having had a greater number of flights and minutes in the air during the camp than in past years, all made excellent progress and we currently have more students than ever approaching that next step.

Morgan M (Ch 3) joined us on a few days, having been flying privately at the Club since before joining Shrewsbury School. Having continued his training through the summer holiday, he has just earned his solo flying wings – and our congratulations!



*Jasper, Paul and Morgan*

The now-traditional parallel 'croquet camp' was in full swing again during down-time before and after evening meals, which were kindly provided by the Club's catering team or at local pubs and restaurants.

As in recent years, we also met up with Old Salopian glider Ed Jones, who still flies and drives the main winch at the Club. Ed has also assisted in setting up a new gliding club this year, at Bognor Regis.



*Gliders queuing to launch*

The cadets on the camp this year were Mark E (S 5), Milton T (SH 5), Ivan L (SH 5), Hugo C (O 4), Ivan G (O 5), Jasper Y (Rt 5) and Max C (I 5). All are hugely grateful to Paul, who volunteers his time to instruct and organise additional flying support, and to all Club members who contribute to the success of the camp. We all very much enjoyed the 'steak night' put on by the Club this year!

*Flt Lt DM Wray*

