

RSSH: Third successive win for the Colts at the Midlands & Northern Independent Schools Cross-Country Championship

Monday 1 February 2016

There were medals for all the Hunt runners at the Midlands & Northern Independent Schools Cross-Country Championship (MANISCCC), held in Giggleswick on a tough course and in 'character-building' weather conditions on Saturday 30th January.



Colts Race winner Harry Remnant (centre) with the Shrewsbury A team

For the third year in a row, the Colts race was won by Shrewsbury's A team. The B team finished 2nd, proof of just how much strength in depth the Hunt is enjoying at the moment.

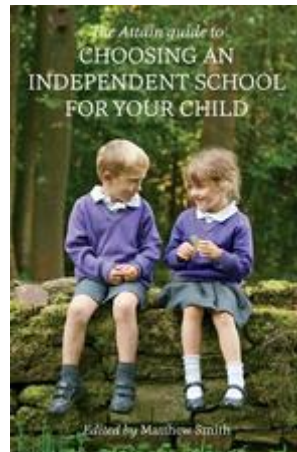
The Colts race was won by Harry Remnant (Ch IV) , who becomes only the fourth Shrewsbury runner ever to win the title; a fantastic achievement.

Due to the proximity of the national relays in Coventry just four days away, The Hunt had elected to rest 12 key members of the Senior squad, but Charles Wade (PH UVI) proved an inspiring leader and stand-in team captain, and in another display of strength in depth in the Seniors' race, Shrewsbury's A team finished 2nd and the B Team came 3rd.

New free guide for parents on choosing an independent school

Monday 1 February 2016

A dozen leading independent school heads have come together to collaborate in a unique free book designed to debunk some of the myths surrounding independent education. Among the contributors is Shrewsbury School's Headmaster Mark Turner.



The book – *The Attain Guide to Choosing an Independent School for Your Child* – seeks to shine light on an otherwise bewildering market for the first-time parent. It challenges some of the advice dispensed by numerous schools' guides and lifestyle magazines.

Early chapters include 'a bluffer's guide to independent schools', through to a checklist of research tips. The book does not shy away from tackling topics such as school marketing gimmicks, escaping the latest fads in education or debating whether it is necessary to actually like the Head.

"With this unique book, we wanted to help parents navigate the process of choosing a school – from pre-prep through to senior," comments Editor Matthew Smith.

Heads have each chosen topics which are particularly close to their hearts. Mark Turner's chapter is entitled 'Quantifying extra-curricular provision'. "In advising prospective parents," he writes, "I would urge them to look at the depth of extracurricular provision, as well as the breadth..." Drawing on examples from Shrewsbury, he makes reference to the huge number of pupils who represent their house in sport and the encouragement to 'have a go' in house plays.

The book is available as a free download for iPad and iPhone via Apple's iBooks Store - <https://attain.guide>. Parents wanting a printed copy can order a low-cost print-on-demand version for £6.99 through their local bookshop or from Amazon (ISBN: 978-0-9934895-0-1).



Shrewsbury win Outstanding Delegation Award at Manchester High MUN

Monday 1 February 2016

Shrewsbury's Model United Nations teams enjoyed an extremely successful weekend at the Manchester High School for Girls' MUN Conference, 30th - 31st January, winning the most coveted Outstanding Delegation Award and a clutch of other impressive individual awards.

A total of 300 delegates attended the Conference from 18 schools from across the country, and the standard of debate was very high. Shrewsbury's delegates were representing two countries – the USA and Bahrain.

Shrewsbury's USA team were delighted to be named the Outstanding Delegation, and Ed Plaut (S UVI) won the most coveted individual award: Outstanding Delegate in the Security Council.

- Rhys Trevor (PH LVI) was named Outstanding Delegate in the Human Rights Committee
- Max Yale (S LVI) was Highly Commended in the Economic Committee
- Mark Pangin (SH IV) was Highly Commended in the Environment Committee - Mr Peach commented that it is an extraordinary achievement for a Fourth Former to win a Highly Commended award.
- Alec Barnes (PH LVI) was Highly Commended in the Human Rights Committee - Alec and Mr Peach were also particularly delighted with this award, as this was Alec's first ever MUN Conference.
- Sasha Arridge (Rb UVI) was Commended in the Human Rights Council (a small elite committee)
- Ed Donovan (R LVI) was Commended in the Political Committee
- Mill Luangamornlert (SH V) was Commended in the Future Committee.

This is a tremendous boost to the team as they prepare for two MUN Conferences during half term, in Paris and Oxford.



The USA team



The Bahrain team

School House boys win national rowing championships

Tuesday 2 February 2016



L-R: Freddie and Matt with their medals

At the beginning of February, Matt Rowe (LVI) and Freddie Bonthron (UVI) competed in the English Indoor Rowing Championships and came away with the following national titles in the Junior Men's (U18) category:

Matt is the National Champion of the individual event (2000m).

Matt and Freddie are National Champions of the team event (3000m).

Congratulations to both on their titles!

Cricketer Cup Merit Table

Wednesday 3 February 2016

We are very happy to be able to post the Cricketer Cup Merit Table of results from 2010-2015. You can [view it on this link](#).

It's a great testament to everyone who has turned out to play over the last five years.

Physics Big Quiz 2016

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Ten of our keenest Third Form physicists took part in the 11th Physics Big Quiz at Birmingham University last week.



This was the first year that Shrewsbury had entered the competition and so we were not really sure what to expect. A total of 90 teams took part, representing over 20 different schools from around the country.

Topics for each round varied from testing IGCSE topics such as ‘waves’ to having to recognise and name famous physicists. The most challenging round (even for the teachers) was on the Specialist Topic of ‘The Physics of Einstein’.

Our top team was placed 12th overall and the team comprising George Clowes (O), Caspar Hamilton (I) and Oliver Shutts (O) won the Spot Prize for the first round.

The Key Note lecture was given by Professor Martin Freer who answered questions such as ‘what are we made of?’ and ‘what would happen if the strong nuclear force was not strong enough?’. He ended by asking all the teams ‘what will you study at university?’ ‘Physics’ was clearly the correct answer!

JLP



The Spot Prize winning team with Dr Robert Smith from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Birmingham University

RSSBC: Outstanding medal-winning performances at the English Indoor Rowing Championships

Wednesday 3 February 2016

The Boat Club had a very successful day on Sunday 31st January, winning an impressive haul of medals across three age groups competing at the English Indoor Rowing Championships, which were held inside the impressive Manchester Velodrome.



The J14s kicked off proceedings in fine style, with Olivia Moir and Louis Nares winning bronze medals in extremely competitive fields in the J14 Girls' and J14 Boys' 4min races.

Matthew Rowe dominated proceedings in the Men's J18 Category, winning the 2000m event by 15 seconds.



J14 bronze medallists Louis Nares and Olivia Moir

The team events then got underway, when teams of four pupils had to cover a distance of 3000m in the fastest possible time. The J14s put out two teams in both the girls' and the boys' events, and all of them put on a strong show. The girls' top team finished fourth in their category, and the boys' team secured the bronze medal with an excellent performance - a first rowing medal for some of the boys.



J14 bronze medal winning team

The boys' J16 team of Artem Stopnevich, Max Craik, Tom Shepherd-Cross and Bryce Rutter (*pictured below left to right*) led the field from start to finish in their category, winning by an impressive margin of over 80 metres.



Three senior teams entered into the Championships and produced some outstanding medal-winning performances. Henry Bambridge, George Rowley, Nick Watkins and Gavin O'Dwyer competed in the Open Men's category against some very strong competition. They were the fastest junior athletes of the day, and their excellent time of 8:16 for the 3,000m would have won overall for both of the preceding years. On the day they had to settle for silver, however, behind an impressive men's team from Manchester.



Open Men's silver medallists George Rowley, Nick Watkins, Henry Bambridge, Gavin O'Dwyer



Freddie Bonthron, Paddy George, Matthew Rowe and Donald Hickey competed in the J18 Men's category. The boys led from start to finish in their category, winning in another quick time of 8:26.

Barney Fox, Alex King, Lucy Price and Lauren Powell (*pictured below left to right*) raced well in the Open Mixed event, winning bronze.



ATH



Woodwind Prizes 2016

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Nearly 50 students took part in the annual Woodwind Prizes on 31st January, which were adjudicated by Old Salopian and professional clarinettist Peter Furniss (Rb 1980-84).

Peter Furniss has performed internationally for 25 years as a soloist, chamber musician and as a guest Principal Clarinettist with many of the UK's leading ensembles and orchestras. He is highly active as an improviser, in jazz, Eastern European and popular music, and has written for, directed and assisted on several education and community projects.

In 2013 he was awarded a three-year research grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council to undertake practice-based doctoral research into digitally augmented performance at the University of Edinburgh, where his work explores the relationships between instrumental musicians and computers.

The results of the competition were as follows:

Senior Prize (Diploma level)

1st: Henry Newbould (Ch UVI) - saxophone

Highly Commended: Ben Sansom (PH UVI) - saxophone

Commended: Ursule Taujanskaite (MSH UVI) - flute

Intermediate Prize (Grades 6 – 8)

1st: Sally Joyce (G UVI) – bassoon

Highly Commended: William Hope (Ch IV) – clarinet

Commended: Joe Thevathasan (PH UVI) – oboe

Junior Prize (Grade 6 & below)

1st: James Snell (Ch V) – clarinet

Highly Commended: George Clowes (O III) – oboe

Commended: Matthew Thevathasan (PH IV) – clarinet

ARTiculation prize

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Congratulations to History of Art student Kitty Waddell (EDH UVI) who won third place in the regional heat of the ARTiculation Prize at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham on 1st February.



The ARTiculation Prize is an initiative run by the Roche Court Educational Trust that is designed to “stimulate students’ interest and understanding of art while developing individual thinking, observation, research, language and presentation skills”. Dr Christina Bradstreet, Courses and Events Programmer at the National Gallery in London, has described it as “the most exciting thing happening around art and art history in schools today”.

In a congratulatory email to Shrewsbury’s Art Department, the Head of ARTiculation wrote, “Kitty is a very engaging and assured public speaker. The judges, Deborah Kermode and Mahtab Hussain, commended Kitty’s choice of painting commenting that the subject of domestic violence being as relevant as ever.

“Kitty had a very balanced opinion, with a measured response to the work which Debbie reminded us was very important. Both judges enjoyed the research behind Kitty’s presentation and they mentioned how well Kitty unpicked the symbolism which is key to the Pre-Raphaelites. Overall they commented that Kitty’s was a particularly strong presentation.”



OS Fives Progress to the Final of the Barber Cup

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Congratulations to the OS Fives team, who beat the Old Harrovians on 17th January, to set up a final against the perennially strong Old Olavians. Full results are as follows:

Semi-Finals

Old Salopians beat Old Harrovians 2-1 at Eton 17/01/16:

G.Thomason & R.Worth lost to T.Dunbar & R.Wijeratne 0-3 (11-15, 8-12, 5-12)

I.Hutchinson & H.Lewis beat R.Bryan & N.Shaw 3-1 (10-13, 12-3, 12-9, 12-9)

C.Hughes & T.Welti beat A.Poole & O.Denby 3-2 (7-12, 12-5, 12-9, 13-14, 12-10)

Old Olavians beat Old Berkhamstedians 3-0 at Eton 17/01/16:

S.Cooley & T.Barker beat A.Joyce & O.Green 3-0 (12-2, 12-4, 12-1)

J.Toop & P.White beat J.O'Neill & D.Smith 3-0 (12-5, 12-7, 12-2)

H.Wiseman & D.Mew beat A.Rattan & D.Naik 3-0 (12-1, 12-0, 12-1)

Postscript - The final took place on February 14th at 2.30pm at Eton and, following a close contest, the Old Olavians came out the victors.



Inaugural Old Salopian basketball fixture

Thursday 4 February 2016

The inaugural Old Salopian basketball fixture took place in the School gym on Sunday 31st January.



Bryan Yick assembled an All-Star squad of recent leavers to take on the high-flying School team, the Sharks.

The game was closely contested and played in excellent spirit. The School team eventually ran out winners 66 – 49.

The Old Salopian team consisted of Bryan Yick (M 10-15), Sam Kandi (M 10 -15), Michael Pong (SH 13-15), Billy Chu (O 10-15), Benny Wong (Rt 10-14) and Michael Kwan (S 10-15).

WAH



Salopian competes in the Welsh Alpine Ski Championships

Thursday 4 February 2016

Jac Evans (O III) has just returned from Switzerland, having competed for the third year running in the Welsh Alpine Ski Championships, staged at Les Crostes, Les Portes Du Soleil.



In challenging race conditions, the Slalom course on the first day proved testing for a number of the athletes, but Jac's combined runs placed him as third fastest U14 Welsh skier and 9th from 27 in the overall category.

Friday was Giant Slalom and an equally steep and testing first section put paid to Jac's overall chances, as he crashed out. However, despite a knock to the head, he gathered himself and showed strength of character to complete his second run. He finished a respectable 11th overall out of 23, retaining his position as third fastest U14 Welsh skier."



Basketball: Major win for the 'The Sharks' against League Champions Idsall

Thursday 4 February 2016

The School's Basketball team, 'The Sharks' are on something of a roll at the moment, having recently defeated Shropshire League champions Idsall.



Boasting six Shropshire Warriors players (national league) in their squad and having not lost in the Shropshire League for three years, Idsall represented tough opposition.

“The team could quite easily have got blown away by the way Idsall started,” said Will Hughes, Master in Charge of Basketball. “But they kept their nerve to keep plugging away and slowly claw their way back into the lead by the third quarter. By the fourth quarter it was basket for basket and we managed to keep our noses in front, eventually winning 89-87!”

This clearly augers well for the remainder of the Shropshire League and the Nationals. Congratulations to the whole squad – Eva Zhang (EDH), Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH), Felix Leung (Ch), Sergey Vartanov (SH), Wentao He (SH), Adam Leung (M), Harry Zhang (I), Travis Ho (Rt), Ken Lai (S), Gladys Lam (MSH), Aaron Zhao (SH), Eccles Cheong (SH).

On 31st January, the Sharks played an all-star squad of recent leavers in the inaugural Old Salopian basketball fixture. The game was closely contested and played in excellent spirit, and The Sharks eventually ran out winners 66 – 49.

The Old Salopian team comprised Bryan Yick (M 10-15), Sam Kandi (M 10 -15), Michael Pong (SH 13-15), Billy Chu (O 10-15), Benny Wong (Rt 10-14) and Michael Kwan (S 10-15).

The next big challenge for The Sharks is the Regional Round of the English Schools Cup on 9th February at Nottingham CE Academy. This is the first time a Shrewsbury School basketball team has gone beyond the county rounds. We wish them luck!



The Sharks and the first ever OS Basketball team



Christopher Booker (Rt 1951-56) returns to judge the 2016 McEachran Prize

Thursday 4 February 2016

The McEachran Prize is awarded in memory of Frank McEachran ('Kek'), an inspirational teacher at Shrewsbury from 1935 until his death in service (at the age of 75) in 1975. The prize is awarded for a talk on a 'spell' - a Salopian term for a short passage of poetry or prose, chosen for its suitability for recitation aloud.

A packed Moser Library was delighted and entertained by Old Salopian Christopher Booker's account of 'Kek' lessons in the 1950s which opened the McEachran Prize competition on Tuesday night. A larger than usual audience had gathered, curious to hear and see the first editor of 'Private Eye', Sunday Telegraph and Spectator columnist, author and satirist.

Eighteen competitors, from the Fourth Form through to the Upper Sixth, spent the next two hours in a dazzling array of four-minute talks on a 'Spell' of their own choosing; Salopian intellectual verve at its best.

This year's winners were, in the senior section, Guy Cabral (Ch), with an engaging reflection on 'The moving finger writes ...' from the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* and, in the junior section, fellow Churchillian Otto Rothwell Hurley (who also won last year) with a very personal meditation on Dylan Thomas' *Do not go gentle into that good night*.

Highly commended in the junior section was Ebrahim Jamshid (SH), who chose a verse of the Sufi mystic Rumi as his Spell, and in the senior section, Ed Plaut, who based his arresting and energetic talk on W H Auden's *September 1st, 1939*.

RTH



Otto Rothwell Hurley and Guy Cabral with adjudicator Christopher Booker

OS Richard Hayes Plans to Walk 75 Miles for Lord Hill's Column

Friday 5 February 2016



We thought that you might be interested in reading the Shropshire Star's article about Reverend Richard Hayes (M 52-57), who is planning to walk from Anglesey to Shrewsbury in order to raise money for repairs to Shrewsbury's iconic Lord Hill's Column. For the entirety of the walk he will be wearing full period uniform of the 23 Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers. Richard is the Chairman of the Friends of Lord Hill's Column does a huge amount of work to raise awareness of the history and importance of the column, including talks to local schools and visits to the column itself.

You can read the [full story on this link.](#)

International tour of 'Schwanengesang' begins at Shrewsbury School

Friday 5 February 2016

James Fraser-Andrews describes beautifully the stunning concert given in the Maidment Building last Thursday by internationally-acclaimed baritone Roderick Williams, pianist Susie Allan and guest narrator Jenny Agutter.



London, New York... Shropshire. The land of lost content that inspired such fine art song in the 20th century last week saw the beginning of an unforgettable exploration into the final songs of Franz Schubert, whose genius in the genre has, arguably, yet to be surpassed. How fortunate we were to witness such poised A-list artistry unwrap *Schwanengesang*, his final set of lieder, with its eloquent negotiation of regret, of impossible love, of endings, of fearful perspectives into a glacial unknown.

Internationally-acclaimed baritone Roderick Williams alongside the magisterial talents of pianist Susie Allan created a mesmerising performance of these 'swansongs' that, unlike other Schubert cycles (to be performed by the duo in the coming months), are driven by no underlying narrative, nor single lyricist. Instead, published as they were after the composer's tragically early death in 1828, we heard each setting of poems by Rellstab, Heine and Seidl variously lit through their

conversation with other poetry and prose, both contemporary with the time of composition and, as Roderick Williams describes in further digital conversations available on his excellent blog covering his conception of the project, <http://rwschubertcycleproject.blogspot.com.br/>, from our more 'cynical' present.



The actress Jenny Agutter, taking a break from filming the third series of *Call The Midwife*, brought to life these interstitial moments between songs with a narratorial presence and humour that was neatly sympathetic to the tempo and mood established by the music-making. Not only did these recitations provoke thought, and provide context and breathing space for the duo, but they had the welcome effect of preventing Schubert from being marred by the fluttering of programme pages being turned en masse.

It was, however, the effortless balance between singer and pianist where the evening bound us most tightly in its spell, the poetic power of these songs shared in the musicianship and interplay between the two. While the songs were illuminated and shaped in searching, nuanced colour by Susie Allan on the Maidment's newly re-conditioned Steinway D, Roderick Williams achieved understated yet thrillingly direct vocal communication as the first half moved from brittle joy to jaunty resignation, and then swelled into the spare, forebodingly chromatic writing of the second.

As an encore, *An Die Musik* brought proceedings to a close, but it was an evening that no one in the audience wanted to end. London and Manhattan could wait, it seemed, as the final rendition of Schubert's own prayer of thanksgiving to music brought the world to an enraptured and timeless halt.

Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir dafür!

JFA



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 5 February 2016

This week, the Boat Club.



It seems that more and more people are being drawn to the Boat Club. Perhaps some of our more enlightened students have decided that rowing is the future. With global warming causing even more rain to fall on our sceptred isle, the future of travel may involve oars. Is Carlisle going to be the Venice of the North? Will some of our talented musicians be spotted singing 'Just one cornetto' from the Eden Bridge?



Sadly, despite what one might think, too much water is not good for our rowers. No, it's not that they get water on the brain, it's just that the river gets too big and suddenly coxes have to look



out for trees in their way, not to mention submerged signs and cars. Also large objects find their way into the middle of the stream, such as branches, dead cows and fat swimmers. It is at such times that our rowing coaches have to ‘think outside of the boat’.

Matthew Rowe (SH and pictured right) was clearly born to be an oarsman. From an early age he was not sure whether people were calling him by name or giving him an order! If we are honest, he has probably had a few days when confusion has swamped him, which is why he turned to the Philosophy and Theology Department seeking security and order in his life. It is always gratifying when I can help provide a Philosophical security blanket and help bring clarity to someone’s life.

I think Matthew has been inspired, like so many, by René Descartes’ philosophical statement “Cogito Ergo Sum”. Certainly he has been participating positively in the classroom and is always keen to talk about his Ergo times. Initially I thought this was a reference to Descartes, but recently Director of Rowing Athol Hundermark pointed out that Matthew had recently dominated the Men’s J18 Category at the English Indoor Rowing Championships, winning a gold medal by 15 seconds.

You might be thinking that the Indoor Rowing Championships must take place in a very big bath, but I can assure you that no water was disturbed in the winning of this medal. It was all down to Matthew’s ability on a piece of equipment called an ‘ergo’ machine. Having never had the need to visit a gym, I have researched this type of ergo and found it to be very different to the ergo of René Descartes.



Apparently this ‘ergo’ is a machine much loved by ‘gym monkeys’ and their friends. (Gym monkeys are those few hard core gym enthusiasts who are addicted to enhancing their physical appearance and probably are not well acquainted with the works of René – although we would not want to be accused of stereotyping!). There are few souls I know who are happy with both Descartes and gym excellence, but Matthew is one of them. “Cogito Ergo Sum et Amo Ergo” Matthew said in fluent Latin, as behoves one of my best pupils.

I believe that our opponents who won in the Open Championship team event do not actually row on water but are just full time ergonauts! (Gym Monkeys). Amongst the rowing fraternity we rocked! If you want the factual detail of who won what and in what times, you need to access the serious piece of sporting journalism elsewhere on the website: [Outstanding medal-winning performances at the English Indoor Rowing Championships](#). I am far too involved with my own stream of consciousness to be bogged down in factual analysis!

I ventured down to the Boathouse recently to see other winners from the Indoor Rowing Champs and also to check if Lucy Price and Lauren Powell had recovered from the shock of the very scary event that they witnessed whilst Barney Fox was emulating his father's prowess on the ergo.



I am not sure what was going on but it was clearly shocking and there will be a prize for the best caption sent in (that is printable). Lucy and Lauren have both arrived at Shrewsbury keen to row and test themselves. They were very proud of their team bronze medal. I asked them what had shocked them and they admitted to me that they had seen the ghost of René Descartes hovering over Matt Rowe.

I also came across under-14 medal winners Louis Nares and Olivia Moir. Olivia is always philosophical and deep about what is going on in her life. I asked her why she felt she had succeeded in Manchester. She thought for a while and put it down to regularly eating thirds at lunch. Louis agreed that food was important and they both wanted me to thank Mark and his team in Kingsland Hall for their hard work and for helping the School to achieve higher ergo times than other schools. "Food is the way forward," Olivia told me.



If you can eat a lot and win ergo competitions, I think I might become a gym monkey as I am very good at the former. *Manducare ergo sum!*

Well done to all those medal-winning ergonauts! A fantastic effort!

GJFB

Chapel Choir sing Evensong at Manchester Cathedral

Friday 5 February 2016

More than 100 members of the Salopian community gathered in Manchester Cathedral on Friday 29th January for an uplifting service of Choral Evensong, sung by the Chapel Choir.

The quality of singing was of the very highest order and the wonderful acoustic in the Cathedral helped to create a very imposing sound, especially in the unaccompanied anthem “Hail, gladdening light” by Charles Wood.



The Choir has been outstanding this year, underpinned by a very strong and dedicated group of Upper Sixth pupils. Solo parts were taken by Loren Kell, Ursule Taujanskaite and Henry Thomas, who has recently received a place to study the trumpet at the Royal College of Music in London. At the other end of the age spectrum, the Choir was again joined by the trebles from Shrewsbury High Prep School, and we look forward to the prospect of them forming their own Upper Sixth cohort – perhaps in

around 2023!

The service was enjoyed by over 100 members of the wider Salopian community who came to join the congregation, and who then moved across Cathedral Gardens to the six-storey National Football Museum for a reception. What better combination for Shrewsbury than the spiritual feast of music being followed by a tour of the museum. After all, the School currently holds the oldest copy of the Laws of the Game, which resides in the Moser Library.

Shrewsbury’s musicians are as ever enjoying a very busy term. Next stop Oxford for a chamber concert in the Holywell Music Room on Friday 12th February, and then on to Birmingham Town Hall for Verdi’s Requiem on Sunday 28th February.

The size of the Manchester Cathedral congregation meant that we ran out of Orders of Service; we are heading towards a full house in Oxford; but the real challenge is Birmingham, where the Town Hall has a capacity of over 1,000. We will offer the warmest of welcomes to all friends of the School, and tickets can be ordered through the Birmingham Town Hall Box Office on 0121 345 0600 or by downloading and completing a [booking form](#) and returning it to Nikki Bevan, Marketing Manager, Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury SY3 7BA or via email to nbevan@shrewsbury.org.uk

For full details of this concert, please see the Events listing: [Shrewsbury School performs Verdi's Requiem](#)



Rugby: County Cup win for the U14As

Friday 5 February 2016

The U14A squad beat Corbett School (62-5) in their County Cup match on Wednesday 3rd February.

Oliver Shutts (O) was man of the match and captain, displaying excellent ball carrying and rucking. Frank Mansell (PH) scored a hat-trick, with other tries from Archie McKirdy (PH), Harry Sutherland (Ch), Ben Coulson (Rt), Nathan Mielczarek (Rb), Roman Khidirbekov x 2 (SH); Alex Powell (I) kicked very well, scoring 6 conversions.

On Saturday both the U14 and 1st XV's lost to Bishops Vesey GS in close, well-fought, matches.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



The news 100 years ago: 5th - 11th February 1916

Friday 5 February 2016

This week we remember:

Corporal Harold Garnock Potts, M2/098045, Army Service Corps.

Churchill's, left in 1901 and was admitted solicitor to a practice in Broseley, Salop.

Died in the United Kingdom 6 February 1916 aged 32.

Buried at Broseley Cemetery, England. Grave C.E. I. 433.

Chicks are hatching at The Grove

Friday 5 February 2016



One beautiful little chick hatched yesterday at The Grove. Now waiting for the ducklings...



Two Salopians win Gold medals in the British Biology Olympiad

Friday 5 February 2016

Four of our Sixth Form Biology students entered the British Biology Olympiad this year and we were delighted to be informed this week that all of them have won awards. Particular congratulations to Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) and Tom Edwards (S), who were among the 6.6% of students who won Gold medals.



Tom Edwards and Olivia Papaioannou

Congratulations, too, to Joe Davies (M) who won a Bronze medal and to Tom Cheung (SH) who was Commended.

This year almost 7,200 students entered the first round of the British Biology Olympiad, which is open to all post-16 students in the UK and is designed to challenge and stimulate the most talented young biologists in the country.

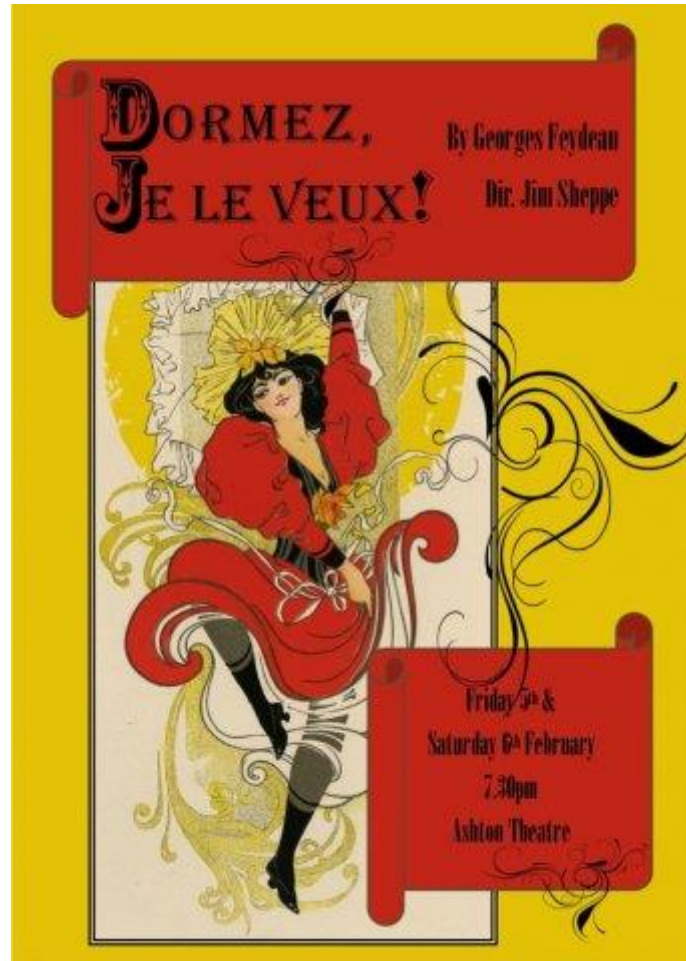
In addition to encouraging and rewarding pupils in their studies, the BBO is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad. Olivia Papaioannou's very high score means that she is one of the small number of Gold medal winners who has qualified for the next round of team selection. We believe that she is only the second Salopian to achieve this.

TSM



Bravo for Julian's encore...

Saturday 6 February 2016



Following his triumph with 'Posh' last term, Julian Chesshire (UVI) was not content to draw the line at directing and starring in a play in his native tongue. On the first weekend of February, Julian took on, and excelled in, the challenge of putting on a French production.

The show was a great success and a remarkable accomplishment for Julian and the rest of the cast. Helen Brown, Director of Drama, gave the following review:

Dormez, je le veux! tells the story of a lazy servant, Justin (Julian Chesshire, SH), who has mastered the art of hypnotism in order to control his master.

Justin's plan comes under threat when he learns that his master intends to get married to the daughter of a doctor, who is himself an expert in the occult. Hilarity ensues, culminating in a hypno-ninja-battle between Justin and the doctor.

The cast, led by Julian, threw themselves into the performance with gusto. Despite the challenges of performing in French, they held their audience spellbound for a breakneck 45 minutes."



Fives: Fixtures v St Olave's, Highgate and Eton

Sunday 7 February 2016

A busy weekend of competition for our Fives boys' teams saw fixtures against St Olave's (Friday), Highgate (Saturday) and Eton (Sunday) – the results of which inform the seedings for the Nationals.

Our senior 1st pair of Tom Breese (PH) and George Panayi (Ch) beat Eton on Sunday in a 5-setter (3-2), having also beaten Highgate on Saturday (3-0) but having lost to St Olave's on Friday (1-2). They should get a good seeding for the Nationals.

The U16s played Highgate on Saturday, winning 3-1:

1st pair Tom Bromley-Davenport & Tom Brunskill 13-10, 12-15, 12-6, 12-2

2nd pair George Garrett & Harry Wasdell 11-13, 12-9, 3-12, 13-11, 6-12

3rd pair Lysander Adair & Jordan Zaza 12-10, 12-7, 12-9

4th pair Ed Stapleton & Gen Songthammakul 12-3, 13-11, 12-3

However the U16s then lost to Eton (1-3).

The U14s also had a good match vs Eton, drawing 2-2.



Fives: Record number of girls' pairs enter Northern Championships

Monday 8 February 2016

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th February, Shrewsbury entered more pairs of girls in a Fives tournament than at any point since establishing the sport in 2009.

In total we put out 12 pairs and kept the strong Shrewsbury School connection with the tournament alive whilst the boys were busy in London competing against Highgate and Eton.

Saturday & Sunday Main Tournament

The following pairs competed on two days and each played a total of some 12 matches – representing nearly 11 hours of Fives (with breaks, I must add) – during a gruelling weekend. The quality and resolve of their play against a mixture of some of the best adult players in the country, Old Salopians and experienced club players, was excellent to see and the work they got through will surely have toughened them up for the National events still to come.

- Pair 1 Sophia Breese & Lizzie Ware
- Pair 2 Emma Graham & Katie Oswald
- Pair 3 Izzy Wong & Abi Watkinson
- Pair 4 Sophie Cormack & Claire Richards
- Pair 5 Amelie Davies/Ella Windle & Lara Ockleston

Sunday Selection Festival

On Sunday the leading pairs were joined in the Festival Event by another seven pairs, many of whom were making their competitive debuts. Here the girls were pitched against opponents much closer to their level.

After a four-match group round, our U15 1st Pair Sophia Breese and Lizzie Ware reached the Plate Final against our U15 2nd Pair Emma Graham and Katie Oswald. It proved to be the most compelling match and produced the highest quality of Fives played by Shrewsbury School girls since being introduced in 2009.

The match ended 15-14 to Graham & Oswald, but the quality of the match and the technical progress shown by all four girls was the real triumph.

- Pair 1 Sarah Jackman & Erin Leatherbarrow
- Pair 2 Libby Hedges & Phoebe Wasdell
- Pair 3 Artemis Cooper & Mr Barnard
- Pair 4 Morgan Butler & Eily Kerr
- Pair 5 Jess Moeran & Jenny Hill
- Pair 6 Ruchi Scott & Sasha Lo
- Pair 7 Ursule Taujanskaite & G. Davies

The girls now look forward to a challenging programme in the second half of term.

ASB



Lacrosse: U15s are runners-up in the North Schools' Tournament

Monday 8 February 2016

On Saturday 6th February, the U15 lacrosse team travelled to Queen Margaret's York to compete in the North Schools' Tournament.

Unfortunately our first game was against the eventual tournament winners, Moreton Hall, and we struggled to get the three-hour journey out of our system and lost (2-12).

However, we were then victorious over Bolton (6-2), Birkenhead (4-1) and Queen's Chester (6-4), before being narrowly beaten by Queen Margaret's (2-3).

This is a great achievement for the team, with the standout performers being: Mimi Ashworth (EDH) who was unbeatable in defence and ably led the whole defending unit; Lily Freeman-Attwood (EDH) who played superbly in attack with captain Phoebe Wasdell (MSH); Phoebe Wasdell (MSH), who was strong, consistent and always kept her head under pressure - winning her MVP.

Well done to all!



Midlands & Northern Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Giggleswick

Monday 8 February 2016

Now in its 57th year of competition, the Midlands & Northern Schools' Championships was this year held in the beautiful hills and dales of Giggleswick, having been hosted by Shrewsbury in 2015. The course promised to be challenging, with steep ascents, river crossings and boggy terrain all to be navigated.

Due to the proximity of the national relays in Coventry just four days away, The Hunt elected to rest 12 key members of the squad as the risk to injury was enough to make us nervous! So we sent up relatively inexperienced squads this year, with some runners even getting their debut in the RSSH vest.

The first race of the day was the Colts race (Third and Fourth Form) with the starter's gun going off just after a fairly prolific sheet of sleet had passed through. The skies cleared as the runners charged from the line, with some excellent packing from the Hunt runners from the very outset.

With four to 'count' at the end of the first two short laps, Shrewsbury's counters were all placed within the top 10, with Harry Remnant (Ch) tailing the race leader from Giggleswick, an English Schools' Fell Runner. As the race moved into the hillier terrain, the runners spread somewhat, and there began a titanic struggle between Remnant and the Giggleswick hill specialist.

Ironically, it was on the steep ascent from out of the brook that Remnant chose to make his move and his powerful surge couldn't be matched by his Giggleswick counterpart. As they came down off the hills for the last time and approached the sprint for the line, a lead of 40m was enough for Remnant to defend, breaking the tape first and becoming only the fourth Hunt runner ever to take the Colts title, following in the footsteps in recent years of Freddie Huxley-Fielding and Rory Fraser.

Giggleswick took the individual silver and bronze positions, but then came Ben Henderson (S) in what was very much a breakthrough performance, beating his old rival Toby Pegge (PH) into 5th place, with Shrewsbury's final counter, Third Former Thomas Jackson (R) in 6th. A team total of 16 points was an emphatic victory and meant that the Colts brought home the team trophy for the third year in a row.

Impressively, the 'B' team were later announced as runners-up, with excellent packing demonstrating the Hunt's strength in depth: Johnny Snell (Ch) 10th; Louis Nares (Rb) 11th, Paddy Barlow (R) 12th and Artur Sarsenov (SH) 13th.

In the seniors, without our top dozen runners, the task was always going to be a considerable one, but captain Charles Wade (PH) proved an inspiring leader and stand-in team captain in the absence of Huntsmen Oscar Dickins and Ben Remnant. Over the course of the first lap, Wade was actively encouraging his team to pack in, and as they trailed the lead three, the Hunt's six counters were all running together in a flickering cloud of white vests. Wade himself looked to be in a position to challenge for the individual medals, but it was newcomer Fergus David (Ch) who pushed through the field in the race to come home in 4th overall and the Hunt's lead counter, narrowly missing out on an individual medal. Wade came through next in 5th, with Harris Huntsman (R) in 7th, Charlie Johns (I) in 10th, Seb Ingram (S) in 11th, Cam Anwyl (S) in 12th and Naveen Garikipati (Rb) in 13th.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



An excellent team performance from the runners, though alas it was not quite enough to bring home the trophy with The Hunt placing 2nd behind Oundle School. We had to resist pointing out that we were without our top runners, and had they been running it would have been an altogether different story!

It is also worth noting the achievement of the 'B' team, who also picked up medals coming home in the bronze position with terrific runs from Niklas Amthor (R) and Louis Stewart (PH) in particular (17th and 18th respectively).

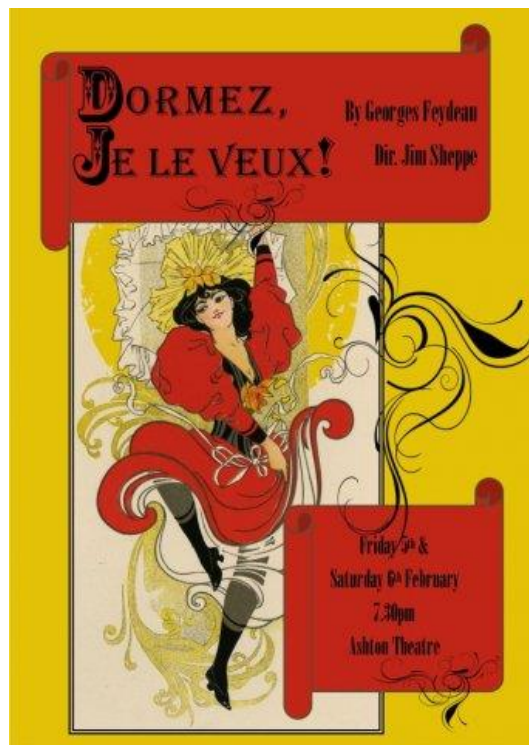
As a club, to be able to come to this major regional competition without our top tier runners and all come away with medals was a tremendous effort and testimony to the impressive depth developing. The Hunt stable is the envy of the country!
PJM



‘Dormez, je le veux!’ - French play review by Helen Brown

Monday 8 February 2016

Feydeau’s farces are masterpieces of slapstick comedy, and they are incredibly difficult to pull off. Add in the challenge of performing in French, and most directors would be put off. Oh, and you’ve only got a month to rehearse. Sounds like a job for Mr Sheppe...



'Dormez, je le veux!' tells the story of a lazy servant, Justin, who has mastered the art of hypnotism in order to control his master. Justin's plan comes under threat when he learns that his master intends to get married to the daughter of a doctor, who is himself an expert in the occult. Hilarity ensues, culminating in a hypno-ninja-battle between Justin and the doctor.

The cast, led by Julian Chesshire as Justin, threw themselves into the performance with gusto. Despite the challenges of performing in French, they held their audience spellbound for a breakneck 45 minutes.

We all saw a new side to Charles Wade, who captured the physical comedy of the piece perfectly, capering round the set as a monkey and cleaning the floor as though powered by Duracell.

Emma Harris embraced the (utterly uncharacteristic) role of a frumpy spinster, whilst Ursule Taujainskaite, performing in her (third? fourth? fifth?) language, was charming as the bride-to-be.

Congratulations to all involved.

HRB

RSSH are Shropshire Schools' county champions

Monday 8 February 2016

The Hunt continued their fantastic season by dominating the Shropshire Schools' County Championships event at Oswestry on Saturday 6th February and performing very strongly at the Midlands League event in Rugby the same day.



The Senior Boys' and Girls' teams both won their categories, as did the Inter and Junior Boys, with the Inter Girls finishing in 2nd place overall.

Individually there were strong performances too: Olivia Papaioannou (EDH UVI) - 2nd; Sam Western (S III) - 2nd; Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R LVI) - 2nd; Will Hayward (R LVI) - 3rd.



There were also some excellent performances on Saturday by the RSSH Midlands League team in very tough conditions.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



A special mention to Tom Hughes (Ch) who came home in 13th position in his debut, Charlie Ockleston (O IV) finishing 2nd Colt, Niklas Amthor (R V) 3rd Colt and Scott Hatton (S LVI) 3rd Senior - all achieved podium positions.

Congratulations to all runners.

Please see Mr Middleton's [report on the County Championships](#) and Miss Walker's [report on the Midlands League](#).

Following these impressive performances, a record number of Hunt runners have gained county selection for the forthcoming English Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Woolaton Park, Nottingham on Saturday 5th March - see list of names: [RSSH County Selections](#).



Chinese New Year

Monday 8 February 2016



Match Report from the Arthur Dunn Cup Quarter-Final

Tuesday 9 February 2016



In a game dominated by a very strong wind (see image 4), the Salopians went through a highly professional warm-up routine and suitably started on the front foot. Within 20 minutes, a lobbed pass on the left set Roy Chatterjee free. He strode into the penalty area and hit a hard cross shot



which evaded their slow diving keeper and found the inside of the far post. Ten minutes before half-time their hapless keeper was found well out of goal and a resulting long shot found the back of the net.



Turning round with a merited two goal advantage, the Salopians were faced in the second half by a gale-force wind which meant it was the turn of the Harrovians to put pressure on our defence. It held firm until ten minutes before time when the Harrovians scored an unexpected goal. A bouncing through-ball was lobbed over our advancing keeper. Could the Salopians hold out? At the other end, the Salopians fashioned a couple of reasonable chances but despite the Harrovian attacks our keeper's safe handling and athletic saves kept them at bay. For the few brave and frozen supporters victory was never in doubt. Now for the prize of overcoming our old enemy, the Reptonians, in the semi-final.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Russell



The Hunt "get out strong and commit" once again at the Coventry National Relays

Tuesday 9 February 2016

Many thanks to Charlie Johns (I V) for his excellent account of an exciting and successful day of racing.

I think it says a lot about the Hunt that we had set ourselves the target of no less than a victory at Coventry, the first since 1996 - and a realistic target, no less! After an incredible win over rivals The Judd at Knole Park in Kent at the start of January, there was a great collective sense of self-belief among our squad members - we were the team to beat. The 'B' team were also feeling quick and confident after placing 7th at the Knole Run, ahead of the 'A' teams of many strong running schools. The girls' teams were also keen to register some quick times, fielding three squads for the second time.

At the squad dinner the night before, we had thought about what motivated us. A key theme which appeared was the shared desire to etch the letters 'RSSH' into the honours board of school running history, something not just told to the boys and girls by their coaches, but a desire very real and often talked about by the members of the squad. Everybody wanted to give their best for the team, an attitude which comes easily to the club and one that is very important for success. Whilst many of the Hunt runners had their own mantras (some choosing to stick with last year's Lynsey Sharp-inspired "get out strong, commit", and others choosing their own such as "hard as nails" or "you're a hammer, not a nail!") these all contributed to a collective commitment to the team as a whole.



The **boys' race** begun in a very positive fashion, with Henry Newbould (Ch UVI) running an extremely swift 12.18 to put the Hunt in joint-third going into the second leg, shaving an unbelievable 1 minute 20s off his 2015 time, a testament to the incredible return to form that we have seen from him this season. The baton was passed to Scott Hatton (S LVI), who kept the Hunt in a very competitive 4th place with a very quick run of 12.30, even after taking a nasty tumble on the tarmac, knocking half a minute off his time from last year. However, Sedbergh's second-leg runner ran a rapid 11:31 to give them a lengthy lead.



Many teams would have lost heart at this point and drifted down the field, accepting the fact that this year's standard was at an insane level - but not Shrewsbury. The baton was handed to Will Hayward (R LVI), known for his hardy mental and physical resilience and his propensity for destroying the pain barrier. Hayward's lap was run in a high-speed 12.27, maintaining the Hunt's 4th place and setting up fellow Riggite and Lower Sixth Former Freddie Huxley-Fielding for a quick time to regain the ground lost and place the Hunt back in contention.



Roared on by the many Shrewsbury supporters, Freddie was looking quick as he set off to hunt down the lead pack. A breakneck 11.49 was exactly what was needed, moving past Sedbergh and into second position. Freddie showed incredible composure in keeping the runners ahead in his sight and reeling them in, much to the frenzied enthusiasm of the supporters and the runners who had finished their legs. This was one of the fastest times ever completed by a Hunt runner (and the 6th quickest of the day).



The trio of rapid Riggites was completed by Hunstman Oscar Dickins (R UVI). He was released out of the gates just seconds behind new race leaders Loughborough Grammar School. In-form Dickins ran a whirlwind 11.53 to catapult the Hunt to where they needed to be and by the close of the lap we were neck and neck with a resurgent Sedbergh School, with LGS having faded back through the field.



The baton was passed to Charlie Tait-Harris (S LVI) for the sixth and final leg of the relay. Charlie set off at a blistering pace and had built up a small lead over the Sedbergh runner as they crashed out of the muddy forest section. By now the park was littered with runners from earlier legs who were screaming their support as Shrewsbury and Sedbergh (who had come away with the trophies at the Shrewsbury Relays in December) came thundering down the path. With 600 metres to go as the two runners sprinted around the garden section of the course, Charlie was holding on with all his strength. Suddenly, out of seemingly nowhere, came Toby Ralph of The Judd, running an almost godly 11.31 to fly past them both; obviously very demoralising for anyone with victory in their sights.

However, Charlie still ran courageously with a very quick time of 12.30 to carry the Hunt home in third. There was certainly no shame in being hunted down by an athlete of that calibre, and though the boys couldn't help feeling disappointed that it was not the 1st place we had come hoping to achieve, it was still a magnificent effort by every member of the team and another national team medal. Some gutsy running was on display, with the Hunt spirit as strong as ever.

The 'A' team crossed the line in a combined time of 73.25, a time that would have beaten Judd's winning team of 2015 (73.51), and just five seconds behind the Hunt's all-time fastest team effort, 73.20 from 1996 – the year we last won the competition.

Impressively, the 'B' team finished in 8th place out of 46 teams, beating 'A' teams from schools such as Millfield, Rugby and Sevenoaks, and miles ahead of the next best B team, Sedbergh, in 19th. There was great consistency throughout the team, who were without short-distance specialist Owen Mock, with the quickest time coming from Charlie Rogers (Rb UVI) in 12.47 a crazily quick time for a B runner, closely followed by the young talent Fourth Former Harry Remnant (Ch) in his first experience of the relays (12.50), who looks to be following in the speedy footsteps of huntsman brother Ben. This was a fantastic and extremely promising time for a Fourth Former, along with Monty Hardcastle (I V), who ran 12.55, hugely improving on his 13.31 of last year to take the 'B' team from 12th position to 8th.



Harris Huntsman (R LVI) was next quickest with 13.05 in his first relay, closely followed by Charles Wade (PH UVI) with 13.06, and another Fourth Former, Toby Pegge (PH IV) in 13.16. All of these times were fantastic and a testament to the strength in depth that the Hunt can boast, proving to have by far the best 'B' team in the country.



In the **girls' event**, the Hunt were once again bringing three teams and were looking to build on their 10th place at the Knole run. The 'A' team was led out by Captain of Girls' Hunt Olivia Papaioannou (EDH UVI), whose amazing time of 14:03 was the 7th quickest of the day. She was backed up by the rest of her team, with quick times from Lillian Wilcox (EDH III) running 15.58, which is very promising time for a Third Former, Martha Pownall of MSH running 16.44 and Passy Goddard also of The Grove coming through in 15.41. The girls did well to finish in 13th position in a very competitive race. It is worth noting that Loretto GS's Harriet Knowles-Jones, the fastest runner of the day (and ever!) by a long way, broke her course record from last year with an astonishing time of 12.07. This announcement was greeted with stunned silence by everyone in the hall, as her time had beaten those of most boys! Hers is certainly a name to look out for in the future.



The Bs came 23/29, beating 'A' teams from schools such as Ampleforth and Wellingborough. The quickest time was from Imogen Evans (G V) in 16.42, followed by Sophia Dixon (MSH IV) in 16.47, Libby Hedges (G IV) in 16.48 and Laura Elliot (G III) in 17.09. This is a team of mostly younger runners who will be looking to gain from this experience and we should see some quick times from this group in the future!

The Cs also gained hugely from the experience and can be proud of the way in which they, too, ran.



It was once again an exceptional day of racing, with some nail-biting highs and some spirit-crushing lows. The boys did exceptionally to land themselves on the podium, and for the time being we can all be kept waiting for next year; as Mr Middleton, Master in Charge of the Hunt said to those boys as they did their team circle in the wake of another frenetic relay - "The trophy will come".

Charlie Johns (I V)



Cristina Ortiz performs Chopin - a review by James Fraser-Andrews

Wednesday 10 February 2016

Legendary pianist Cristina Ortiz last week stunned Shrewsbury in an all-Chopin programme of unparalleled pianism and inimitable musicality that demonstrated exactly why she should be considered to be one of the world's all-time greats.

Many glitterati of the piano world have delighted audiences at The Schools, but I would suggest that this latest celebrity recital, sponsored through the kind generosity of Mike and Fleur Bradley, was quite something else.

If that sounds hyperbolic, listen to her [1977 recording of the Ballades](#) (another of her favourite programmes). Then imagine, if you were not one of the fortunate audience scooping their jaws up from the Alington's parquet at the end of Saturday's recital, just what the visceral effect would be of enjoying her unadulterated, infectious joy in music-making, live and close-hand. Truly, we were eating out of her cultured hands.

Even with half-stick, the first half display of bravura technique and a unique motoric power gave her rendition of the Fantaisie in F Minor and the second piano sonata by turns an unexpected and refreshing steel and gossamer delicacy on the turn of a wrist that made compelling, enthralling listening. Her sense of dance, Brazilian-style, was never far from the surface. Its funeral march was so crafted with an indulgence-free perceptiveness that even the vulgarity of an impertinent mobile phone barely dented its atmosphere of elegant grief.

Without doubt, it was the mighty B minor sonata that left its most indelible mark as the evening's *tour de force*. We heard not its monumentalism, as is so often the case with the less experienced, but instead its ebullience, infernal turbulence and paradisiacal beauty that flowed authentically through her with a fresh spontaneity as if Chopin himself had slipped her the just-finished manuscript in a quick stop-over at Telford Services.

Three encores later (including one request) that mixed 20th century Brazilian music with Brahms, even the Rev Alington, whose gaunt visage overlooked proceedings, seemed to crack into a smile. What an unforgettable performance. I'm sure I would not be alone in hoping she manages to find us again.

JRFA





Field Day, 11th February 2016

Wednesday 10 February 2016

Thursday afternoons at Shrewsbury are devoted to a vast programme of extra-curricular activities. Plans for this term's 'Field Day' on 11th February - when lessons are suspended and pupils and staff have the chance to spend a whole day on their activity – give a flavour of just how varied and wide-ranging our Thursday Afternoon Activities Programme is.



Several groups will be heading over the border into Wales. The Third Form will be visiting the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth; the Natural History Group will birdwatching close by at Cors Dyri and Ynys-hir; students currently preparing for their RYA Yachtmaster qualification will be visiting the Barmouth Lifeboat Station; the Mountain Biking Club will be enjoying some high-octane adventures at the Antur Stiniog Bike Centre; and the recently relaunched Rovers – the School's Mountaineering and Adventure Club – will be walking in the Berwyn Mountains.

Our Scuba Diving Group working towards their PADI qualification will be heading east to Stoney Cove, where they will be spending the day open-water diving at the National Diving Centre.

We currently have 60 pupils who spend their Thursday afternoons volunteering in the local community. They will be attending a talk in the morning and spending the afternoon at their placements in local charity shops, local primary schools, the Severn Hospice gardens, Self Help Africa, Shropshire Cat Rescue and the Riding for the Disabled Centre at Yeaton. Meanwhile our Sports Leaders will be running sports sessions for pupils from St George's Primary School.



The CCF cadets will be put through their paces at the Nesscliff Training Centre for the CCF Biennial Inspection. Meanwhile 14 of the RAF cadets will be hoping for clear skies and fair winds as they spend the day at the Midlands Gliding Club on the Long Mynd.

The budding entrepreneurs of our Young Enterprise teams will be fine-tuning their products and display materials and getting ready for their next trade fair in Shrewsbury town centre next month.

Our budding chefs doing Cookery as a Thursday afternoon activity will be taking part in a Ready Steady Cook competition that will be judged by celebrity chef Marcus Bean; the Creative Writing group will be visiting the Shrewsbury Museum; the golfers will be at Church Stretton Golf Course; the Photography Club will be roaming the town with their cameras; and the Astronomy Society and the International Young Physicists' Tournament team will be combining forces and opening up the School's Observatory.

Shrewsbury girls win through to U15 Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket County Finals

Thursday 11 February 2016

The first round of the indoor competition saw the girls in Mary Webb School competing against Mary Webb, Shrewsbury High School and Meole Brace. Considering the girls hadn't trained in a long time and only had one session before the competition, they performed very well.

In the first game the girls were up against the hosts, Mary Webb. Captain Sophia Breese won the toss and decided to bowl first. From their allocated 7 overs, Mary Webb managed to post 33 for 2 with Izi Wong and Rosie Davies taking one wicket each. The girls certainly didn't hang around when chasing the total, as we managed to post 35-2 from just 3.3 overs, Rosie Davis being the top scorer with 14, and Sophia Breese with 12 not out.



In the second game, the girls were up against Shrewsbury High School. Sophia Breese won the toss again and put the opposition in to bat. The girls were ruthless with their bowling during this game, as they managed to bowl Shrewsbury High School out for just 21 runs. Izi Wong, Emma Graham and Phoebe Wasdell all bagged one wicket each, Rosie Davis took two wickets, but the star of the bowling attack in this particular game was Captain Sophia Breese, taking a hat-trick to dismiss the last 3 batswomen.

Again the girls batted in similar fashion to the first game by chasing Shrewsbury High School's total in just 2 overs, without losing a wicket, Izi Wong retired on 15, and Rosie Davis scoring 8 to seal the game.

The third and final game was up against Meole Brace, who managed to give our girls a bit more competition than the previous two teams. This time, Sophia lost the toss and it was our turn to bat first. In our allocated 7 overs the girls managed to post 65-5, Izi Wong top scoring with 17 and Lizzie Ware finishing off the innings strongly with 10 not out. The girls yet again showed a ruthless attitude in their bowling attack and did not allow Meole Brace to score freely, managing to restrict them to 40-3 after 7 overs.

All in all, this was a brilliant result for the girls, winning all 3 games quite convincingly. Now on to the County Finals at 'TCAT' on 18th March.

Gwenan Davies

Mary Webb v Shrewsbury School

Mary Webb 33-2 (7 Overs) (Izi Wong 2-0-8-1, Rosie Davis 1-0-5-1)

Shrewsbury School 35-2 (3.3 Overs) (Rosie Davis 14, Sophia Breese 12*)

Shrewsbury School v Shrewsbury High School

Shrewsbury High School 21-8 (7 Overs) (Izi Wong 2-0-4-1, Emma Graham 1-0-4-1, Phoebe Wasdell 1-0-8-1, Rosie Davis 1-0-4-2, Sophia Breese 2-0-2-3)

Shrewsbury School 23-0 (2 Overs) (Izi Wong 15*, Rosie Davis 8)

Meole Brace v Shrewsbury School

Shrewsbury School 65-5 (7 Overs) (Izi Wong 17*, Lizzie Ware 10*)

Meole Brace 40-3 (7 Overs) (Izi Wong 2-0-11-2, Emma Graham 1-0-8-1)



Shropshire Schools' County Championships - report by Peter Middleton

Thursday 11 February 2016

There can't be many schools in the country that would be able to field full cross-country squad to two separate major races on the same day, but such is the depth of talent at Shrewsbury that The Hunt were able to do just that on Saturday 6th February. 32 runners competed in the morning at the Shropshire Schools' County Championships in Oswestry whilst in the afternoon a further 20 runners travelled to Rugby School for a Midlands Independent Schools' League fixture. 52 Hunt runners competing on the same day must be a record!

At Oswestry we were greeted with a veritable mudbath of a course, with the rain pouring down for much of the morning during the races. This didn't dampen our spirits, however, and the teams were motivated to bring home the silverware following strong performances in recent years at the County Champs. Indeed, at the 2015 event we had come away with three trophies: Senior Boys; Senior Girls; and Junior Boys.

In the first race of the day, the Senior Girls and Inter Girls took to the startline together and from the off, captain Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) attacked hard, determined to stay close to her old rival Dani Rawlinson from Wrekin. The pair battled it out for the entire race, though in the end Rawlinson could not be caught and Papaioannou had to settle for silver, albeit a terrific effort to once again place on the podium. Almost immediately after finishing, as is her wont, Olivia was straight back onto the course to encourage her team-mates, for with three to 'count' in the Senior Girls the competition was always going to be tight. Without speedster Sally Joyce, it would be down to Passi Goddard (G) and Martha Pownall (MSH) to bring home a low score. The pair worked through the field with determination to secure the points, with Goddard coming home in 6th and Pownall in 12th for a team total of 20 points, just 2 points ahead of Wrekin but enough to retain the County title and bring home the first trophy of the day.

In the Inters Race, spearheaded by gutsy runs from Grove runners Immie Evans in 8th and Libby Hedges in 9th, the team took home the silver medals, our best ever performance in this age group.





Following a winning streak of four years in a row, the Inter boys last year had to settle for 2nd place to a strong Thomas Telford outfit, but this year were out for revenge and determined to reclaim the trophy. At the front end of the race, a fascinating battle was being fought out between the top three runners, one from Adams' Grammar, one from Thomas Telford, and one from the Corbet School. The Hunt, however, were focused on packing their four counters in and their mud-spattered RSSH vests packed in together were an ominous sign to their rivals.

Fifth Former Monty Hardcastle (I) followed up his excellent run at the Coventry national relays on the Wednesday with a fine run on the cross-country, running side-to-side with Fourth Former Harry Remnant (Ch) for much of the way to lead the team through. 4th and 5th place respectively were followed up by an outstanding debut run from Cameron Anwyl (S) in 7th, with Toby Pegge (PH) closely behind in 8th, securing a team total of 24 to win back the team trophy, comfortably ahead of nearest rivals Adams' Grammar with 32 points.

Anwyl's run was a quite remarkable debut for the Hunt and may yet lead to a county call-up for the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships on 5th March. It is also worth noting that a fellow new recruit from Severn Hill - Seb Ingram - also placed in the top 10. The Fifth Form year group is fast developing into a fine vintage and, alongside rising stars Charlie Johns and Niklas Amthor (the former came 11th in the County Champs, the latter was competing for the Hunt at Rugby School in the afternoon where he placed 3rd in the Colts race), this is a year group who are likely to prove increasingly important to the Hunt's fortunes in the year ahead.

The Senior boys was a race we were greatly looking forward to, given the quality of our squad and following a five-year winning streak, this was a trophy we would not give up easily. The much-anticipated battle between Hunt superstar Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) and rivals Stan Willis from William Brookes School and Alex Burrows from Ludlow College turned into a two-way race, with Willis absent from the startline due to a clash with an elite training day at Loughborough. Huxley-Fielding and Burrows therefore fought it out together at the front of the field with nobody else coming close. The 6km course proved to be a fascinating spectacle with nothing to separate the two for two out of the three laps. A kick from Burrows midway through the final lap saw a gap appear and, having raced a blistering lap time at the Coventry relays three days previously, Huxley-Fielding didn't have enough gas in the tank to match it on the day and had to settle for 2nd place, coming through in a time of 18.41 which is extremely swift for 6km in that kind of mud. Burrows claimed the county title for a record six consecutive years across the various age-groups.

Elsewhere in the race, fellow Riggite Will Hayward put in a tremendous run to push through the field to take the individual bronze position in a time of 19.33 whilst the backup came from Huntsman Oscar Dickins (also Rigg's) in 5th and Charlie Tait-Harris (S) in 6th. A team total of 25 was yet another dominant display and well clear of nearest rivals Wrekin College with 78 points! The trophy has now been won for six years in a row, matching the winning streak between 1987 and 1992, though the team will have their sights on the best ever winning streak of seven years in a row from 1999 to 2005. Given the talent coming through, it is difficult to see who is going to be able to challenge The Hunt at this top age-group.



Certainly the evidence for a promising future was there for all to see in the last race of the day: the Junior Boys. Since 1978 the team trophy has been won on nine occasions, though only twice has the title been retained ('87/'88 and '91/'92). No Hunt runner has ever taken the individual title in this age group either, though we have had plenty of county champions in both the Senior and Inter age-groups, most recently Ed Mallett's senior victory in 2013 and Rory Fraser's Inter victory in 2012.

Severn Hill runner Sam Western was fired up for this race following the disappointment of an injury the previous weekend at Giggleswick. He charged to the front of the pack from the off and, knowing that this would be a fast pace given the shorter course of just 3.6km, he nestled in to the lead pack and ensured he was well-placed for any movements. A lead group of three runners - including Sam - emerged following the first lap. Going up the hill at the start of the second lap, Western and rival Liam Rawlings from the Corbet school pushed the pace on, dropping Charlie Brown from Lacon Childe. The lead pair fought it out shoulder to shoulder over the top field, though the taller figure of Rawlings had the edge coming downhill where he was able to extend and stride out and away from Western. In the end, just 6 seconds separated the pair, with Western coming home for an excellent individual silver in a time of 13.05, a superb run from the winner of the Third Form Race back in September.

Encouragingly, the next-placed Hunt runner, Thomas Jackson (R), had worked hard through the field in the final lap and pushed all the way up to 4th position, coming home in 13.16 not far off Western in the end. Given Jackson is young for his year, he will be able to compete in this age group next year, so will fancy his chances of becoming the first Hunt runner to win an individual county title in this age-group.

Once again, superb packing from the Hunt squad saw the Juniors come through in quick succession with Sam Watts (Ch) showing his potential with an 8th place finish and Louis Nares (Rb) coming through as the final counter in 11th for a team total of 25; once again a dominant display with victory over nearest rivals Ludlow with 85 points!

Four county trophies wasn't a bad day at the office in the end, so another superb day of racing for The Hunt. With a few key races still to come, we may need to invest in a larger trophy cabinet!

PJM



The news 100 years ago: 12th - 18th February 1916

Thursday 11 February 2016

This week we remember:

Lieutenant John Frith Sidebotham, 6th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry

School House, Praepostor, Cricket XI and Fives VI, left in 1910 and was on the staff of Messrs. James Greaves, East India Merchants, of Manchester and Bombay. He went up to Hertford College, Oxford and twice captained the lacrosse team against Cambridge. He enlisted in 5th K.S.L.I. and was gazetted to the 6th in January 1916.

The Salopian remembers him as "one of the most modest boys and men. But his friends here and the staff of the School House and the boys at the Mission in Liverpool* knew his value better than he knew himself". He was "a very loyal Salopian, who taught, without knowing it, the power and the honour of an entirely unselfish life".

*Killed in action by a shell explosion during a bombardment in Belgium 12th February 1916, aged 24.
Buried at White House Cemetery, St. Jean-Les-Ypres, Belgium. Grave III. Q. 4.*

* Shrewsbury House, inaugurated only a few years earlier by the Revd. Digby Kittermaster



Record number of Hunt runners selected to represent Shropshire

Friday 12 February 2016

A record number of Hunt runners have gained county selection for the forthcoming English Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Woolaton Park, Nottingham on Saturday 5th March. This follows their impressive runs at last weekend's Shropshire Schools' County Championships where the Hunt came home with four of the team trophies (Senior Girls; Senior Boys; Inter Boys; Junior Boys).

In the Senior Boys team, five of the eight selected runners for Shropshire will be Hunt runners.

The following Hunt runners have been selected for the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships:

JUNIOR GIRLS:

Lilian Wilcox (EDH)

JUNIOR BOYS:

Sam Western (S)

Thomas Jackson (R)

Sam Watts (Ch)

INTER BOYS:

Monty Hardcastle (I)

Harry Remnant (Ch)

Cameron Anwyl (S)

Toby Pegge (PH)

SENIOR GIRLS:

Olivia Papaioannou (EDH)

Passi Goddard (G)

(Sally Joyce- 1st Reserve)

SENIOR BOYS:

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R)

Will Hayward (R)

Oscar Dickins (R)

Charlie Tait-Harris (S)

Henry Newbould (Ch)

In addition, the following have been selected to run for Shropshire the week after at the UK Inter-Counties in Cofton Park, Birmingham:

U15 BOYS:

Harry Remnant (Ch)

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U17 BOYS:

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R)

Will Hayward (R)

Scott Hatton (S)

Charlie Tait-Harris (S)

U20 GIRLS:

Olivia Papaioannou (EDH)

Passi Goddard (G)

U20 BOYS:

Oscar Dickins (R)

Henry Newbould (Ch)

Charlie Rogers (Rb)



Success in RSC Chemistry Schools' Quiz

Friday 12 February 2016

Shrewsbury have qualified for the Finals of the RSC Chemistry Quiz Competition after winning 64 - 45 against Newport Girls' High School on Wednesday 10th February.



The finals will be held at Birmingham University on Tuesday 1st March and involve the last eight schools from across the whole of the Midlands region. Nearly 50 schools from this region take part in the competition.

The Chemistry Quiz is for school teams of four students - two in Year 10 and two in Year 11 (Fourth and Fifth Formers at Shrewsbury). Questions are put either to individuals or to whole teams.

Making up the Shrewsbury team were Fourth Formers Adam Pattenden (S) and Otto Rothwell-Hurley (Ch) and Fifth Formers Lucien Whitworth (R) and Henry Mayhew (Ch).

ADB



RSSH: Midlands Independent Schools' League at Rugby

Friday 12 February 2016

Following an impressive start to the campaign at Welbeck College, the Hunt went into the second fixture at Rugby School full of confidence. Although the fixture clashed with the Shropshire Schools' Country Cross Country Championships we were still able to field a strong squad, owing to the strength and depth of the RSSH. - Report by Lauren Walker

Our preparation was less than ideal. A late departure from school coupled with horrendous weather/driving conditions meant that we arrived at the start line with 15 minutes to spare, to then learn that the toilet facilities were a 10-minute walk up hill back to the school site! With the boys left with no choice but to relieve themselves in the nearest bush, it was spikes on and straight into our warm-up.

The Colts were up first and faced a relatively testing cross-country course of 2.6 miles through farmland. Charlie Ockleston (2nd – 16:41) ran superbly, only to be beaten by an impressive performance from Ethan Malone (1st – 15:47) of Rugby School. Niklas Amthor (3rd – 16:50) came in shortly behind Charlie with another very strong performance.



L-R: Charlie Ockleston; Fergus David; Scott Hatton

The determined running of Paddy Barlow and Mark Pangin who finished in 9th and 10th position respectively then sealed a Shrewsbury School victory, with a team score of 24 points. Tom Hughes soon followed in 12th position with a truly outstanding run on his Hunt debut.

For the Seniors running a 3.9-mile course, Scott Hatton and Charles Wade came home in 3rd (23:25) and 4th (23:48) position respectively, with performances that displayed true grit and determination, having competed three days previously in the National Relays.



Charles Wade holding off the competition in the Senior Boys' race

Despite losing Owen Mock and George O'Brien early on in the race due to injury, some superb team running on the part of Fergus David (10th), Navareen Garikapati (12th), Ivan Tivodar (23rd) and Louie Stewart (27th) enabled the Senior boys' squad to secure a 2nd place finish overall with 79 points, narrowly missing out on victory to Welbeck College with 70 points.

All 22 runners who made the journey to Rugby to put on the famous Hunt vest and compete for the RSSH should all be immensely proud of their performance and the contribution made to the overall team standings.

We enter the mid-way stage of the Midlands League competition in pole position to retain the Colt League title, and will go into the fixture at Uppingham on 5th March looking to put in another domineering Shrewsbury performance.

LEW



Field Day

Friday 12 February 2016

Thursday afternoons at Shrewsbury are devoted to a vast programme of extra-curricular activities. On Field Days lessons are suspended and pupils and staff have the chance to spend a whole day on their activity. This brief account of what they all got up to on Field Day this week gives a flavour of just how varied and wide-ranging our Thursday Afternoon Activities Programme is.

Several groups headed over the border into Wales. The Third Form will be visiting the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth; the Natural History Group had a day birdwatching close by at Cors Dyri Nature Reserve and the RSPB Reserve at Ynys-hir; students currently preparing for their RYA Yachtmaster qualification visited the Barmouth Lifeboat Station; the Mountain Biking Club enjoyed some high-octane adventures at the Antur Stiniog Bike Centre; and the recently relaunched Rovers – the School's Mountaineering and Adventure Club – enjoyed beautiful clear weather in the Berwyn Mountains.

Our Scuba Diving Group working towards their PADI qualification headed east to Stoney Cove, where they will be spent the day open-water diving at the National Diving Centre.



We currently have 60 pupils who spend their Thursday afternoons volunteering in the local community. After attending a talk in the morning, they spent the afternoon at their placements in local charity shops, local primary schools, the Severn Hospice gardens, Self Help Africa, Shropshire Cat Rescue and the Riding for the Disabled Centre at Yeaton. Meanwhile our Sports Leaders ran sports sessions for pupils from St George's Primary School.

The budding entrepreneurs of our Young Enterprise teams were fine-tuning their products and display materials and getting ready for their next trade fair in Shrewsbury town centre next month.

Some of our budding chefs prepared three-course meals for lucky members of staff to enjoy, while others took part in a Ready Steady Cook competition that was judged by celebrity chef Marcus Bean.



The Ready Steady Cook winning team with Marcus Bean - and their prizewinning meal

The Creative Writing group visited the Shrewsbury Museum; the golfers were at Church Stretton Golf Course; the Photography Club were roaming the town with their cameras; the Judo Club were honing their combat skills in the Alington Hall, and the Astronomy Society and the International Young Physicists' Tournament team combined forces and opened up the School's Observatory.



Meanwhile all 138 cadet members of Shrewsbury School CCF were busy on manoeuvres and were visited by Lt Colonel Graham Shannon (Commanding Officer 1 Royal Irish). After three excellent presentations by CSgts Ben Remnant, Susie Watts and Ft Sgt Guy Cabral (delivered in front of both the Reviewing Officer and the Headmaster), Lt Col Shannon visited the troops in action at a very soggy Nesscliff Training Area. Muddy cadets were busy doing a range of activities including gliding, fieldcraft, first aid, command tasks, shooting, problem-solving tasks and military knowledge. A curry lunch in the field kept everyone going and on his departure Lt Col Shannon spoke to the cadets en masse, emphasising how impressed he had been with their motivation and enthusiasm.

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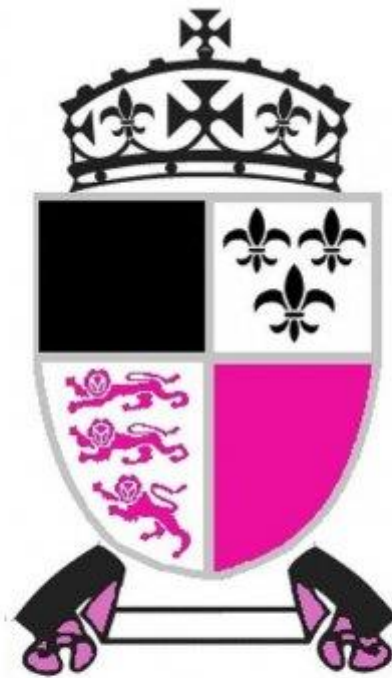




The School House Soirée is a hit

Friday 12 February 2016

The Friday before half-term saw the annual School House concert, which has been building a strong reputation over the last couple of years and this event certainly lived up to expectations. It took place in front of a packed Maidment Auditorium and proved to be a fantastic evening's entertainment for all involved.



School House Soirée 2016

Friday 12th February, 7pm, Maidment Building

The evening featured a great diversity of acts including instrumental and vocal solos, small bands and large ensembles, with everything from Chopin to the Rolling Stones! It included some of the boys' own compositions and arrangements, and even a guest appearance from the Housemaster on drums... By bringing together boys from every year group in music of all genres, there was something for everyone!



The evening was all about giving everyone who wanted to perform, the opportunity to do so, regardless of standard. Therefore, in addition to the experienced musicians, we also had those who had only recently picked up their instruments for the first time. Often they accompanied each other; playing together is key to enjoyment and this certainly came across in performances! There were some truly outstanding performances and we were delighted that so many wanted to get on stage. In fact almost half the House was represented at some point, despite several of our top musicians performing in a School concert in Oxford or at an MUN conference in Paris.

You Can't Always Get What You Want	The Rolling Stones	Allegretto	Flute Duet – Michael Cheung and Andrew Chan	John Eccles
Ned Pring (vocals/acoustic guitar), Hugo Richardson (electric guitar), Peter Stanley (guitar), Wentao He (bass), Louis Street (Trumpet), Ladi Okusanya (piano), Julian Chesshire (organ/keyboard), Eccles Cheong (shakers), Llyr Heyward-Jones (Drums)		Prelude in C# minor	Piano Solo – Reuben Denison	Chopin
Choir - Femi Okusanya, Reuben Denison, Henri Cramsie, Tianci Wang, Alfred Mitchell, Aaron Zhao		The Sound of Music	Vocal Solo - Tianci Wang	Hammerstein and Rodgers
Proud Mary	Creedence Clearwater Revival	Food Glorious Food	Saxophone Solo – Tom Tarlton	Lionel Bart
Hugo Richardson (guitar/vocals), Ned Pring (guitar), Frank Coughlan (trumpet), Louis Street (trumpet), Kwaku Antwi (alto sax), Julian Chesshire (bass), Mr Besterman (Drums)		Casey Jones (American Railroad Ballad)	Piano Trio – Alfred Mitchell, Ladi Okusanya and Nat Chumbala	arr. Pauline Hall
PB Blues	John McCabe	Three's A Crowd	Clarinet Duet – Harry Zhang and David Wright	James Rae
Trumpet Solo – Louis Street		Not The Same	Piano/vocals - Ladi Okusanya	Own composition by Ladi
The Zebra (Chinese Folk Song)	Guitar/vocals – Aaron Zhao, Bass/vocals - Wentao He	Oboe Concerto - 2nd Movement	Oboe Solo – Henri Cramsie	Marcello
Tea and Biscuits	Own composition by Julian	Fanfare and Scherzo	Third Form Trumpet Ensemble: Punn Vajrabhaya, Louis Street, Frank Coughlan, Ben Stewart, Euan Cooper	Frank Cofield
Julian Chesshire (piano), James Wong (Violin), Marco Lo (Cello), Mrs Besterman (Violin)		Fear No More the Heat o' the Sun	Vocal Solo – Alfred Mitchell	Roger Quilter (words -Shakespeare)
Can't Stand Me Now	The Libertines	Makin' Out	Sax Quartet: Gordon Chen, Femi Okusanya, Kwaku Antwi, Llyr Heyward-Jones	Karen Street
Guitar and vocals - Peter Stanley and Tom Kirk		Around The World (Part Song 2015 – the winners!)	Vocal Ensemble – Alfred Mitchell, Ladi Okusanya, Femi Okusanya, Reuben Denison, Henri Cramsie, Ned Pring, Aaron Zhao	
Nice work if you can get it	Gershwin			
Vocal Solo - Henri Cramsie				
Chansonette	Hamilton Hartly			
Oboe Solo – Reuben Denison				
Tin Roof Blues	New Orleans Rhythm Kings arr. Churchill			
Trumpet Solo – Frank Coughlan				
Trials of the Past	SBTRKT			
Julian Chesshire and Ladi Okusanya				
Rocket Man	John/Taupin			
Piano and Vocals - Hugo Richardson and Ned Pring				



(L): Ladi Okusanya (UVI). Ladi's performance of his own composition "Not the Same" was sensitive and moving; a few tears were shed... (R): Another premiere of a Sixth Form composition, this time by Julian Chesshire (UVI), performed by (L-R): Marco Lo (V), James Wong (LVI) and Mrs Besterman.

Many of the Upper Sixth took part in the Soirée. They have made a wonderful contribution to music at Shrewsbury and our congratulations go to them for their considerable musical achievements over their time here. However, it is great to see so many of the younger boys involved; the next generation of School House musicians is a very promising one – we even managed a trumpet quintet from the Third Form alone!



Third Form trumpeters (L-R): Ben Stewart, Euan Cooper, (Mrs Besterman conducting), Punn Vajrabhaya, Louis Street and Frank Coughlan

I am very grateful to the large number of people who helped to make the evening such a success, not least the performers themselves. However, it could not have happened without Mrs

Besterman, who not only sorted out all the rehearsals, conducted and accompanied several of the performances, but she also arranged the music for various ensembles in order to get as many people involved as possible in the limited time available.

HRDB





Upper Sixth Black Tie Dinner

Saturday 13 February 2016

For the Upper Sixth, the highlight of the term will probably have been the formal Black Tie dinner held in the Private Side which is always an enjoyable evening for them and something of a rite of passage as they prepare to enter the civilised adult world!

The year group had to organise everything themselves, from sending out the invitations, putting together the table plan, working out what they wanted to cook (melon and Parma ham to start, Sirloin and potato dauphinoise for main, and ice cream with Mars Bar sauce to finish), and of course, actually cooking it as well.



Impressively, they pulled off the dinner for 18 with remarkable aplomb and I was able to let them get on with it, my only role being to transport by minibus the girls back to their boarding houses. An excellent evening by all accounts, and for me personally it provided my Quote of the Term where one member of the Rigg's Upper Sixth was heard to exclaim, upon realising that he had red wine stains on his dress shirt, "Oh my God, I've got to wear this to the Baftas this weekend!" Never before have these words been uttered in the corridors of Rigg's, and almost certainly never will again...



An evening of chamber music in the Holywell Room, Oxford

Friday 19 February 2016

Many thanks to former Senior Master Peter Fanning for this review of a wonderful concert given in Oxford by the Music Scholars and other top Shrewsbury School musicians on the eve of the February half term exeat.



The Holywell Room in Oxford is reputedly the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe. Old Salopian Charles Burney, who welcomed Joseph Haydn to the City, would have performed there. And Burney would be proud to know that a centuries-old tradition of superb musicianship has been so well maintained by the latter-day stars of his ancient *Alma Mater*.

In a crowded hall, at the start of half term, the audience was treated to a series of exhilarating chamber pieces. They ranged from a stately Handelian Sonata performed by Miu Tran, Jan Tai and Arthur Yu to the zany 'Cat and Mouse' for piano by Aaron Copland which Ada Huang attacked with extraordinary pizzazz.

In the manner of many a JFM concert, quality rained unrelentingly, as the Directorial fingers swirled across the keys, accompanying everything from Vizutti to Prokofiev.

The high spot of the evening was perhaps the reappearance of Galin Ganchev (OS) performing Chopin. A student at the Royal Academy of Music, Galin demonstrated just how much his own technique is broadening and how far he might develop over time.

Lauren Kell enchanted with three pieces for soprano by Mozart, Debussy and Busy; and there was a grand finale in the form of 'La Revue de Cuisine' by Martinu, delivered with gusto and joie de vivre by Marvin Hui, Kevin Jim, Jemma Price, Henry Newbould, Henry Thomas and Arthur Yu.

Charles Burney would be grinning with delight.

Peter Fanning



House Soirée

Friday 19 February 2016

The first half of term concluded in style with the annual House Soirée, which this year even included involvement from members of the House tutor team, Mr Welch accompanying Fifth Former Zak Nicholas in their James Bond theme tune trumpet duet, and PJM accompanying Fifth Former Felix Mason-Hornby on piano as Felix sang the beautiful Schubert piece 'Ständchen'.





The news 100 years ago: 19th - 26th February 1916

Friday 19 February 2016

Each week on the School website we publish the names and short biographies of the Old Salopians killed 100 years ago during the First World War, together with brief details of the progress of the War. This is part of a four-year project in collaboration with St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, which was begun in August 2014.

This week we remember:

Captain John Arthur Walker, 10th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Moser's, 'a quiet, unobtrusive boy', left in 1909 for Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and at the outbreak of war at once joined the O.T.C; he was gazetted November 1914 and promoted Captain July 1915.

His Commanding Officer said "He was beloved by both officers and men. His was one of those rare natures that one could not help loving". His Chaplain also wrote, "As a friend his loss is inestimable and as a soldier he was a born leader of men, the memory of whom should ever be a source of inspiration to all who knew him".

Killed in action by the explosion of a shell while encouraging his men in Belgium, 19th February 1916, aged 24. Buried at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave I. B. 8.

Lieutenant Gilbert Kingsley Lloyd, 2nd Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry

School House, left in 1889. Served through the South African War with the Shropshire Imperial Yeomanry as Lance-Corporal in charge of a machine gun (Medal, 3 clasps) before going to Saskatchewan, N.W.T. Canada. Commissioned into the K.S.L.I. and gazetted to 2nd Lieut, he saw much fighting in France.

Died in Salonika, Greece, of appendicitis, 21st February 1916, aged 35. Buried at Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Grave 1804

RSSBC: Vyrnwy Rowing Camp

Monday 22 February 2016

Over half term the Boat Club took the 1st and 2nd VIII's to Lake Vyrnwy in Wales for a four-day training camp. The crews have had limited water time in recent months due to high river levels and the camp provided a great opportunity to get out on the water and get some mileage done.



Rough conditions in an icy wind made training challenging over the first two days but didn't stop the boys getting some valuable water time. The final two sessions saw the conditions die down and the two crews getting in some quality side by side work.







All-night Sports Fundraiser, 12th - 13th February 2016

Monday 22 February 2016

In a bid to raise funds for Medic Malawi and sight-restoring surgery at the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic, 30 pupils and staff staged an all-night sponsored sports event on Friday 12th February. As Seb Cooley reports, the event was exhausting, but energy and good humour flowed on till sunrise. It was also extremely successful, raising more than £4,000.

Half term rather snuck up in February when no-one quite seemed to be expecting it. As a result, this second sports all-nighter – after 2014’s really successful event – was upon us rather quickly. It was only on Friday lunchtime that conspiratorial glances were being exchanged in KH between the participants: the teams had been announced just a little earlier and one or two were planning their pre-event snoozes so as to be on the best possible form for the night.

The teams, of about ten players each, were to compete across ten different sports: each sport for an hour. These ranged from the obvious football, basketball and badminton to balancing on bicycles, T2 cricket (yes, innings of two overs which would have the more conservative members of the MCC declaring that the world had finally and completely gone stark staring bonkers) and a sport which it would be completely unfair to describe as lacrosse as it ended up looking rather more like hockey with nets.



In each of these “sports” the carefully selected (and then promptly re-arranged) teams embarked upon some tournament: knockouts and leagues in pairs, teams of five or whatever made the

most sense at the time. A running tally of scores was kept by the Master-in-Charge-of-Spreadsheets-and-All-Information-on-the-Planet (CWO) which kept the competition livelier than a youthful monkey that's just eaten a particularly juicy pineapple.



PAK's 9pm mountain biking event combined balance, speed, limbo and control in a variety of ways, and set the tone for the rest of the evening. Some aggressive tactics on the slow riding (a difficult concept to picture) and steward's enquiries regarding an adjudged crossing of a line brought out the competitive side of at least one team captain before the night was an hour old. The evening was dotted with higher-energy sports such as football to keep everyone going, though a timely loss of power to plug sockets in the cardio suite meant dropping the 4am running relay, thus extending the traditional 3 o'clock table tennis / crash out hour.

Somehow, with the aid of hundreds of nutrigains, mars bars and an urn of hot chocolate, everyone made it through to the 6am volleyball tournament, contested with a soft foam dodgeball which defied physics and aerodynamics in refusing to fly straight. Or maybe the problem was with our eyes by 6am.

Highlights appeared throughout:

- some astonishing reflex saves from the U14Bs' goalkeeper to deny 2nd and 3rd XI footballers;
- the aforementioned lacrosse/hockey mongrel sport;
- Will Hayward (last minute substitute)'s gratuitous 7:26 2km ergo at 5:30 am (he also planned to do a park run at 9am on Saturday; I'm told he even made it to the start line!)
- Shants' bodyline tactics to ensure his team won the cricket;
- the Fourth Form lying on benches, suffering all sorts of ailments and fatigue, yet nonetheless returning with steel to put in their performances.

By the end the night seemed to have passed impressively fast (though that might be down to odd biological effects on memory) and, unlike the memories or this report, it maintained its structure well. Everyone learned a number of things (including that netball is harder work than football, especially if like me you're not really sure what you're doing!) and, judging by the tone at breakfast when all was done, everyone had an exceptionally tiring but a really enjoyable night.

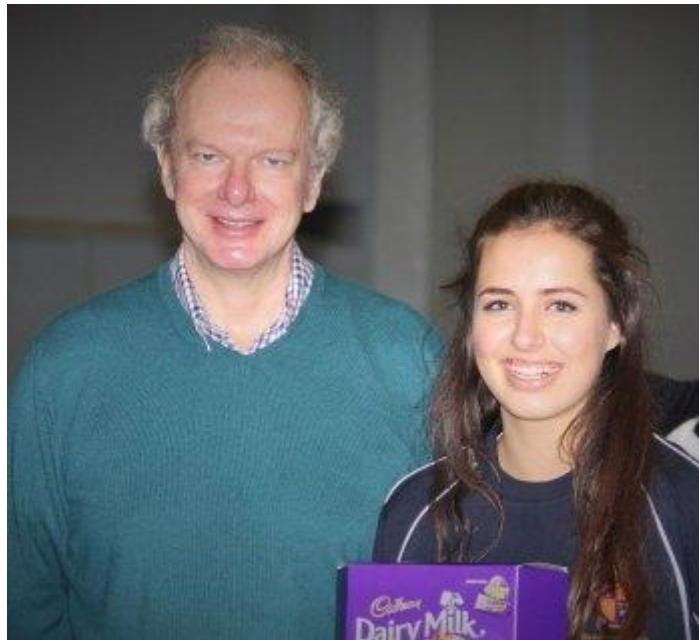
And SKPC's team won, largely thanks to the indefatigability of the Third and Fourth Form. Unbelievable!



Breakfast in KH - members of the winning team left standing

There are of course a number of people without whom this event would not have been the success it was. My thanks therefore go to:

- Mr Drew, who opened proceedings with thanks on behalf of Medic Malawi and reminded us what we were all really there for.
- LJD, who organised all the snacks, breakfast for the weary and wounded and gave much help and advice before the event.
- Mrs Nicholas for refereeing lacrosse and very graciously overseeing the complete destruction of this usually good sport.
- The team captains: IPH, GMD and AJS supported by JMW, DMW, MTL and PDG who gave up their time, energy and sleep to allow the event to go ahead.
- CWO for maintaining an overview and a structure and, likewise, giving up a full night.



Stephen Dren, Director of Medic Malawi, with top fundraiser Harriet Adams who raised almost £1,000

But most importantly, thanks to all of the boys and girls who took part. I salute them for managing to get through the night with good nature prevailing and not a grumble or groan heard at any stage.

Most impressively though, with a minimum of prompting, those involved this year did brilliantly on getting sponsorship before the event, with an unbelievable £4,102 already collected and a few hundred more still to come.

This eclipses 2014's total of £3,000 and it will contribute to restoring sight to more than 140 people in Malawi. Having now slept off the effects (I hope), they can all stand with their heads held high. Well done, many thanks and roll on 2018!

SKPC

Rugby: George Sandy (O V) playing for Worcester Warriors Academy

Monday 22 February 2016



George Sandy, pictured on the back row 7th from left, following his match for Worcester Warriors Academy against Exeter at Sandy Park on Friday 19th February.

Worcester triumphed 14 – 21 with a try in the final play.

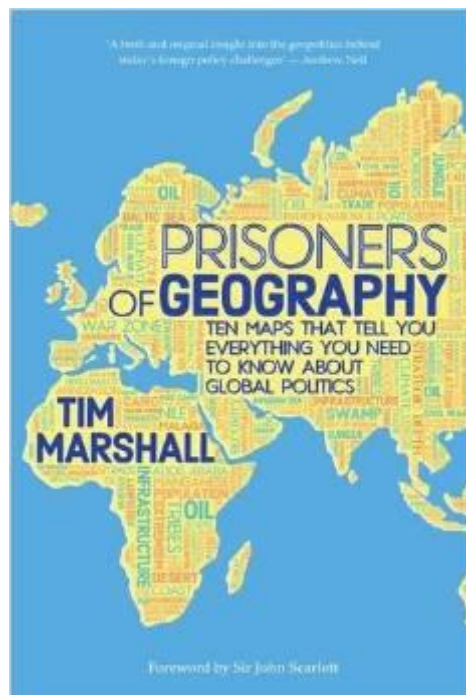
George is currently in the Fifth Form in Oldham's and has been playing in the centre for the School's 1st XV rugby alongside his Academy commitments.



"The politics of geography" - academic extension lecture by journalist Tim Marshall

Wednesday 24 February 2016

On the Thursday before half term, we were privileged to welcome the renowned journalist and author Tim Marshall into the Ashton Theatre to speak to the Academic Extension Group. Luca Mattinson (Rb UVI) reports on a thought-provoking lecture.



Tim Marshall's talk, explaining the relationship between where a nation is in the world and what its outlook should be, was profound. As he explained, there is never truly mindless violence; there is always a reason behind it and geography allows us to source these reasons. It is no wonder therefore, that his blog is called thewhatandthewhy.com!

The tour of geopolitics started in Russia, where Mr Marshall wanted us to try to look at the current situation through Russian eyes. It is a country that has seen every former member of the Warsaw Pact become within either the EU or NATO. It sees itself as being surrounded. Today, possession of a modern navy is crucial and Russia requires a warm water port to have a year-round naval capacity. This port was leased to the country by Ukraine in Crimea. However, in the wake of the 2014 Maidan revolution that saw the country shift its political allegiance towards Europe, Russia could no longer be sure that the lease of its warm water port would be continued, or how effective its Ukrainian buffer state would continue to be. This explains much of Russian thinking as to why it invaded Crimea and destabilised the east of the country. Mr Marshall used the metaphor of Putin putting the conflict into a freezer, able to restart it whenever he wishes.



Mr Marshall showed that this theory could be applied to various different countries throughout the world. The United States could never tolerate a foreign influenced Cuba on its doorstep. Likewise, the West Bank is so important for Israel precisely because it fears that were it to be in the possession of a hostile Palestinian state, missiles could easily reach Tel Aviv. The relationship between India and Pakistan; Saudi Arabia and Iran; Korea and Japan and China and Tibet can all be analysed through this geographical lens.

The talk ended with perhaps the most relevant aspect of geopolitics for our generation. Mr Marshall reminded us that, despite what we may think, peace in Europe is not normal. The European project is a vehicle through which the various nations on our continent can ‘hug’ each other to prevent war. He concluded that despite what his theory says, he is an optimist and believes that strong European institutions have restrained actions of realpolitik, that are inherent to all states. We would be fools to throw this away to sate our petty nationalistic desires.

Luca Mattinson (Rb)

The chronicles of KH

Thursday 25 February 2016

The staff in Kingsland Hall put a great deal of thought, imagination and creativity into the food at Shrewsbury School - and into making it fun - as this article by Carrie Zeiler clearly demonstrates.

After a busy and exciting Christmas break, moving into January can be a little, well, “bleugh” to say the least. So the Chefs and Front of House staff decided to get back into the swing of things by putting on lots of great theme and treat nights.

Putting fun into food is something of a passion of ours here at KH and theme nights do down well with students and staff alike. The ever popular Burger Bar (pictured) is always a hit, with a choice of beef, lamb or chicken burgers for students to build themselves accompanied by French fries, mustard, relish and crispy onions. Mexican Night saw the counters festooned with Mexican hats and flags and students lined up to stack their plates with hot & spicy tortilla stacks with nachos & chilli beans – just the ticket on a cold and wet evening! And speaking of cold weather, one supper time we even dreamt of the coming summer months by having an Ice Cream Bar for dessert! Burns' Night was celebrated with the usual sumptuous supper dedicated to the late, great Robert Burns which was well attended and enjoyed.

Chinese New Year saw KH celebrating with a wonderful selection of Chinese dishes such as chow mein and sweet & sour pork, which was served with assorted noodles and a selection of sauces. Another of our firm favourites, Pizza Night, also enjoyed something of a renaissance, when the chefs decided to make giant pizzas with spicy meat-feast toppings. *Oodles of Noodles* is a new theme of ours, where students can try new types of noodles such as rice and Udon noodles along with a selection of stir-fried meats and different sauces. We even had a live food demonstration at lunchtime from one of our suppliers, Theo's, who brought along their own kebab roasters and made Greek lamb kebabs with wraps for the students to enjoy.



During our termly Food Committee Meetings which are held with the chefs and students, we asked which dishes in particular they would like to see more of, and one dish which is becoming very popular is *moules marinière* (pictured). We have now incorporated this dish onto our rolling three-week menu.

We always encourage the students to give us feedback on our food and to let us know their ideas for future dishes. Last term, we held a competition in which all the Houses were invited to submit their favourite dish to the chefs. The winning House then had the pleasure of seeing their dish added to this term's menu.

Carrie Zeiler



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 25 February 2016

This week - Fives.

Fives continues to be a sport which many Salopians seem to be in 'glove' with! The Master in Charge is Seb Cooley and it is clear he is something of an inspiration, as he is the best player in the world at present. He could be described as pretty handy.

It is a shame for Mr Cooley that there is not as much prize money in Fives as in some other sports. I imagined the top prize money might be as much as £10 paid in fives. I suggested this to Head Girls' Coach Andy Barnard and he told me that there was no money in Fives at all and that Mr Cooley should have chosen another sport had he wished to enrich himself from his sporting talent. We both decided that for a gentleman like Mr Cooley, the prestige and kudos from being a world number 1 is probably enough. I decided to ask Mr Cooley if that is indeed the case and he replied, "The prestige and kudos from being the world number 1 is enough".

The club is in rude health at present and there have been triumphs all over the place and not just at the Birmingham Motor Show. The top three pairs are preparing for the Williams Team Cup – a tournament at Eton that involves the top eight Fives-playing schools in the world. The format means it is a heavy schedule, as each pair plays two shortened games (up to 8) against each school. So our first pair will play all the other top pairs. This can lead to around six hours of Fives in the day. Wow – I hope they are fit and enjoying the game!



George Panayi and Tom Breese



The current Shrewsbury first pair are George Panayi and Tom ‘everything is a’ Breese. Tom popped in to have a chat with me about life in general and we happened to talk about Fives. Tom started by mentioning the current top six. At present the second pair are Luke Lloyd-Jones and Jack Fox and the third pair are Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield and Dan Orchard, but there is little in it. As a proud Porthillian himself, Tom was quick to point out that five of these players are day boys. I wondered if that suggested there was not much to do in Shrewsbury Town except hit a ball against a wall. Tom felt that was a little harsh and has told me to give up my dream of working for the Shropshire Tourist Board. So far the first six have beaten Eton, Highgate and Westminster, among others, and have only lost to St Olave’s. My spell checker seems to think that St Olave’s should be St Olives and who am I to disagree! Let’s hope we put them back in their jar at the weekend!

I thought Tom was looking very well. I only mention this because he has been injured for a year and as he is a 1st XI footballer and cricketer he must have been extremely frustrated. Tom concurred, telling me “I was extremely frustrated”. He is delighted to be back and is really enjoying his Fives at the moment. He was quick to pay tribute to the coaching of Grant Williams and Seb Cooley. I asked him what it is like being coached by the World number 1. He grinned and said it was fantastic. I then wondered why Mr Cooley is so good. Tom told me, “It is because he is small. He can get where other players can’t get.” I began to realise why I am not very good at Fives. I am too big and I blame my parents.

Tom also told me that the spirit in the club is fabulous. He noted the enthusiasm of other coaches such as Mr Barratt, Dr Morgan, Mr Shantry and Mr Barnard not to mention Mr Morris who is charge of logistics, bus driving and critical analysis (aka moaning!). I finished by asking Tom if he had noticed any up and coming players. He thought for a moment before telling me that the Junior Girls Captain Sophia Breese is a very talented player. I asked if there was anyone else he could think of who was doing well but he was unable to name anyone outside of his immediate family. Mr Barnard did confirm that Sophia and her partner Lizzie Ware are two of the most exciting prospects in the junior team. They have a big competition at Berkhamstead this weekend and Mr Barnard is quietly confident of success. He didn’t actually say anything, as he is *quietly* confident. I could just tell!



Phoebe Wasdell, Tilly Reynolds, Sophia Breese and Lizzie Ware pictured last year with a National Fives trophy

Finally I wondered about the prevalence of Chiquitita bananas around the courts.



Spot the bananas

Was this anything to do with Mr Cooley's favourite Abba song? Was he haunted by the line 'so the walls came tumbling down'? Does he have a recurring nightmare that the Fives courts will fall down? Should he allow the brass band to play there on some Saturday mornings or will the trumpets lead to a Jericho scenario?



Mungo McLaggan was quick to tell me the Team Nutritionist Mr Morris leaves various performance-enhancing foodstuffs around the courts and that the bananas are not as popular as the chocolate biscuits, and so there often a few left around. He felt that the brand of banana was coincidence and had nothing to do with Mr Cooley's love of Abba. He was not 100% sure as he had never asked Mr Cooley if he liked Abba. I haven't either so maybe it is true? We may never know? Why not write in with your thoughts on this matter!

One thing that is certain is that Fives is flourishing at Shrewsbury and as we are hosting the National Schools competition just after the term ends, there will plenty of high quality Fives to watch in our recently renovated courts! Will we win? It should be a Breese!

GJFB

PS - Just for those who are now left trying to remember the lyrics to 'Chiquitita tell me what's wrong', here you are: [Chiquitita lyrics](#). I leave you to decide how best they might (or might not) be applied to Fives at Shrewsbury School.

Rugby: Success for the U15s at the Adams' Grammar Invitational Sevens Tournament

Thursday 25 February 2016

Many congratulations to the U15 rugby sevens squad, who played outstandingly well on Wednesday 24th February and won the Adams' Grammar Invitational Sevens Tournament.



Their coach, Chris Cook, was thrilled with the team's performance. "From the first whistle the boys played an intelligent sevens game, not scared to go backwards, and spreading the ball wide to use the pace of Arron Lewis, Toby Pattinson and Harry Remnant. Certainly it was a delight to see the boys implementing the patterns of play that we had put into practice in training, and this enabled us to pull off some fantastic victories."

The boys won their games:

v King Edward VI Aston School: 43-7

v Hereford Cathedral School: 40-7

v Abraham Darby Academy: 31-5

Semi-final v Old Swinford Hospital: 36-7

Final v Adams' Grammar School: 27-7



A fantastic performance from every squad member, with everyone contributing at various times throughout the day.

1. Jacob Jefferis
2. Thomas Plaut
3. Ludo Litchfield (3 tries – all in the final!)
4. Frank Morris
5. Arron Lewis (7)
6. Harry Remnant (6)
7. Toby Pattinson (4)
8. Felix Kenyon-Smith (3)
9. Xander Nuijten (3)
10. Luka Cassidy
11. Ian Lam (3)
12. Joe Scott

Total tries for: 29 – 177 points

Total tries against: 5 – 33 points

School House boys make valuable contribution to U15s Rugby victory

Thursday 25 February 2016

The School's U15s won the Adam's Grammar invitational Sevens tournament with the help of School House Fourth Formers Jacob Jefferis and Arron Lewis, who was the tournament's top try scorer with 7 tries.

According to their coach, Mr Cook, "The boys were fantastic throughout the day, playing some phenomenal 7s".

The team cruised to victory over talented oppositions before beating the hosts, Adams' Grammar School, 27-7 in the final.



Jacob (L) and Arron (R) considering tactics

Shrewsbury's School's first University Fair

Thursday 25 February 2016

We were delighted to welcome 33 universities from across England and Wales to our first University Fair, which took place in the Alington Hall on Friday 12th February.

Some 230 students and parents came along during the course of the afternoon to browse the university displays and talk to the representatives about university life, the application process and the courses on offer.

They were also able to take advantage of presentations given in the Ashton Theatre by Liverpool and Manchester Universities on 'Choosing a University/Course' and 'Writing a Personal Statement', as well as a presentation by the LSE, UCL, Imperial and King's College London on 'World Class Study in London'.

The feedback from the exhibitors was very encouraging and they particularly commented on the quality of the questions they were asked during the afternoon.

The next conference from the Higher Education Department will be the USA Universities Information Conference to be held on Thursday 9th June. Details to follow.



Magdalen College School MUN Conference 2016 - report by Rhys Trevor (PH LVI)

Friday 26 February 2016



Shrewsbury represented Ukraine, Malaysia and Yugoslavia (in the Historical Committee) at the Magdalen College School MUN conference over the first weekend of half term. The Ukraine team was very successful, winning a Highly Commended Delegation award, coming second to a strong Abingdon School team.

There was a particularly great performance from the Historical delegate, Alec Barnes, who won a Best Delegate award in the Historical Committee after pretending to be USA for one of the days instead of Yugoslavia. Naturally Alec's transformation from being a convinced Communist to representing one of the biggest Capitalist countries was amusing for the Committee.

The other delegate to win an individual prize (a Highly Commended Delegate award), Rhys Trevor, was in the Security Council representing Ukraine's agenda and rights while trying to repel Russian expansion. It got quite tense as shouting filled the room many a time and delegates constantly changed sides depending on the quality and passion of the speeches. The debate ended when Ukraine finally won the heart of the people by making multiple emotional speeches, waving the flag around and begging the Council to reject Russian expansion and keep the Bear at bay.

The conference went well as I said and the two Fourth Formers, Cameron Hughes-Williams (Rb), Oscar Mattinson (Rb) and the one Third Former, Thomas Jackson (R) on the team also spoke well, showing great promise for the future. Thank you so much to Mr Clark (MDHC) and Miss Bresso, who accompanied the trip.

Rhys Trevor

Shrewsbury's MUN teams excel at two conferences on the same weekend

Friday 26 February 2016

On the first weekend of half term, a group of 17 debaters, representing Nigeria, Croatia, Syria and Afghanistan headed off to the Paris MUN with Mr Peach and Miss Burge.

At the same time a crack team of seven representing Ukraine, Malaysia and Yugoslavia made the shorter trip to Oxford for the Magdalen College School MUN with Mr Clark and Miss Bresso.

In Paris, Guy Cabral (Ch UVI) and Rhys Elliott-Williams (PH UVI) were named as the BEST JUDGES in the International Court of Justice after a weekend deliberating on the legal status of Gibraltar.

Max Yale (S LVI), Ed Donovan (R LVI) and Ebrahim Jamshid (SH IV) won Honourable Mentions (equivalent to Highly Commended Delegate awards) in their respective committees.

The biggest achievement in Paris, though, was Ed Donovan (R LVI), getting his resolution on the European Refugee Crisis debated and passed in the General Assembly in front of 570 delegates.



Ed Donovan (Nigeria) lobbying the Deputy Security General and presenting his resolution on the refugee crisis to the General Assembly

In Oxford, our small and relatively young team punched way above its weight and came away with one BEST DELEGATE award for Alec Barnes (PH LVI), a HIGHLY COMMENDED DELEGATE award for Rhys Trevor (PH LVI), and - most impressively of all - a HIGHLY COMMENDED DELEGATION award for the Ukraine team; a superb achievement.



Many thanks to Guy Cabral for his report on the Paris MUN Conference: [Paris MUN 2016](#) and to Rhys Trevor (PH LVI), who has written about the Oxford Conference: [Magdalen College School MUN 2016](#).

HRWP



Paris MUN 2016 - report by Guy Cabral (Ch UVI)

Friday 26 February 2016

As I write down this brief look back at PAMUN XVI aboard a TGV train, the French countryside rolls past the windows into the distance and my remembrances are only disturbed by the occasional thump judder of a passing train. PAMUN is much more than an ordinary conference, for many it is the culmination a year or more's worth of Wednesday MUN sessions and smaller conferences. Despite the intensity and stress of such a major conference, it often stands out as one of the brightest stars in the constellation of MUN memories. Thus, it is with much fondness that I delve back into the events of the past few days.

It must be said that the trip did not exactly begin auspiciously. Having arrived five minutes late to breakfast, I hastily grabbed a tray and plate of food, and in an attempt to begin my belated meal I caused the tray to tip towards me at a steep angle, the result being a cascade of water from my overset cup which swept a goodish proportion of morning baked beans straight onto my lap. And so it was that with a mixture amusement (the vast majority) and damp embarrassment (one very particular minority) we began the day's travel arrangements.

The entire journey down to London passed without incident. Now, an outward-bound MUN journey without some form of mishap is a logical impossibility and so I passed through the security checks en route to the EuroStar platform with a quiet sense of foreboding. Indeed, as I headed along the platform towards our carriage, one of my fellow delegates (who shall remain nameless) suddenly sprinted past me back the way we had come, crying out that he had left his backpack behind. Luckily, he managed to get himself and luggage onto the train in time, however that bag was soon to cause trouble again. He Who Shall Not Be Named, being in a different carriage to his bag, was not present to identify his bag when the train staff requested the owner of the bag to present themselves. Subsequently, there was a half hour delay as train staff sought out the possessor of that bothersome bag.

Thankfully, we were in the clear after that and the entire group made it without trouble to our hotel, a delightful Ibis in the centre of Paris. Having changed, dined in town, and engaged in a spot of Parisian sightseeing to the Arc du Triomphe, we headed for the quiet confines of our hotel rooms. Although, while most of us prepared to bed down for the night, some found the opportunity of doing some early lobbying and set to the task of improving diplomatic relations.



Ebrahim Jamsbid (Afghanistan) at the General Assembly and taking questions from the Human Rights Committee

Due to a real UN conference going on in the UNESCO building, this year the model variant was held at the Maison de la Mutualité, a really grand conference centre in the Latin Quarter. The Opening Ceremony was highlighted by keynote speeches from the Secretary General of PAMUN XVI, Chloe Oleson, and their guest speaker, Ambassador Kamboj, India's ambassador to UNESCO. As we left the General Assembly Hall with Chloe's theme of seizing one's own future in our minds, we headed to the committee rooms.



Nigerian Ambassador Ed Plant urges the Security Council to oppose the UN-backed no-fly zone over Yemen

As it always does, PAMUN passed like a whirlwind and the team, with the exception of Ed Plaut (still fighting for Nigeria's views in the Security Council) and Rhys Elliott-Williams and myself (we were both still engaged with Spain vs UK in the ICJ), was soon heading to the General Assembly (GA) for the debate on the issue of the European Migrant Crisis. I am pleased to say that having been skilfully presented and argued for by Ed Donovan, Shrewsbury's resolution passed by a majority vote into (M)UN legislature.



Ed Donovan (Nigeria) lobbying the Deputy Security General and presenting his resolution on the refugee crisis to the General Assembly

With that, the Closing Ceremony swept down upon us and an expectant hush fell over the assembly as the first chairs approached the podium to begin the awards. Marked by whoops, claps and cheers, Shrewsbury showed its approval as each delegate received their awards. How chuffed we were when it was announced that Ebrahim Jamshid, Ed Donovan and Max Yale had won Commended Delegate Awards. When the announcement for ICJ came, I was delighted to share the Best Judge award with Rhys.



*Max Yale in ECOSOC discussing a crisis revealed to the Committee unexpectedly on the second day of the Conference:
How to deal with 100 million extra environmental refugees caused by rising sea levels*

Following the Award Ceremony, we had the great fortune of hearing a tremendous speech from the organiser of the conference Ouriel Racheff who urged us all to make our dreams our reality. With Ouriel's words filling the fooscap of our minds and the final gavel ringing in our ears, we left the hall inspired to fulfil our dream of hosting our own conference next year.



Judges Guy Cabral and Rhys Elliott-Williams mull over Spain and UK's claims over Gibraltar

Well, as with all MUN conferences, the end came in a blur. Soon we had donned our travelling clothes and picked up our bags for the final journey. I must confess, before I parted company from the group to head for my own holiday destination, I fell to the temptation of an early valedictory speech. Although I enclosed in the words of that speech what I felt was really important about MUN, I feel that I must solidify it in typescript as well. So, I just want to close with this realisation of mine from over the years. In MUN, what matters is not the debates, it's not even the conferences although they are a major part of it, it is certainly not the awards. No, what is at the heart of MUN is the people you do it with. They are the ones who advise you, they are the ones who keep you going when the 2.00 o'clock bedtimes and 6.30 wake-ups begin to get to you. They are your friends, your allies and it is they who will stand beside you when this ever more confusing world takes another turn. What then have I learnt from MUN? Life in this world is much too crazy to do it alone, so build up your friendships; they'll see you through.

Guy Cabral (Cb UVI)



The Hunt Club Championships

Friday 26 February 2016

A record 50 runners took to the startline for this year's Hunt Club Championships, raced at The Schools on Wednesday 24th February in glorious sunshine. This internal competition sees Hunt runners battle it out for bragging rights with some looking to add to their personal silverware haul and others looking for a scalp or two.



Freddie Huxley-Fielding

The throng of Hunt vests careering off at the start up towards Top Common was quite a spectacle, and it was impressive to see so many keen and talented runners across all age-groups and each House represented.

At the front end of the field, from the off it looked set to be a battle between Huntsman Oscar Dickins and fellow Riggite Freddie Huxley-Fielding. By the time they had looped Top Common and headed down Oldham's Gap, the pair had already pushed well clear of the chasing pack who realised that they would be competing for the final place on the podium. A swift hill climb up from the Boat Club enabled Huxley-Fielding to establish a lead of 10m or so, though Dickins was determined to hang on. In the end, there was little that the Huntsman could do to stop

Huxley-Fielding coming home for the kill, and certainly this is a young talent who is back to his imperious best. He broke the tape in 13 minutes flat, a pretty impressive time for the 3.8km course, given the undulating terrain.

A strong second half of the course saw fellow Lower Sixth Former Will Hayward push through the field and reel in Dickins, who in the final sprint finish managed to clatter himself against one of the barriers, enabling Hayward to claim second place in 13.16. Dickins - the defending champion and last year's winner of the Birley Cup - had to settle for third this year in 13.28, though as Head of House, he was pleased to see an all-Rigg's podium (cue jokes about the race having been 'rigged' by the Master i/c...).



Will Hayward

Also dipping under the 14-minute mark was Charlie Tait-Harris (S) with 4th place and 13.58, an extremely well-executed race from a runner who prefers his courses a little flatter than this. Having started conservatively and placing himself towards the back end of the chasing pack, Tait-Harris pushed his way through the field and finished strongly.

Perhaps the most impressive performance of the day came from newcomer Cameron Anwyl (S V) who placed 8th despite only starting running with the Hunt in recent weeks. He was just 4 seconds behind the highest-placed Fifth Former on the day, Monty Hardcastle (I).

Whilst the Birley Cup was claimed by Huxley-Fielding, there were other trophies to contest for, including the Mark Mortimer Cup, awarded to the first Junior Boy (Third & Fourth Form). This was claimed by Toby Pegge (PH) whose time of 14.37 pushed into the top 10, a terrific achievement from a young runner with a great deal of talent and potential. It's been a superb season for Pegge as he's stepped up to the Top Tier training squad. As a member of the 'B' team who placed in the top 10 for the first time at the national relays in Coventry earlier in the month,

he is likely to be a key figure in 'The Hunt' for many years to come. Likewise, second-placed Junior in the Club Champs Ben Henderson (S) once again proved his credentials with 13th overall and a time of 15.00, narrowly ahead of the ever-improving Third Form talent Thomas Jackson (R) in 14th.

Whilst the Senior Boys' and Junior Boys' races proved closely-fought battles, the result in the Senior Girls' race seemed never in doubt, with defending champion Olivia Papaioannou (EDH) seeking to retain the Willie Jones Cup and earn another 'notch' on her baton to go with her Tucks victory back in October. This was once again a dominant performance from the Captain of Girls' Running, who manages to combine playing lacrosse for her country with running at a very high standard - and she has also recently won a Biology Olympiad Gold Medal to boot. She has been an outstanding leader for the girls and once again led by example on Wednesday with a gritty and determined performance that saw her push into the top 20 overall. Her time of 15.33 was nearly two minutes clear of second-placed Passi Goddard (G) in 17.28.



Olivia Papaioannou

Impressively, third place went to Third Former Lilian Wilcox (EDH) in 17.35, who also scooped up the prize for 1st Junior Girl. She is certainly a name to watch out for in the future and already this season has played a key role in the Senior Girls' teams. Completing the Junior Girls' podium were Libby Hedges (G) in 18.58 and Liza Alekseeva (EDH) in 21.45.

Liza was also the proud winner of the eagerly-contested 'Muddiest Runner' award. Meanwhile Seb Ingram (S) was judged by the panel to be the clear winner of the 'Bloodiest Runner' award, albeit there were mutterings from some of his peers that he had used a red biro to mark his legs. No official appeal has been lodged with the stewards, so the result stands...

A terrific afternoon of running then from the Hunt runners, and a cracking way to get the second half of term underway.

PJM





Rathbones National Schools' U19 Lacrosse Championships

Monday 29 February 2016

In their first venture into competition at a national level, our young team played exceptionally well over the two days of the National Schools' U19 Championships and have definitely put Shrewsbury School on the Lacrosse map.



After the first day's play the team were seeded in Division 2 (of three divisions) and proved they were worthy of it. Despite losing captain Antonia Wordie (EDH) due to injury during day two, the team reached the quarter-final against St Catherine's Bramley C team. At the end of overtime, the score was 1-1; disappointingly, they lost the semi-final place on goal difference.

Nevertheless, the girls played exceptionally well throughout the competition and did not seem to be fazed by playing Championship Division teams. In fact their best match of the Tournament was on the first day against St Catherine's Bramley A team, who won the Championship two years ago and this year lost in the final.

Special mentions to the attackers and to defender Mimi Ashworth (EDH IV), who scored many goals. Our Player of the Tournament was Phoebe Wasdell (MSH IV) for being consistently strong in both defence and attack, with faultless stick skills and endless energy.

Well done to all the players for their commitment.

Mrs Nicholas

RSSBC: Impressive performances from the J14 crews in their home fixture against King's Chester

Monday 29 February 2016

Saturday 27th February proved to be an exciting and successful day for the RSSBC J14 Squad. With King's School Chester having hosted two previous fixtures, it was time for both squads to take to the River Severn in Shrewsbury.



The event consisted of four divisions, with J14 girls and boys being able to participate in two 1500m races past the RSSBC Boathouse.

First to take to the water, were the J14 King's, RSSBC J14 and J15 girls, which proved to be quite an interesting division to begin with. All crews came racing past the Boat House within close proximity of each other, testing the coxing ability of all crews. King's led the way past the Boat House with the J14 RSSBC girls hot on their tail, as the RSSBC's J15s went for the overtake. All crews successfully managed to cross the line without a scratch, thanks to some professional steering, and it was the RSSBC crew who took the win in the girls' J14 category.



WJ14 A

The girls raced once more in Division 3, which ran with greater distances separating all the crews making it harder to tell who had won. However, it was another win for RSSBC J14s over King's in Division 3. The J15 girls posted the fastest girls' times in both Divisions.

In Divisions 2 and 4, it was the battle of the boys, with RSSBC J14s taking on the King's J14 squad. King's have always been strong competitors, with RSSBC only just beating them in the Michaelmas Term ergo competition and King's beating RSSBC on their home water back in early February. This rivalry was sure to present some skilled racing on RSSBC's home water. Both Divisions were a great success, with every crew storming past the Boat House to cheers from the crowd. The King's B boat got the better of the RSSBC J14 Bs after solid performances from both crews. The tables were turned in the As' race, however, where the RSSBC As just got the better of the King's opposition.



J14 A

Doughnuts, hot chocolates and medals ended off a successful afternoon of racing. All coaches were thoroughly impressed with the J14s' performances and how they held themselves out on the water.

Things look very promising for the RSSBC J14 Squad as we begin to move away from winter and towards National events in the spring and summer regatta season.

PDG

Prep School Chemistry Spectacular

Monday 29 February 2016

On Thursday 11th February, Shrewsbury School Chemistry Department began the 2016 series of prep school science enrichment afternoons with students from Prestfelde School.



The first of seven planned visits from prep schools, this Chemistry event was designed by Senior Chemistry Technician Rachel Schofield, Head of Chemistry Dr Andy Briggs and assisted by our Chemistry Technician Kathryn Davidson.

Twenty-four Year 7 pupils together with Prestfelde Head of Science, Mr James Peakman, and teachers Mr Bell and Mr Sowden, were given a whistle-stop tour of the Chemistry Department and prep room. The extent of our facilities was a real eye-opener for the children and an insight into the science opportunities at Shrewsbury School.

This was followed with spectacular explosions and illuminating flash-bang demonstrations in the Science Lecture Theatre by Dr Briggs. The pupils experienced some of the sights, sounds and smells that are real chemistry at work. There were lots of excited comments and a huge number of willing volunteers as the demonstrations progressed!



We then moved into one of the chemistry laboratories and as a special treat for the pupils they had a refreshment of 'dry-ice' cooled blackcurrant squash.



The pupils were allowed to carry out a number of practical experiments themselves. In groups of twos and threes, they had access to some equipment not often used in prep schools, including chemical solutions to create reactions, making a vortex smoke-launcher, the magic egg in a bottle trick and very enjoyable flame tests.





The Prestfelde pupils were very well behaved and showed excellent lab skills and concentration.

The finale was a demonstration outside of elephant's toothpaste foam, rather graphically described as 'intestines' and 'worms'; the mess of which delighted the pupils.

With a few gifts to take away, the staff and pupils agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon. It is now an annual event both schools look forward to.

Andrew Briggs and Rachel Schofield