



Fourth Former Janet achieves cello Diploma

Friday 1 February 2019

Many congratulations to cellist Janet L (M), who has achieved a superb result in her Trinity Guildhall Diploma. This is a significant achievement for any musician, but for a Fourth Former it is particularly remarkable.

Her programme included major works for cello by Brahms and Shostakovich.

“Janet plays near the front of the cello sections in both the String and Symphony Orchestras and is also in a String Quartet with her twin sister Rosa, who achieved her Diploma in violin last term,” said Head of String David Joyce. “Both sisters are marvellous assets to the Music Department and the fine musical reputation of the School.”





Shrewsbury School's Huntsman to set off the World's Elite

Friday 1 February 2019

On Saturday 30th March 2019, the world's top runners will take to the start line of the IAAF World Cross-Country Championships in Aarhus, Denmark. They will be set off by Shrewsbury School's Huntsman: Charlie Ockleston (O U6).

As the sport looks to move into an exciting new era - spearheaded by IAAF President Seb Coe - the race organisers have been keen to reconnect with the sport's origins. Their focus has therefore turned to Shrewsbury School whose cross-country running club - known as The Hunt - lays claim to being the oldest in the world, having been established in 1831.



A chance conversation with the race organisers led to the exciting proposal to include the Huntsman (Captain of Cross-Country) in the World Championship races, a proposal that was approved by the IAAF and will see Charlie setting the races off dressed in full regalia and with the traditional Huntsman's rallying cry and bugle call. The event will be broadcast live around the world, so Charlie is busy getting some much-needed lessons on the bugle!

With evidence of organised cross-country running having taken place at Shrewsbury School as early as 1819, this year's event marks a significant milestone in the evolution of the sport as it celebrates its bicentenary, and we are thrilled to take such a central role in those celebrations.

Watch this space....

*Peter Middleton
Deputy Head (Co-Curricular)*

MUN success at Manchester High School for Girls Conference

Friday 1 February 2019

Shrewsbury Model United Nations delegates enjoyed an excellent weekend debating key global issues with fellow teams from schools across the country at the MUNHigh Conference.

The Shrewsbury team was made up of a mixture of experienced delegates and novices, all of whom performed very well.

In the presentation of awards at the end of the Conference, the USA team were given a **Commended Delegation Award**.

In addition Alex Sparkes (I L6) chaired the Human Rights Committee, and the following won **Highly Commended Delegate Awards** in their committees:

- Chad Usher (Rb U6) (Security Council)
- Koby Ferdinand-Okpala (SH U6) (Political Committee)
- Mark Pangin (SH U6) (Future Committee)

Tom Jackson (R L6 - *pictured below*) was given a **Commended Delegate Award** in the International Court of Justice.



The group were accompanied by Jeanne Fournis (Bordeaux Fellow) and by Teacher in Charge of MUN Huw Peach.

We're look forward to hosting our own Model United Nations Conference, ShrewsMUN 3, in March, led by Secretary General Chad Usher (*pictured below*): <https://shrewsmun.com/>



Coventry Relay and County Championship success for RSSH runners

Monday 4 February 2019

Congratulations to the Hunt, who have been in top form this week: three team trophies and several individual podium positions in the Shropshire Schools Cross-Country Championships on 2nd February; and 4th place for the boys team and 13th for the girls in the Coventry Relays on Wednesday 6th.



Bright and cold, the conditions in Oswestry for the Shropshire Schools Championships were ideal for fast times, and our 43 runners did not disappoint.

Francesca Harris (EDH) won the Intermediate age category to become County Champion. There were very strong performances by Lillian Wilcox (EDH), Alessandra Ardissino (M), Sophia Dixon (MSH) and Anna Cowan (MSH) in the senior age category, alongside several debut Hunt performances, including Karina Ho (G), Sophia Bureau (G), Laura Elliott (G) and Morgan Smith (MSH). The seniors managed a team bronze.

Among the boys, we retained the team trophies in all three age groups, thanks to some superb performances. In the juniors, Ben W (R) placed 2nd, Will S (R) placed 3rd and Archie C (Rb) came 4th.



In the Intermediates, Tom Jackson (R) managed a fantastic second place, ahead of Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) in 3rd and Harrison Cutler in 6th, while we were well supported further back by the likes of Jonny Price (I), Ed Forde-Johnston (O) and Charlie Huntley (PH), among many others.

In the Seniors, Charlie Ockleston (O) ran extremely well to come 2nd, ahead of Sam Western (S) in 3rd, while Rider Hartley (Ch) and Sam Watts (Ch) managed 6th and 7th respectively. There was huge strength in depth again here, with several RSSH runners placing well right through the field.

A terrific morning of racing was enjoyed. Very well done to everyone who competed. Please follow the link to read the full report: [Shropshire Schools CountyCross-Country Championships 2019.](#)

A report on the King Henry VIII Relays held in Coventry on Wednesday 6th February is published here: [King Henry VIII Relays 2019.](#)

Mr Haworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt

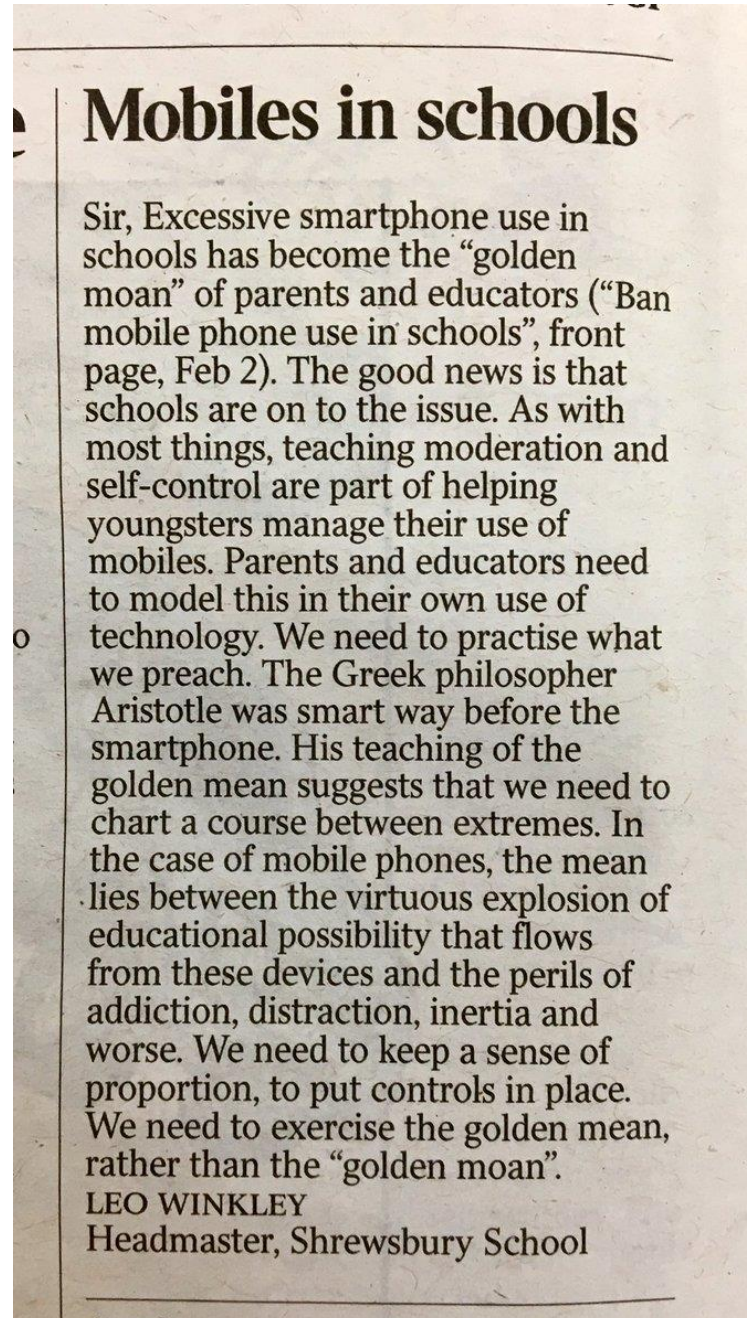




Headmaster's Letter to The Times

Friday 8 February 2019

In a letter to 'The Times', published on 4th February, Mr Winkley addressed the issue of smartphone use in schools.





Celebrating Chinese New Year

Friday 8 February 2019

This week we have enjoyed an array of culinary and cultural treats in KH to celebrate Chinese New Year with countries represented at Shrewsbury School. This film captures some of the highlights...



Almost an instant translation of culture has taken place in KH during this week when brightly-coloured Chinese lanterns, bunting and door posters of auspicious messages cheerfully adorned wall and ceiling spaces.

While enjoying Chinese New Year food, pupils also had some hands-on experience thanks to a range of artefacts and information of different cultures available on the tables.

Here at Shrewsbury we continue to seek opportunities to deepen our understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and inclusion.

Grace Ansell

Head of International Inclusion



'Jesus Christ Superstar' - photo gallery

Friday 8 February 2019

This year's School musical, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's 'Jesus Christ Superstar', was a rip-roaring success...

For a full review, please follow the link: [What's the buzz? - Jesus Christ Superstar.](#)



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL





Shrewsbury SparkPoint - 'The Cold Reality'

Friday 8 February 2019

This week's edition looks at the cultural impact of the weather.

SPARKPOINT 2019
SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Welcome

We may not have had any snow, but it has certainly not been warm over the past few days and this weekend is set to be even more nippy. Weather analogies and imagery have been around for as long as there has been any form of literature – but why is a chill in the air such a powerful and evocative way of dealing with more abstract issues?

15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

COLD WORDS

With her best-seller 'The Goldfish' about to be released as an adaptation for television, Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* contains a passage widely regarded to be one of the most powerful evocations of the harshness of winter in modern literature. The book is an exceptional read; click the link to hear her talk about it. Don't forget that it's available in the library.

A TRANSIENT ART FORM

Professional artists who chose snow as their medium of choice have an interesting take on what makes art 'art'. Click the link to see some of the entrants for the international snow-sculpting championships. They really are truly breath-taking and what the creator has to say about issues of permanence is equally fascinating.

WEATHER AND MORALITY

Written as a morality play by John Heywood in 1532, this unusual piece sees the king of the gods, Jupiter, attempt to work out the ideal state of the weather for Englishmen – the answer being, of course, that everyone wants something different. Click the link for access to footage of a modern staging of this unusual drama.

A Cold Night (extract)

A snowy icy night, painted hill tops all are white,
all the rivers flow like ice, and raindrops fall as hail,
from so very, very high, above.

Whispered breath, a smoky kind of grey,
as I wander in the coldness of my winter dreams,
trees stretching skywards hold distant memories
of rustled leaves and a lazy warming friendly breeze.

I so much love you and I want you by my side
in the coldness of this dark and lonely frozen hour.

David Taylor

POEM OF THE WEEK

imbricate

adjective
Describing anything that is overlapping or interlocked, especially of fish scales, fallen leaves and fresh snowflakes.

MUSIC OF THE WEEK

Some lovely urban myths surround this classic from Travis. Having taken a holiday to escape Glasgow weather, it rained solidly on the lead singer as it did again when he first performed the song. Click to listen.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK

This splendid pre-Raphaelite painting by Waterhouse entitled 'Boreas' evokes, impressively, the power of the wind. Known for the romantic use of colour and for his nostalgic themes, the artist was prolific in his time.

Shrewsbury

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Careers & Higher Education Weekly Bulletin

Friday 8 February 2019

Lots of information for Fifth and Sixth Formers about events, talks, apprenticeships and work placements - plus a useful guide to making the most of the Universities and Gap Year Fair on 15th February.

Click [here](#) to read this week's edition of the HE & Careers Bulletin.

And click [here](#) for the guide to making the most of the [Universities and Gap Year Fair](#) on 15th February.

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

& University Gap Year Fair 2019

Friday 15th February

1.00pm - 4.00pm
Alington Hall:
All University Exhibitors

1.45pm - 3.35pm
Ashton Theatre:
University Presentations

1.00pm - 4.00pm
Alington Hall:
Gap Year Fair

... and more



Bastille Society Lecture: Imaginations of the British Empire

Monday 11 February 2019

Libby Hedges reports on a thought-provoking lecture to the Bastille Society given on Friday 8th February by Dr Russell Foster.



Dr Foster began by explaining to us that he had originally been placed in a role at King's College London in April 2016 analysing ways to strengthen Britain's position as part of the European Union...and just seven weeks later they had to reconsider his role, which moved him to European Studies.

For the predominantly Sixth Form audience, it was a great open discussion on how

current affairs have been affected by the way in which we built our Empire and also saw it decline – or as Dr Foster convincingly proposed, simply got louder and quieter.

The amalgamation of philosophy of history, philology, geography and more in a seminar-style lecture was a fantastic insight for those wanting to study history or sociology at university. It was good to have some thought-provoking questions, and it was clear Dr Foster had really stimulated a crowd of pre-university historians.

On behalf of the Bastille Society, we would like to thank him for joining our lecture series and travelling up to Shrewsbury.

Libby Hedges (G L6)



Shrewsbury

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Shrewsbury Golf Team reach National Final of ISGA Matchplay Competition

Monday 11 February 2019

Congratulations to Sam Austen (SH), Rory McDonald-O'Brien (PH) and Ted Williams (R), who beat Oswestry (2-1) in the Independent Schools Golf Association Regional Matchplay Final at Hawkstone Park last week.

This means that they are through to the National Final of the ISGA Matchplay competition, to be held at two fine golf courses in Sandwich Bay, Kent: Prince's on 28th April and Royal St Georges on the 29th.



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



A birthday fanfare for Old Salopian Charles Darwin

Tuesday 12 February 2019

Archie Eyre (Rb L6) paid tribute to Old Salopian Charles Darwin on the 210th anniversary of his birth (12th February 1809) with an excerpt from John Stanley's Trumpet Voluntary.

The fanfare was played in the School's Biology Building - named in Darwin's honour.

The musicians of Shrewsbury School performed more tributes in celebration of Charles & Emma Darwin at a very warmly received concert in St Alkmund's Church, Shrewsbury on Thursday 14th February - part of the [DarwIN Shrewsbury Festival 2019](#), which continues with events across the town until 24th February.



Headmaster's Letter to The Guardian

Tuesday 12 February 2019

In a letter published in The Guardian on 12th February, Mr Winkley responded to an article that asked what independent schools are doing to merit their subsidies.

He quotes examples of the numerous community projects Shrewsbury School is engaged in – including our historic partnership with [Shrewsbury House in Everton](#) - explaining that these are “part of the DNA of charitable independent schools”.

ing of a good, ed education

● As headmaster of one of the independent boarding schools mentioned in your article (Critics take aim at subsidies given to private schools, 5 February), I welcome the critical focus on how much schools like mine are doing to merit the subsidies we receive. These subsidies are to support children to have continuity in their education, not to fatten our coffers. The article also fails to mention the numerous community engagement projects in which schools like mine are willingly engaged: free of charge.

We are currently supporting a local academy with maths teaching, providing a modern languages teacher for a local primary school and continuing our 110-year-plus partnership with a youth club in Everton. These, and many similar activities, are part of the DNA of charitable independent schools. We are committed to benefiting our local communities and widening access to our schools through growing bursary schemes. We have a long way to go and it is right that we are held to account. Any income we receive goes into improving opportunities in line with our charitable purposes, rather than swelling the bank accounts of shareholders.

Leo Winkley

Headmaster, Shrewsbury School

McEachran Prize 2019

Wednesday 13 February 2019

Tom Allen (Ch 5) was the winner and Jonathan Snell (Ch L6) and Sophia Bureau (G L6) the runners-up in this year's McEachran Prize, named in honour of the legendary former Shrewsbury School teacher.



Frank McEachran, known to his pupils as 'Kek', and his 'spells' entranced his pupils for the 40 years he taught at Shrewsbury from 1935 until his death in 1976. His memory lives on in this wackiest of competitions, each entrant choosing their own 'spell', reciting and talking about it for up to four minutes, a task demanding not only of a buccaneering intellect but also considerable courage. A record number of entrants put themselves forward this year, resulting in one of the strongest ever fields.

Our youthful judge, herself a sometime winner of the McEachran Prize, was Esmé O'Keeffe, Shrewsbury School's first Head Girl, currently reading Politics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Her daunting task required her to make a selection from a series of stimulating and eclectic talks on a wide variety of 'spells' ranging from Milton via Marx to the singer/songwriter Kanye West.



Esmé O'Keeffe

The full text of the ‘spells’ which formed the basis of the talks can be found [here](#). Tom Allen’s winning talk was a reflection on the closing lines of Matthew Arnold’s *Dover Beach*. At the other end of the cultural spectrum, Sophia Bureau meditated on lines from Kanye West’s song *Everything I am*, while Jonathan Snell rounded off the evening with a fascinating perspective on Karl Marx and religion.



Jonny Snell and Tom Allen



Sophia Bureau

Congratulations to all spell weavers – the audience was indeed bewitched.



RSSH: King Henry VIII Relays 2019

Wednesday 13 February 2019

Wednesday 6th February saw the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt travel to the War Memorial Park, Coventry for the King Henry VIII Relays. This fixture, along with the Knole Run, marks the real high-point of competitive running for the Club.

The boys were looking to build on the success of the Knole Run back in January, where we won bronze, but knew that this race always provides a really stiff test to any team. Last year we placed eighth, after a few injuries led to a somewhat makeshift team, but this year we were at full strength and we approached the race with real confidence. The girls achieved 11th place last year, and having lost only one runner from last year's line-up, they were well placed to earn a strong position.

Tom Jackson (R) led our A team boys' line-up and was attempting to change his usual tactics by setting off rather more sedately, allowing the field to get away in the opening stages and then working through them as they started to struggle in the second half. This seemed to suit him remarkably well, as he finished very strongly indeed with a time of 12:10, placing us 12th in the field of 52 teams at the change-over. Paddy Barlow (R) led the B team for the first leg, and having worked hard this year to recover from a serious leg injury last year, wasn't far off Tom as he crossed the line, finishing in 12:41.



Tom Jackson and Oscar Hamilton-Russell

Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) took over for the A team, showing an impressive maturity for someone still in the Fifth Form. He ran superbly, a full 44 seconds faster than he'd managed last



year, completing the 3.7km course in just 12.19. In the B team, Ben W (R) – you may have noted a predominance of Rigg’s runners so far – was on the second leg, making the team in spite of his tender years. The Third Former fully justified his selection, however, running 12:39 and making up key positions in what was a truly impressive performance.



For the third leg, Rider Hartley (Ch) took the baton for the A team. Rider is in a real purple patch of form currently, having run very strongly at the Knole for his 33rd position, before placing 6th at Saturday’s County Championships. He made up key ground as other schools faded away (many schools tend to place their strongest runners in the first couple of legs). He powered through the second half of the course and finished in 12:29, before handing over to fellow Churchillian Sam Watts.

Sam has struggled with calf problems recently, but was able to overcome this to set a strong pace going into the wooded section. We were coming through the field nicely, by this point up to 7th position and bearing down on those in front, eventually finishing in 12:25.

Meanwhile, the B team were engaged in a fantastic battle around 15th, with many schools’ A teams, such as Harrow, RGS Guildford, and Millfield. Harrison Cutler (R) was in excellent form here and managed to take a couple of places by the end, handing over to Orlando Williams (Rt) for the fourth leg. Orlando is mainly a rower, but is still pretty swift in a pair of running shoes



(especially when they're extra-light ones borrowed from his coach). He ran the fastest B team leg, in fact, in just 12:31.

Heading into the last two legs, the first two teams had built up an impressive lead – the Judd School and Ermysted's Grammar were battling away fiercely at the front, with Loughborough Grammar over a minute behind, and then another significant gap before a group of teams much closer together.

Sam Western (S) took the baton for the fifth leg and set off determined to establish a good lead over the rest of this pack. His pace was electric, and as he crossed the halfway point it was clear he would set an extremely quick time. Handing the baton to our Huntsman Charlie Ockleston (O), Shrewsbury were in 4th place, with 3rd-placed Loughborough around 30 seconds ahead, and Sam had managed to complete the course in 11.42 – the 10th-fastest run of the day.



Sam Western and Charlie Ockleston

In the end, Charlie had rather a lonely leg. There was no challenge from other teams behind who were too far back to worry him, and Loughborough had left their fastest runner for the last leg, so he barely saw him. Having clocked a very impressive 12:04 last year, Charlie managed to post exactly the same time, claiming 4th place and completing a team time of 73:12. This is the fastest time that Shrewsbury School have ever managed around this course, which goes to show what a tremendously competitive field it was.



A team. L-R: Sam Western, Oscar Hamilton-Russell, Charlie Ockleston, Rider Hartley, Sam Watts, Tom Jackson

Our B team placed 15th, with Milo Herbert (R) and Matthew Thevathasan (PH) running very strongly in legs five and six respectively. Matthew's final leg left the B team with the fastest time our B team has ever managed. They also placed as the highest B team of all the schools – quite an achievement!



Matthew Thevathasan



In the girls, Alessandra Ardissino (M) led the four-person A team and set off at a good pace. She held out strongly to earn us 13th place in a time of 14:27. Anna Cowan (MSH) led the B team and also ran well, placing around 24th out of 38 teams, with a time of 15:42.

In the second leg, Sophia Dixon took the baton for the A team, developing a bit of a lead over the nearest rival behind her. She handed over to leg three runner Lillian Wilcox (MSH) with a time of 16:01. Lillian struggled a little in the latter part of the leg, and it was with a mixture of determination and pain that she dug in for her finish sprint up to the middle of the park. She was a little disappointed with her time of 15:34, and her form suggests she is quicker than this, but sometimes things just don't go to plan!



Anna Cowan and Francesca Harris

Lillian nevertheless kept us in with a good shout of a commendable position as we handed over to Francesca Harris (EDH) for the final leg. She sped up the incline towards the edge of the park and the wooded section, and hunted down those in front of her. Her time of 13:45 saw her claim four positions ahead of her, allowing the team to take 13th across the line with a team time of 59:49. It was a wonderful run and she certainly paid the price, suffering at the end.

The B team also did well, claiming 31st position in the end, after strong runs from Felicity Hayward (EDH) with a time of 16.26, Laura Elliott (G) with 16:55, and Karina Ho (G) – on her birthday! – running 17:55.



Felicity Hayward and Karina Ho

This really was a terrific team performance by the Hunt, who did themselves very proud indeed. We can look forward to the rest of the season with real confidence, knowing that these boys and girls are right at the top of their game.

Congratulations to all competitors.

Mr Haworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt



RSSH: Shropshire Schools County Cross-Country Championships 2019

Thursday 14 February 2019

The RSSH took their largest team for many years to the Shropshire Schools County Cross-Country Championships, with over 40 runners competing across five separate categories.

The boys were looking to defend their run of clean sweeps at this event going back for the last four years, in which we've won all three age categories of Junior (Third Form), Intermediate (Fourth and Fifth Form) and Senior (Sixth Form). This is a considerable achievement, as the standard of running is always high here.

The girls were able to field many more senior runners this year – nine, in fact – though were certainly light lower down, with only Francesca Harris (EDH) running in the Intermediate age group and no Junior runners at all.

In the Junior Boys, we had three runners up near the front who have had a tremendous season so far. Ben W (R), Will S (R) and Archie C (Rb) set a terrific pace at the head of the field and managed to sustain it over the 4km course to place 2nd (14:05), 3rd (14:13) and 4th (14:22) respectively.



Will S, Archie C and Ben W

There was a bit of an anxious wait after that to see where our fourth counter would place to complete the team. William Yao (I) gained that honour in 33rd position (17:50), ahead of Damian Jelev (R) who placed 45th (19:06) and James Cropper (Ch) in 52nd (19:55). This was enough to secure the team trophy for a fifth year in a row, by over 30 points ahead of nearest rivals Haberdasher's Adams.

In the Intermediate Girls, Francesca Harris (EDH) ran wonderfully well to claim the win over the same course distance in 14:58, well ahead of the nearest competitor. It was great to see her running so well again after a period of absence through injury. She seems to be returning to close to her best.



Francesca Harris

In the Intermediate Boys, we had greater strength in numbers, with 13 competing around their 5km course. Tom Jackson (R) set off brightly behind the favourite, Liam Rawlings of The Corbett School (who would go on to win his age group race for the fifth year in a row). Tom sensibly concentrated on his own pace and was able to claim the silver medal in a very quick time of 17:04.



Tom Jackson



Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) ran a very well-judged race to earn the bronze in 17:22, having come through the field well in the second half.

Further back, Harrison Cutler (R) suggested he is returning to form again with a strong run in 18:28, while still at the lower end of this age-group's range. An excellent run from Jonny Price (I) earned him 11th place (19:19), completing the team score of 22, winning the event by over sixty points.



Arthur Bramwell

There were some very good performances further down the field from Arthur B, Ed F-J, Charlie H, Will O, Ed B, Seb V, Cosmo W, Joe R-M and Tom A.



Senior Girls Team

In the Senior Girls' race of 4km, Lillian Wilcox (EDH) ran strongly to claim fifth place in 16:43, ahead of Alessandra Ardissino (M) in 8th with 17:07 and Sophia Dixon (MSH) in 9th in 17:09, completing a three-person team score of 22. This placed us 3rd, behind winners Shrewsbury High with 13 and Wrekin College with 14.



Lillian Wilcox



Sophia Dixon and Allesandra Ardissino

There were also strong runs from Anna Cowan (MSH) in 13th, Felicity Hayward (EDH) in 14th and Laura Elliott (G) in 15th. Karina Ho (G), Sophia Bureau (G) and Morgan Smith (MSH) all made their Hunt debuts, earning their Hunt vests and performing very well, taking positions 18, 20 and 21 respectively.



Morgan Smith



Our Senior Boys team looked very strong indeed as they lined up on the start line of their 6km course. Many of them had formed the backbone of our bronze medal-winning Knole Cup team in mid-January, and were looking ahead to the King Henry VIII Relays on Wednesday, using this as a final speed session in preparation.



Charlie Ockleston and Sam Western

The competition was stiff though, and the early pace was set by Jack Pickett of North Shropshire College, with Sam Western (S) and Charlie Ockleston (O) sitting behind. After the first couple of

kilometres, Jack managed to extend a lead ahead of our leading pair, and in the last lap Charlie made a move to which Sam didn't respond. A fine run from Charlie saw him claim the silver medal in a time of 20:03, with Sam looking comfortable back in third, running 20:13.



Sam Watts and Rider Hartley

A little further back, Rider Hartley (Ch) showed what good form he's found recently with an excellent run for 6th place in 21:04, just ahead of Sam Watts (Ch) in 7th, in a time of 21:15. Paddy Barlow (R) was next in 8th (19:42), then Milo Herbert (R) and Matthew Thevathasan (PH) in 13th and 14th respectively. There were also strong runs for Jonny Snell (Ch – 16th), Ted Williams (R – 17th), Artur Sarsenov (SH – 19th), Will Cowper (Rb – 22nd), Scott Nicholson (I – 26th), Will Fallon (PH – 27th) and Dragon Dararattanarojna (S) in 29th. The team score of 18 meant we comfortably claimed the title again.

It's interesting to note that in the three boys' races, while we didn't get any individual wins, we were able to place 2nd and 3rd. A real show of strength, then, across several categories.

Well done to everyone who represented the Hunt. They did themselves, and us, very proud indeed.

*Mr Haworth
Teacher in Charge of the Hunt*

Wind Prizes 2019

Thursday 14 February 2019

The annual Wind Prize competition took place on Sunday 10th February - and what a competition it proved to be!

There were some truly amazing performances across all classes and the Senior Prize in particular was certainly hotly contested.

The result could have gone many ways but our adjudicator, Anna Hashimoto, a professional internationally renowned clarinettist who alongside performing teaches at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, decided that this year's prize should be awarded to Owen Fung (SH L6) for his impressive performance of the York Bowen Recorder Sonata.

Awards went to the following:

Junior Class

1st - Phoebe C (flute)

2nd - William S (oboe)

3rd - Lem M (saxophone)

Highly Commended - Oscar E (flute)

Commended - Daniel G (saxophone)



Intermediate Class

1st - George Pook (saxophone)

2nd - Flora Kanan (oboe)

3rd - Isobel Hatton (flute)

Highly Commended - Jeffrey Li

Commended - Gregor Beardsmore



Senior Class

1st - Owen Fung (recorder)

2nd - Oliver Toms (clarinet)

3rd - Joyce Li (flute)

Highly Commended - Henri Cramsie (oboe)

Commended - Elliot Inger (saxophone)



Maria McKenzie
Head of Wind, Brass and Percussion



What's the Buzz? – review of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'

Friday 15 February 2019

Queues of eager theatre-goers waited expectantly, a-buzz at the prospect of the hottest ticket in town; others arrived in the vain hope of securing a much-coveted return...



The show had sold out weeks in advance such was the anticipation and such the reputation of the show's directors. You may be forgiven for thinking the scene described is one from London's West End, but the show in question was, quite remarkably, a school production: the eagerly-anticipated rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar.

From the very outset, the audience encountered a show with considerable impact. The 'greatest story ever told' was transported into the contemporary setting of modern-day Palestine, a full-size tank thrust on stage as a reminder of the conflict and religious tension that continues to this day. As we have come to expect in recent years, the set was not only striking, but brilliantly conceived.



On stage, the band kicked proceedings off with the toe-tapping overture with John Moore as Musical Director leading a stellar line-up with Alex Mason on keys, Dalton Foster (Ch U6) on guitar, Peter Chan (R L6) on drums, and the inimitable John Dover on bass. Superstar was, of course, a poignant moment as John Moore's final production after 30 years as Director of Music, a time in which Shrewsbury School has developed a national – and indeed international – reputation for the performing arts. Working alongside our dynamic Director of Drama Helen Brown, this has been a vintage period for musical theatre. I for one am in awe of their work!

Back to the show...

The chorus burst on stage from the multiple entry points filling the stage with their vibrant attire and their swelling voices. This was a truly exceptional cast – not just the leads but the entire chorus – and early numbers 'What's the Buzz?' and 'Everything's Alright' conveyed the feverish activity of the disciples and followers of Jesus. Amongst their number were Simon Zealotes (one of many roles given a gender swap) played by Mary Lees (EDH L6) whose soaring voice and energy filled the Ashton Theatre from front row to back.



At the periphery – very much the outsider – the inner conflict tearing at Judas Iscariot was conveyed with expertise by seasoned performer Phoebe Morris (EDH, V) whose vocal range and expertise were perfectly suited to the role, undoubtedly one of the most challenging in the show. The fact that Phoebe had that week been struck down with tonsillitis and was dosed up with antibiotics made her performance all the more remarkable – what a superstar!





The vocal undulations required of Judas were in stark contrast to the softer – but no less striking – melodies of Mary Magdalene, with Saffron Milner (M L6) providing real poise and sensitivity to her portrayal of this role: ‘I Don’t Know how to Love Him’ was a particularly beautiful moment in the show.



Whilst the stage floor was awash with the energy and excitement of the followers of Jesus, looking down upon them from their elevated platform above the band were the Priests and the Romans, darkly dressed and darkly conniving. The sonorous bass of Ben Lloyd (Rb, UVI) provided real menace and malevolence to the Jewish High Priest Caiaphas as he and his fellow priests plotted to kill Jesus. Ed Hart (PH U6) was equally sinister as Annas, impressing on his musical theatre debut, proving it’s never too late to have a go!

Also making her debut on the Ashton stage was Grace Anderson (MSH L6) bringing dazzle and pizzazz to the pompously regal King Herod, whose song in the style of a 1920s jazz number was accompanied by a chorus line of dancers and a glitter-burst finale, a moment of lightness amidst the darkness of the plot. Further talent was unearthed with Olivia Moir (MSH L6) in fine voice as Peter, whose denial of Christ was skilfully portrayed.



As the gathering plot to arrest Jesus accelerates, Pontius Pilate wrestles with the huge weight of responsibility upon him. Stephanie Worthington (MSH L6) executed the role quite masterfully, her voice providing a haunting portrayal of Pilate’s inner turmoil.



The title role of Jesus was carried off with aplomb by Dom Sullivan (I U6) who managed to find time out from his role in the 1st VIII rowing crew to take to the stage. Swapping his World Rowing Championship gold medal for a quite dazzling gold jacket, not only were his dance moves something to behold, but likewise his superstar singing was utterly stellar. The vocal range required for the part makes this role perhaps one of the most challenging in all musical theatre, seen most clearly in the astonishingly moving song 'Gethsemane'. As Christ is left alone in the garden to ponder and pray, the agony and anxiety of a man confronting his prophesised death is wrought with deep anguish and emotion. With a staggering three-octave range required, Dom's rendition of the song was astonishing and a deeply poignant moment in the show.



Equally memorable – and an ingenious moment of choreography from Sian Archer – was the scene of the 39 lashes. As Pilate metronomically administered the back-splitting punishment one whip-strike at a time, a quintet of dancers (Anya Tonks (MSH L6); Charlie Tonks (MSH U6), UVI; Daisy David (EDH 5); Georgina Cooper (G 4); Kate W (M 3)) delivered the stinging blows with a succession of kicks, spins and thrusts, the choreography a moment of real invention and one of significant dramatic potency.

The dramatic denouement of the show – Christ's crucifixion and resurrection – was sensitively handled, the poignancy of the scene enhanced with the dramatic lighting design. As ever, whilst the quality and expertise on stage was evident to see, equally impressive were the efforts of those behind the scenes. Theatre technicians Adam Wall and Bradley Fenton's task of building a full-size tank (including rotating turret) was a gargantuan task, though one they pulled off with remarkable skill. With the Ashton having previously seen a near-full-scale B-52 bomber built for *All My Sons*, we can no doubt look forward to further large items of transport featuring in future productions (Titanic: The Musical, anyone?). They were ably assisted by a number of pupils from Jake Ludlam (R 4) who was tasked with lighting, stationing himself within the tank (in khaki and army helmet of course), to James Kenyon (Ch 4) and Eustacia Feng (M 4) on the sound desks. Theatre tech is in safe hands for many years to come with this impressive trio.



The final number – ‘Superstar’– was a jubilant, thrilling finish with Dom Sullivan and Phoebe Morris descending down the steps of the audience and getting the clapping going as we watched the cast deliver their final, euphoric number.



Standing ovations followed – not often seen at school productions – and quite rightly so; this was a quite remarkable production. To answer the question in the song, ‘Can we start again please?’ Well, let me think. Yes please!

Peter Middleton
Deputy Head (Co-Curricular)



Headmaster Leo Winkley in Conversation with... our Oxbridge candidates

Friday 15 February 2019

In the first of a new series of videos featuring discussions with Shrewsbury School pupils and staff, Headmaster Leo Winkley chats to some of the ten pupils who have recently received offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

It is notable that once again this year, the Oxbridge successes are spread across a very wide range of subject areas.

Congratulations to the following, who have been offered places conditional upon their A Level results:

Reuben Denison - Medicine (University College, Oxford)
Ludo de Falbe - Human Sciences (Mansfield College, Oxford)
Veronica Munday - Biomedical Sciences (Oriol College, Oxford)
Niamh Nugent - German (Hertford College, Oxford)
Grace O'Mara - History (Lincoln College, Oxford)
Mark Pangin – Engineering (Homerton College, Cambridge)
Abi Watkinson - Theology & Religion (Worcester College, Oxford)
Molly Worthington - Classics (Balliol College, Oxford)

And to the following who applied post-A Level and have been offered unconditional places:

Orla McCormack - Law (Exeter College, Oxford)
Angus Warburg – English (Wolfson College, Cambridge)

Girls U15 cricket team win Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Area Qualifiers

Friday 15 February 2019

As National Runners-Up for the last two years in the Lady Taverners' Indoor Cricket Tournament, Shrewsbury School's U15 girls cricket team are delighted to have made a strong start in this year's campaign.

This year the girls just had one school to beat to progress through to the County Finals next month.

Playing at home in the Neville Cardus Cricket Centre on Tuesday 12th February, this year's U15 captain, Harriet Shuker, led from the top of the batting order along with Izzy Morris.

In no time at all, Harriet posted 15 runs which meant that she had to retire, bringing Lisette Barden to the crease who then followed suit. After Shrewsbury's allocated 8 overs were up, the girls had posted a total of 112 for Mary Webb School to chase.

As in recent years, there were a few Third Form girls playing up a year and making their debut in this competition. Among them was Scarlet Whittal, who bowled especially well and took 3 wickets after some ruthless bowling from Harriet and Lisette.

Mary Webb were bowled out for 45 in 5.5 overs.

This was a good performance all round and we now look forward to the County Finals on Friday 22nd March.

Lady Taverners Squad

Harriet Shuker (C), Izzy Morris (VC), Phoebe Watkins (WK), Lisette Barden, Ellie Corbett, Genevieve Bright, Rachel Ellis, Scarlett Whittal, Florence Bury

Harriet Shuker, Izzy Morris and Lisette Barden are currently with the Senior Girls XI on Shrewsbury School's first ever co-ed cricket tour to South Africa with the Boys 1st and U15 XIs.

*Gwenan Davies
Head of Girls' Cricket*

*2019 South Africa Cricket
Tour Squad*



Runners-Up Medal for Shrewsbury pair in U15 Girls National Schools Fives Championships

Saturday 16 February 2019

Shrewsbury School maintained the very high standard they have set for the past five years in the Girls EFA U15 National School Championships, held at Eton on Wednesday 6th February.

Particular congratulations to Issy Morris and Harriet Shuker, who made the final.

In losing three sets by 4, 3 and 3 points against Berkhamsted 1st Pair (who have won the title for the past three years), the Shrewsbury pair pushed the opponents as hard as they could have done and showed huge improvements in the all-round match play.

They were presented with their Runners-Up Medals by George Thomason, who is an Old Salopian and now Master-in-Charge of Fives at Eton College.



Their excellent achievement was closely followed by Lisette Barden & Lauren Taylor, who made the semi-final with an excellent, but very close, 2-1 win over Highgate 1.



Pair 3 Ashleigh Pegge & Annie Cox made it to the quarter-final, as did Pair 4 Phoebe Watkins and Issy Hatton.

Our other Fourth Form pairs Poppy Stephens & Faye Monk and Kate Brunskill & Third Former Annabel T played very well, competing in eight matches each with a 50% win margin.

Our two Third Form pairs Scarlett G & Jemima D and Scarlett W & Rachel E made huge advances during the day and both won plate competitions. They look forward to the U14 Championships after half term.



Recent Record

- 2015 - Winners N. Lange & T. Reynolds
- 2016 - Winners S. Breese & L. Ware
- 2017 - Runners Up I. Wong & A. Sillar
- 2018 - Runners Up G. Nicholas & A. Sillar
- 2019 - Runners Up I. Morris & H. Shuker

The President's Dinner

Monday 18 February 2019

The President in the Courthouse!

Salopians from Cheshire and further afield gathered in numbers for the President's Dinner on 7th February in the impressive surroundings of the Courthouse in Knutsford. Having been serenaded by the harp playing of Greta Roberts (M) at the pre-dinner reception, guests were treated to dinner and speeches from Paul Nichols (S 66-71), this year's President, and the Headmaster, Leo Winkley; both were literally put in the dock of the Old Courtroom where the dinner was held, but both emerged with their reputations unsullied! As always, the President's Dinner was a most convivial event, enhanced on this occasion by a venue run by Salopians.



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Oxford Spires inspire OS

Wednesday 20 February 2019

Young Salopians in the Kings Arms!

In what is becoming a delightful tradition, a youthful gathering of Salopians, tempered by a few OS of more advancing years, took place on Saturday 16th February at the King's Arms. The combined numbers of Salopians at Oxford University and Oxford Brookes made for the largest party yet at this venue and they were joined by Paul and Jane Pattenden, Toby Percival and Nick Jenkins from the Shrewsbury staff. Many thanks are due to Ed Carroll (Ch 10-15) for once again organising and promoting such a successful event.



Pupil-led after-school clubs for primary schools win local business backing

Monday 25 February 2019

Weekly sports and activity clubs designed and run by Shrewsbury School pupils in local primary schools have attracted support from local businesses.

The Shrewsbury pupils successfully completed their Sports Leaders UK Award last year – a level 2 qualification run as a Thursday afternoon activity by Embrace UK. It focuses on equipping participants with the skills to develop and lead sports events and coaching programmes.

Having enjoyed the experience of delivering sports sessions in primary schools as part of their course, five of the pupils involved were keen to continue running activity clubs for local schools and develop this into a permanent outreach project. In addition to planning the programme, devising lesson plans and producing risk assessments, they have also been busy learning how to fundraise and approach local businesses for support.

Last term all five pupils helped with a tag rugby tournament that catered for 60 pupils from local primary schools. They were pleased to receive £250 in sponsorship from the RFU.

This term Marcus Young, Charlie Tyler-Westwood and Will Stanford-Davis have been delivering a sports programme for a local primary school, running very popular rugby and football after-school clubs each week. "We love going out to the local schools," says Will. "It's clear to see that all of the children really enjoy it, which makes it worthwhile and a rewarding experience." They are delighted to have received a cheque for £250 from Morris & Co, which they have used to buy equipment.



In the meantime, Bridgit Merison and Georgie Nicholas ran a very successful after-school craft club in Shrewsbury Cathedral School last term for a group of year 4 pupils, having successfully fundraised for the materials they needed.

Lots more is planned for the future, including another Tag Rugby Competition for local primary schools in the winter term.



"Emotion recollected in tranquillity"...

Thursday 28 February 2019

...*The Bentley Elocution Prize 2019*

"Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings," wrote Wordsworth. "It takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity." Finalists of the Bentley Elocution Prize this week delivered recitations that embraced silken power and finesse that would have made him proud.

Lower and Upper School contestants treated a rapt audience to a diversity of works and styles, from Milton, Shakespeare, Hopkins and Housman to Brian Bilston and Harry Baker, as they vied for the laurels of one of the oldest and most eagerly contested annual school competitions.

High quality was ensured by Dr Law as a commanding presence in the competition's organisation and as MC throughout the competition. In an impeccable adjudication in Monday's final, all present were lucky to hear the inspiring and instructive comments of acclaimed actor Rufus Wright, whose theatre credits include West End and Broadway hit, *The Audience*, with film credits including *Star Wars* and the James Bond blockbuster, *A Quantum of Solace*.

Joining Sir Michael Palin - a previous Bentley winner - in the illustrious annals of the competition were Third Former Ed P (R) for an engrossing comic turn with Edgar's *Asparagus* and Fourth Former Georgina Cooper (G) with *The Listeners*, praised for its poise and sense of drama.





Ed Pickersgill

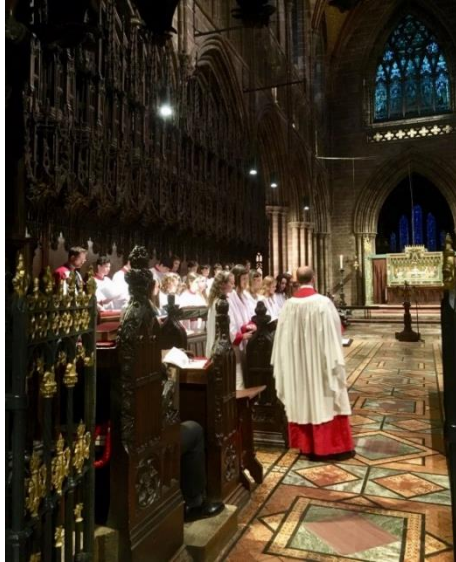
The Upper School prize went to Orlando Williams (Rt) for his impassioned and unplugged rendition of Frank Turner's *I knew Prufrock before he got famous*. Highly commended were, respectively, Kate W (M) and Tabitha Winkley (G) in Lower School, and in Upper School, Emily Hartland (G) and Issy Wong (G).

Mr Fraser-Andrews

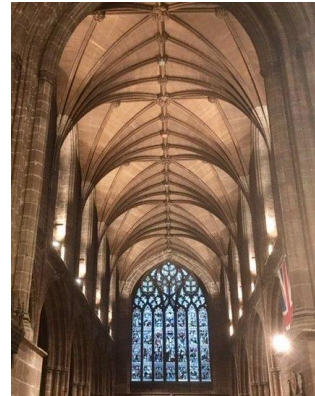
The Choir at Chester Cathedral

Thursday 28 February 2019

Soaring voices rise up into the magnificent fan vaults of the Cathedral



Chester Cathedral and its monastic buildings formed an impressive backdrop for Evensong sung by the Chapel Choir on Wednesday 27th February. A congregation of one hundred worshippers, consisting of Old Salopians, past and current parents, members of and friends of Shrewsbury School, treated to some superb singing, rounded off by rousing organ voluntary played by Arthur Hope-Barton Form, Ingram's). A subsequent reception



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combining drinks, canapes, and a welcome from the Headmaster, Leo Winkley, brought to an end an inspiring evening.



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