

1st XI Football Tour to Qatar, 11 - 19 December 2013

Tuesday 7 January 2014

The 1st XI were delighted to be invited to take part in the International Hadaf Football Tournament in Qatar during the Christmas holiday. They competed well against local schools and academy teams, as well as Manchester Grammar and Hulme Grammar Schools. They were treated to warm and generous hospitality throughout their stay and even enjoyed a rare chance to see the World Cup Trophy itself.



Thursday 12th

After a huge breakfast at our hotel, featuring every type of food ever served at a breakfast table, we went to the Aspire Academy for a guided tour with the Director of Sport, Chris Earle. This is an incredible facility including basketball courts, gymnastic facilities, an indoor 200m track, 3 x 50m swimming pools (yes 3!) and 6 football pitches (like snooker tables).

Local Qatari children are talent spotted and are then invited to attend the Academy for their training and schooling. They undertake a programme of fundamental movement skills and multi-skills development before specialising in sports best suited to their body shape. The support provided includes world class physio, sport psychology, nutrition and strengthening and conditioning. One of the main aims behind the Academy's football programme is producing a team capable of doing well at the 2022 World Cup.





A huge (and obviously healthy) lunch was provided at Aspire before we returned to the hotel for a light jog around the surrounding streets, dodging the 4 x 4s and manic Qatari driving. The signposts are described as "suggestions" and there are no hard and fast rules on roundabouts other than everyone to themselves and good luck.

That evening the British Ambassador entertained the three visiting schools, the American School of Doha and the tournament sponsors with a lavish barbecue at the British Embassy. There were lamb kebab wraps, hot dogs, individually carved fruit, an ice cream stand and a pop corn machine! Speeches were given by the Ambassador, the British Council and by Trevor Stephen, former Everton, Rangers and England winger. Mr Hughes responded on behalf of the three English schools.

Friday 13th

Breakfast at 7.30am was followed by training at Aspire at 8.30am. A good session on the 3G pitch allowed us to prepare for the surface and work on the formation for our first match against the Evolution Soccer Academy - their coach was present to do some unashamed spying on us! A compliment perhaps?



Our game started at 4pm and we warmed up in muggy conditions, eagerly anticipating kick-off. The game started positively with territory deep in the opposition half, but we couldn't break down their defence. They were a strong counter-attacking side and they struck 20 minutes into the game. The game ended with a 3-0 loss, despite the fact that Shrewsbury dominated most of the play in the second half with some brilliant attacking play from the likes of Angus Hayward, Joe Carrasco, Dan Durman, Ed Dolphin and our left winger Jamie Humes. Joe Carrasco produced a top corner wonder strike in the first half that was magnificently saved by Evo's huge goalkeeper, who was their man of the match. Areas to work on but a positive start against the strongest Qatari side in the tournament.

We stayed to watch some of the other tournament games before boarding the bus to go bowling. The journey was troublesome to say the least... The bus driver, affectionately known as Ramirez, couldn't quite use the clutch properly and struggled from the start with changing gear! Burning rubber could reportedly be smelt across the world! The bus quickly broke down and we were marooned on the streets of Qatar for long enough for the



bowling trip to be called off. The squad chilled out in the hotel and got a good night's sleep, raring to go for the next day's game against the American School of Doha.

Saturday 14th

We went off to training in the searing early heat of 30 degrees and had a lacklustre session, still showing some of the rustiness evident in the previous night's performance. A couple of players were recovering from injuries and some more felt niggles. At the end of the session we received a few deserved stern words to get us in the right frame of mind for that evening's match.

Before that, however, we had the World Cup trophy to see! We went to where it was on show in Aspire Academy and watched a video about the competition before we each had our picture taken with the trophy. It was an amazing and inspirational experience, something we will never be able to do again.

We then headed off to the Corniche, a particularly spectacular part of Qatar, where we had a boat ride and viewed the gigantic skyline. It was a fun and relaxing trip which gave us an insight into the full extent of the Qatari wealth and just how quickly Doha is developing (most of the skyscrapers are less than ten years old). Then it was time to head back to the hotel for a quick rest before heading off to the game.



When we arrived the nerves visibly set in, as the whole group started to go quiet, not helped by seeing rivals Oldham Hulme beat the Evolution side 1-0. There was a real intensity in the warm up and pre-match talk that showed the team's true desire to win the match. After a strong pre-match huddle we were ready to go and were all buzzing to take the game to them from the off. Sadly it started badly, as within a minute we were a goal down due to some weak defending and a big deflection enabling ASD to get an early lead, with a looping shot from the edge of the area. The players were a little shocked and a lot of strong words were shouted, but we weren't going to crumble to defeat. Thankfully, after this we started to dominate the game and head towards an emphatic win. Henry Blofield started the rout with a goal from a corner, and Jamie Humes took us into the lead with a good run and finish down the left wing. From then on it was one-way traffic as Joe Carrasco bagged a brilliant hat trick, Dan Durman finished two well worked moves, as well as a rare brace from Olly Brown. It was all finished off with a thunderous strike from Angus Hayward and a particularly surprising header from George Lewis, with the game finishing at a pleasing score of 11-1!

Sunday 15th

Confidence was high in the camp and we trained well and felt well prepared our game later that evening.



During the day we went to a museum containing various random items collected by a member of the Qatari royal family, ranging from cars and aeroplanes to swords.

We knew the chances of qualifying were very slim but even so we really wanted to beat QUESS (Qatar Union of English Speaking Schools), who had definitely already qualified, and remind all the other schools that we could beat the semi-finalists.

That we did! Although we weren't as clinical as the game before, we came through 2-1 winners. This took us to 6 points and our only hope of qualifying for the semi-finals was for Manchester Grammar to lose 3-0 to Evolution. This did not happen. The tournament format meant that only the top two English and top two Qatari sides qualified for the semis.

So the final standings were Manchester 9 points, Oldham Hulme 7 points, Shrewsbury 6 points, Evolution Academy 3 points, QUESS 1 point, American School Doha 0 points. The loss in the first game cost us dear and left us to lick our wounds and think of what might have been.

Monday 16th

An early breakfast and off to the Damien Hirst "Relics" exhibition, the largest collection of his works ever assembled. There were some incredible pieces including a full sized Great White Shark in formaldehyde, a cow cut in two and a cow's severed head with live flies buzzing around it. The flies live for about two weeks and it is supposed to symbolise the cycle of life. Other themes included his "dot" paintings and a fascination with butterflies. There was a large "medical" influence too with his pharmacy display and his anti-smoking message featuring a huge ashtray containing thousands of cigarette butts. The 'pièce de resistance' was of course the diamond-encrusted skull "For the Love of God" which cost £15 million and was purchased by an anonymous collector for £50 million. The exhibition was met with mixed reviews from Salopians ranging from "awesome" to "very curious" to "not for me" and "you can get them dot paintings in IKEA for a tenner!"

From here we then went to the Museum of Islamic Art where the main focus was on Haj - the pilgrim journey to Mecca. There were historic Islamic artefacts from all over the world.

We then went to the "souk" which is the oldest part of Doha and is a labyrinth of narrow streets and market stalls. Our bartering skills were put to the test and Gus Hayward was delighted to

come away with a Barcelona away kit for 20 Riyals (£4 approx), although we suspect it may be fake.

The semi finals were played in English conditions with a bitterly cold wind. The first game was won 4-0 by Manchester Grammar v Oldham Hulme and the second game was won by QUESS who beat Evolution Academy.

Tuesday 17th



Writing our message of goodwill

After a decent lie-in, we went off to visit the Mosque where we learned all about Islam and were shown how to pray. We also received a personalised message of goodwill in Arabic calligraphy from one of the world's leading calligraphers who has just completed copying out the Koran.

We then had a training session – an 8-a-side match when the young and old guard saw off the Upper Sixth. Then it was back to the hotel for lunch and free time before returning to the Aspire Academy for the final and the tournament closing ceremony.

It had been a fantastic tour which the boys and staff will always remember. The hotel, training facilities, food and itinerary were simply amazing and we were made to feel welcome wherever we went. We got a real feel for what Qatar is all about and we were all very positive that they will host a fine World Cup in 2022.

A huge vote of thanks must go to Marwa and Rima, our organisers and reps, who were brilliant throughout and to the British Council and the Aspire Academy for looking after us so well.



Latest publication by Head of Classics, John Godwin

Tuesday 7 January 2014

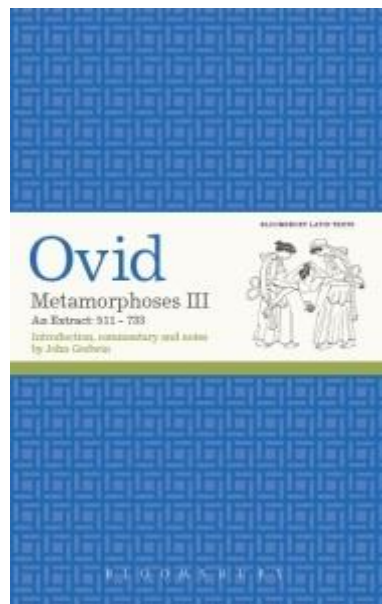
The latest book by Shrewsbury's Head of Classics John Godwin was published on 19th December 2013 by Bloomsbury.

Ovid's *Metamorphoses III* is the prescribed edition of the set text for Latin AS level from 2015. It tells the story of Pentheus, the impious king of Thebes who insults the god Bacchus. The god punishes the king by...

But you will have to read the book to find out! (More details on request: jg@shrewsbury.org.uk)

John's numerous other published works

include *Lucretius* (Bloomsbury, Ancients in Action series) and large-scale editions of the poetry of Catullus and Lucretius.





School Firsts

Wednesday 8 January 2014

Awarded to pupils during the final School Assembly of the Michaelmas Term.

Each term a committee of Sixth Form pupils meets to award the School's highest form of 'colours' – a 'School First'. The committee members take their work seriously, for two main reasons; firstly, this is a good example of pupil power – while teachers may make nominations, it is only those ten or so Upper Sixth pupils sitting on the committee who have the power to vote; secondly, to retain the value of the 'School First', precious few are handed out.

Nowadays School Firsts have been split into two types: sporting and non-sporting. Below is a list of those pupils who, at the end of last term, were given the coveted award for their exceptional contributions to school life across a wide spectrum of non-sporting activities. Hearty congratulations to them all.

For his contributions to School Drama: Hugo Scott (Rt UVI)

For outstanding contributions to the Musical life of the School: Galin Ganchev (M LVI), Awen Blandford (EDH UVI), Charlotte Harris (EDH UVI), George Bates (S UVI), Imogen Richardson (MSH UVI), Henry Craig (M LVI), Calvin Chan (I LVI), Connie Osborne (MSH UVI)

For his exceptional commitment to and success in MUN: Daniel Edwards (S LVI)

For his major contributions to School life on a variety of fronts, including Debating, MUN, the Choir and Academically: Sonny Koh (Ch LVI)

For remarkable achievement in Mathematics and Physics: Arthur Kung (R UVI)

For exceptional contributions to Film-making at both House and School level: Alfred Mitchell (SH V)

For invaluable contributions to Photography, Film-making and the recording of life at the School: Andrew Spicer (M UVI)

For exceptional contributions to Shooting: Johnnie Shaw (Ch UVI) and Peter Evans (I UVI)



Inter-House Paperchases 2013

Thursday 9 January 2014

On the final day of term, nearly half the School were out in force for the annual Inter-House Paperchases, which mark an end to the term's running competitions.

Charlie Tait-Harris

The first race of the day saw the U15 House event (3rd and 4th Form) over the short course, which also included the Senior Girls. In the absence of last year's winner Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) due to a broken toe, the opportunity was there for the taking. An early lead was created by Severn Hill's Charlie Tait-Harris, with Rigg's Hall's Will Hayward on his tail. Despite having played three games of football in four days in the House competitions, Charlie looked in strong form, and indeed he was able to hold off Hayward's challenge with an impressive victory, coming home to 'kill' in 8.26. Hayward followed in 8.40, with his fellow housemate Third Former Owen Mock unable to hold on to the podium spot – Dan Orchard (PH) pipping him to it with 8.57. The team competition saw Rigg's take the trophy with 61 points to add to the Inter-House Benjies silverware won earlier that week. Severn Hill were 2nd with 108 points, and Ridgemount took 3rd with 169 points, three points ahead of Port Hill, just out of the team medals this time.



There were few surprises in the girls' race, with the top three coming home in exactly the same order as in the Tucks. All three have been in fine form this term, and it looks set to be a very promising season for girls' running ahead. Tory Mobley stormed the field, killing in 9.41 (a minute and a half quicker than last year's time from Amy Stockdale!), with her fellow Emma Darwin Hall runners Sophie Pelling and Tatty Hunt completing the podium with 10.23 and 10.34 respectively. These times are very swift and are testimony to the hard work put in by the girls in their training this term. Along with the senior boys Hunt runners, the girls travel to Kent at the start of January for the national long run in Knole Park, and we will be hoping for a strong performance there. On an individual level, Tory Mobley should be in contention for the title having placed 5th last year as a 5th Former, so watch this space!



On the 1st House Paperchase podium: Theo Clarke (S - 3rd), Ben Remnant (Ch - 1st) and Oscar Dickins (R - 2nd)

As with the U15 event, the 1st House race saw the favourite absent (Huntsman Rory Fraser was away for interview at Oxford University), an opportunity snapped up by fellow Churchillian Ben Remnant, who despite only being a 5th Former exerted a dominant display over the senior event, coming home in a time of 20.09, only 5 seconds off last year's winning time from Ed Mallett. Ben has been in unstoppable form in the second half of term and is looking ahead to a breakthrough season in the various national and regional competitions next term. His display in the Paperchases was a triumphant conclusion to the term and a fitting 'kill' for someone of considerable talent. Nearly a full minute behind was fellow 5th Former Oscar Dickins (R) with Sixth Former Theo Clarke (S) narrowly missing out on dipping under 21 minutes in 3rd. Senior Whip Ralph Wade (Rb) looks to be coming back in form with his 4th place (21.29) and perhaps with a stronger start he would have been in contention for the medals. The team competition was won by Churchill's with 98 points, Port Hill were 2nd with 114 points and Severn Hill were 3rd with 130 points. The 2nd House competition was won by Port Hill.

The final Inter-House competition of the year will be the annual Steeplechases at the end of the Lent term, where rivalries will be renewed again!

PJM

1st House results

- 1st Ben Remnant (Ch) 20.09
- 2nd Oscar Dickins (R) 20.52
- 3rd Theo Clarke (S) 21.01
- 4th Ralph Wade (Rb) 21.29
- 5th Charlie Godman (M) 21.43
- 6th Charlie Rogers (Rb) 22.00
- 7th Harry Adair (Rt) 22.08
- 8th Henry Newbould (Ch) 22.12
- 9th Toby Lansdell (PH) 22.18
- 10th Luke Lloyd-Jones (Rb) 22.24

Senior Girls results

- 1st Tory Mobley (EDH) 9.41



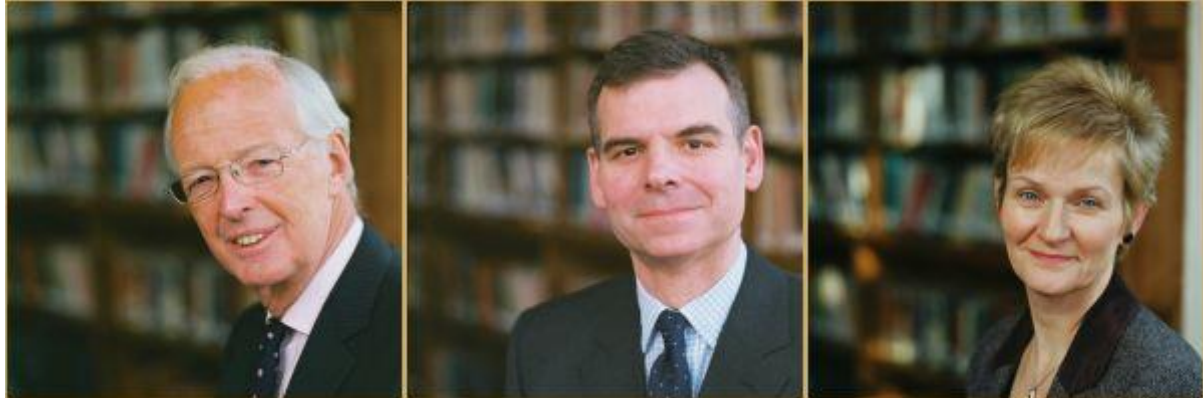
2nd Sophie Pelling (EDH) 10.23
3rd Tatty Hunt (EDH) 10.34
4th Cecy Price (EDH) 10.48
5th Lettie Tay (MSH) 11.23
6th Alice Sykes-Waller (MSH) 11.35
7th Abby Attenborough (MSH) 11.36
8th Claudia Kimpton-Smith (EDH) 11.36
9th Esme O'Keefe (MSH) 11.44
10th Laura Nightingale (MSH) 11.47

U15 House results

1st Charlie Tait-Harris (S) 8.26
2nd Will Hayward (R) 8.40
3rd Dan Orchard (PH) 8.57
4th Owen Mock (R) 8.59
5th Matt Hedges (Rb) 9.11
6th Charlie Home (Rt) 9.16
7th Jonty Schofield (R) 9.26
8th George Garrett (Ch) 9.32
9th Thomas Tulloch (Rt) 9.37
10th Nicky Davis (PH) 9.38

The Governing Body – welcomes and farewells

Thursday 9 January 2014



Above l to r: Richard Burbidge, Matthew Collins, Lyndsey Pollard

At the end of last term the School Governors gave a dinner for Richard Burbidge, who retired as Chairman of the Governing Body in December 2013. On behalf of the School, they paid tribute to his hard work, leadership and the numerous achievements that have been accomplished during his time in office. Richard will continue to serve on the Board, particularly as Chairman of the International Development Committee.

He has been succeeded as Chairman of Governors by Matthew Collins, who has been a Governor since 2008. Matthew is a Cambridge history graduate and is a partner of Hutton Collins & Company, which manages private equity funds on behalf of institutional clients. As father of four former pupils at the School – Will (S 2002-07), Charles (S 2004-09), Alex (S 2006-11) and Rob (S 2006-11) he is well placed to both appreciate and support Shrewsbury from a parent's perspective.

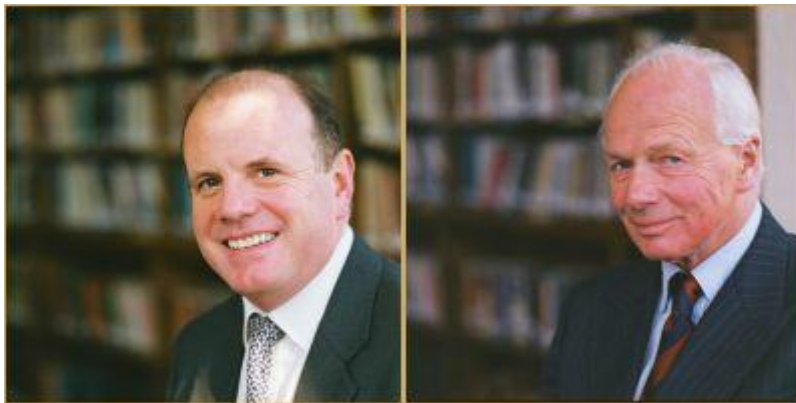
Lyndsey Pollard has been appointed as Deputy Chairman of Governors. Originally from Yorkshire, Lyndsey moved to Shrewsbury in 1986 to join Hatchers solicitors. She has recently been appointed as Company Secretary and Group Solicitor for one of Shropshire's best known family companies, Morris & Company. She is also a member of the Board of Management of the Shewsy, the School's youth club in Everton.



Above l to r: Carla Howarth, Diana Flint

We are delighted to welcome two new Governors. Carla Howarth, mother of Gessica (MSH 2008-10) and Ben Howarth (SH 2009-13) holds a first degree in Law, a Masters degree in Criminology and is a qualified barrister. She has worked in the criminal court systems as a Senior Lecturer at the City University of Hong Kong and is currently the Managing Director of a global training and education consultancy.

Diana Flint is also joining the Board. As Deputy Lieutenant for Shropshire and High Sheriff 2013-14, Diana is well known to many people in the county. Among her many distinguished achievements, she was the very first girl at Ellesmere College. She is therefore well placed to advise us as we look forward to welcoming our first group of Third Form girls in September.



Above l to r: Andrew Haining, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy

The Governing Body bade a sad but grateful farewell to two retiring Governors at the end of 2013. Andrew Haining (O 1972-77, Deputy Head of School and Captain of Fives) served as a Governor for 13 years. We are indebted to him for the countless hours of his time and expertise that he has given to the School.

We are also very grateful to Algernon Heber-Percy, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, for all his work and support as a Governor over the last ten years. We offer him our congratulations on his award of a Knighthood, announced in the Queen's New Year Honours. He has become a member of the Royal Victorian Order, KCVO, which recognises distinguished personal service to the Royal Family.

RSSH: Team Bronze in the National Knole Run for the third successive year

Sunday 12 January 2014



This year saw the 40th running of the Knole Run in Sevenoaks, one of the major races of the schools' cross-country circuit and a race that always proves to be an exciting season opener at the start of the Lent term. Historically, the Hunt have been competitive in this event over the years, and whilst never having won the event (possibly the only title that eludes the Club), there were individual victories for Olly Laws in 1997 and 1998. In recent years the Hunt have shown their mettle with team bronze medals in 2012 and 2013.

Twenty athletes travelled to Kent the day before with two boys' teams and a strong girls' team. The race always comes at an awkwardly early point in the year after the long Christmas break, but our runners were well prepared with winter training schedules and of course many had been part of the inspirational trip to East Africa in October half-term.

Pre-race course inspection was particularly important this year with changes having been made to the course route and distances, however all were in agreement that the new route looked to be a good test, particularly with the muddy conditions underfoot.

First off were the girls to tackle the significantly longer distance of 4.4km, and our six girls all got off to a clear start, with leading runner Tory Mobley (EDH LVI) positioning herself amongst the top 10 before the turn up the hill into the woodland section. With over 150 runners starting in the assembled 28 teams, the pace was frenetic at the start, with mud, uneven ground and rather long spikes to be contended with. Near the middle of the field, newcomer Tatty Hunt (EDH LVI) was making good progress, closely followed behind by ever-improving Sophie Pelling (MSH UVI). Captain of the Girls Hunt Lucie Cornwell-Lee



(MSH UVI) was unfortunately out through injury but would have certainly been in amongst our top counters. In her absence, Jasmine Douglas (MSH UVI), Eliza Thompson and Claudia Kimpton-Smith (EDH LVI) worked hard to keep our points total down, with Eliza Thompson finally coming through as our fourth counter and a top 100 finish. Sophie Pelling pushed into the top 50 with 46th, and a superb run for Tatty Hunt saw her take 38th place in 22.36. Two minutes ahead of her, Tory Mobley repeated her top-10 performance from last year (albeit for her previous school Tudor Hall) with 6th position in 20.35. In a race that was won by English National champion Katy-Ann McDonald, Tory's run demonstrated her credentials, and given that she was still somewhat weary from a week's skiing prior to the start of term, her run was an impressive performance and suggests that she will have a strong season ahead of her. When the team results came through, we were delighted to hear that we had pushed into the top 10 (out of 27 schools) which was our best ever result and with Third Form girls arriving next year, the result provides a strong foundation for the momentum that is gathering with the Girls' Hunt. We believe that in the coming years the girls will begin to experience some of the recent successes of the boys, and they too will become established as one of the leading clubs in the country.

With the girls having run so positively, it was then up to the boys to take on the challenge, with the course retaining its race distance of just over 9km. Two teams took to the start line, where nearly 350 runners from 42 teams were all awaiting the gun. A narrow racing line in the opening stretch provided an initial difficulty, though our top 'A' team runners got off to the perfect start and were packing in well in the leading groups of runners. We knew that our strength lay in our team depth and the ability to 'pack in', so whilst we would not have runners challenging for the top spots, the aim was to keep the team total as low as possible, with our top 6 runners 'counting'. Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch UVI) began well, though it was Theo Clarke (S LVI) who was our front runner in the opening stages of the first lap. Close behind were Ben Remnant (Ch V), Oscar Dickins (R V), Charlie Tait-Harris (S IV) and Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R IV). First lap completed and the lead pack of five now well clear of the rest of the pack, the race was on to start pushing up the positions. Fraser was in 17th going into the second lap, though he had Rugby School's Ben Sutherland only four or five places ahead, and sensed that the scalp was there for the taking. Sutherland had blown our runners apart last term when Rugby School competed against the Hunt, yet with each step Fraser seemed to be edging closer and gaining in confidence as he did so. Tait-Harris was also beginning to sense tired legs in front of him and was bravely pushing through the places until he was close to the top 20 runners. Remnant faded following a lull in his training over Christmas, and Dickins was forced to retire from the race through injury. However, Clarke was still looking strong and despite favouring the fast and flat races, looked in control and unlikely to fade. Huxley-Fielding was also doing his part in helping the team position by flying past the older, heavier runners on the mud and the hills, and fellow Fourth Former Will Hayward (R) took on the duties of sixth counter in the absence of Dickins.





The team competition looked to be wrapped up by St Alban's School, who had last season won the national relays and in fact had travelled to the US for the East Coast Championships which they also won. This is a squad at the height of their powers, and it was no surprise to see them take charge in the team event, though Judd School (who had won the Knole Run on the past four occasions) were struggling to compete with St Alban's, and indeed it looked to be close between Judd and the Hunt in the challenge for team silver.

Huntsman Rory Fraser was first home in 13th place with a time of 34.34, marking a strong start to his final season with the Hunt. By the end of the race he had pushed well clear of Rugby School's Ben Sutherland who finished in 15th, 19 seconds behind Rory. Impressively, Charlie Tait-Harris secured a top-20 spot (18th in 35.04) despite only being in the Fourth Form in a race largely involving much older runners. In fact, three of our counters were from the Fourth Form (with Freddie Huxley-Fielding in 27th with a time of 35.51 and Will Hayward in 46th with a time of 36.52). With two Fifth Formers in the squad in Remnant and Dickins, and with Clarke moving into the U6th next year, this is not only a very talented squad, but a young one too.

Remnant's 34th place in 36.16 was followed by 41st for Theo Clarke in 36.36, leaving the Hunt with a team total of 179 points, over 30 points better than the previous year. Our final counter was newly-appointed Junior Whip Sean Sawyer (U6th, PH) who in his first ever Knole Run can be proud to have made it into the top 100 with 99th and a time of 39.43.

We would have to wait until the post-race tea and presentations to learn that we had once again made it onto the podium with bronze medals once again, just pipping a strong Abingdon team by 7 points. Judd School were only 17 points ahead of the Hunt with 162 points, with the team trophy being lifted for the first time in over 10 years by St Alban's who scored 106 points. Once again, the season has commenced with recognition on a national level and a firm statement about our challenge for the season ahead. Rory Fraser is now the proud owner of three Knole team bronze medals – an impressive collection – and the remainder of his squad will look ahead to the next year or two (indeed the next three years in the case of a few) in our bid to target a national title and an historic first win here at Knole. The depth is there, evident when one considers that our 'B' team once again placing highly in 26th place (out of 42 teams). Without two key individuals through injury, our squad nevertheless ran hard and can be proud to have beaten many schools' 'A' teams, including Manchester Grammar, Stowe and King's Canterbury. Particularly impressive was Charlie Davis (PH LVI) who was our first 'B' team counter in 101st position (in a time of 39.44), followed by more promising talent from the Fifth Form with Charlie Rogers (Rb) and Harry Adair (Rt) crossing the line in 115th and 127th respectively.

And so another season begins with a very successful start to the campaign. We now turn our attention to the build-up for the national King Henry VIII relays in Coventry on 5th February, though will have races at Uppingham next Saturday (the first race in the Independent Schools' League) and on the 1st February for the Shropshire Schools' County Championships. Twenty of our athletes got the opportunity to begin their season racing today, but there are well over 30 more eager and waiting in the wings to get on their RSSH vest and get racing! On, on...

PJM

Rugby: 1st XV v Hereford Cathedral School

Sunday 12 January 2014

The 1st XV had a very good first outing versus Hereford Cathedral School yesterday. This was a keenly fought contest which saw Shrewsbury dominate for long spells. However, they were unable to convert possession and pressure into points and eventually went down 17-11.

RSSH: Team Bronze in the National Knole Run

Sunday 12 January 2014

The Hunt's season got off to a flying start on Saturday 11th January at the 40th national Knole Run in Sevenoaks, one of the major races of the school cross-country circuit. The boys' A squad were delighted to win team bronze medals - the third successive year they have achieved this.



Their team total was the lowest the Hunt has achieved in recent years, with six runners placed in the top 50 (out of over 350 runners).

Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch UVI) was first home in 13th place with a time of 34.34, marking a strong start to his final season with the Hunt. Impressively, Charlie Tait-Harris (S IV) secured 18th place in 35.04 despite only being in the Fourth Form, in a race largely involving much older runners. In fact, three of the fastest six runners - 'our 'counters' - were from the Fourth Form, with Freddie Huxley-Fielding coming 27th with a time of 35.51 and Will Hayward coming 46th with a time of 36.52. With two Fifth Formers in the squad (Ben Remnant and Oscar Dickins) and with Theo Clarke moving into the Upper Sixth next year, this is not only a very talented squad, but a young one too.



Ben Remnant's 34th place and Theo Clarke's 41st left the Hunt with a team total of 179 points, over 30 points better than the previous year. Our final counter was newly-appointed Junior Whip Sean Sawyer (PH UVI) who in his first ever Knole Run can be proud to have made it into the top 100 with 99th and a time of 39.43.

The strongest girls' squad we have ever assembled performed extremely well too. Sophie Pelling (EDH UVI) pushed into the top 50 with 46th, and a superb run for Tatty Hunt (EDH LVI) saw her take 38th place in 22.36. Two minutes ahead of her, Tory Mobley (EDH LVI) repeated her

top-10 performance from last year (albeit for her previous school Tudor Hall) with 6th position in 20.35.

Captain of the Girls' Hunt Lucie Cornwell-Lee was unfortunately out through injury but would have certainly been in amongst our top counters. In her absence, Jasmine Douglas (MSH UVI), Eliza Thompson and Claudia Kimpton-Smith (both EDH LVI) worked hard to keep our points total down, with Eliza finally coming through as our fourth counter and a top 100 finish. The team placed 10th overall out of 27 teams, our best result ever by a very long way!

The depth of our running talent was demonstrated by the excellent performance of our boys' 'B' squad. With two key individuals unable to compete due to injury, the squad nevertheless ran hard and can be proud of their 26th place (out of 42), beating many schools' 'A' teams.

Particularly impressive was Charlie Davis (PH LVI) who was our first 'B' team counter in 101st position (in a time of 39.44), followed by more promising talent from the Fifth Form with Charlie Rogers (Rb) and Harry Adair (Rt) crossing the line in 115th and 127th respectively.

Once again, the Hunt's season has commenced with recognition on a national level and a firm statement about our challenge for the season ahead. Rory Fraser is now the proud owner of three Knole team bronze medals – an impressive collection – and the remainder of his squad will look ahead to the next year or two (indeed the next three years in the case of a few) in our bid to target a national title and an historic first win at Knole.

We now turn our attention to the build-up for the national King Henry VIII relays in Coventry on 5th February, though will have races at Uppingham next Saturday (the first race in the Independent Schools' League) and on the 1st February for the Shropshire Schools' County Championships. Twenty of our athletes got the opportunity to begin their season racing at Knole, but there are well over 30 more eager and waiting in the wings to get on their RSSH vest and get racing! On, on...

PJM

Please see the [full Knole Run 2014 report](#) by Peter Middleton, Teacher in Charge of the Hunt.

Below: Tory Mobley





Nick Bevan, President 2013-14: Announcement from the Chairman

Monday 13 January 2014



Nick Bevan (President 2013-2014): Announcement from the Chairman

'With great sadness I must announce that Nick Bevan, President of the Salopian Club, died early on Sunday morning, 12 January, after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annabel and his family at this difficult time.' David Thomas, Chairman

Should you wish to write to Annabel her address is: Mill Cottage, North Aston, Bicester, Oxon OX25 6HZ.

Funeral Arrangements and Memorial Service

Nick's family has made the following announcement about funeral arrangements:

"In line with Dad's wishes, we are organising a small private family funeral. However, in due course we will be making plans for a much larger memorial service to which all will be warmly invited to come and celebrate his life."



Fives: Seniors and U16s v Old Salopians and the Monday Club

Monday 13 January 2014

A report by Seb Cooley, Teacher in Charge of Fives.

An impressive nine pairs of Old Salopians and guests turned out to play the School in this first fixture of the term, to the great dissatisfaction of a number of the Fourth Form who found fewer courts than usual available for their practice at 3.00 pm! Our top seven or so senior pairs have shown themselves to be a strong squad over the week's practices and the top two Fifth Form pairs are of known pedigree. Seeing the boys in action early in the week, it seemed their best chance was to start the game at high pace and hope to catch the occasional rusty Old Boy napping.

At first pair, Henry Blofield and George Lewis did attack, and had periods of dominance in rallies at several stages of the match but their opponents, George Thomason and T Walters, are not first pair for nothing and managed to absorb the pressure of the school's attacks, indeed waited for them to overstretch and attack the wrong ball before pouncing on the opportunity to turn the tables.

Charlie White and Jamie Humes played Sam Welti and Guy Williams at second. Here, the school looked to take advantage of Sam being less focused and less agile about court than usual. They won the first game but lost the second despite some excellent retrieving from both of them. In the end they didn't quite manage to move Guy and Sam around enough to ensure the analgesics were stretched beyond their limits and the Old Salopians took the match.

Third pair was similarly close-fought and was 1-1 with many of the others close to finishing. Tom Breese and George Panayi put up a strong showing here, as an U16 pair who, owing to exams, have not yet been out this term. They were disappointed to lose to Tom Welti but had to accept that he has significant experience and gravitas on court.

Nick Pearce and Samson Yick won fairly comfortably at pair 4 vs Bill Christie and KES based Rez Malik, making a case for promotion. "The Freds" Adair and Earlam are on their heels, similarly ruthless at 5 playing Reptonian Philip Horn and Rugby Fives convert Chis Davey. Ed Holroyd and Ed Barnard lost to coach Grant Williamswith Fiona Barnes, James Warburg and Max Hulse had a think about their game at 2-1 up and subsequently won against Tony Walters and Julian Davies, Jack Fox and Luke Lloyd-Jones were delighted to beat last year's Oxford Ladies Fives Captain Alice Walker and ASBarnard and a peregrinating 9th pair match saw OS girls Alice Long and Elen Murphy take on a sequence of U14 and U15 pairs (Adair/Bromley-Davenport, Parsonage/Robinson-Boulton, Chapman/Aslam-Baskeyfield), all of whom were either too bemused or too gentlemanly to claim a victory.

It was a welcome first fixture; I'm grateful for all of our opponents for travelling to play. While the school's play was not as crisp as we'd hoped (footwork and accuracy were definitely below the standards of the preceding week), every fixture against fresh faces broadens our repertoire and increases our experience. We look forward to taking on Highgate and Eton next weekend!
SKPC

Salopian in the top 50 of the British Physics Olympiad

Monday 13 January 2014

The British Physics Olympiad is designed to stretch and challenge the top young physicists in the country in a national competition, which this year had 1,900 entrants. We were delighted to receive the news that Arthur Kung (R UVI) who has not only been awarded a Gold medal but has also qualified for the next round of the competition, having come in the top 50.



Arthur Kung with Lord Rees

The last Salopian to achieve this was David Kell (SH 2005-10), who went on to represent the UK in the International Physics Olympiad in Zagreb, Croatia in 2010.

Last year Arthur was one of the top five students in the country in the AS Physics Challenge set by the British Physics Olympiad organisers. He was invited to the Royal Society to receive his prize, where he had the honour of meeting Astronomer Royal and Old Salopian Lord Rees (S 1956-60), who is also President of the British Physics Olympiad Organisation. Arthur has recently been offered a conditional place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge to study Maths with Physics.

Ilya Lapan (I UVI), who has been offered a conditional place at Merton College, Oxford to study Physics, was awarded a Silver medal in the British Physics Olympiad. Bronze I medals were awarded to Christopher Papaioannou (PH) and Clive Lam (O) and a Bronze II medal was awarded to Derek Law (O). A further seven pupils were given commendations.

Below l to r: Ilya Lapan, Clive Lam, Christopher Papaioannou, Derek Law, Arthur Kung



Oxbridge offers 2014

Monday 13 January 2014

Congratulations to the 13 students who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

This is another successful year, and 13 matches precisely the average number of Oxbridge places achieved by Salopians over the past six years. It is notable that the successes this year are spread across a very wide range of subject areas, and this reflects the breadth of academic interest among current Upper Sixth pupils. Both pupils and staff are to be congratulated on the hard work they put into receiving these offers, and the School looks forward to strong A Level results for all our pupils this year.



L to r: Sophie Pelling, Crystal Chan, Ilya Lapan, Mark Huang, Daniel Hart, Laurence Jeffcoate, Roman Faithfull, Alex Walker, Ben Lyster-Binns, Isabelle Turney, Arthur Kung

Crystal Chan (MSH)	Oxford	St John's	Chemistry
Seb Constantine (S)*	Cambridge	Jesus	French and Italian
Roman Faithfull (O)	Oxford	University	Spanish and Russian
Daniel Hart (Rt)	Oxford	St Edmund Hall	Mathematics
Mark Huang (S)	Oxford	Trinity	English
Laurence Jeffcoate (Ch)**	Oxford	Queen's	Psychology and Philosophy



Arthur Kung (R)	Cambridge	Emmanuel	Maths (with Physics)
Ilya Lapan (I)	Oxford	Merton	Physics
Anthony Lilico (SH)*	Oxford	Magdalen	Maths and Computer Science
Ben Lyster-Binns (Ch)	Oxford	Trinity	French and Spanish
Sophie Pelling (EDH)	Cambridge	St John's	Land Economy
Isabelle Turney (EDH)	Cambridge	Corpus Christi	Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Alex Walker (O)	Oxford	Jesus	History

* Seb Constantine and Anthony Lilico both have confirmed places, having taken their A levels in 2013.

** Laurence Jeffcoate has also been awarded a Choral Scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford.



Ed Barnard selected for the England U19 Cricket World Cup

Wednesday 15 January 2014

Ed Barnard (PH UVI) has been selected for the England cricket squad for the ICC Under-19 World Cup in Dubai.

Having spent three weeks during December in the UAE with a 15-man England U19 squad competing in a triangular series against the UAE and Pakistan U19 teams, Ed has been waiting nervously for the ECB to confirm whether or not he had made the cut for the World Cup itself.

“I was really happy and relieved when I found out because they had an initial 30-man squad and then they cut it down,” he said. “I was fairly confident having been on the tour before Christmas, so I was hoping. But you never know... I had my fingers crossed.”

The team will set off for Dubai on 31st January and will play three practice matches before beginning the World Cup campaign on 14th February with group matches against the UAE, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

The ECB also announced this week that Old Salopian Jimmy Taylor (R 2003-08) has been included in England's provisional 30-man squad for the ICC World Twenty20, which takes place in March.

Shropshire Concerto Competition: Two pupils through to the Final

Thursday 16 January 2014

On Wednesday 15th January Awen Blandford (EDH UVI), Harry Sargeant (M UVI) and Henry Newbould (Ch V) performed in the semi-final of the Shropshire Concerto Competition, held at Concord College.

Both Awen (cello) and Harry (trumpet) were chosen to go through to the final, in which they will each be performing a concerto with the Shropshire Sinfonia in the Alington Hall. Awen will be playing Haydn's Cello Concerto and Harry will playing the Trumpet Concerto by Alexander Arutunian.

This is the third successive year that two of the School's musicians have reached the final of this competition.

Below l to r: Harry Sargeant, Awen Blandford, Henry Newbould



RSSH: The Adams' Dash

Friday 17 January 2014



Sean Sawyer - Shrewsbury's first finisher

Testament to the strength in depth of running at Shrewsbury that even without our top eight runners – who had stayed behind to do speedwork at the track – the Hunt still came through to win the cross country meeting at Adams' Grammar School this Wednesday, seeing off competition from Old Swinford, Wrekin College and Adams on a three and a half mile course. The quickest time of 20:42 was set by an athlete from Wrekin College but the result being determined by a points system based on the first six finishers from each school, Shrewsbury's consistency – finishers at 4, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 16 (Sean Sawyer, Charlie Rogers, John Dempsey, Ben Smith, Charlie Davies, Charlie Home) – ensured the victory.



Charlie Home and Owen Mock

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Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the afternoon was that all 17 Shrewsbury runners applied themselves gutsily throughout the race. Having arrived for the race shortly before the start, warm-ups had been fairly desultory and the boys had to dig in for a gruelling three laps taking in woodland and field. For many boys, this was their first competitive race of the Hunt season and many excellent performances have raised expectations for meetings to come.

Groggy and under-exercised from a week of trial exams, there were nevertheless very heartening runs-out for Fifth Formers Alex Perutz, Ollie Pope, Charlie England, Rory Marsden and Max Devine, whilst the lower school were strongly represented by Ivan Tivodar, Will Sawyer and Owen Mock (who had to reinvigorate himself once disabused of the idea that he only had to do two laps of the course!). Alex Walker, Tom Lloyd and Jake Samuels will be encouraged to push for a top tier training place after their strong finishes.

Pride and pleasure, then, for Dr Foulger and I to watch the boys perform so well and hopes are high for the rest of the term.

DAL

Commedia dell'arte drama workshop

Friday 17 January 2014

Shrewsbury's Drama Department hosted a practical acting workshop this week, led by the renowned Commedia teacher Olly Crick.



A group of combined Lower and Upper Sixth Theatre Studies students participated in a series of fun and challenging improvised scenarios in which they learnt techniques that enabled them to make bold and sustained physical character choices. Olly also brought with him a collection of stunning, hand-made Commedia character masks. Each mask typifies a set of character traits and physical states. Stock Commedia characters such as Harlequin, Pantaloon, the Lovers and Smeraldina were demonstrated by Olly, and then brought to life by the students.

Once the students realised that they could trust their theatrical instincts and have some fun in the process, some truly stunning transformations took place. Normally reserved individuals became howling lunatics – the mask giving them licence to express ‘masked’ aspects of themselves.

For the Upper Sixth students studying Carlo Goldoni's ‘A Servant to Two Masters’, the workshop gave them an invaluable insight into the theatrical history, tradition and structures of this celebrated and ever-popular theatrical style. We even got to hit each other with genuine ‘slapsticks’!

Brian Parsons, Director of Drama
Photos by Dana Riedel Photography





Ridgemount raises nearly £3,000 for Atlantic Rowers

Friday 17 January 2014

Old Salopians Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland have just passed the halfway mark in their epic 3,000-mile row across the Atlantic. Last weekend the boys in their former house staged their own rowing marathon and raised £2,825 for Harry's and Alex's nominated charities, Cure Leukaemia and Juvenile Diabetes Research.

“We have been following Harry's and Alex's incredible journey on an almost daily basis,” says Ridgemount Housemaster Will Hughes. “As fellow Ridgemountaineers, the boys here feel a particular pride in what Harry and Alex are doing and we wanted to do something to support them. We know that they have a gruelling regime and are rowing two hours on, two hours off, non-stop, 24-hours a day for 60 days. As a way of gaining just a brief glimpse of what that must feel like, we booked four of the School's ergo machines for the weekend and every boy in the House rowed for an hour. They all attempted to go as far as possible in one hour and were supported by other boys with drinks, cushions and encouragement.”

Over the course of the weekend (in between lessons, chapel, sports fixtures, meals, sleeping etc) the boys rowed for a combined total of 60 hours - a total distance of 381 miles. Prizes were awarded to the boys from each year who rowed the furthest.

“We aimed to raise £1,000,” said Will Hughes. “I emailed the boys' parents explaining what we were doing and asking them if they would pledge their support. They have been unbelievably generous and we are all absolutely delighted to have raised almost £3,000 for Harry's and Alex's charities. It just goes to prove the huge support people within the School community have for their incredible effort. We all wish them well for the second half of their journey.”

To read Harry's and Alex's weekly blog or to make a donation, please visit www.rowing4research.com

Below: The boys who rowed the furthest in their year groups were (l to r) Harry Lane Fox (V) - 14.757km, Magnus Chaplin (3) - 12.469km, Ulrik Cappelen (LVI) - 15.130km, Tristan Lywood (IV) - 13.372km. Archie Lywood (UVI) is not pictured but rowed 13.769km.





Giles Bell's 'Team of the Week'

Friday 17 January 2014

Now that the School's main football season has finished, Giles Bell will be turning his spotlight and his wit on a range of sports teams during the Lent Term. This week - the girls' netball teams.



As a Housemaster I was generally preoccupied with a relatively small percentage of the school population. These days I find myself having a broader canvas to fill, and so it was that I found myself this week watching the girls' netball team take on local rivals Moreton Hall, in a home game for the A and B teams. It may come as surprise and possibly a relief to some of you that I am not a regular at netball matches. Having watched the fast-flowing precision passing, quick athletic movement and accurate shooting of the Shrewsbury teams, that may have to change.

Last term this column usually heralded a heavy defeat for which ever team was the subject of my attention. One of my New Year resolutions, therefore, was to inspire those lucky enough to be featured as Team of the Week to extreme performance. I am delighted to report that I have made a good start – the girls' A team won their match 28-13 and the B team won 35-3.



Warming up

The Shrewsbury girls were well prepared for the match, warming up a good half-hour before the game under the watchful eyes of coaches Nicola Bradburne, Grace Woo and OS Alice Long. It was clear that our 'shooters' were in good from and there was a calm confidence in the air. The coaches have been working on Alice's long-term plan and the girls executed it in clinical fashion. The lucid 2-3-2 formation was a masterpiece of planning and is a system that has worked well for the team; they are yet to be beaten in the Shropshire Monday Evening League.



The coaches discuss team tactics

Hattie Warner and Issy Turney were the goal scorers for the B team and I managed to catch up with them for a chat whilst they were honing their skills before the game started. I asked them if it was not a bit nerve-wracking carrying the weight of the team's expectations on their shoulders. Hattie thought it was very nerve-wracking but Issy was very relaxed about it. Hattie went on to explain that she had to suffer for her sport as she had to keep her nails quite short, which for someone so heavily involved in the Sixth Form Fashion Show, was something of an issue.

Miss Woo was very complimentary about her shooters but thought mid-court dynamo Edie Whittingham was her player of the match. Edie was pleased with her award and put it down to inspirational talks about netball with her academic tutor (me). The A team shooters Immy Hill and Cecily Price were also lauded by Mrs Bradburne and given joint player of the match awards. Cecily was particularly pleased by this and told me it was down to hours of practice in the garden with her dad.

It was clear that the players on both sides had enjoyed the games and a chance in some cases to meet up with old friends. The competitive edge was there but the game was played in a great spirit and I am a certainly a convert to the grace, passion, athleticism, skill and courtesy of netball!

Congratulations to the ladies of the A Team :
Captain Izzy Croft, Alice Sykes-Waller, Jo Cull, Laura Cooke, Immy Hill, Tatty Hunt, Cecily Price, Lizzie Mason-Jones

and the B Team: Edie Whittingham, Ciara Murphy, Mary Parrot, Poppy Beckett, Hattie Warner, Issy Turney, Katie Elcock



Shrewsbury wins UK Young Physicists' Tournament

Friday 17 January 2014

Shrewsbury has won the UK Young Physicists' Tournament and will represent the UK in the International competition this summer. This is the seventh time in the last ten years they have achieved this distinction.



L to r: Arthur Kung, Ian Yeung, Dominic Dootson, Ilya Lapan, Horace Tang and Head of Science Steve Adams

The final took place at Shrewsbury School on Thursday 16th January. Shrewsbury's team of Arthur Kung, Dominic Dootson, Ian Yeung, Ilya Lapan and Horace Tang faced strong opposition in the form of John Leggott College, Scunthorpe and Tytherington High School, Macclesfield. With scores level for first and second place at the half way point, it was obvious that Shrewsbury would have to do something special if they were to pull away from the competition. We needn't have worried as Arthur Kung gave by far the most impressive presentation of the day and took Shrewsbury past the winning post in style.

The final scores (out of 80) were Shrewsbury 61.0, John Leggott College 53.5 and Tytherington High School 53.0 This means that the UK team for the IYPT in July will consist of three team members from Shrewsbury and two team members from JLC.

The IYPT is now in its 27th year and has previously taken place in Australia, South Korea, Taiwan and China as well European countries including Germany, Slovakia and Switzerland. Commonly known as the 'Physics World Cup', the IYPT is one of the most prestigious competitions for school science anywhere in the world. This year it takes place in the UK for the first time. The venue will be Shrewsbury School – and we look forward to welcoming teams from around 30 countries from all five continents, along with their teachers and judging panels of professional physicists from around the world. We are also delighted that amongst the VIP guests at the opening ceremony will be Sir Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal, Old Salopian and one of the country's most distinguished scientists.

RSSH: Independent Schools' League, Uppingham, 18th January 2014

Monday 20 January 2014

In the first round of the Independent Schools' League, both the Seniors and Colts returned scores that place us comfortably at the top of the table. Our Colts 'B' team were in fact very nearly 2nd, missing out by just 2 points!



Following a strong performance taking team bronze at the national Knole Run in Kent the previous weekend, the Hunt travelled to Uppingham on the 18th January for the first fixture of the Independent Schools' League, keen to make a mark on the competition, particularly in the Colts age-group where we have considerable depth of talent this year. Whilst not a priority competition for us – with a number of the league fixtures clashing with more important races such as the County Champs and the English Schools' Champs – it is nevertheless important that the Hunt maintains its reputation as the leading running club in the Midlands Independent Schools scene.

The Colts were out first in a combined race with the Open Girls, where Tory Mobley (EDH) was our sole runner. Tory immediately asserted her presence on the race and by the end of the first of the two 1.3 mile laps, she was well clear as the leading girl ahead of Stamford's top runner. Following her excellent individual 6th place at the national Knole Run, Tory was keen nevertheless to get back to winning ways. The race at Uppingham provided her with a good opportunity of doing so, bringing her across the line in 1st place well clear of 2nd. There will no doubt be further successes to come, and an individual title is well within her grasp at MANISCCC (Midlands & Northern Independent Schools' Cross-Country Cup, to give its full title!).

Our Colts packed out well in the opening lap, with five of our juniors in the lead pack. With only four runners to count in this age-group, it soon became clear that the Hunt could post a very low score in the first of the League races, and indeed, the real race seemed to be which of the Hunt runners would take the individual win, with Fourth Former Charlie Tait-Harris (S) initially taking the race on. By the final lap it was Fifth Former Ben Remnant (Ch) who pushed the pace forward and, despite a late challenge from Rugby School's lead runner, Ben held on for the win ('killing' to use the Hunt vernacular). Having been disappointed with his Knole Run the previous weekend, this was an excellent return to form for Ben, and a much-needed confidence boost.



Behind him, fellow 5th Former Oscar Dickins (R) placed 3rd, fellow Riggite Will Hayward was 4th and Charlie Tait-Harris faded to 5th, nursing an injury that prevented him from pushing hard in the final lap. A near perfect score of 13 was utterly dominant, beating second placed Rugby School by a whopping 38 points. Our 'B' team in fact came home as 3rd team (out of 10) just 2 points behind Rugby School's A team with a gutsy run from Harry Adair (Rt) in 7th, another top 10 run from Radbrook's Charlie Rogers in 9th (meaning the Hunt had 6 runners in the top 10!), with further impressive performances from Rigg's Hall's 3rd Form New Boys' race winner Owen Mock in 17th, and Ridgemount's Alex Perutz placing 24th despite running in trainers on a very muddy course. Not far behind were non-counting Oli Pope (PH) with 25th, 3rd former George O'Brien (M) in 27th and Charlie England (Rt) in 30th. To have all runners in the top half was a very impressive result and certainly marked our intentions to assert authority over the Colts age-group.

In the Seniors age-group, a field of over 100 took to the start line with 11 teams represented from schools including hosts Uppingham, Rugby, Oundle, Welbeck, Wrekin, Nottingham HS and Repton. The initial pace was swift, perhaps not surprising given the flat terrain for the first kilometre or so of the course. However, our runners avoided getting sucked in to this sapping pace, instead running a good steady first lap knowing that it was a three-lap course, and the mud and hills over 4 miles would take its toll. The first lap saw Huntsman Rory Fraser (Ch) and Lower Sixth Former Theo Clarke (S) stick inside the top 10, though Rugby School's Ben Sutherland was well clear (no doubt with a point to prove after being surprisingly beaten by Rory the previous weekend in Kent) and Nottingham High School's top athlete seemed to be clear of the chasing pack in 2nd. Fraser and Clarke nevertheless were patient and worked their way through the field, and by the final lap Rory had pushed into 3rd place which he was to hold on to through to the finish. Only a few seconds behind came Clarke with a breakthrough performance.

With six to count we needed the remaining runners to come through with as low positions as possible, and our overall total was soon helped by Charlie Godman's (M) brave run in 13th coming back from injury, a superb debut from Roman Faithfull (O) in 15th wearing rugby boots, and a typically strong performance from Port Hill's Charlie Davis in 17th. Our final counter was Toby Harvey-Scholes (R) in 28th with non-counters Henry Dashwood (SH) and debutant Alex Shaw (Ch) in 42nd and 45th respectively. A team total of 80 was certainly competitive, and despite not enjoying the same sort of depth as we have in the Colts age-group, the score was nevertheless good enough to take top position 13 points ahead of 2nd placed Welbeck College – a solid start to the League campaign.

The Hunt now enter a crucial two-week training block with no races until the 1st February, when the squads will split with our top tier runners aiming for trophies at the County Championship in Oswestry, and our remaining runners representing the Club at the second League fixture at Worksop.



School House Third Form enjoy breakfast with the Headmaster

Monday 20 January 2014



(L-R): Llyr Heyward-Jones, Gus Lloyd, David Wright, Christian Cavenagh-Thornhill, Mark Turner (Headmaster), Elias Harrison, Mill Luangamornlert, Toby Patrick, Tomas Shiels

Shrewsbury

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Rugby: Shrewsbury v Loughborough Grammar School, 18th January 2014

Monday 20 January 2014

All sides performed very well against strong Loughborough opposition, but all suffered defeats.

The 1st XV was defeated by a strong and well-drilled Loughborough Grammar side. They had little possession but showed disciplined and brave defensive organisation, without which the deficit could have been worse. Shrewsbury never gave up and scored two deserved late tries. Prop Jonty Newbould floated over after supporting a break by Stuart Brown, and James Plaut finished a great movement in the corner for the game's final score.

The U16s, U15s and U14s all performed very well and had excellent spells of pressure and possession. There are very encouraging signs from these teams.

Shrewsbury's new Careers Fellow - Dr Kate Daubney

Thursday 23 January 2014

We are delighted to welcome Dr Kate Daubney as our new Careers Fellow. She joins us from the higher education sector, where she has been most recently a careers adviser at the London School of Economics and Imperial College Business School, and before that an academic and a university admissions tutor. Please see her message to parents below.

"I am delighted to have joined Shrewsbury School as the Careers Fellow, and look forward to meeting as many parents as possible, both at formal school occasions and on a more informal level. My role is to help the pupils build a solid foundation for all their future career decisions – from university to the working world – by helping them to understand their skills, abilities, motivations and passions, and then to translate that into career decisions that will reward them with fulfilment and success.



I have been working as a careers adviser for 12 years with a wide range of clients from school pupils to mid-career globally mobile professionals. I have worked extensively with employers too, so I have a good insight into what they are looking for in candidates for work experience, internships and permanent positions. I will be developing a more detailed careers education programme over the coming months to ensure that all pupils have access to the support and information they need, whatever year group they are in the School. I will be working alongside Dympna Nightingale, the Higher Education Adviser, who will be responsible for all aspects of advice and guidance for university applications, UCAS (the University and Colleges Admissions Service) and the move to higher education.

But to develop my insight further, I would also like very much to harness the enormous breadth of professional expertise that Shrewsbury parents offer. There are a number of ways that you can participate and share your knowledge, from contributing information for online resources to giving presentations at School. You can also join the Salopian Club Professional Groups which are networks of professionals in various sectors who share knowledge and, potentially, opportunities with both current and Old Salopians.

If you are interested in contributing to the broader careers education programme at the School in any way, or if you would like to discuss any aspect of careers, do please get in touch with me by email (ksdaubney@shrewsbury.org.uk) or by phone (01743 280510). I look forward to meeting you in due course."

Fencing: Tremendous performances at the West Midlands Championships

Friday 24 January 2014

Held at Trinity School, Redditch on 19th January, the West Midlands Senior Championships attracted fencers from schools, colleges, clubs and universities throughout the region.

In the senior men's sabre and competing in a strong field of fencers, Ross Viljoen (PH LVI) gained a silver medal. In the senior men's epee Charlie Godman (M LVI) reached the last eight and was defeated 15 - 10 by the eventual winner Stephen Northam (Birmingham FC).



In the British Youth Championship Qualifiers under-18 boys' foil event, Marco Lee (I V) reached the semi-finals and won a bronze medal. Scott Reynolds (Rb V) finished in fifth place and therefore had the pleasant surprise of being informed that he qualifies along with Marco to represent the region at the National Finals to be held in Sheffield in May. In the same event Jonty Small (M UVI) finished in eighth place.

In the under-16 boys' foil event Alec Barnes (PH IV) and Matti Owen-Sinclair (M V) finished in eighth and eleventh place respectively.

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IYPT team on BBC Radio Shropshire, Saturday 25th January at 8.40am (approx)

Friday 24 January 2014

Dominic Dootson (M LVI) and Ian Yeung (R UVI) will be interviewed by Clare Ashford on BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) on Saturday 25th January, together with Physics Master John Balcombe. They will be speaking about their involvement in the International Young Physicists' Tournament, following the School's win last week in the UK YPT. The international tournament will take place at Shrewsbury School from 3rd - 10th July.

The interview is scheduled to be broadcast at approximately 8.40am.



Sponsored Sports 'All-Nighter' and Charity Variety Show in aid of Medic Malawi

Friday 24 January 2014

In a bid to raise funds for Medic Malawi and the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic, a group of 32 students and several members of staff will be staging an all-night sponsored sports event on Friday 14th February. And in the Ashton Theatre at 8.00pm on 31st January the first Charity Variety Show will take place.

Beginning at 9pm on the eve of half term, in the School's gym, a group of committed/generous/mad pupils and staff will begin a ten-hour sporting marathon of events, which will include badminton, cricket, 5-a-side football, volleyball, netball, cricket and a slow cycling obstacle course. They will work in teams of eight, changing sports every hour and finishing eventually at 7.00am with a breakfast served to them in style by fellow pupils.

"Everyone who's doing this has a screw loose," one of the organisers, Seb Cooley, cheerfully admits. But the prospect of raising as much money as possible for the Shrewsbury School Eye Clinic that is currently being built in Malawi – and drawing attention to the vital work that will be done there – is clearly spurring the group on to look forward to their Valentine's Evening with relish.

Steve Fox, Geography Master and Rowing Coach at the School, who has just celebrated his 50th birthday, will be joining the group and attempting to complete a marathon on an ergo in under three hours. He has deliberately chosen to row in the 'graveyard slot' between 2.00 and 5.00am. "I'm very conscious that two former Shrewsbury pupils are currently rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic, rowing two hours on two hours off, day and night for about 60 days. So I feel the least I can do is row for three hours in one night."



Steve Fox in training

Steve, who was born in Malawi, took part in the School's expedition to Malawi in 2012, when 18 students and 4 members of staff spent three weeks working at the projects run by Medic Malawi, which include a hospital, orphanage and school. With the other members of the expedition, Steve stood on the site where the Eye Clinic was to be built and he is thrilled to know that construction is underway. Having seen for himself the huge need for the clinic in a country that is the seventh poorest in the world and has, on average, only three nurses for every 10,000 people (compared to 103 in the UK), he is determined to raise as much money as possible for the clinic and its work.

"The clinic addresses a key local problem," explains Stephen Drew, Chief Executive of Medic Malawi. "Unnecessary blindness through disease, including in children, is a serious and heartbreaking menace in the area. Along with the general costs of the hospital, the funds raised through this Sports Night will be crucial in getting the Clinic up, running and saving sight - because even with volunteer visiting surgeons, an operation to restore sight costs £30 for special medicines and aftercare. It is a brilliant project, hugely needed and with an outcome which will mean so much to individuals. Thank you for your support."

The next school visit will take place in July this year, when Shrewsbury students hope to put the finishing touches to the clinic.

You are also able to sponsor pupils via our event page on JustGiving: <http://www.justgiving.com/Shrewsbury-School-Shrewsbury-School>

Meanwhile, on Friday 31st January, Sixth Former George Fowler - who also took part in the Malawi Expedition in 2012 - is organising the School's first ever Charity Variety Show to raise funds for Medic Malawi. An evening of music, dance, comedy sketches, magic tricks and mystery guests, it promises to "reach the parts that other shows don't reach".

The event takes place in the Ashton Theatre and starts at 8.00pm. Admission is free, with a retiring collection for Medic Malawi. Please reserve your tickets



from www.shrewsburyschool.ticketsource.co.uk, Darren Wood on 01743 280812, at the School Shop, or from Dawn Dunn in Reception.

To find out more about the charity's work, please see www.medicmalawi.org or email medicmalawi@gmail.com

Robert Burns Celebration Lunch at Shrewsbury School

Friday 24 January 2014



KH - Burns Day 2014

This lunchtime here at Kingsland Hall, we celebrated the life of Scotland's favourite son, poet Robert Burns with a fine traditional Scottish lunch.

Robert Burns was famously fond of the finer things in life, and food was no exception, so we thought that it was only fitting to serve a traditional Haggis accompanied by neeps and tatties to our students and staff.

The theatre bar was decked out with tartan and the food was beautifully presented. One teacher, who had traipsed across the cold, wet and windy grounds to attend lunch, expressed her delight at the fare on offer but pointed out that one vital traditional ingredient was missing! "Whisky!" I heard her whisper. "Where is the whisky?" I am sure that Robert would have asked the same question as whisky was his tippie of choice and he may well have written some of his most famous poems while under the influence of the fiery fluid!

One of his poems, "Address to a Haggis", pictured here, is traditionally read out before the haggis is carved up and served.

We certainly had fun serving up this sumptuous lunch, even if it was without whisky. Sorry Robert!

Carrie Zeiler
KH

Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 24 January 2014

This week, the Under-18 Basketball team.



The joy of writing Team of the Week is that I see different sections of the Salopian community generally enjoying themselves, albeit with a competitive edge. This week I was lucky enough to catch up with the Shrewsbury School Basketball team as they took on the might of Ellesmere College, who had beaten them comfortably earlier in the season 61-35.

I found myself in good company. The crowd was certainly more cerebral than one might find at certain football grounds, (The Amex apart), and – unlike my visit to view netball for Team of the Week last week – there was certainly no need for wire mesh to keep unruly supporters off the court! I was instructed on how the team was doing and the finer points of the game by Arthur Kung and Horace Tang. They were chilling after their fine performance last week in the UK Young Physicists' Tournament in which they came first!

Horace told me he was a very loyal supporter and that he felt when he missed a game he was in some way letting the team down as they would notice the considerable gap in the crowd left by his impressive stature. He would like to be in the team himself but feared his height was a disadvantage to his selection. We wondered between ourselves if basketball should adopt regulations similar to those in boxing and have different leagues according to height. Arthur then pointed out that this might be viewed as discriminatory in some way. A lengthy debate ensued and we missed most of the second quarter; which did not matter as local rivals Ellesmere were doing rather well at this juncture. I realised that I was with seriously knowledgeable fans when Horace began quoting famous Harlem Globetrotters: “Sir, I love watching this team because as Wilt Chamberlain once said, ‘Everybody pulls for David, nobody roots for Goliath.’” Indeed Horace! (It is always encouraging when one of my RS students has clearly been listening to my wise words).

After such philosophising I must turn to the matter in hand. We have a new coach this year in the form of our Harvard Fellow Mr Rob Lothman. Rob has an immediate advantage over most staff at Shrewsbury when it comes to basketball as he is American. He has a passion for the game that was instantly apparent and I sensed that his team was already in awe of ‘coach’. What made this match even tastier was that Ellesmere too have gone for an overseas coach in the form of Elena Griffiths. Although, I suspect she is married to a Welshman, she is in fact Russian. If you have seen the film ‘Rocky IV’, then you will be able to appreciate the scenario that unfolded in the Shrewsbury gym on Wednesday January the 22nd. It is difficult to portray the tension and



the drama in words but I will do my best to convey to you the electricity in the building that caused me to remain 'static'; mesmerised by the unfolding drama and 'shocked' by what I saw.

The squad surrounded their iconic coach in their pristine white kit. I managed to catch a few of Coach Lothman's Rocky-inspired and inspiring words. "The time has come for each of you to be your own man and take on Ellesmere and the world. Earlier in the year they beat us and beat us good, and let me tell you something. You know why you lost so bad; it was because somewhere along the line, you all changed. You stopped being you. You let opposition players stick a finger in your face and tell you you're no good. Let me tell you something you already know. The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get that ball and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!" I sensed the players were really 'pumped' by the coach and I made a note to myself to start more of my lessons with a bit more passion!



The game started and it was quickly apparent that the Ellesmere team were a bigger and more senior squad of players. But that did not seem to phase the youthful yet focused Shrewsbury team. I was reminded of Ali's famous quote "fly like a butterfly sting like a bee!" Dan Hart, a recent addition to the team, told me, "Earlier on in the season we struggled to get results, but are now really gelling together as a team and hope to push on and have a much, much better second half of the season". You could sense that this optimism and confidence was flowing through the Salopians as they surged towards the opposition basket.

The Ellesmere team were tough opponents and although Shrewsbury had started well, by the third quarter Ellesmere had a fairly comfortable 10 point cushion. Things got worse but then 'Coach' called a time out. I just caught a few phrases of what he said: "Nobody owes nobody nothin'. You owe yourself." "You're gonna have to go through hell, worse than any nightmare you've ever dreamed. But when it's over, I know you'll be the ones walking tall. You know what you have to do. Do it". Stirring words – and boy, did they have an impact.

But with a few minutes left, the gap had grown to 15 points. Then Captain Sam "Air" Kandi (described by Coach as having some sweet moves) gathered his men together in the last time out. An opposition player was heard to say to his coach of Sam: "He is not human; he is like a piece of iron." Sam just said, "I guess what I'm trying to say is, if I can change, and you can change, everybody can change, let's change this score." With some awesome shooting and mental toughness, the Shrewsbury team clawed the score back to a difference of four and if you could get fifth quarters, I know where my money would be!

After the game I managed to get a word from one or two of the squad. It might be worth pointing out that Mr Lothman has steeped his squad in the words of the Harlem Globetrotters and they are all able to quote them at length! Benny 'LeBron' Wong told me, "We knew it was a

huge game, and Sam played phenomenal. He made some of what I call ‘circus saves’ that give us a huge bounce on the bench. We may have lost the game but inside we all feel like winners”.

I asked Dan Hart if he felt he had a bit to make up, having played football last term and he said in words extremely reminiscent of an ex-Harlem Globetrotter, “I don't understand none of that playoff stuff. I just go out and play, and whatever happens, happens. One minute we're hearing one thing and the next thing we're hearing something else. I'll just go and play wherever they tell me to play.”

Kevin Ching, another ardent Globetrotter fan, was in eloquent form: “I just let the game flow a little bit. Coach just said he wanted us to get as many easy baskets as we can, to get as close to the basket as we can. That’s what I tried to do, man.” He did not laugh when I suggested you can get some easy baskets at Sainsbury’s.

Rob Lothman was philosophical about the game. He feels the team is progressing well and was keen to stress that he wants improvement. “If you have ability in a certain area, why not capitalise on it and improve it and use it? I believe that good things come to those who work.” I sense his words will mean a lot to his squad and possibly to others reading this article. I hope so; I certainly feel I have changed after this exposure to high quality basketball. I am looking forward to watching this young and vibrant team playing thrilling basketball in the future and to hearing more of Mr Lothman’s inspiring words. The squad in full are:

Mr Hughes, himself an inspirational coach and keen basketball player and currently Head of P.E. describes some of the players in glowing terms.

Clive Lam, Billy Chu and Denton Lee are the experienced “work horses”.

Dan Hart, has added some much needed height and is a good rebounder.

Adam Leung, Eccles Cheong, Kevin Ching are the stars of the future.

Michael Pong is a quick and slippery little playmaker with a good eye for the basket.

Captain Sam Kandi is an offensive juggernaut with a serious jump shot.

Benny Wong is a hard-working box-to-box engine.

Denton Lee is the mellow big man with a knack for popping up at the right place at the right time to score some delicious layups.

Bryan Yick is cool, calm and composed with a fantastic three point shot from the right wing.

In a nutshell, there are lots of positive signs at the moment and some very good younger players coming through, suggesting that Shrewsbury basketball is in a good place. Coach Lothman, a key appointment from the US of A, is doing a great job! Rob feels we need to turn the school gym into a fortress and keep working on our shooting. He is talking about basketball, I promise!

GJFB





Arthur Kung wins Distinction in the British Maths Olympiad

Friday 24 January 2014

Following his school record score of 125/125 in the UK Senior Maths Challenge in November, Arthur Kung (R UVI) recently obtained a Certificate of Distinction in this year's British Maths Olympiad. He finished in the top 12% out of over 1,500 candidates nationally taking part in this fiendishly difficult 3½ hour paper.

Arthur also distinguished himself in this year's British Physics Olympiad, coming in the top 50 of 1,900 entrants. Last week he captained the School's team to victory in the UK Young Physicists' Tournament and will be among those representing the UK in the International Young Physicists' Tournament that will take place at Shrewsbury School in July. See report [Shrewsbury wins Young Physicists' Tournament](#), which includes a video of Arthur being interviewed by Head of Science Steve Adams

Arthur has recently received an offer from Cambridge University to read Maths with Physics at Emmanuel College.





Webb drives through the pain to claim debut podium at Dunlop 24H Dubai

Sunday 26 January 2014



Oliver Webb (S 2004-09) scored another strong result in a GT championship race in January as he made his debut at the gruelling Dunlop 24H Dubai, in his first competitive outing in the rhino's Leipert Motorsport Lamborghini Gallardo GT3. The young Brit overcame a challenging final stint, driving through severe pain, to help the team to a hard-fought second place in the Pro-Am class and a top-10 finish overall.

Webb was among a multi-national line-up, sharing the cockpit of the Lamborghini with Isaac Tutumlu Lopez (ESP), Jan Stovicek (CZE), Yoshihari Mori (JPN) and Jeroen Mul (NED). The BRDC driver lined up on the grid for the start of the race, in pole position for the Pro-Am class, making an immediate impression in his opening stint. The heat and the dusty conditions were a real challenge throughout the opening half of the race, and Webb watched from the garages as the team's race almost ended prematurely following a collision with a competitor as the sun went down. However, the damage sustained was minimal, and the #10 Gallardo GT3 pushed on, and Webb took over for the demanding night session. Once again, his race craft and determination showed through, and the Knutsford-born driver helped keep his team in contention as the sun rose over the Dubai Autodrome.

For information on Oliver Webb, visit www.oliwebbracing.com or follow him on twitter, www.twitter.com/oliverjameswebb

IYPT on Radio Shropshire

Monday 27 January 2014

Ian Yeung (R UVI), Dominic Dootson (M LVI) and Physics Master John Balcombe were interviewed about the International Young Physicists' Tournament on BBC Radio Shropshire on Saturday 25th January. To listen to the broadcast please click on the link below.

IYPT on Radio Shropshire

Dominic and Ian are part of the School's team that won the UK Young Physicists' Tournament on Thursday 16th January. Three members of Shrewsbury's team and two members of the runners-up team from John Leggott College will represent the UK in the International Tournament, which takes place at Shrewsbury School from 3rd - 10th July.

Speaking as Chairman of the IYPT Organising Committee, John Balcombe said that he was expecting around 30 countries to take part in the Tournament; teams from 23 countries have already signed up.

Below l to r: Arthur Kung, Ian Yeung, Dominic Dootson, Ilya Lapan, Horace Tang and Head of Science Steve Adams





Rugby: Convincing win for the U16 XV v King Edward's School, Birmingham

Tuesday 28 January 2014



Shrewsbury U16A Rugby XV vs King Edward's Birmingham, 25th January 2014

Above left - George Lechmere claiming good line-out ball; right - Bertie Gilliat-Smith on the rampage

The U16 XV had an excellent win on Saturday 25th January, beating King Edward's School, Birmingham 31-5. Pictured above are two of the five Oldham's Fifth Formers in the team.

A torrential rain and hail shower before kick-off made for heavy conditions for all teams at King Edward's. The U15s lost a close encounter 7-14 and the U14s lost 0-32. The 1st XV also suffered a narrow defeat against a bigger more match-hardened pack - although the Shrewsbury endeavour was faultless and the score could very easily have gone the other way.

Sound designer for 'War Horse' and 'Coriolanus' gives a masterclass in the Ashton Theatre

Tuesday 28 January 2014

William Allott (Ch LVI), whose technical expertise has enhanced a huge range of drama and music productions at the School over the last three years and is currently studying Theatre Studies at AS Level, describes an inspiring masterclass with professional sound designer Emma Laxton.

On Thursday 23rd January Emma Laxton, a freelance professional sound designer, visited the School's Ashton Theatre to give a masterclass in theatre sound design. Emma Laxton has worked extensively throughout the industry, starting at the Music Hall in Shrewsbury. She is the associate sound designer for *War Horse* in London, and has done a lot of work at the Donmar Warehouse, as well as creating the soundscapes for many pioneering productions – such as the Donmar's current production of *Coriolanus*.

The afternoon focused mainly on software for playing theatre sound and video effects such as QLab and Adobe Audition. Emma explained the necessity of having a 'clean canvas' to start with - ensuring the necessity of blocking out all other ambient sounds in a venue (air-conditioning, fans from equipment and other hums etc.) From this blank start, she explained the process of working with directors, composers and lighting designers to create the sound design for a show. We learnt about various resources for acquiring sound effects from on-line resources, along with the value of creating 'live effects'. For example using bubble wrap on stage for a cracked neck as opposed to a sound effect!

Above all we should avoid anything that sounds too much like a sound effect. It was great to be able to ask questions relating directly to my AS Theatre Studies practical exam. I will be designing the sound and lighting for *The Cherry Orchard*. It presents many challenges, requiring a very naturalistic approach, so it was brilliant to ask specific questions. The School has two students doing technical Theatre Studies, but all drama students must have an understanding of the technical elements. Therefore this masterclass was a brilliant resource and a fascinating insight into the working life of a leading professional. I very much look forward to similar opportunities.

William Allott (Ch LVI)





Fencing: Four Salopians qualify for the British Youth Championship Finals

Tuesday 28 January 2014

Held at Packwood Haugh School on Sunday 26th January, the West Midlands British Youth Championship Qualifiers Epée attracted fencers from schools and colleges from throughout the region.

In the Under-18 Boys' Epée Shrewsbury had outstanding success, with Arthur Cheng (SH LVI) collecting a silver medal and Jeff Pun (O LVI) collecting a bronze medal. Arthur lost in the final to William Gallimore-Tallen (Four of Clubs) 15-10.

In the under-16 boys' event Scott Walker (M) finished in eighth place, losing only by the odd hit, which put him out of reaching the final four and a medal position.

Arthur and Jeff now go forward to the British Youth Championship Finals to be held in Sheffield in May.

On 19th January, Marco Lee (I V) won a bronze medal in the British Youth Championship Qualifiers Under-18 Boys' Foil event and Scott Reynolds (Rb V) finished in fifth place. Marco and Scott both qualified for the British Youth Championship Finals in May.

The West Midlands BYC Qualifiers Sabre event takes place in March.



Oldham's Fifth Form dominate in U16 XV match against King Edward's Birmingham

Tuesday 28 January 2014



Shrewsbury U16.A Rugby XV vs King Edward's Birmingham, 25th January 2014

*Top left - Harry Schofield supported by Hamish Foden; right - Kit Crabtree attacks the line
Bottom left - George Lechmere claiming good line-out ball; right - Bertie Gilliat-Smith on the rampage*

Kit Crabtree, Hamish Foden, Bertie Gilliat-Smith, George Lechmere and Harry Schofield (all Oldham's Fifth Form) seen here representing the U16 XV during their comprehensive defeat of King Edward's School, Birmingham on Saturday 25th January.

Photos courtesy of Mr Mathew Gilliat-Smith.



Rigg's Hall House Pantomime: 'Aladdin'

Wednesday 29 January 2014

The House Play season got under way last weekend in fine style with Rigg's Hall's version of 'Aladdin', penned and directed by Assistant Housemaster Chris Cook.



Rigg's Pantomime 'Aladdin', January 2014

As is the tradition with Rigg's productions, almost the entire House was involved in one way or another, whether it was the 30-odd cast on stage, or the backstage crew, those involved in set design, programme design, and the multitude of other roles needed to make the show a success. Coming so early in the term (just three weeks in) the pressure was really on to put together the Two-Act production, with rehearsals ramping up in the week leading to curtains up. Despite scripts being in hand almost up until the dress rehearsal, nevertheless by Friday evening's opening night, the cast were confident that the show would be a success.

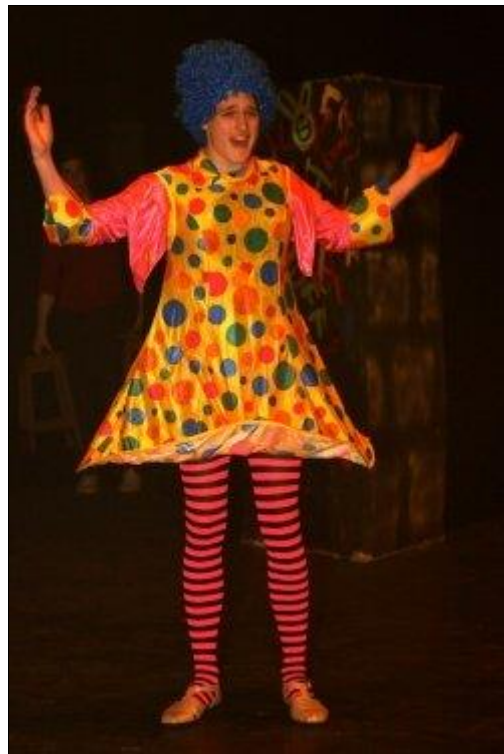
Of course, the story of Aladdin is a familiar one, though those settling down in their seats in the Ashton Theatre would not find everything in the pantomime loyal to the original fable! Indeed, the appearance of Indiana Jones (played by Ed Graves, whip in hand) in the climactic scene was one such variation, with a further unexpected cameo from 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' game show host Chris Tarrant (played by Jake Carter). Jack Kinnaird took on the role of Prince, and despite complaining of severe chaffing due to a tight-fitting waistcoat, nevertheless showed his thespian credentials in the role.



Rigg's Pantomime 'Aladdin', January 2014



The story was framed by the rambunctious duo of Generals Dickie and George (an unlikely pairing of Charlie Cooper and Hugo Morgan) who opened the show by getting the audience warmed up and briefed on the expectations of a panto audience. Much booing and hissing ensued, particularly whenever the villainous Jaffar (James Aitken) entered the stage, his 6 ft 7' frame giving him a wizardly malevolence, though one couldn't take him entirely seriously wearing bright red stockings! His sidekicks Mustapha and Nizrene were played by the Schofield brothers Will and Jonty, with their brotherly rap being one of the highlights of the show. No one will forget, moreover, the performance of Krem Todorova as the Witch, whose terrifying rants wouldn't have been out of place in a Doc Law lesson.



Rigg's Pantomime 'Aladdin', January 2014

Further female support came from Phoebe Ingram who was appropriately regal in the role of the Sultana, Elena McAllister as a Welsh nanny who died in the first Act but miraculously appeared by the second, and of course the title role of Aladdin which was a role well up to the capabilities of Abbey Attenborough. Of course, one cannot mention the fabulous girls in the production without pausing to highlight the glamorous portrayal of the Dame by our very own Freddie Perkins, whose Marge Simpson-esque blue hair and polka-dot skirt transformed this normally serious and earnest young man into a seductive Cabaret Club host at the Kit Kat Klub. His vocals on 'Hey Big Spender' were a particular highlight, though his father in the audience seemed somewhat perturbed to see his son in such a light!

There were of course too many performances to mention all in this review, but needless to say it was a hugely entertaining show, and whilst we had suggested somewhat tongue-in-cheek that this would be the best House play that the audience would have seen so far this term, in fact it seems highly unlikely that the Ashton Theatre will see another show this year that is so entertaining, eye-wateringly funny and clearly enormous fun to perform in. One parent leaving the



auditorium was heard to declare that Aladdin was "the very best school production I have ever seen - and I've seen a lot in my time!"

The standout performance perhaps was U6th former James Aitken as Jaffar, who carried the show and led from the front, clearly enjoying working the audience. However, there are plenty of juniors in the House who showed that they will be able to follow in James's shoes, most notably the excellent Jonty Schofield as Nizrene, and Robert Hartwell as the Fortune Teller. The future looks very promising indeed!

It goes without saying that to put on a show such as this involves a huge amount of work, and indeed it is nothing short of a miracle that the end product was such a success. It simply wouldn't have been possible without the energy, enthusiasm and passion of Chris Cook, who once again delivered a fabulously entertaining theatrical spectacle, and one that will live long in the memory.

PJM

Rigg's Hall Pantomime - 'Aladdin'

Wednesday 29 January 2014

The House Play season got under way last weekend in fine style with Rigg's Hall's version of 'Aladdin', penned and directed by Assistant Housemaster Chris Cook.



Pantomime 'Aladdin', January 2014

As is the tradition with Rigg's productions, almost the entire House was involved in one way or another, whether it was the 30-odd cast on stage, or the backstage crew, those involved in set design, programme design, and the multitude of other roles needed to make the show a success.

Reviewing the hugely entertaining show and paying tribute to some of the most memorable performances, Housemaster Peter Middleton wrote that “whilst we had suggested somewhat tongue-in-cheek that this would be the best House play that the audience would have seen so far this term, in fact it seems highly unlikely that the Ashton Theatre will see another show this year that is so entertaining, eye-wateringly funny and clearly enormous fun to perform in”.

His full review may be found on the Rigg's news page of the website: [Rigg's Hall Pantomime 'Aladdin'](#)



Rigg's Pantomime 'Aladdin', January 2014



National Poetry Day prizewinning poems

Wednesday 29 January 2014

To celebrate National Poetry Day on 3rd October 2013, all members of the Third Form entered a Third Form Poetry Competition. Head of English Kristina Leslie also invited poetic submissions from other pupils in the School and from staff and parents. The Competition was judged by Harvard Fellow Rob Lothman, and the winning poems are included below.

Winner of the Lower School Poetry Prize:

Oliver Hodges (S 3)

Upon a Cliff

Upon a cliff a man did stand
With sea below a soothing sound,
For times were hard and hope hard found
Life is harsh yet still thou should live.
Below the cliff next to the sea
Gulls did fly and spread their wings,
For you are like a bird yourself.
Go out. Seize life. Let your voice be heard.
Under these gulls the waves did form
And many took this easier route,
Yet life is not for coasting along.
Take off and soar to prove them wrong.



Winner of the Sixth Form Poetry Prize:

Olivia Bradley (EDH LVI)

To The Sleeper

Remember that day –
(I can't recall the month or the year, only
that it was summer
and the sky was too blue and the grass too green
and we shook the still heat with breezes of laughter)
When we ran in the park and imagined
that if we darted out across the water it would hold us like
glass
and perhaps if we leapt high enough
we could catch clouds under our feet
and use them as steps to the sun,
our hands open and reaching
to clasp it like a bright fruit
in the silhouette cages of our fingers.





Remember that day –
we fell back to earth, our breath all giggles
and my fingers combed out knots in strands of copper
as I braided sunbeams and marigolds into your hair
and did all I could to weave every colour of the sunset
into a plait
as though someone had gathered up the evening horizon
and twisted it like a wrung cloth.
I murmured fond envy into your ear
and you turned to laugh at me, indulgent,
your cheeks lining like ripples in cream.
Dusk came down like a mist.
Here, I bring you a bouquet of memories.
I will lay them like a golden shawl over your earthy cradle,
that you may look up at them or down at them from wherever you are.
I will scatter the echoes of our laughter over the stone
and sprinkle old sunlight into your grass coverlet.
Take them, and may they sweeten your dreams.

Winner of the Staff Poetry Prize:
Steve Adams (Head of Science)

Angels

Angels fall from the sky
this cold December day
as tears freeze on my face
and I press my palms to pray
the ground is silver with frost
the air teems with ghosts
my mind sees all the faces
of those I miss the most
but colder and emptier still
the truths reason believes
there is no god or soul
there is no shore to the sea
the sky that arches above
the heart that beats in my chest
the moments of genuine beauty
your perfect loveliness
will crumble to dust in time
will dissolve in the sea and disperse
will spread across infinite distance
lost in the universe
so I press my palms to pray
to a god my reason denies
in the hope that reason is wrong
and angels watch from the sky.



Winner of the Parents' Poetry Prize:

Chris Tay (Head Teacher of Longden CofE Primary School
and father of Lettie Tay (MSH LVI))

Hands

(A memory of my father)

A smack from one of those
Would hurt alright.
Yet he could sew the tiniest of stitches
Like delicate contours of mustard seed,
Shave wood to one sixty-fourth of an inch
And remove splinters from shaking palms
Barely bigger than the plates of his broad thumb nails.
At rest they would hang deflated
Like something monstrous
And later, as the disease progressed,
Like awkward flippers,
Useless throwbacks to a time before tools.





Netball: 1st VII compete in the West Midlands Regional Finals

Thursday 30 January 2014

Having been runners-up in the County Netball Tournament in November, the 1st VII were one of two teams to qualify for the West Midlands Regional Finals, held on Saturday 25th January - a first for Shrewsbury and a great achievement. As Nicola Bradburne reports, the team performed extremely well against some strong opposition.



1st VII netball team at the West Midlands Regional Finals, Saturday 25th January 2014

The West Midlands Regional Finals took place at Phoenix Leisure Centre. There were two groups with seven teams in each and matches were to be 14 minutes. The standard of netball was obviously very high, so the team were looking to perform well and enjoy the experience.

We were a little unprepared and nervous going into the first game against St Thomas Moore Sixth Form College and thus didn't play particularly well, losing 3-13. Having settled the nerves, our approach was much more positive in the second game against St Joseph's College and we were 2 up at half time. We were then able to build on this, dominating in the second half to win 12-5.

We went into game three with newfound confidence and beat Birmingham Metropolitan College 8-3. Our fourth game was against Hereford Sixth Form College, who were so far unbeaten. Both teams played a very high standard of netball and at half time there was only one goal in it. Unfortunately for Shrewsbury, the game finished 8-7 in favour of Hereford, though the girls put up an excellent fight. Though a little disappointed with their last result, the team

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



pushed on to beat King Edward VI College 9-7 before losing our final game to top of the table Bromsgrove 7-3.

Shrewsbury finished fourth in their group with 3 wins and 3 loses - a great achievement and a solid foundation to build on next year, particularly considering the team was largely made up of Lower Sixth pupils. Well done!

*Nicola Bradburne
Head of Girls' Games*



1st VII netball team at the West Midlands Regional Finals, Saturday 25th January 2014



Old Salopian Dan Howie finishes Atlantic Row as champion

Thursday 30 January 2014

Over the last two months, no fewer than three Old Salopians have been making the epic 3,000-mile journey across the Atlantic in two-man rowing boats. We are delighted to report that Dan Howie (Ch 1998-03) and his friend Will North have not only completed the world's toughest rowing race safely but have won their class in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Meanwhile Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland (both Rt 2000-05) are nearing the end of their journey too.



Dan Howie and Will North

Dan Howie (on the right in the picture) and Will North arrived into English Harbour, Antigua on Sunday 26th January 53 days 9 hours and 30 minutes after setting off from La Gomera in the Canary Islands.

"We are ecstatic to have won our class in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge," said Dan. "Nothing could have prepared us for the treacherous conditions at sea and it feels phenomenal to have overcome the challenges and won our class. Thank you to all who have supported us along the way."



Their aim was to raise as much money as possible for three charities close to their hearts: Cancer Research UK, Leukemia & Lymphoma Research and St Anna's. Rowing 24 hours a day in alternate two-hour shifts, Dan and Will survived on freeze-dried food rations and dealt with excruciating sores as they battled through a series of testing circumstances - waves reaching up to 50ft, the dangers of rowing in a major shipping lane, deadly wildlife, physical exhaustion and sleep deprivation. There were some morale-boosting highlights too though, including dolphin sightings and being flanked by a pod of whales.

You can read all about their amazing adventure in their blog, which also includes details for making donations to their nominated charities - www.AtlanticRow2013.com

Meanwhile Harry Martin-Dreyer and Alex Bland (both Rt 2000-05), who spoke movingly about their undertaking at the House Singing Competition in October, are just under 100 miles from the north point of Barbados. They have been rowing for seven weeks. In their latest blog, Alex wrote: "There is a distinct sense of excitement on board as we count down the remaining miles. Perhaps, a little prematurely I already have the binoculars poised ready and awaiting – looking forward to the first sight of land..."

To read their blog and to follow the final stages of their mammoth undertaking, please visit www.rowing4research.com

They have raised a staggering £137,000 for their charities JDRE and Cure Leukaemia.



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 30 January 2014

This week Giles turns his spotlight on the School's Fives Pairs as they prepare to take part in the Northern Fives Championships - one of the major national fixtures in the Fives calendar - which the School is hosting this weekend.

Such is the inclemency of the weather at present, I have not found the idea of wandering far from the confines of the warm and welcoming Admissions Office very attractive. I have my smart and not very waterproof shoes on and unlike the characters on my three-year-old daughter's favourite TV show, I do not wish to jump up and down in muddy puddles! I worked out that the nearest sporting action to my office is in the recently refurbished Fives courts. There are 14 courts and they are frequently full of keen players waiting for their chance to get out of the rain! By my reckoning that means that 56 members of the school community can be kept gainfully employed at the same time!

I have fond memories of Fives, as my Dad ran the Fives team at Lancing College. Don't get me wrong, I was not very keen on watching Dad play, but Mum was in charge of the tea afterwards when it was against the Jesters or some other adult club. She made cakes with different varieties of butter-icing covered with hundreds of thousands, not to mention a fantastic array of sandwiches. There were also little cocktail sausages in her special honey recipe, as well as crisps and other tasty biscuity snacks. Much like the match teas here now!



Seb Cooley

I am probably not being too controversial when I say that in my humble opinion Fives is not a great spectator sport, as whilst the players are dry and cosy running around in the court, their



fans stand freezing in the winter chill and generally getting a good rinsing from the heavens! However, if you want to watch the game played at a high standard, this is one of the weekends to pull on your warm weather gear and come to the Shrewsbury courts to watch the Northern Men's and Women's Championships. The current holders of the Cup are none other than Shrewsbury's Teacher in Charge of Fives and reigning National Champion, Seb Cooley and his teammate Tom Dunbar.

I caught up with Seb this week to see how his preparations were going, both in terms of his personal defence of his title and the ambitions of the School's pairs. Seb was with the Chapel Choir at Tewkesbury Abbey singing Evensong on Wednesday, whilst many of his competitors from the School were out on the courts practising and playing. I was slightly surprised at this, as I thought a National Champion must always have to be honing his skills. I was in for a lesson. Seb explained to me that singing in the Abbey brought him in touch with the spiritual home of the game. Fives was devised whilst boys at Eton went into chapel and he felt that it was important to connect with the 'inner voice' of the sport. He told me, "There is nothing like a flying buttress to aid the concentration before a big tournament". He also felt that the six-second echo in the Abbey helped him to focus his concentration span. I asked him what else he felt was important in the run up to a big Fives match. He played a big compliment to the chefs at Kingsland Hall for providing him with a balanced diet and to his physics students for keeping him on his toes in the classroom. We wish Mr Cooley all the best for his title campaign.

What about the School's chances? Coaches Matt Barratt, Andy Barnard, Torin Morgan, Rob Morris and Seb Cooley among others have been working hard to help numerous 'School Pairs' approach the weekend tournaments in confident mood. If Mr Cooley is favourite for the Open title, perhaps we might look for a Shrewsbury winner in the Festival Competition, won last year by Nick Pearce (I) and Samson Yick (S). The Festival Trophy is certainly worth winning; it is the Malcolm Mitchell Memorial Trophy which is a large shield presented in honour of Old Salopian and former School Governor Malcolm Mitchell. Malcolm's son Ian will be playing at the weekend and his other son Andrew is 'off changes' this year but is responsible for organising the Monday Club and helping to keep Old Salopian Fives at a high level.

At this stage it is not certain which of the School pairs will play in the national tournament and which will be entered into the Festival Trophy. It is certain that Tom Breese and George Panayi will be competing as a strong pair, since they are national champions in their age group. Max Hulse and Harry Flowers (OS) will be competing, as will James Warburg and Jamie Humes, Jack Fox and Luke Lloyd Jones, and Henry Blofield and George Lewis. George and Henry, along with Nick Pearce and Samson Yick, will hope to at least give Mr Cooley a run for his money if they are drawn against him.



Above l to r: Ed Barnard, Nick Pearce, James Warburg and Henry Blofield

Sadly one key Fives player will not be competing this weekend, as Ed Barnard has to go to Dubai to play cricket for the England Under-19 team. He told me he was devastated by the harsh demands of the England cricket selectors, who are dragging him away from his dream of playing Fives in Shrewsbury to the heat of Dubai and the drudgery of a World Cup cricket tournament. Poor Ed. All I can say is we wish him well and hope he will be back for the National Championships later in the term.



Krem Todorova and Andy Barnard



Mr Barnard (senior) has been coaching the girls and is hoping that top pair Jo Cull and Charlotte Harris will perform well in the ladies' competition. There are a number of other pairs entering the competition but Mr Barnard feels that they might lack match practice. Alice Sykes-Waller and Elisa Wood assured me that practice was not necessary for 'Fives naturals'. Ciara Murphy and Raphie Major have only recently come to the sport but are hoping for an easy draw. Krem Todorova, seen here with her coach Mr Barnard, is very excited about the tournament. She told me that she had been looking at Fives matches on the internet to help her in her quest to understand the rules. She admitted to being very excited at learning the game and that it was one of the reasons that she was drawn to Shrewsbury School. Krem may be the best female Bulgarian Fives player in the world and she is certainly determined to do her best on the weekend. "I do not want to let my inspirational coach down," she told me.

It only remains for me to wish all our players the very best in their various competitions. Let's hope there will lots of High Fives!

GJFB

New Thursday afternoon activities

Friday 31 January 2014

There is a huge range of extra-curricular activities available to pupils on a Thursday afternoon. Director of Activities Nick David gives a brief overview of some of the new activity options that have recently been launched.

Outdoor Skills - More than 30 Fourth Form boys have already completed a variety of outdoor skills courses, most of which lead to certificates. By the end of the programme they will have achieved: BCU Canoe 1Star, a NNAS Navigation Award Bronze, Cycling Scotland GO Award and an NICAS indoor climbing award.

Conservation - The School has strong links with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and pupils have worked with them to carry out ancient tree surveys, clearance work and habitat surveys. A Fourth Form group has also recently done improvement works in the School woods. We now have the first phase of a pathway, including steps, habitat piles and a bench with a view!

Community Drama - A group of 12 pupils led by Director of Drama Brian Parsons are involved in an outreach drama project. They are visiting dementia sufferers at a local care home and scripting 'remembrance work' for them.

Young Enterprise - Around 30 pupils from the Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms take part in this business initiative and there are currently three Young Enterprise companies operating in the School. External business advisors from Tarmac plc visit each Thursday and guide the groups through running meetings, marketing, legal issues, etc.

Cooking - Three groups of four pupils each are using domestic kitchens around the School to learn some basic cooking skills. It is proving to be a very enjoyable and popular Thursday afternoon activity.

Computer-aided design - Head of Design and Technology Kevin Lloyd runs a technical session aimed at Fifth Form pupils interested in IT and design. Their last Field Day comprised a visit to a local firm who make covers for civil and military helicopters.

RYA Yachtmaster - Twelve pupils are currently doing a RYA Yachtmaster theory course, which focuses on navigation, collision regulations, etc. This is a technical and challenging course that goes some way towards an RYA Yachtmaster qualification. It is taught by Philip Lapage, who last term took the group on a weekend's sailing trip round the Isle of Wight for practice.

Individual projects - Pupils can, if they wish, spend Thursday afternoons working on their own individual activities that they organise themselves. They have to submit their proposals for approval first, and their activities are supervised by members of staff. Fifteen pupils have currently opted for this and are working either singly or in groups on a number of different projects, including band practice, film making, and writing a school history.