



Inter-House Hope-Simpson Ergo Challenge

Thursday 5 January 2017

Records tumbled at the annual Hope-Simpson Ergo Challenge, held in the Alington Hall on the last Monday of the Michaelmas Term. In addition to the results published below, there is also a link to a short video made by Mr Reynolds that captures some of the atmosphere of this hugely competitive and high-octane event.

The winners in each year group (record-breaking teams in bold):

	1st	2nd	3rd
Third Form Boys:	Oldham's	Churchill's	Ridgemount
Third Form Girls:	The Grove	Mary Sidney Hall	Emma Darwin Hall
Fourth Form Boys:	Radbrook	Churchill's	Port Hill
Fourth Form Girls:	Mary Sidney Hall	The Grove	Emma Darwin Hall
Fifth Form Boys:	Churchill's	Oldham's	Port Hill
Fifth Form Girls:	Mary Sidney Hall	The Grove	Emma Darwin Hall
Lower Sixth Form Boys:	School House	Ridgemount	Port Hill
Lower Sixth Form Girls:	Emma Darwin Hall	The Grove	Mary Sidney Hall
Upper Sixth Form Boys:	Churchill's	Port Hill	School House
Upper Sixth Form Girls:	Mary Sidney Hall	Emma Darwin Hall	The Grove

The **overall winners** were:

Boys:

- 1st - Churchill's
- 2nd - Oldham's
- 3rd - Port Hill

Girls:

- 1st - Mary Sidney Hall
- 2nd - The Grove
- 3rd - Emma Darwin Hall



Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong AGM

Thursday 5 January 2017

A short summary of the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong (FSSHK) AGM, held on 3rd December 2016 at the Craighower Cricket Club, Hong Kong.

Besides reviewing the events of the past year, Eva Luk (Vice-Chairwoman of FSSHK) took the opportunity to elect/re-elect new members to the Executive Committee (EC) Board.

- a) Seven of nine EC members continued to take up their posts for another two-year term.
- b) Three newly appointed EC members joined the EC Board.
- c) The EC members thanked resigning Chairman, Bill Chan and Honorary Treasurer, Dixon Chan for their contributions and support over the past two years.

Here below are the new Executive Committee members:

Betty IP - Chairwoman
Helen MAYHEW - Vice-Chairwoman
Amy LAU - Honorary Secretary
Cherry CHEUNG - Honorary Treasurer
Willie CHENG
Dennis LO
Eva LUK
Florence NG
Pelene NG
Carol SUEN

Notification of all forthcoming events will be sent to FSSHK members via email and will be published on the FSSHK section of the Shrewsbury School website: www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/friends-hong-kong

School Firsts

Friday 6 January 2017

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 were given the coveted award for their exceptional contributions to School life in non-sporting activities.

For their exceptional contributions to the musical life of the School:

Angus Kincaid (Ch UVI), Marvin Hui (M UVI), Josh Himsworth (Ch UVI), Ben Higgins (S UVI), Steffan Williams (UVI) and Arthur Yu (SH UVI)

For their exceptional contributions in School and House drama:

Robin Huber (G LVI) and Toby Pattinson (Ch V)

For his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the School through the Creative Writing Society:

Charlie Johns (I LVI)



British Cadet Rifle Team selection

Friday 6 January 2017

Congratulations to Hattie Brammwell (EDH LVI), who has been selected for the British Cadet Rifle Team and will tour with them to Canada during August.

The team has a long and distinguished history dating back to 1910, when the first exchange visits of cadet teams from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and England took place. During the 1930s, the British cadet team came to be known as the 'Athelings' – a name that has stuck. The word is of Anglo-Saxon origin and means a 'young noble', usually the heir to a ruler or leader.

Hattie has already been selected for the GB U19 Rifle Team and will compete with them in South Africa at Easter.



Hattie with the Gallican Trophy she won on the UK Cadet Rifle Team Tour in August 2016

The spirit of giving

Friday 6 January 2017

Over the Christmas period, the PE and Marketing Departments made good use of the chance for a clear-out of their store rooms and donated surplus kit to a number of different charities. Salopian Ventures also donated money raised from the sale of Shrewsbury School merchandise to a local Christmas charity appeal. And donations of surplus football kit are still being gathered in for donation to The Shewsy and to KitAid in Africa.

Adam Shantry has just taken over as Cricket Professional at Shrewsbury from Paul Pridgeon: “One of my first tasks was to tackle the store room, which was straining under the pressure of vast amounts of assorted kit! Some of the kit had been replaced and was subsequently redundant, so rather than disposing of it, I got in touch with a friend who worked for the Crossbar Foundation. They do extremely valuable work across Shropshire with all manner of underprivileged children, and the kit will put a smile on many young faces.”

“Elsewhere in the PE Department, Head of Football Steve Wilderspin has discovered some football kits that were chosen by his predecessor, ex-Shrewsbury Town Legend Steve Biggins,” said Giles Bell, Shrewsbury School Admissions Tutor, Teacher of Philosophy and Theology and author of the regular ‘Team of the Week’ column for the weekly eNewsletter. “He feels it is time for them to be replaced and is donating them to the Restart Orphanage in Kenya (of which I am proud to be a Trustee).”



Members of the Hunt at the Restart Centre in Kenya, October 2015

The PE Department has also donated some surplus Kukri clothing to the newly arrived Syrian families in Shropshire. The county has currently welcomed 13 families from the refugee camps in Lebanon and all of them are in need of clothing and help in settling into their new communities.

The Marketing Department recently donated surplus T-shirts from marketing events to the Beyond Charitable Appeal, a charity based at RAF Shawbury who deliver sports clothing to communities in Africa.

Colm Kealy, who runs Salopian Ventures, responded to a Christmas Gift Appeal organised by the Shropshire Star and Storage King by donating £500 raised from the sale of Shrewsbury School merchandise. The money was used to buy gifts to share out between children suffering from illnesses or from difficult backgrounds, as well as vulnerable and elderly people.



Photo courtesy of KitAid

Meanwhile Charities Coordinator Lesley Drew has arranged for all redundant Kukri kit from the School Shop and lost property from the PE Department to be donated to [KitAid](#), who will distribute among schools and clubs in Africa. It will go to The Shewsy in Liverpool first, who will take any of the kit they can use, before donating the rest to the Liverpool KitAid collection point at the Everton FC ground.

KitAid also send out boots, trophies and spare Match Attax cards, which are useful to give to children who may not receive a shirt.

If anyone has any Kukri sportswear or Club football shirts and shorts that are in good condition and could be re-used, and if you are able to get them to Andy Barnard in Port Hill by lunchtime on Saturday 14th January, they would be very gratefully received.



Football: 1st XI win through to semi-finals of the ISFA Boodles Cup

Friday 6 January 2017

After an impressive 5-2 win against a strong Thomas Telford School in the third round of the ESFA Cup on Tuesday 29th November, spirits were high in the 1st XI squad for the quarter-final of the ISFA Boodles Cup four days later against fierce rivals Repton.



Captain Josh Malyon

It was a tight match with the occasion influencing the play of both teams. Repton's physical and direct approach has been our undoing in other matches. However, the Shrewsbury team coped well, especially the defence of captain Josh Malyon (Rt) and newly converted centre-back George Newton (SH).



George Newton

After a nervy first half and seconds before the half-time whistle, Josiah Chilaka (SH) scored from an unlikely angle to put us 1-0 up at the break. The second half saw much of the same, with the 1st XI finding it increasingly difficult to play the high possession game we are used to.



Josiah Chilaka

Midway through the second half, the pressure told and a well-placed corner was heading in to make the score 1-1. More Repton pressure and more Shrewsbury counters led to a breakaway for Josiah Chilaka (SH), who was clipped in the box and despite trying to stay on his feet was awarded a penalty. Josh Malyon kept his nerve to calmly slot the ball low to the keeper's left (exactly where he was pointing for it to be put!).

Effective games management for the final ten minutes saw out the match, to place us into the semi-final of the national competition. Not an aesthetic performance, but a winning one; and a fine achievement for a fine squad of players.

The semi-final will be against Millfield (away) on Wednesday 1st February.



British Physics Olympiad medals

Friday 6 January 2017

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Former Isaac Dai (S), who has won a gold medal in the British Physics Olympiad, and to Upper Sixth Formers Andrew Lee (O), Mathew Hedges (Rb) and Alfredo Stock (I) who have been awarded silver medals.



Isaac Dai

Isaac's achievement is particularly impressive, as he did well enough to finish in the top 50 out of 1,680 candidates nationwide.

This qualifies him for the second round of the competition and takes him a step closer to gaining selection for the UK team in this year's International Physics Olympiad.

Salopians have reached this level before – the last time four years ago – but as far as the collective memory of the Physics Faculty can recall, Isaac is the first Lower Sixth Former to achieve this.



The news 100 years ago: 6th - 12th January 2017

Friday 6 January 2017

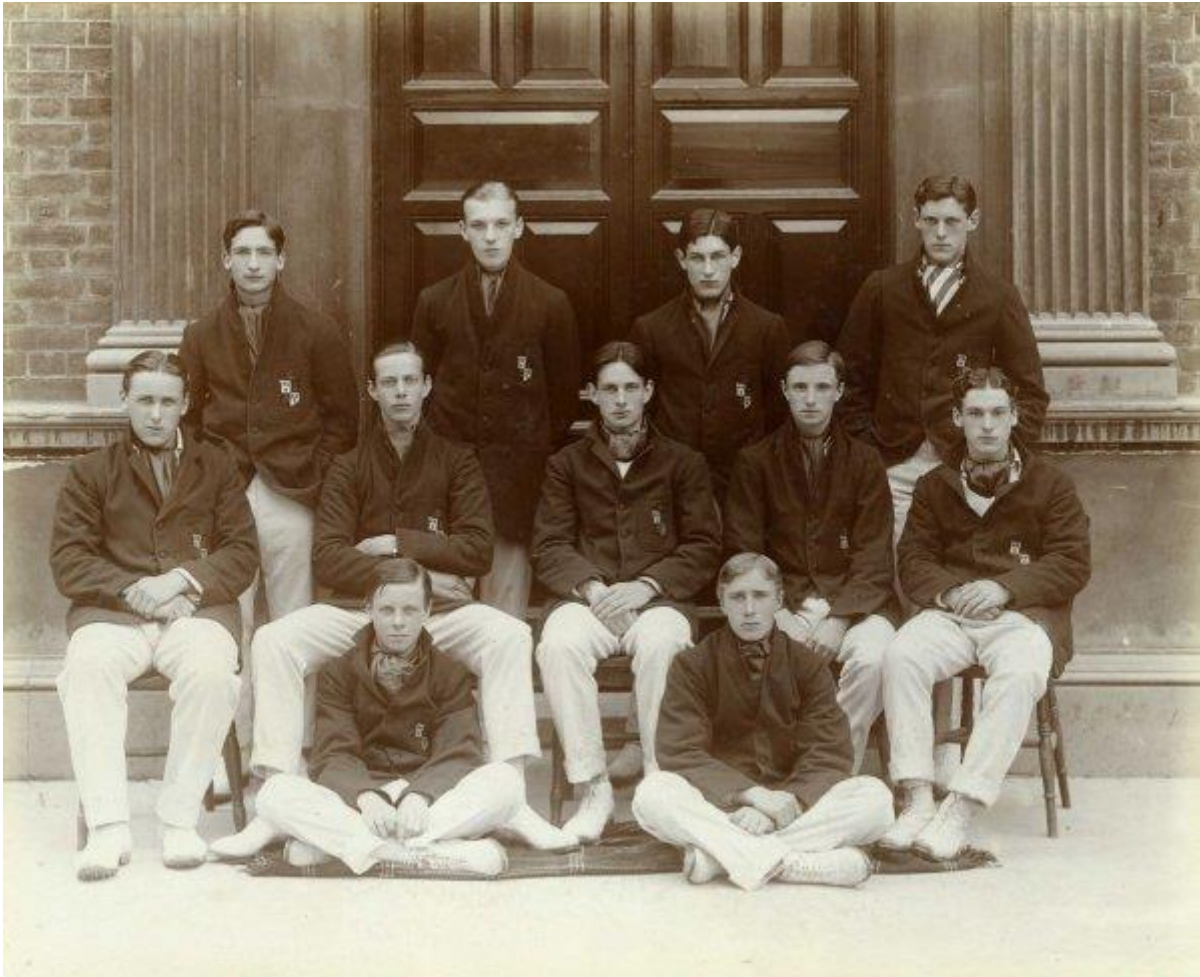
This week we remember:

Second Lieutenant Tom Onslow, 5th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

School House, left in 1915. He had gained a Scholarship at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was in the Cricket XI and a Praepostor.

Killed in action in France, 6th January 1917, aged 19.

Buried at Agny Military Cemetery, France. Grave F. 20.



Cricket 1st XI in 1913. Tom Onslow is sitting cross-legged on the left. Directly behind him is M.C. Dempsey, who later became Lieutenant General Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the British Second Army, and led them in the Normandy Invasion of June 1944.

Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - The Fire of Rebellion

Monday 9 January 2017

"From literature through to art and music, there is no more potent inspiration for remarkable creativity than the notion of rebellion". The latest issue of the weekly micro-magazine written by Deputy Head (Academic) Maurice Walters explores the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the writings of Margaret Atwood and the work of American conceptual artist Adrian Piper, and introduces a new event entitled 'Little Bohemia' that will take place in school next week.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - The Fire of Rebellion' as a pdf file:



SHREWSBURY SCHOOL | SPARKPOINT

The Idea of Rebellion

From literature through to art and music, there is no more potent inspiration for remarkable creativity than the notion of rebellion. Either standing up for what one believes in or standing up against what another individual or group of individuals believes is not only a fundamental part of human existence, but actually the driving force behind our history.

Some scholars suggest that our admiration and love of ideological heroes (evidenced by the success of recent Mockbuster films this Christmas) is derived from the idea that we often don't have the confidence or courage to stand up and say what we want to say for ourselves and thus we gain real satisfaction from seeing others do it. This week's SparkPoint, therefore, celebrates those who have been successful in communicating their messages loud and clear.

Little Bohemia

On Thursday 19th January, 'Little Bohemia' will take place for the first time. This is a new and informal event open to both staff and pupils. In Hodgson Hall from 20:00-21:00 anyone who wishes can come along to enjoy and participate in an evening of informal performance/sharing with a bit of an academic twist.

Bring a poem, a song, a section from a novel or play you've enjoyed – bring an equation that has particularly intrigued you or a piece of scientific research that has astounded you. If you can present it in a novel way so much the better – but hopefully this should be a thoroughly enjoyable event. Refreshments will be provided.

If you'd like to find out more about Little Bohemia, please drop me an email.

M Walters | Deputy Head (Academic) | January 2017

SP31 – Zhu Yuanzhang – 1328-1398

Born the eldest of his seven siblings, Zhu lost an entire hand to a frost when he was only 16 and lived as a mendicant beggar for several years. Having experienced the hardship of common life, he taught himself to read and write, raised an army and – after several battles with the powerful Hongwu Yuan dynasty, became emperor under the name Taizu. [Click here](#) to find out more.

5 Minutes



SP32 – Margaret Atwood: The Handmaid's Tale

If you haven't read this extraordinary [book](#), I'll strongly advise you to give it a go. Having a mirror up to our own society and imagining one in which attitudes to the role of women are taken to extremes, the exceptional piece of literature characterises a very personal rebellion, while setting some wider rebellious thoughts in motion too.

5 Minutes

SP30 – Adrian Piper – 1948-Present

As an American conceptual artist, Adrian deals in an obvious and sometimes uncomfortable way with the idea of 'otherness' and the way we cut off members of our society. She challenges prejudice (particularly racial) and causes her audience to ask uncomfortable questions, she has won almost every Art Prize going. To read more about her work, [click here](#).

5 Minutes



The image above shows the execution of Catherine de' Medici, who led a major rebellion against the King of France in the May of 1588. He was ultimately decapitated, burned and crucified with a high proportion of his army.



Fives: A good start to the season

Tuesday 10 January 2017

Matches against the Old Salopians & Jesters last Saturday were played in slippery conditions due to the warmer air bringing much condensation to the courts. However there were good, close games throughout that bode well for the season ahead.

At pair 1, Adam Aslam-Baskeyfield (Rb) paired up with Tom Bromley-Davenport (Rt) to take on Adam Morris and Mr Cooley – losing 3-1 (12-10, 12-4, 12-13, 12-8) but a very good standard of play for a first match of the season.

At pair 2, the visitors were too strong, beating Max Morris (S) and Ross Orchard (PH) 3-0, yet some good competitive fives was played.

The 3rd pair game, most affected by the slippery courts, could not have been closer. All three games went to the visitors but by the narrowest of margins (15-14, 12-10, 12-10). Sam McLoughlin (Rb) and Jesse Mattinson (Rb) played well and in the correct manner.

At pairs 4 and 5, Archie Mobbs (O), Felix Jebb (O), Will Hope (Ch) and Marcus Cope (Rt) played having not yet trained (due to Fifth Form trial exams) and produced close matches, albeit that they lost (3-0).

Our top U15s, Peter Clark (Rb) and Tom Castling (Rb), have stepped on court this term looking every bit the champions they became last March, winning their match in straight games (3-0).



Peter Clark and Tom Castling with the U14 Beginners' Trophy they won at the National Fives Championships last year



Football: The 1st XI's winning streak continues

Wednesday 11 January 2017

The seniors got back to action on Saturday 7th January with a home match against RGS Worcester.

The 1st XI played some good football to dominate the match. Goals from James Nelson (SH) and Charlie Tait-Harris (S) in the first and second halves respectively secured a comfortable win (2-0).

The 2nd XI played RGS's 2nd & 3rd XIs in a triangular match playing 2 x 20 mins against both teams. This produced a 2-1 win (vs 2nd XI) and a 4-4 draw (vs 3rd XI), resulting in a 6-5 win overall with goals from Alex Webb (R), Matt Clay (I), Bertie Watts (Ch), George Faulkner (Rt), Ivor Featherstonhaugh (O) and Tom Tulloch (Rt).

Third Form karting trip

Wednesday 11 January 2017

Oldham's Third Form boys enjoyed a great trip to nearby Rednal Karting on Sunday 8th January.

On a slightly wet and slippery track, the key was simply staying on the tarmac; whoever managed this would be likely to post the fastest lap in our 'time trial'.

The winner does not appear in the photo below. In the end a (much) older and probably more cautious approach won the day.

Not all had experienced karting before but the buzz in the minibus on the way back to school told me that we all equally enjoyed it. Great fun for ages 13-48!



MDBJ



RSSH: Impressive wins at the County Cross-Country Championships

Thursday 12 January 2017

The Hunt's opening race of the Lent term took place on Saturday 7th January: the Shropshire Athletics Association County Cross-Country Championships, held at Attingham Park.

A pre-season camp in mid-Wales between 1st and 4th January had prepared the team very well for what is renowned as a tough race amidst strong opposition. The grounds of Attingham, though relatively flat, offer a technical course with lots of uneven ground underfoot, and the distances – certainly for the U20 boys' 10km – were further than most were used to racing over. Last year we came away with the boys' U17 trophy, so this year we were looking to go at least one better.

The U15 boys managed to take an impressive team victory, with only 13 points, well ahead of nearest rivals Telford AC with 25. Sam Western (PH) returned to blistering form with 2nd place, with Tom Jackson (R) was not far behind in 4th, and Louis Nares (Rb) made up the three 'to count' with 7th. Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) showed what promise he has for the season ahead by coming home in 8th, while there were good performances also from Jonny Snell (Ch), Sam Watts (Ch), Leo Walton (S) and Fusuke Minagi (R).



Sam Western finishing 2nd, supported by Dad in the background!

In the girls' U15 race, Lilian Wilcox (EDH) ran very strongly indeed to take 7th, almost certainly enough to ensure selection for the Inter-Counties in March. Anna Cowan (MSH) ran consistently well over the course to secure 19th place, while Liza Alekseeva (EDH), fresh from the winter snows of Moscow, came through in 25th.

The U17 boys managed to successfully defend their trophy from last year, with a convincing score of 24 points, well below Thomas Telford's 33 and Adam's Grammar School's 35 points. Cameron Anwyl (S) stormed through in 5th with a superb effort, while Monty Hardcastle (I) and Toby Pegge (PH) ably supported in 9th and 10th place respectively. Our next three runners took the next three places as well, meaning we had six runners home in the top 13 places. Of particular note was the performance of Tom Hughes (Ch), who after a successful pre-season camp showed with his 13th place how much he has improved over the last couple of months – a great effort.



Monty Hardcastle, Toby Pegge, Lucien Whitworth

In the U17 girls' race, mock exams meant that without the Fifth Form we couldn't quite manage a full team, but Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) ran strongly to achieve her 11th position, while India Eaton sadly suffered from an asthma attack and was forced to withdraw.

In the U20 boys, we fielded a small team of five runners, but one of real quality. Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) looked in wonderful form and took 1st place by a significant margin (worth noting that he also came second in the overall men's race, open to all ages – a terrific achievement).



Freddie Huxley-Fielding

Will Hayward (R) gritted his teeth and came through in 2nd (and 6th overall) looking very strong for the Knole on 14th January, while Niklas Amthor (R) managed to come through the field very impressively in the second half to take the 4th U20 spot (claiming 44th overall). Owen Mock (R) started very well but found the distance (10km over tricky ground) a real challenge, and had to retire with 3km to go, but Seb Hervas-Jones (S) took our final placing spot with 5th U20. No other teams fielded a full team of four so this was enough to take first!

Overall, we were delighted with this breadth of success over several age categories, and it's a great indicator of our strong form going into the Knole race next week. Well done to all who ran.

IPH



The 64th ANNUAL ALUMNI RACE on Saturday 17th December 2016 at Roehampton.

Friday 13 January 2017



To double the numbers in our Team to eight was good news to start with, but to have last year's Huntswoman, Liv Papaioannou (EDH 2014-16), and the 2011-12 Huntsman, George Mallett, as well as relatively fit Salopians who have previous knowledge of the 5 mile course over Wimbledon Common, were bonuses which boded well for the fortunes of The Old Salopian Hunt at this year's Alumni Race.

The Thames Hare & Hounds Running Club, who host this race, now in its 64th year, have at last updated their systems, so that we were assured of better registration and recording of results. There had been 228 registered entries for this year's race.

I drove from Shrewsbury to arrive in time to welcome our runners, who had bused, motor-biked, driven and bicycled through pretty awful traffic and foggy conditions, to get to the Roehampton venue. The Team donned their Green & Gold OSH Running Vests to line up for the pre-warm-up photo on a calm but overcast afternoon. We could see that the ground was damp but much firmer than previous years and were assured by local runners that the usual



boggy parts of the course were much easier for the day. So with our vest numbers pinned on, we were called to the start at 2.30pm.

Thankfully Sam, one time young guest runner and son of Simon Pickles (M 71-76), took more photos to give a flavour of our day.



It was a hasty start, following up the right side of the busy Rugby pitch until the corner flagpole, where George Mallett (S 07-12) jostled among the top 10 as they entered the wooded area to the right. The first climb was hectic and sorted out many of the elite runners from the veterans well before the mile-long fairly level path. Then we all got tested again negotiating the fast downhill and sudden turns through the undergrowth and mud, before the slippery incline at the 4 mile point, aptly called 'The Butts!' After this, you try to find some hidden reserves to fend off the person behind who wants to race the final 400 metres around the playing field into the finish funnel. I was lucky enough to have the encouragement of Simon close by, which helped me complete the course a minute faster than last year and I came in 156th out of 204 finishers. However, the 'stars of the show' were already drinking tea and discussing the race before I arrived! George had made an astonishing impression at the top of the results page, coming 11th in a time of 27:39. In fact the winner at 25:14, James Hoad of Winchester, ran 27:23 last year, so, at this rate, could George take the top spot next year? Then Ben Hebblethwaite (R 86-91), who had fought through the busy Christmas shopping traffic to arrive just in time for the race, ran 29:42, which was a faster time than his last appearance in 2010, and he came in at 33rd. Liv showed that she is still as fit as she was when she left the School in the summer, running 33:46 in 88th. Rupert Lougee (SH 88-93) was 110th at a consistent 34:56 on his third appearance for The OSH. He was followed by Justin Jeffrey (SH 85-90) at 120th (35:37) and brother Nick Jeffrey (SH 88-93) at 146th (37:25), who both gave better performances than they had predicted. Preceding me was Simon Pickles (M 71-76), running faster at 38:02 and 153rd.



Because of the improved quantity and quality of our Team, we finished 9th out of 34 Schools Alumni Teams (up from 18th out of 28 last year).

In the V40 category we finished 8th out of 30 teams and in the V50 category 9th out of 26 teams. Finally in the V60 category we were 9th out of 16 and in The Ladies category 3rd out of 7.

All in all it was a successful day for The OSH, as we improved the placings of all of our Team. Optimism is in the air for more upward positioning next year!

The TH&H website will eventually show all the results, but they can be found on <https://opentrack.info/c/alumni/alumni/finish> .



There are further photos on The Old Salopian Hunt facebook page.

Peter Birch (Db. 66-71).

Fourth and Fifth Form Art Exhibition

Friday 13 January 2017

Please click on the image below to open a gallery of pictures that are part of the Fourth and Fifth Form Art Exhibition, currently on display in the Art School.

The exhibition continues until Friday 20th January.

The Art Department is now on Instagram. Do please follow them at: https://www.instagram.com/shrewsbury_art/



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 13 January 2017

This week, the Hunt.

If, like me, you had an overindulgent Christmas and New Year, you may have resolved to strap on your trainers and squeeze into that figure-hugging lycra for a few gentle jogs before getting into some serious training for the next charity fundraising epic. This year my New Year's resolution is to retire from running, for a number of very good reasons. My retirement appears to have not yet been picked up by the sports journalists, but I would expect a little newsprint coverage soon – along the lines of 'what a great loss to the sport'. Looking for some words of encouragement from a colleague when I told him of this momentous decision, I was shocked when he stated that for "big-framed individuals" such as myself, running – although an easy option – was probably not a good idea, as it could only lead to physical damage for someone carrying a few extra pounds and not exactly in the first flush of youth. He suggested to me that I "get on my bike"!



Your faithful correspondent in one of his final appearances at a national level (in running at least) - the Shrewsbury Half-Marathon, June 2016. He was clearly in the lead at this stage of the race.

Even if I were thinking of pounding the streets again, I generally like to ease myself into my New Year's fitness regime – unlike those whippets in the Hunt. The 'running camp' prior to the start of term began on New Year's Day near Rhyader in the heart of Wales, where the first run began (and ended) on the 1st of January. Oooh! I am not sure that would have been good for me. But Master in Charge of the Hunt Mr Ian Haworth assured me that all was and were well during and at the end of the run.



The Hunt in Wales

The Hunt have been training hard for a competition they won last year under the guiding hand of Peter Middleton, who has now been moved ‘upstairs’ to ensure that running gets preference over all other sports and activities. (He is Master in Charge of Balancing Work and Play – or ‘Deputy Head Co-curricular’, as grown up people call it!). The Knole Run takes place near Sevenoaks and is a major national event in the schools’ running calendar. I remember Mr Middleton being emotional last year after his runners brought back the cup in fine style – possibly because winning is something that Mr Middleton was not as used to as some! Mr Haworth said that he likes to think of himself as a little tougher than his predecessor and he won’t be crying if we win. “I like to think of myself as a little tougher than my predecessor. I only cry if I lose, as I am not used to it,” he told me.



Happy memories of last year's victory in the Knole Run

I sense that Mr Haworth is quietly confident of our chances of success. I asked him if the rumours that he has been hacking into other school computer systems to check on the times of rival runners were true. He looked shocked at such a suggestion but did admit he knows what sort of times our runners should be aiming for if they want to win. I wondered if he had been aware of any other schools spying on us. He told me he had made it difficult for that to happen as the Shrewsbury Hunt team have been training late at night in a secret location. I was lucky enough to travel with the team to ‘sense’ them running in the dark.



It did not make for good pictures, but I did feel a breath of wind when the squad came past. At least I think it was our athletes and not a small herd of deer, a flatulent cow or a low-flying dementor.

With a week to go before the event, last Saturday the Hunt travelled to what I like to call my summer residence: Attingham Park. The forecast for Kent suggests there could be mud and possibly snow on the ground this Saturday, but Mr Haworth does not think any conditions will put off our elite speedsters. He was pleased with the performances he witnessed, with Freddie Huxley- Fielding coming second overall and winning his age group category by a long way.



Freddie Huxley-Fielding leading the way

Chasing Freddie in was Will Hayward, who finished 2nd in his age group and 5th overall.



Will Hayward - clearly enjoying the race

I caught up with Tom Hughes, who is a substitute for the weekend event for a 'view from the bench'. Tom had run at Attingham and was delighted that Shrewsbury won the under-17 team event. He and his fellow runners ran as a pack and finished 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th. He laughed at my suggestion that the team had run in a line, making it difficult for others to pass them. But he did think this was a tactic that could be employed in the future.



Thomas in action at Attingham - not looking his best, but running well.

Tom is a good example of how success breeds success. He started running in January last year. Up until then he had been a footballer gracing some of the lowlier school teams. As his style did not seem to be attracting the manager's eye, he decided a change was needed. He had noticed his dad had started running and thought he might join him, not just because he thought he could beat him! He enjoyed it and decided to try and get better. Mr Haworth is very pleased with his progress and it was a tough call to leave him out of this weekend's squad. Tom is philosophical about the situation and has not been trying to injure anyone to take their place. (At least he is not admitting to it!) I complimented Tom on his philosophical attitude to life in general and he

explained that as an Everton and Shrewsbury Town fan he has learnt not to have very high expectations.

The squad have all been training hard this term and their week looks something like this:-

Monday: Track session involving interval training.

Tuesday: 10-15k run in the countryside around Shrewsbury.

Wednesday: 7am strength and conditioning session which is good for working up an appetite for breakfast. An afternoon run of some kind.

Thursday: Rest day

Friday: Speed work often in the hills.

Saturday: Race or day off to watch the Town

Sunday: Optional long run.

In the holidays Tom has stayed fit and runs with his brother or dad. He does not join his mum for 'village' tennis. Personally I think I might go for the tennis option.

He takes his running seriously and has incorporated some advice from Gavin Smith, who has coached Olympic Medallists, World Champions and World Record Holders and spent a week at the School last term as Coach in Residence.



The Hunt training with Coach in Residence Gavin Smith last term

He also listens to Mr Haworth and Miss Walker, both of whom know a bit about shifting!

Lauren Walker is in charge of the girls' running this term and she has a very young very talented squad for Saturday. Only two of them are Sixth Formers and so the future looks very bright.



Lauren Walker with Huntswoman Immie Evans

I am running out of superlatives for this amazingly talented bunch of athletes. I think I have come to the finish. Let's hope they have Mr Haworth in tears of joy on Saturday evening! He is not that tough really!

GJFB

The Knole Run squad...

Boys:

Niklas Amthor (R LVI)
Cameron Anwyl (S LVI)
Monty Hardcastle (I LVI)
Scott Hatton (S UVI)
Will Hayward (R UVI)
Seb Hervas-Jones (S UVI)
Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R UVI)
Seb Ingram (S LVI)
Tom Jackson (R IV)
Owen Mock (R LVI)
Louis Nares (Rb IV)
Toby Pegge (PH V)
Harry Remnant (Ch V)
Charlie Tait-Harris (S UVI)
Sam Western (PH IV)
Lucien Whitworth (R LVI)

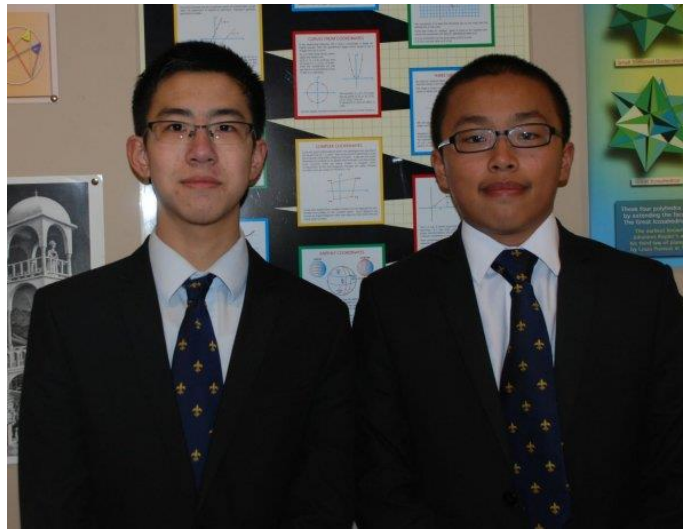
Girls:

Liza Alekseeva (EDH IV)
Anna Cowan (MSH IV)
India Eaton (EDH LVI)
Immie Evans (G LVI)
Francesca Harris (EDH III)
Libby Hedges (MSH V)
Lucy Lees (EDH III)
Lilian Wilcox (EDH IV)

British Mathematics Olympiad success

Friday 13 January 2017

Huge congratulations to Isaac Dai (S LVI), who has 'done the double' by being placed in the top 50 nationally in the first rounds of both the British Mathematics Olympiad and the British Physics Olympiad. This is a seriously impressive achievement, particularly for someone who is still only in the Lower Sixth Form. Congratulations, too, to David Gao (I UVI), who also won a Certificate of Distinction in the Mathematics Olympiad.



L-R: David Gao and Isaac Dai

After scoring full marks in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge in November, Isaac Dai (S LVI) was awarded a Distinction in the first round of the British Mathematics Olympiad with a tremendous score of 47/60.

He was placed in the top 50 nationally from over 1,600 candidates in the gruelling 3½ hour paper, and has qualified for the second round later in January.

He has also just been placed in the top 50 nationally in the British Physics Olympiad and has qualified for the second round of that competition too – see [report](#).

Among the other five pupils taking part in the Mathematics Olympiad, David Gao (SH UVI) also obtained a Certificate of Distinction. He has just received a conditional offer to read Mathematics at Girton College, Cambridge.

JCA



Prep Schools' Musical Theatre Day

Friday 13 January 2017

Following the success of last year's inaugural Prep Schools' Musical Theatre Day, 75 excited Year 7 pupils descended on Shrewsbury School for another exhilarating day of singing, dancing and acting.



This year, our theme was 'A Bit More Moore', celebrating the *oeuvres* of our Director of Music, John Moore.

John has been writing award-winning musicals for Salopian casts for 20 years, including last year's production of *Great Expectations* which won 5* reviews at the Edinburgh Festival in the summer. Many of the cast were available to help out and mentor our young guests, as they all learned numbers from past shows including *Jekeyll!*, *The Bubble* and *The Lost Domain*.



The senior students also gave a wonderful lunchtime concert in which they sang some of their favourite songs from the shows. Particular highlights were Phoebe Morris' glorious rendition of *On my own* and Angus Kincaid's velvety version of *Ole Man River*.

The day ended with all of our visitors and helpers – as well as their parents and teachers – joining in a rousing sing-along, complete with waving glowsticks. It was a hugely enjoyable day for all involved, as this lovely thank you message from one of the prep schools shows:

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"Thank you all for another splendid, inspirational Musical Theatre day last Friday. It is definitely the thing to dispel the January blues! The children had a great day and were full of it on the way home. Very many thanks to you all and to your delightful, humble pupils, who shared their time, energy and expertise with such grace."

Helen Brown, Director of Drama



The news 100 years ago: 13th - 19th January 1917

Friday 13 January 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.



RSSH retain national Knole Run title

Sunday 15 January 2017

Many congratulations to all members of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt squad for their outstanding performances in the Knole Run at Sevenoaks on Saturday 14th January. Not only did they retain their national title, but there were also some incredible individual successes.



L-R: Charlie Tait-Harris, Harry Remnant, Monty Hardcastle, Cameron Anwyl, Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Scott Hatton, Will Hayward, Owen Mock

After winning the Knole Run for the first ever time last year, the boys' A team retained their national title in fine style.

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) won the individual boys' race with a commanding run in which he got his tactics absolutely right – becoming only the second Salopian ever to do so in the history of the race. Will Hayward (R) also had a cracking run to finish third individually, with a large gap to fourth place. To have two Shrewsbury boys on the podium was a truly special moment and went a long way to helping secure overall team victory. The four other 'counters' all contributed with great runs: Harry Remnant (Ch) - 16th, Charlie Tait-Harris (S) - 20th, Cameron Anwyl (S) - 42nd and Owen Mock (O) - 44th, and tremendous performances from Monty Hardcastle (I) and Scott Hatton (S) all combined to beat the perennial heavyweights The Judd School comfortably into second place.

Our boys' B-team secured its highest-ever position with ninth place, beating several other top schools' A-teams, thanks to terrific efforts from Sam Western (33rd) and Tom Jackson (48th) – remarkable performances from two Fourth Formers running in a senior competition – ably



supported by Niklas Amthor (R) in 59th and Toby Pegge (PH) in 69th to finish ninth overall, just two points behind St Albans' A-team, who have been one of our top rivals for many years.

In the girls' race, a frankly astonishing run from Francesca Harris (EDH) earned her third place overall (beaten only by two GB girls from Sevenoaks School), which for a Third Former in a senior race is incredible. As a team, the girls achieved their highest-ever result in gaining eighth position, with terrific performances from Lilian Wilcox (EDH) - 38th, Immie Evans (G) - 47th and Lucy Lees (EDH) - 50th in particular helping us keep such a low team score.

Read the full story by Ian Haworth, Teacher in Charge of the Hunt: [**The Hunt retain their national Knole Run title**](#)



Netball news

Monday 16 January 2017

The new netball season got underway last Wednesday (14th January) with a block fixture against Moreton Hall on Wednesday, with the juniors playing away and the seniors at home.

The U14s dominated in their first match together to win 23-4, with great play from Edie Hargrave (MSH), Annie Middleton (EDH) and Daisy David (EDH).

The U15s were similarly impressive, winning 30-6. Key players were our shooters Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH) and Amelie Davies (MSH).

Meanwhile, the 1st team found it hard to get going in their match, with some nice attacking play but struggling in defence. This allowed Moreton to take an early lead, which they maintained throughout the match. Some positives, but work to do for the 1st team.

The 2nd team also narrowly lost in a well-fought game where the teams were neck-and-neck at half time, with some excellent attacking play from Hattie Bramwell (EDH) and defensive play from Clemmie Baynes (G).

All in all, a solid start from the seniors.



Nina Lange (G LVI) makes Salopian footballing history

Monday 16 January 2017

Last Saturday, Nina Lange (G LVI) became the first ever girl to score a goal for Shrewsbury's 1st XI.

Rounding off a busy week that had seen the 1st XI lose on a controversial goal decision to St Francis Xavier College in the last 16 of the ESFA Cup, then win through to the semi-finals of the County Cup with a 1-0 victory against Shrewsbury Sixth Form College the next day, the team faced Monmouth School on Saturday 14th January.

A comfortable 4-1 victory allowed for a degree of squad rotation, with two goals from James Nelson, one from George Pearce and a particularly memorable one from Nina Lange, the first goal scored by a girl for the 1st XI in the history of the School – and another co-educational milestone.

Lacrosse news

Monday 16 January 2017

On Saturday our senior and junior lacrosse teams played Monmouth. Although both teams lost, they were very close end-to-end matches.

Our senior team showed some excellent team play against a particularly strong Monmouth team. The final score was 10-15, with some stellar performances put in by Brigitte Jennings (EDH) in defence, Sophia Dixon (MSH) in midfield, Phoebe Wasdell (MSH) as top goal-scorer and Clemmie Baynes (G) as MVP.

The Juniors also had a great fixture. The final score was 7-9, in a fast and furious game. Particular mention to Laura Elliott (G), Mary Lees (EDH) and Mimi Mason-Hornby (G) as MVP.



‘The Secret of Influence and Persuasion’ - lecture by Joseph Marks

Tuesday 17 January 2017

“On Thursday 12th January I had the pleasure of attending what I would describe as one of the most captivating and enlightening lectures I have ever heard.” Nifemi Runsewe (MSH LVI) reports on the latest in the series of Academic Extension lectures given at the School on the theme of ‘Persuasion’.

Mr Marks began his lecture, which was entitled ‘The Secret of Influence and Persuasion’, by stating his belief that the power of social influence is frequently under-estimated and that small changes in context result in a big difference in influence. This led to the main body of his lecture: the six principles of social influence.

The first principle was reciprocity, which highlighted the idea that as human beings we give back what is given to us first. The second principle he presented was scarcity, which explains the ideology that as human beings we place extra value on products that are rare or high in demand. The third principle was authority. This shows how as human beings we look to experts or people of higher authority to guide us in our decision-making.

The fourth principle (and probably my favourite) was consistency. Mr Marks stated that humans are persuaded by consistency, and therefore they are socially influenced by compatibility and uniformity. The fifth principle and the most relatable was liking; this is the idea that we are more influenced by people we like and by people who like us, especially when there is a niche commonality between two or more people.

The last principle was social proof, which can be seen in the day-to-day interaction of human beings. Social proof suggests that as humans we follow the crowd in order to determine what to do.

In my opinion, what made the lecture ten times more captivating were the case studies Mr Marks used to support each principle. An example of one of the many case studies used during the lecture was ‘the waiter and the mints’. This case study illustrated the first principle, reciprocity. It focused on how everyday waiters are tipped in everyday restaurants and compared the psychological behaviour of a customer with the number of mints they were given by their waiter. This case study showed that the more the mints given to a customer at the end of the meal, the higher the tip he or she gave the waiter. Results also showed that tips increased even further when waiters complimented their customers as well as increasing the number of mints given to the table. The simplicity of this case study exemplifies Mr Marks’ opening statement: “Small changes in context will result in a big difference in influence.”

As a business student and a prospective entrepreneur, this lecture helped me understand the true importance of good marketing.

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Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - The Making of Modernism

Tuesday 17 January 2017

This week's issue of the micro-magazine written by Deputy Head (Academic) Maurice Walters introduces some of the artists, writers and musicians who have shaped and explored the concept of Modernism.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - The Making of Modernism' as a pdf file:





Football: Under 15Bs' winning streak continues

Wednesday 18 January 2017

Coach Myles Harding reports.

There was a quite brilliant performance from all 14 players in the U15B squad on Wednesday in their ESFA Cup Round 4 match.

Stanley High School were worthy opposition and they had their chances before Guy Gowar's opener from Frank Coughlan's cross. Two further goals were sandwiched by a goal from Stanley High School.

The half time score was 3-1 and Shrewsbury switched formation from 3-5-2 to 4-5-1 and decided to be solid and hit them on the break. This worked a treat, with the best goal of the match from Arthur Garrett making the game safe at 5-1 before Stanley High School's heads went down.

The U15B team were brave and committed in defence, good in possession and finished ruthlessly. Particular mention must be made of Guy Gowar who scored a hat-trick on debut and whose link-up play was also top class.



Boys' Hockey

Thursday 19 January 2017

The 1st XI and U15 XI both started their season well on Saturday 16th January, with wins against Wrekin College.

In a committed and physical game, the 1st XI stood up well to everything Wrekin could throw at them and had more than enough quality to deliver a thoroughly deserved victory. The decisive moment came when George Chaplin (Ch) capitalised on a lack of concentration and made determined progress into the 'D', eventually laying the ball on for Jonah Greetham (SH) at the back post for a confident finish.

Other notable performances came from Zak Nicholas (R) and James Draper (I) for resolute defensive play, backed up by an energetic midfield performance by Will Blanchard-Butter (SH) and Reuben Arkwright (O). Finally, a special mention to Felix Jebb (O), who impressed in goal having been called up at the last minute.

The U15s similarly had a positive result (7-3), with four goals from Charlie Chauveau (S), two from Euan Cooper (SH) and one from Max Wilkie (O).



Rugby news round-up, 11th - 18th January

Thursday 19 January 2017

Match reports from all our rugby teams, who have been in action and in fine form over the last week.

Wednesday 11th January

1st XV vs Wrekin

Won 13-0

The start to the second half of the rugby season saw the first team putting together a fully committed performance. With strong winds blowing directly down the pitch, Wrekin won the toss and offered Shrewsbury the opportunity of the advantage in the first half. Unfortunately, despite dominating territory for vast periods of the first half, Shrewsbury could not convert this advantage into a representative score line, which was not helped by a line-out that was not working effectively to produce solid ball.

There were positive signs though, with the forwards displaying their dominance in the scrums and showing excellent support play in clearing out our own ruck ball and slowing down of the opposition ball. The quality of handling, despite the conditions, also allowed continuity in our play. However, by half time we had only managed a solitary penalty through Cameron Bates (S), to lead by three points at the interval.

With increased numbers in the squad this term, the addition of fresh players added much to the improving performance of the team throughout the second half. Playing into the wind, the team had to work collectively to drive the ball up the field through multiple phase play. Backs and forwards combined effectively, Robert Ford (S) leading the charge on a number of occasions, driving into and through their midfield, supported by the ever-present back row and Oliver Dixon (O), who led by example throughout the game through his tackle count and driving play.

The team grew in confidence throughout the second half, and after a period of pressure within the Wrekin twenty-two, moving the ball right and left, clearing rucks with pace and power, Ian Lam (R) powered through a tackle and stretched for the line to score, with Cameron Bates adding the conversion. Charles Shaw (S) returned any long kicks Wrekin put in with interest as he weaved his way through oncoming opposition to buy time for the support to get back and assist him clear the ball out of our half.

The resolute defence of the whole team throughout the game, players finishing off any half-tackles attempted by their teammates, ensured that Wrekin had to work hard for every metre they made up the pitch. This was highlighted most effectively by the way the team committed themselves with chop tackles and fantastic driving play to deny Wrekin a score, especially when they were within five metres of our line.

A further penalty, converted by Charles Shaw, kept the scoreboard ticking. The team maintained the momentum from here, putting pressure on the Wrekin try line, right up to the final whistle.

This was the first win of the season and just reward for all the time and effort players have put in to developing their core skills and was a tribute to the team spirit instilled in the players by the leadership team of Oliver Dixon and Cameron Bates. Congratulations, boys!



U15 vs Wrekin

Won 45-12

Man of the Match: Harry Sutherland (Ch) (second row)

Tries: Bilal Khan (I), Henry Davies (Rt), Oliver Shutts (PH), Danila Polyntsov (I), Archie Turner (Rt), Roman Khidirbekov (SH), Frank Mansell (PH)

Conversions: Frank Mansell x 5

After a frantic start, we started to play more intelligently and attacked the fringes of the ruck before moving the ball wide to gain more ground. The pack, led by Oliver Shutts, dominated the scrum and looks to be a powerful unit for the season.

In the second half we supported each other well and secured quick ball that Henry Davies, standing in at scrum half, distributed effectively and we took control of the game. Man of the Match Harry Sutherland, as always, went about his forward work with no fuss, hit rucks hard, tackled everything that moved and stole the ball before making a good break to set us up for our first score. A promising start!

U14 vs Wrekin

Won 38-15

The U14 took a large squad away to play their local rivals in their first competitive match for Shrewsbury, with 26 players taking part during the day.

Over four quarters the U14s showed plenty of promise, using their blistering pace to tear open the Wrekin defence on numerous occasions. Though there were cases of white-line fever, for a first match together, the team showed huge amounts of promise, and the season ahead looks to be an exciting one.

Saturday 14th January

1st XV vs Oswestry

Won 20-7

Tries: Charles Shaw (S), Ed Plaut (S)

Conversions: Cameron Bates (S) x 2

Penalties: Cameron Bates x 2

Building on the excellent team performance on Wednesday, the Sixth Form squad (with only one replacement due to the Fifth Form players making up the team to play Repton 1st XV) continued to exhibit their strong scrummaging and loose play.

The team produced a much improved line-out performance, which provided the team with some great quality ball and put a lot of pressure on the opposition ball, turning over a good number. The team put together some sound continuity play of multiple phases, combining inter-play between backs and forwards, but unfortunately made too many handling errors in the final phase, which prevented these moments resulting in point scores.

Despite the early territorial advantage and pressure on the Oswestry line, they managed to make a break from their own line, with one of their centres breaking out to run elusively to our twenty-two, where he linked with their 8, who supported admirably, to finally score under the posts and give them a 0 - 7 lead against the run of play.

The Shrewsbury squad picked themselves up and continued to press for a quick response but still struggled to finish some well-constructed phase play.

Eventually we were awarded a penalty within Cameron Bates's range and he dutifully completed

the conversion. It was not until late in the first half that the team managed to work the ball wide and we saw Robert Ford break through to put Charles Shaw over for a try, Bates adding the conversion to give the team a 10-7 half-time lead.

In the second half the first up defence was much improved and the turnover work of Robert Ford in the loose ensured we were never long without being in possession. He was ably assisted in this area by Magnus Chaplin and Oliver Dixon and the team, as a whole, continued to work effectively at each breakdown to recycle the ball. After further concerted pressure at the start of the second half, having worked the opposition right then left, Bates saw the opportunity for the cross-field kick, which Ed Plaut (S) had been calling for, and Plaut dutifully caught it and made the line to score; Bates converted. Further pressure resulted in a penalty opportunity, which again Bates put between the posts to give the team a better cushion going into the final quarter of the game.

Sustained pressure throughout the final quarter and resolute defence from all meant that the team finished strongly and keep the momentum on the Lent Term performances.

We must continue to work on our precision passing, first up tackles and convert pressure into points more effectively as the term goes on and the team gets better used to performing under pressure.

Keep working on the core skills, boys!

U16s vs Repton 1st XV

Won: 19-5

The Under-16s team returned to action on Saturday with a fantastic victory against the Repton 1st XV. Short on practice after exams since the start of term, the boys continued where they left off last year, with an excellent team performance.

The defence was outstanding all afternoon, with the quick line-speed preventing the Repton side from using effective ball in their backline, which were constantly hounded under pressure. This ferocious defence was matched with a desire to spread the ball and run the opposition ragged. Though there were times when the boys needed to take more time, they created many opportunities throughout the match, and with more practice they are sure to be a destructive force over the term.

A great start against an U18 side, the U16s have returned ready to prove a point and show their excellence. Special mention must go to Tom Plaut (S), who led the defence courageously, Jacob Jefferis (SH), who seemed to be everywhere on the pitch, Ludo Litchfield (I) for some bone-crushing tackles and superb support play, and Aaron Lewis (SH), who managed the mid-field attack play effectively with some great line breaks. There isn't space to mention everyone, though the whole team performance was superb to watch.

U15/U14 vs Oswestry

Won: 52-12

Another excellent performance from our junior squad against some capable opponents. The team play of the boys carried the day, with the U15 and U14 squads effectively working together to play some excellent attacking rugby.

Wednesday 18th January



U18A v Christ College Brecon

Lost 19-24

Tries: Toby Pattinson (Ch), Charles Shaw (S), Magnus Chaplin (Rt)

Conversions: – Frank Morris (O) (x2)

After a long coach ride through the wilds of Wales, the Shrewsbury team took a while to get into their stride in this difficult encounter at Christ's College Brecon. Weak early defence allowed the well-organised Brecon team to score two early tries, which gave them confidence to put together some impressive attacking plays.

Five minutes into the second half, Shrewsbury were under serious pressure, with the score-line a daunting 24-0 against them. Yet this is a team that does not give up, and the senior players were able to galvanise the squad, leading from the front and pushing the whole team forward in a Herculean effort.

With greater focus, and more resolute defence, epitomised by Captain Oliver Dixon (O), the boys started to organise their play more effectively. The forwards were more aggressive in the breakdowns, working together as a collective unit to turn over ball, whilst offering fly-half Felix Kenyon-Smith (S) more time to get the ball into the opposition territory. Shrewsbury thus started to get back into the game, aided by an increased speed of the defensive line, which put the opposition backline under pressure and forced an increasing number of errors. This pressure soon turned into points, with tries coming from wingers Toby Pattinson (Ch) and Charlie Shaw (S), both showing their excellent pace to out-run their opponents. With the opposition penalty count climbing, Magnus Chaplin (Rt) forced his way over the line after some impressive rucking from the forwards, and especially Bentley Moss (R), who made yards every time he took the ball.

Unfortunately the team had left themselves too much to do, and time ran out before they could achieve the victory that they so wanted. However, having been 24-0 down early in the second half, the character and application of the team has to be applauded and admired as they rallied to almost take the spoils. Valuable lessons continue to be learnt from each performance and the spirit within the squad continues to grow. The boys deserve praise for their efforts.



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 19 January 2017

This week, the Shooting Team.

I announced in last week's Team of the Week that I have retired from running. I would like to thank all of you who emailed to try and encourage me to renege on this tough decision and to continue ponderously to lead British distance running in a new direction. Your love and enthusiasm has made me question whether to totally hang up my trainers, as I know there is a small amount of talent yet untapped. However, I have been looking around for a new sport in which to dominate and I think I have found it! It is a discipline that involves lying down and keeping still, which seems perfect for someone looking to slow down from the high speeds that until recently I have been posting when on foot.

I have never spent time with a World Champion before, but that is what I found myself doing on Wednesday afternoon as I popped into the rifle range to see how the Shrewsbury School Shooting Team were doing against Ellesmere College and Sedbergh School.

Tom Rylands has represented Great Britain and England and is currently a member of the World Championship-winning Long Range Shooting Team. He has been coaching here for four years and was a boy here a few years before that. His younger brother Mark (OS) is Bishop of Shrewsbury and clearly felt drawn to prayer when he realised how avidly his older brother enjoyed playing with guns! Tom assures me he merely enjoys shooting at targets and is not currently on any wanted list – apart from shooting coaches' lists. He told me that Mark also enjoys shooting, and so the heathen had better watch out. The Rylands family are very much part of the Salopian family, as Tom's dad Michael was here in the 1930s – and Tom is not sure that the rifle range has changed very much in that time.



Tom is also coaching the Ellesmere College team and so he was very keen for the Shropshire-based schools to defeat Sedbergh, as was rising shooting star Hattie Bramwell (EDH LVI), who used to be at Sedbergh but transferred to Shrewsbury in the summer – and has since 'shot' to fame as our top markswoman.



Hattie's next few holidays have been sorted out, as she is off to South Africa to represent Team GB Under-19s at Easter and then she will be in Canada all August with the British Cadet Rifle Team. I asked Hattie about her success and what her targets were. She told me that she is happy shooting a .22 rifle here at school but she prefers full-bore rifles which she shoots at Bisley, as they are bigger guns. (I met some Salopians in the weights room who would like bigger guns too!)

At this stage I began to rethink my new sport as I don't want to be introduced in social situations as a 'full bore' enthusiast. Who knows who you could end up next to? Hattie tried to dispel my concerns. She went on to tell me that to be a top shooter it is important to be disciplined, as one is handling something that is quite dangerous. She also admits that dedication and calmness under pressure are required. I wonder if she has already been approached by the Secret Service.

I also asked Hattie how she had got into the sport and she told me that her mum was a keen rifle shooter. Perhaps it is no surprise that Hattie's two brothers George (R IV) and Arthur (R III) are also in the Shooting Team. I think it might be important to approach the Bramwells' house with a certain amount of caution, respect and wearing a high visibility jacket.



Might this be the Bramwell residence...?

The captain of the Shrewsbury team is Marcus Bruce (Rt UVI). Marcus managed to avoid being photographed (slightly worrying in itself), but I can tell you he was the smartest competitor on the range. He was wearing a pinstriped suit and shiny shoes; I hope that he has not been watching *The Godfather* on repeat! He scored the highest score of the day (195/200) as Shrewsbury's first four won with a score of 756/800. The rest of the squad is made up of Chad Usher (S LVI), James Weir (O V), Elias Harrison (SH LVI), Jonjo Wood (R III) and Oliver Taylor (R III).

There is a youthful look to the squad, but Hattie would like some female company. So if there are any girls out there who would like to get out of the exertions of hockey, running and lacrosse, you know who to see. A quick glance at my watch and I realised I had to shoot off!

I left the rifle range reassured, knowing that Shrewsbury shooting has never been healthier and that other schools will be looking down the barrel when they come up against us!

GJFB

A busy week in the Biology Department!

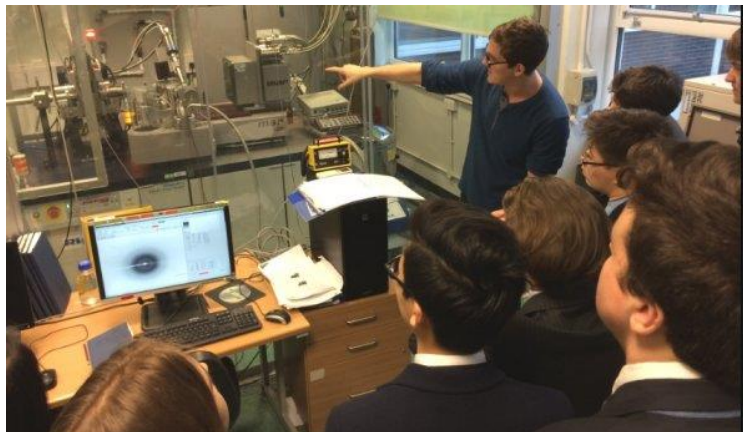
Friday 20 January 2017

The first full week of the Lent Term saw three landmark events for the residents of the Darwin Building.

Within the Department we only half-jokingly called it 'Biology Week'! On Tuesday 10th January, our 45 Lower Sixth Formers, accompanied by Mr Besterman, Mr Exham, Mr Simper, Mr Stanhope and Dr Morgan, travelled to Liverpool University's Institute of Integrative Biology where we were kindly hosted by Professor Alan McCarthy, Head of Admissions for the School of Life Sciences (and Shrewsbury School Governor).

After a few introductory lectures by university staff on some of Liverpool's key research themes (all of direct relevance to our Pre-U Biology curriculum) we enjoyed a busy afternoon of guided tours.

The research facilities at Liverpool are, without exception, world class. We saw their next generation DNA sequencers, capable of reading an entire genome in just a few days; their 'GeneMill' for making synthetic DNA; and a 'laser capture microscope' that can cut out a single cell from a thin section and capture it for genetic analysis.



X-ray crystallography imaging suite

We visited a humming lab filled with mass spectrometers able to detect in real time the chemical fingerprints that differentiate healthy from diseased tissues. We saw the x-ray crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging suites that are the workhorses in the ongoing effort to model the actual 3D structures of proteins, and in one case we were shown a novel drug being tested against an intricate virtual model of a mutant enzyme.

Timed to coincide with the Upper Sixth topic on the nervous system, on Thursday 12th January we invited Dr Guy Sutton (Director of Medical Biology Interactive, and Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham Medical School) to give us a whole afternoon's seminar on The Brain.

The 4½-hour programme flew by. Dr Sutton was a master of his subject and an enthralling, passionate communicator. His clear explanations of complex ideas and vivid, personal anecdotes

from his work in hospitals and the court room (where brain damage is increasingly used in the case for the defence), coupled with interactive elements, and culminating in a sheep brain dissection, kept us riveted.

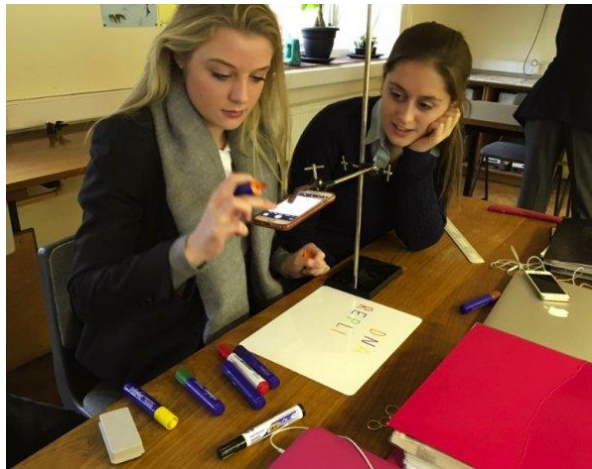


Finally on Friday we welcomed Ron Pickering for a Darwin Society lecture entitled 'Ecology in the Galapagos Islands'. This was of obvious interest to all but especially to those destined to join Dr Case in this summer's Biology Expedition to the Galapagos. Mr Pickering's images were striking and a reminder of the fragility and beauty of this pre-eminent site of scientific significance.

He raised some fascinating points about the varying ecology of the different islands and raised some interesting questions such as why the Galapagos Hawk engages in polyandry (usually only found where resources are scarce). He also covered some fascinating elements of human history on the Galapagos as well as bringing together the work of Darwin and Wallace in describing natural selection.

With so much going on, our recently relaunched Twitter feed has seen unprecedented activity. As well as the usual retweets of the latest news and developments in biological research, we have increasingly been tweeting from lessons to document the range of approaches we take in our teaching and in the hope of communicating some of the buzz around the Department.

Follow us [@ShrewsburyBiol](https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyBiol)
Dr Torin Morgan, Head of Biology



A few of the images we have tweeted recently



The Hunt retain their national Knole Run title

Friday 20 January 2017

Many congratulations to all members of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt squad for their outstanding performances in the Knole Run at Sevenoaks on Saturday 14th January. Not only did they retain their national title, but there were also some incredible individual successes.



L-R: Charlie Tait-Harris, Harry Remnant, Monty Hardcastle, Cameron Anwyl, Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Scott Hatton, Will Hayward, Owen Mock

After winning the Knole Run for the first ever time last year, the boys' A team retained their national title in fine style.

Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R) won the individual boys' race with a commanding run in which he got his tactics absolutely right – becoming only the second Salopian ever to do so in the history of the race. Will Hayward (R) also had a cracking run to finish third individually, with a large gap to fourth place.

To have two Shrewsbury boys on the podium was a truly special moment and went a long way to helping secure overall team victory.

The four other 'counters' all contributed with tremendous runs: Harry Remnant (Ch) - 16th, Charlie Tait-Harris (S) - 20th, Cameron Anwyl (S) - 42nd and Owen Mock (O) - 44th, and great performances from Monty Hardcastle (I) and Scott Hatton (S) all combined to beat the perennial heavyweights The Judd School comfortably into second place.



Our boys' B-team secured its highest-ever position with ninth place, beating several other top schools' A-teams. Terrific efforts from Sam Western (33rd) and Tom Jackson (48th) – remarkable performances from Fourth Formers running in senior competition – ably supported by Niklas Amthor (R) in 59th and Toby Pegge (PH) in 69th to finish ninth overall, just two points behind St Albans' A team, who have been one of our top rivals for many years.

In the girls' race, a frankly astonishing run from Francesca Harris (EDH) earned her third place overall (beaten only by two GB girls from Sevenoaks School), which for a Third Former in a senior race is incredible. As a team, the girls achieved their highest-ever result in gaining eighth position, with terrific performances in particular from Lilian Wilcox (EDH) - 38th, Immie Evans (G) - 47th and Lucy Lees (EDH) - 50th helping us keep such a low team score.

Please read the full story by Ian Haworth, Teacher in Charge of the Hunt: [The Knole Cup retained](#)

Richard Hillary Essay Medal

Friday 20 January 2017

The Richard Hillary Essay Medal was inaugurated in 2013, and the fifth annual competition took place last Friday evening. The competition provides an opportunity for Sixth Formers to spend two hours pitting their wits against a one-word unseen essay title. The event is modelled on the historic competition undertaken to select Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford.

This year 48 students volunteered to take part, and each competitor opened an envelope on their exam desk to reveal this year's one-word title:



And so 'Voice' joins the select group of words set as essay titles, alongside 'Luck', 'Time', 'Power' and 'Memory'.

The essays will be judged by Dr Niall Livingstone, Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Birmingham, and the winner will be presented with the Richard Hillary Medal at Prizegiving next term.





The prize is named in honour of Richard Hillary (Old Salopian) and was launched in association with the Salopian Club. Hillary was born in 1919 and joined Churchill's Hall in 1931 and he went on from Shrewsbury to study at Trinity College, Oxford. He was called up to the Royal Air Force in October 1939 to train as a Spitfire fighter pilot. He joined 603 Squadron and moved with them from Scotland to join the Battle of Britain on 27th August 1940. Within a week Hillary had shot down five German fighters, but he himself was shot down on 3rd September 1940 and was very badly burned while escaping from his aircraft.

Hillary was badly disfigured and never regained full use of his hands. He wrote the story of his experiences, "The Last Enemy", which is widely regarded as one of the best books to have emerged from World War Two. He convinced the RAF that he was fit enough to return to flying in November 1942, even though the damage to his hands remained severe. On 8th January 1943 his Bristol Blenheim crashed in Scottish woodland during a night training exercise, and he died aged 23.

He is remembered today at Trinity College, Oxford by an annual literature prize, a portrait outside the college library, and an annual lecture in his honour. At Shrewsbury, his name appears on the War Memorial and his name is also on the Battle of Britain memorial in Chapel.





The Knole Cup retained - the full story

Friday 20 January 2017

By Ian Haworth, Teacher in Charge of the Hunt.



L-R: Charlie Tait-Harris, Harry Remnant, Monty Hardcastle, Cameron Annyl, Freddie Huxley-Fielding, Scott Hatton, Will Hayward, Owen Mock

On Saturday 14th January, 23 pupils (two boys' teams of eight and a girls' team of seven) from the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt raced over a course in the National Trust grounds of Knole Park in Sevenoaks, Kent, in the prestigious Knole Run. The race has been going since 1973 and has become one of the most important races in the schools' cross country calendar. It is a race the School had never won before until 2016, when its boys' team, led by last year's joint Huntsmen Oscar Dickins and Ben Remnant, managed to hold off The Judd School by a single point in dramatic style.

Travelling down the night before in the tail-end of a snow-storm, then, made for a rather nervous atmosphere on the three minibuses making the 200-mile trip. Never before had we travelled with such a weight of expectation – now we were the 'Big Boys', the 'Ones to Watch', the ones everybody wanted to beat. Nevertheless, having had an excellent preparation involving a pre-season camp in mid-Wales at the beginning of the month, closely followed by an excellent afternoon last Saturday at the Shropshire AA County Championships at Attingham Park, the boys had a right to feel a certain confidence, albeit tempered with a rather large dollop of anxiety.

For the girls, there was arguably less pressure – we are currently in a 'building phase' with girls' running; having lost an excellent Upper Sixth cohort in the summer, we are now a very young team, with five of the seven girls making the trip to Sevenoaks drawn from the Third and Fourth form. It's a race we've been consistent in for some years now, however – the girls have been in 10th position for two of the last three years – and we were still hopeful that with the talent emerging in these younger years, we might have a shot at maintaining something like this high position.

As coach, I had a huge selection headache in the days leading up to the race. It's one of those 'nice problems' that's become something of a cliché in sports journalism of recent years, but it's never been more apt in describing the level of competition to get into even the B team of the Hunt and I was forced to leave several excellent runners back in Shrewsbury. It was for the A team spots where competition was at its toughest, and those who were selected for the B team have played a big part in pushing our A team into some truly excellent form. Moreover, they were to play a crucial role in the tactics of the race to come.



On arrival at the top of the course on the morning of the race for a spot of light reconnaissance, one thing was immediately clear: conditions meant that it would be a very different race from that of last year. Snow on the Thursday night and on Friday had settled to around two inches, with large patches of ice, slush and mud. The weather had made the course both more beautiful (it really is a stunning setting for a cross-country race) and significantly more challenging, particularly on the downhill sections which were uneven, slippery and downright boggy in places.

The girls' race of one 5km lap of the course was the first to get underway. Francesca Harris (EDH) established a good position approaching the first hill, just on the back of the lead pack. Lilian Wilcox (EDH), this year's Huntswoman Immie Evans (G) and Lucy Lees (EDH) were looking comfortable a little further back but still ahead of the bulk of runners, while Anna Cowan (MSH), India Eaton (EDH) and Liza Alekseeva (EDH) were already engaged in their own battles for position going up the hill. The runners then veered out of sight and into the woods, to emerge into view again only with about a quarter of the race to go, haring back down the long straight before one last hill took the runners round a dog-leg above the finish back in the valley floor.



Francesca Harris

At this stage of the race, the appearance of Francesca in third position was a frankly astonishing sight – as a 13-year-old, she was running in an open race against girls up to five years her senior and beating just about all of them! The only two runners ahead of her were renowned Sixth Form GB runners from Sevenoaks School, the hosts. For Francesca to finish where she did (she managed to hold on for the bronze-medal position, and even came close to challenging for second) is a truly remarkable achievement.

Further back in the race, Lilian Wilcox – herself only a Fourth Former and a tremendous prospect for future years – was having a cracking run and finally finished in 38th, a few places ahead of Immie Evans in 47th. Lucy Lees, another Third Former, took 50th place, comfortably among the first half of the field. Anna Cowan, a relative newcomer to the Hunt having started this year, ran bravely for 88th place and was our fifth counter, while India Eaton, who struggled with her asthma in the previous week's race at Attingham, managed to come through in 109th as our last counter. Liza Alekseeva provided excellent support just two places further back in 111th in what was a sensible and confident race from her.

This terrific team effort earned the School an overall position of 8th, our highest-ever place in this event. Given that this team had no Upper Sixth runners in it, the future looks very bright indeed for girls' running at Shrewsbury, and I think that next year we will be challenging confidently for a top-five spot.



The boys' race was next, comprising the same route as the girls' race but over two laps, amounting to over nine gruelling kilometres in all, taking in a total of six tough uphill sections. Under strict instructions to run conservatively in the first half and then make a move through the field in the second, the A team nevertheless got away well and established themselves in good positions going up to the first hill. This was wise, as the course narrowed at this point and made it difficult to pass until clearing the wooded section about one kilometre into the race.



Towards the end of the first lap, our two best runners this year – Riggites Freddie Huxley-Fielding (Huntsman) and Will Hayward (Senior Whip) – were working together as part of a leading pack of four which included last year's winner James Puxty, who had all managed to break away from a chasing three about 40 metres back. Harry Remnant (Ch) was around 20th position but looking decidedly ragged at the 4km mark, with Charlie Tait-Harris (S) much more comfortable – serene, even – just a few places behind. The 'packing' that formed part of our race tactics was working well a little further back in the field, where Cameron Anwyl (S), Owen Mock (S) and Monty Hardcastle (I) were all working well together, ably supported by two Fourth Formers in Tom Jackson (R) and Sam Western (PH) who formed the head of the B team.

About a kilometre further up the race, things had changed significantly. There were now two battles unfolding, one for first and the other for third. Freddie was sitting on the shoulder of a Harrovian up the first hill of the second lap. He had shown the week before that he has learned how to judge his race tactics to devastating effect, and it seemed that this race might be his as the boy from Harrow made rather harder work of the incline. Will Hayward – who eats hills for fun – thoroughly enjoyed his climb into the wooded section, though you wouldn't know it by his

face, which had developed its characteristic – even iconic? – grimace. Harry Remnant looked even more exhausted at this point but had held his ground, while Charlie’s countenance had shifted perceptibly from serenity to determination; he had two Judd runners in his sights and he knew what he had to do.



Charlie Tait-Harris

In 2016, our sixth ‘counter’ came 25th. It was clear by this stage of the race that we wouldn’t manage quite such an impressive packing of our top runners that far up the order, and the question now was, how far up could our last two counters manage? It was looking likely to be Cameron Anwyl and Monty Hardcastle, who were both in positions around the 40 mark. Trying desperately (and, it has to be said, ineptly) to encourage our runners, scribble down their estimated positions, work out the relative positions of the likely highest-placed competitor schools and take some photos all at the same time, in the end I gave up and simply shouted as loudly as I could. Owen Mock seemed to be able to make some sense of the incoherent rubbish I was spouting as he passed with a knowing look, the briefest of nods and a definite shift of gear.



Freddie Huxley-Fielding



A few minutes later and I had placed myself back at the end of the long straight, about a kilometre from the finish. What greeted me as I peered back up the track was a sight to behold. Freddie had developed an almighty lead and looked utterly imperious as he strode towards us. His running style is so graceful one could almost imagine that he was leaving no footprints in the day-old snow, but rather gliding above it. There was no chance of his lead slipping now, and indeed he went on to win comfortably by over 200m. This was a true Huntsman's performance, and the first time a Salopian has won this race since Olly Laws in 1997.

Will Hayward had, by the end of this long straight, managed to secure himself a bronze-medal position, having seen off the challenge of last year's winner, and was indeed gaining on second place when he crossed the line. This was a fantastic effort from Will, and a fitting reward. In any other year group he would have made all the headlines, as he's one of the most talented and mentally tough runners I've coached in my seven years here at Shrewsbury and he has been a wonderful source of inspiration to the younger runners coming through.

Having placed in 1st and 3rd positions, we now needed to make sure our next four counters were high enough to see off the opposition. Harry Remnant came through next in 16th, which as a Fifth Former is very impressive indeed. His look of exhaustion since the first lap suggested he might fade badly, but he showed great strength in actually making up places in the last couple of kilometres. Charlie Tait-Harris was next in 20th – a fine effort in what might be his last significant race for the Hunt in a wonderful five years of running for us – with the last two places being taken up by Cameron Annyl (42nd) and Owen Mock (44th). Monty Hardcastle (I) had quite literally run his guts out and finished 50th. Scott Hatton (S), who under normal circumstances would be a sure counter for us (having finished in 25th place in last year's race), bravely managed to carry himself round the course despite suffering from the after-effects of an infection he had over New Year, and finally crossed the line in 180th place. The B team runners had done a terrific job of pushing on the A team, particularly the last two counters of Cameron and Owen.



Cameron Annyl

Of that B team, particularly worthy of mention was the run of Sam Western (PH), who managed to come through the line in a magnificent 35th place. On the back of his 2nd place in the County Championships last week, this performance sealed his position as one of our most exciting prospects in the Hunt. Along with his fellow Fourth Former Tom Jackson (R), who managed to finish in 48th position out of 260 runners despite a) losing a shoe and b) being just about the



youngest person in the field, this was a truly impressive day. Both these boys managed to get ahead of counting runners for all our competitor schools, and as such had a tangible impact on the result.

The next B team runner across the line was Niklas Amthor (R) in 59th, whose season has gone from strength to strength since taking up regular running over the summer. His commitment has been rewarded with a fine patch of form. Next was Toby Pegge (PH) in 69th, Lucien Whitworth (R) in 77th, and Louis Nares (Rb) – another Fourth Former in what promises to be a vintage year group – in 86th as the sixth counter for the B team. Seb Hervas-Jones (S), another recent addition to the Hunt, struggled with a recent illness and crossed the line in 140th, while Seb Ingram (S) sadly was unable to finish. Nevertheless, for a B team this score was seriously strong, and is testament to the quality we have in the club now, not just among a small number of top athletes, but right across all year groups. We have never enjoyed such an intense degree of competition for the top two teams.

We had to wait anxiously for over an hour before the results were announced, but in the end it wasn't as close as we'd feared. The Hunt had managed to secure a victory by over 70 points ahead of our nearest rivals The Judd in second place. The B team managed to claim 9th place overall, beating A teams of some serious sporting schools like Westminster, Abingdon and Tonbridge, and claiming the highest-scoring B team by around 75 points.

With three individual podium positions and an overall team victory, then, it was a very happy atmosphere indeed as we made our weary way back up the M40 home on Saturday evening. Having secured back-to-back victories at the Knole for the boys, and a highest-ever team placing for the girls, it's safe to say that cross country running is thriving at Shrewsbury School and has the brightest of futures ahead of it. Floreat Salopia!

The news 100 years ago: 20th - 26th January 1917

Friday 20 January 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.



Boys' Hockey news update

Tuesday 24 January 2017

On Wednesday the boys' hockey team played Rydal Penrhos. Following their victory against Wrekin Collge last week, Shrewsbury were in confident mood.

Rydal have a good hockey pedigree, having reached the final of the Welsh schools' competition last year and fielding a couple of international players including a talented goalkeeper. So the match was never going to be a walk over.

However, in another hard-fought encounter the boys prevailed with 1-0 victory, courtesy of a well-executed short corner routine in which George Chaplin (Ch) sent a powerful drag-flick past the despairing, aforementioned keeper.

If the boys continue to show the same level of commitment and drive for the rest of the term, they will be formidable opposition.



1st XI reach County Cup final

Tuesday 24 January 2017

The 1st XI travelled to Bisham Abbey (a National Sports Centre) on Wednesday 18th January to play Hampton School – a fellow ISFA semi-finalist – as part of the ISFA Super-League set up for the top six independent football schools in the country.

Despite a poor first 15 minutes and conceding an early goal, we then dominated the next 55 minutes, taking a 2-1 lead through goals from Charlie Tait-Harris (S) and a deflected own-goal.

We were unlucky to concede two goals in the last five minutes as legs started to tire. Despite the defeat, however, to compete - and largely dominate - a top footballing school bodes well for the semi-final and, indeed, if we were to face Hampton in the ISFA final.

On Friday, the 1st XI beat Idsall (6-0) to secure a place in the County Cup final for the first time since 2009. There were goals from Charlie Tait-Harris x 3 (S), Tom Brunskill (S), Josh Malyon (Rt) and Josiah Chilaka (SH).



Netball: Ellesmere College block fixture

Wednesday 25 January 2017

Salopian sporting history was made on Wednesday 18th January, with the highest ever number of Shrewsbury School netball teams out in action together. It was a great block fixture against Ellesmere, with Shrewsbury winning 5 matches to 1.

1sts

Lost 11-19

The 1sts put in a much improved performance and it was very pleasing to see the set plays we have practised being used successfully. It was a fairly even match until the last quarter when Ellesmere managed to pull away. There were strong defensive performances from Amelia Maunder (EDH) and Julianna Hinwood (MSH). Amelia was awarded player of the match by the opposition. Well done, girls.

2nds

Won 25-5

The 2nd VII had a steady start to their match, with the score at 3-3 after the first quarter. It was the first time these pupils had played together and so play was initially not particularly fluent. Things improved once they got warmed up, however, with better movement from defence down the court. Shrewsbury just edged ahead to make it 9-4 at half time.

With a slight tweak of positions and the girls now warmed up and working as a team, there was no stopping them. Passes were more accurate and movement better timed, with the shooters (Sophia Breese (EDH) and Abi Watkinson (G)) on top form to take an impressive 18-5 lead going into the final quarter.

A great team performance from everyone, with excellent leadership from Eily Kerr (MSH) with Sophia Breese being awarded player of the match by the opposition.

3rds

Won 19-7

The 3rd team were a little frantic at the start of the match, having watched and waited patiently to start their game. Lots of unnecessary and poor passing led to a number of mistakes in the first quarter before things settled down. Once players took a little more time on the ball, there were some excellent phases of play, with the shooters doing their job well.

Clemmie Baynes (G) was a great strength in defence and helped moved the ball down the court to the attacking 3rd. At half time Shrewsbury were starting to pull away, leading 7-4. The team got stronger and stronger as they continued to play, helped by Emma Graham (MSH) commanding the centre court. Annabel Donovan (G) was very effective in her move from defence to attack.

U15

Won 49-4

The shooters, Poppy Collingwood-Cameron (EDH) and Amelie Davies (MSH), had an excellent start putting the strong Shrewsbury team out in front very quickly. The defence remained strong throughout, with Laura Elliott (G) commanding her position on the court and feeding the ball



forwards. The centre court players were too strong for the opposition and worked the ball well around them, producing very good link play. Players and positions were mixed around a little for the final quarter.

Another fantastic game of netball from a very talented year group.

U14A

Won 30-5

A great game by the energetic U14s – Edie Hargrave (MSH) and Annie Middleton (EDH) were on top form again, with consistent shooting all game. The team have really started to gel together and start to anticipate each other's movements on the court.

Fantastic centre play from Georgie Nicholas (MSH), Alice Hughes (MSH) and Elizabeth Edwards (EDH) who, along with their teammates, made the game an exceptionally enjoyable one to watch. We have high hopes for this young team who continue to develop and produce wonderful results.

Players Player: Edie Hargrave

U14B

Won 12-2

A great first game for the Bs, with a number of Shrewsbury girls making their debut. Karina Ho (G) and Willa Bowman (MSH) grew in confidence as the game progressed and scored some wonderful goals. Bridget Merison (MSH) did a great job as Captain and performed well as Centre and Wing Attack. Charlotte Hollinshead (G) and Tommy (MSH) Jarvis worked well together in centre court. Players' Player Daisy Holder (EDH) performed well as Wing Attack, Wing Defence and Centre.

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

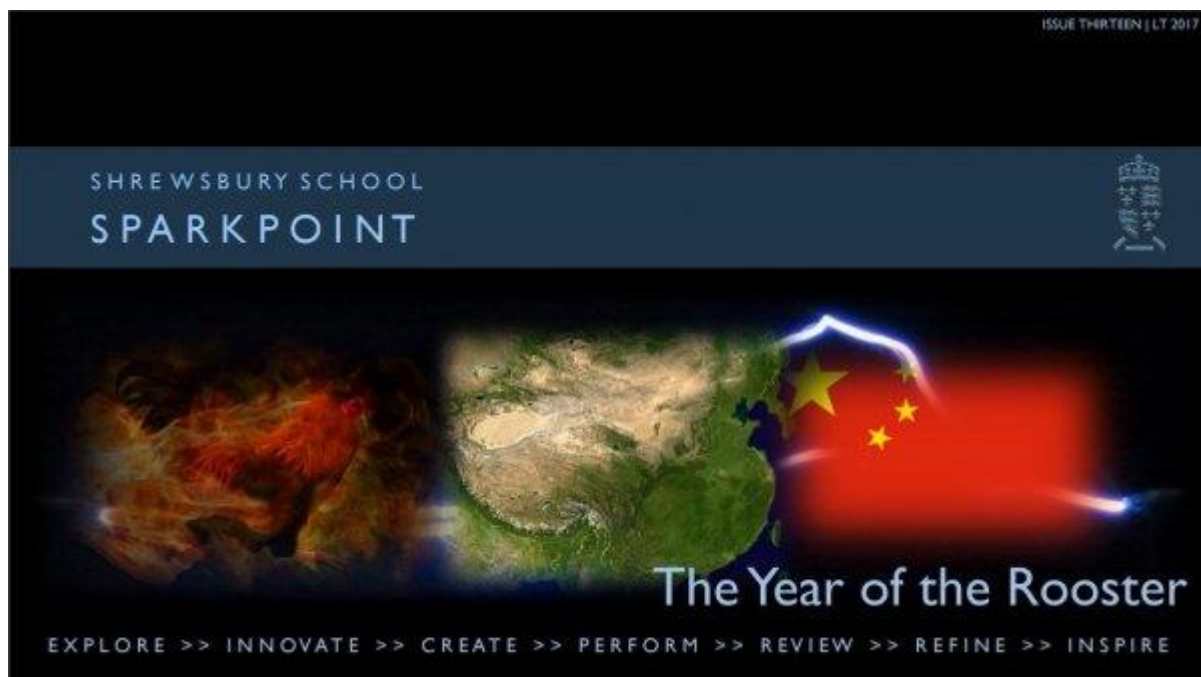


Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - 'The Year of the Rooster'

Wednesday 25 January 2017

This week's special festive edition celebrates Chinese New Year and features the music of Tan Dun, the writings of Lao She and the dance choreography of Jin Xing.

Please click on the image below to open 'Shrewsbury School SparkPoint - The Year of the Rooster' as a pdf file:





Warwick University Ancient Festival for Schools 2017

Thursday 26 January 2017

This week Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Percival took 17 pupils studying Classical Greek or Classical Civilisation from the Lower and Upper Sixth to Warwick University for a day of lectures on Greek Theatre, culminating in a performance of Sophocles' masterpiece 'Antigone'.



The undergraduate actors and actresses take a bow at the end of the performance

The play is a set text this year for both subjects; a prize winner at the City Dionysia Festival of 441BC in Athens, it confronts the ancient, yet timeless and current, issues of gender, political tyranny, and obedience to the state and her laws, as well as asking questions about religion and man's freewill to do what he thinks is right. Love, hate, death and self-sacrifice - think of it as a Christmas Day episode of 'Eastenders', on steroids. A rib-tickler it ain't - powerful and provocative it is; almost 2,500 years old, yet it delivers.

The day was divided into four sections: an introductory talk by Dr Michael Scott, Associate Professor of Classics and Ancient History, on the play's plot and message; a lecture from a 'local' - a PhD. student from Athens - on masculinity and the male characters in Antigone; after lunch on campus, the students were challenged to think about ideas on space and the female in Greek theatre, and to finish the day, we were treated to a truly memorable performance of the play by Warwick students.

The day was useful not only in terms of 'A' level study, but also because it gave our boys and girls a taste of what to expect a formal lecture to be like in Higher Education.

Thanks to Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Percival for organising.



Shrewsbury pupils absorb the drama at the end of the day in the Warwick Arts Centre Theatre



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 26 January 2017

This week, the Rugby 1st XV.

As it is only a week or so before the 2017 Six Nations Rugby Tournament kicks off, I thought I would venture onto the recently renovated turf of Bottom Common to see how our own rugby enthusiasts are shaping up.

The Shrewsbury rugby revolution is currently being spearheaded by historian Chris Cook, who has been coaching here for over a decade now. With a small but talented and enthusiastic squad, Chris has taken the sensible decision to organise one match a week, to allow more time for technical work on the coaching ground and to give any injuries time to recover. To help him improve his players, Chris thought long and hard about who to turn to and then remembered that his dad had recently retired and that having been in the England squad in the 1980s and coached to a very high level, he might be able to help out. The rumours that he was worried that his dad might get under his mother's feet at home are entirely without foundation Peter told me. "I would never get under her feet, she is much smaller than me." I have discovered that when Peter is not helping with the coaching here, he is moonlighting as coach to the Leicester Youth team.



Peter Cook imparting some Tommy Cooper-style rugby wisdom

I tried googling Peter Cook's credentials but I could only find references to his career as a comic actor. He was by all accounts an extremely influential figure in British comedy, and was closely associated with the anti-establishment comedy that emerged in the UK and the US in the late 1950s.



Billy Harding (a.k.a. Dudley Moore)

In terms of the coaching of rugby at Shrewsbury, it is “not only” Peter “but also” Billy Harding (who may be shorter than Peter). Billy assured me his name is not really Dudley, but I note he plays for Stourbridge which is quite close to the West Midlands town of the same name! I would hate to be the harbinger of a new nickname for Billy but I sense ‘Dud’ might stick!

I asked Rob Ford, who very kindly agreed to have a breather from training, how recent performances had been. He told me that in the recent fixture with Christ's Brecon, the team battled back from 24-0 to finish strongly and the final score was a creditable 24-19. I asked Rob why he felt they had started so slowly. He told me that after a long and wiggly drive to Brecon, the team stayed on the bus. “After a long and wiggly drive to Brecon we just stayed on the bus for the first half,” Rob stated. I try not to criticise our teams but I did think that the coaches and players should have realised that not starting the game on the pitch could lead to problems in terms of trying not to concede points. Clearly the situation improved when they finally got off the bus and onto the pitch!

I then caught up with the ‘Chef’ coach Chris Cook. I asked him for an assessment of the progress his team are making. He was very happy with the way the squad are developing despite the bus fiasco. “I had to give the team a bit of a roasting after the Brecon game. I was steaming when I had a chat with the lads at half time, although I never let my emotions boil over. I just told the team they had to turn up the heat second half and give their pack a good grilling. We had wave after wave of possession second half – and I am not talking microwaves!” I asked Chris whether he had a settled team. “We try not to chop and change too much but sometimes the lads have other commitments which can grate at times.”

The chef de rugby was keen to praise some of the leaders in his team, notably Ed Plaut, Oli Dixon and Cameron Bates who have encouraged the younger members of the squad and led by example.



A few of the U16 squad with Mr Cook

The younger members of the squad, when playing as the under-16s, remain undefeated in three years and recently defeated Repton 1st XV. Harry Remnant and Jacob Jefferis have made it into the Midlands team at representative level and have enjoyed being chauffeured around the country by Mr Percival who is a committed sous-chef!

There were plenty of smiles on the faces of the players at training and it is clear that the rugby squad are in in good shape. I think it would be fair to say that Rugby is well done at Shrewsbury!
GJFB



Sponsored Walk - view from a glider

Thursday 26 January 2017

Back in the warm days of September, one of our pupils piloted a glider and filmed (with a head cam) walkers trudging up the Long Mynd in the early part of the Whole School Sponsored Walk.

Tom Brennan (LVI I) gained his pilot's wings via his membership of the CCF (RAF) section and flew a glider kindly loaned by the Midland Gliding School.

This short clip was taken as he flew southwards along the Long Mynd escarpment at less than 80 feet in places. Tom then landed and journeyed on to complete the walk on foot. He had certainly earned his ice cream at the end!

Please click on the image below to view the film on the Shrewsbury School TV YouTube channel:

'Floreat' Awards

Friday 27 January 2017

This term has seen a new award at Shrewsbury School: Floreat. Shrewsbury is full of success stories and headline-grabbing highlights, but there are also many examples of Salopians quietly doing extraordinary things. Floreat seeks to shine the spotlight for a brief moment on those whose efforts might otherwise go unnoticed.

Based on the principle that a word of encouragement can have a significant impact on an individual, the intention is to celebrate and commend both curricular and co-curricular success stories in order that pupils may be encouraged on their Salopian journey and further flourish. The intention is to promote an 'I Can' approach amongst Salopians, to applaud effort rather than just attainment, and to encourage pupils to be confident in their abilities and ambitions.

Floreat is hosted by the Headmaster and members of the Senior Academic Staff every Friday following nominations from the Common Room and the pupil body. Those nominated this term include bee-keepers, Classicists, charity fundraisers, hockey goal-keepers, drummers, poets and Arabists. All have impressed and inspired with their qualities of determination, resilience, fortitude and, in many cases, the courage to step out of their comfort zone.



Shrewsbury Success in RSC Chemistry Schools' Quiz

Friday 27 January 2017

The Shrewsbury team of two Fourth and two Fifth Form pupils hosted a team from Thomas Telford School in the 1st Round of the Royal Society of Chemistry Midlands Chemistry Quiz Competition. With a score-line of 66-45, Shrewsbury advance to the next stage of the competition.



Our team consisted of James Martin (O), Edward Evans (PH), Abi Watkinson (EDH) and Adam Pattenden (S) (pictured above in action). Questions were put either to individuals or to whole teams, and topics jumped from famous chemists to ionic formulae, from dot and cross diagrams to facts about water and from mole calculations to spelling!

With a good knowledge of buckminsterfullerene, anhydrous copper(II) sulfate and iron, our team now needs to brush up on phenolphthalein and carbon before the next round!



The Shrewsbury and Thomas Telford teams

The news 100 years ago: 27th January - 2nd February 1917

Friday 27 January 2017

No Old Salopians were killed in WW1 this week 100 years ago.

Singing Prizes

Friday 27 January 2017

The annual solo Singing Prizes competition, held on Sunday 15th January and with 20 boys and 24 girls taking part, demonstrated clearly not only the vast wealth of talent that exists in each year group in the School but also the great enjoyment our singers give and derive from their music.

The audience was treated to a vast range of songs, from Purcell, Puccini and Mozart to South Pacific, Phantom of the Opera and Les Mis. The external adjudicators, professional musicians Sam Evans and Catherine Hopper, were warm in their praise of the very high standard in each of the three categories - novice, intermediate and senior - making their job of selecting the prizewinners very difficult. They also commented on the very even balance between the numbers of boys and girls taking part, reflecting the fact that singing is clearly thriving at Shrewsbury!

The future certainly looks bright, with some fantastic new talent in the Third Form, and next week we look forward to welcoming prep school candidates for the 13+ Music Scholarships, including the newly launched Choral Scholarships.



Prizes were awarded to the following pupils, some of whom are pictured above.

Novice

- 1st - Harry Davies
- 2nd - Ed Bayliss
- 3rd - Adelaide Sillar

Highly Commended - Orlando Williams

Intermediate

1st - Phoebe Morris

2nd - Theo Jarvis

3rd - Sophie Holehouse

Highly Commended - Tianci Wang

Highly Commended - Will Hope

Commended - Emily Hartland

Commended - Abi Watkinson

Commended - Nina Churchill

Senior

1st - Ben Higgins

2nd - Dan Powell

3rd - Angus Kincaid

Highly Commended - Sophia Price

Highly Commended - Fintan Simmons

Commended - Angus Warburg

Entertainment Prizes

Female: Phoebe Morris

Male: Orlando Williams



Fencing: Four Salopians qualify for the British Youth Championships

Monday 30 January 2017

Shrewsbury School's Epéeists were in fine form at the West Midlands British Youth Qualifiers at Packwood Haugh on Sunday 29th January.

James Hinwood (Rt V) won the gold medal in the Under-16 Boys.

Will Holcroft (Rt V) won silver in the Under-18 Boys.

And Oliver Holcroft (Rt III) came 6th in the Under-14 Boys.

Together with Jan Tai (R IV), all three now proceed to the British Youth Finals, which will be held in Sheffield in May.