



Old Salopian Michael Palin awarded a knighthood

Monday 7 January 2019

We were proud to learn that Michael Palin had been awarded a knighthood in The Queen's New Year's Honours list "for services to travel, culture and geography".

Sir Michael was at Shrewsbury (Rigg's Hall) from 1957 to 1961, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-uncles.



Michael is on the far left, 2nd row from the back

Over the years, he has inspired thousands of Salopians – not just because of the success he has achieved as a broadcaster, writer and actor, but perhaps most especially for the personal qualities that shine through so much of his television and writing work; qualities we like to think of as being “typically Salopian”. He is well-known not only for his achievements but for having a naturally curious mind, being open to new experiences, not afraid of failure but eager to take on new challenges; someone who follows his passions and has remained true to himself – and, of course, known for his wonderful sense of humour and his readiness to laugh at himself.

We were honoured that in 2016, he gave his consent and approval for All-Rounder Scholarships for boys and girls joining Shrewsbury in the Third Form to be awarded in his name.



In an article published to coincide with the launch of the Michael Palin All-Rounder Scholarships, he described how some of the interests he has subsequently pursued in his career were nurtured at Shrewsbury, and reflected on what his years at the School had taught him:

“My interest in Geography was spotted early by a Mr Brown, who encouraged me to think the unthinkable and concertina a two-year A-level course into just 12 months. Because of his belief in me I worked extra hard and passed the exams a year early. It was the icing on the cake for both David Brown and myself when I was made President of the Royal Geographical Society in 2009.



“It was at Shrewsbury that I was introduced to the work of Ernest Hemingway, about whom I later was to make a television series. It was at Shrewsbury that I overcame my shyness to stand in front of the School and recite Robert Frost’s fine poem Mending Wall, which won me the Bentley Elocution Prize for that year.

“As I have gone through life I realise that I learnt a lot of valuable lessons in my four years as a pupil at Shrewsbury. I learnt to follow my curiosity and argue my own case. I learnt to deal with doubts and fears by simply being pushed to do something I’d never tried before. When I was asked if I would give my name to the All-Rounder Scholarships I felt honoured, but my immediate reaction was that there must be so many Salopians who have achieved more in life and would set a better example than myself. And then there came back to me from all those years ago an echo of that still small voice telling me not to step backwards but to step forwards.

“I very much hope that those who benefit from the Michael Palin Scholarships will appreciate that they are named after someone who came to Shrewsbury mistaking shyness for inability and indecision for lack of talent, and who left having discovered that everything that seemed impossible was possible.”



Football 1st XI win Hudl 'Goal of the Season'

Monday 7 January 2019

A stunning Shrewsbury School 1st XI goal against Bradfield has been voted 'Christmas Goal of the Season' by Hudl Independent Schools League coaches.

Please follow the link to enjoy! - <http://www.hudl.com/v/2B2s1t>





Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong AGM

Monday 7 January 2019

The AGM of the Friends of Shrewsbury School Hong Kong was held at the Chinese Banks Association on 1st December 2018.

A summary of the meeting can be found here: [FSSHK AGM, December 2018](#).



Music Scholar Greta offered place at 3 top Music Colleges

Tuesday 8 January 2019

Congratulations to Music Scholar Greta Roberts (M U6), who has received offers to study Harp at three of the UK's most prestigious music colleges - the Royal College of Music in London, the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and the Royal Northern College of Music.

"This represents a massive achievement on Greta's behalf, and the many hours practice she has put in finally paid off with this wonderful success," said Director of Music John Moore. "She studies jointly with Professor Ieuan Jones at the Royal College of Music, and our own harp teacher at Shrewsbury, Penny-Robin Riddering. Greta is herself from Wales, as is Ieuan, and she looks set to carry on the great tradition of outstanding Welsh harpists who have become some of the country's finest exponents of the instrument.

"Huge congratulations to Greta and her teachers, and all who have supported her in preparing for her auditions."



The 66th ALUMNI RACE held on Saturday 15th December 2018 at Roehampton

Wednesday 9 January 2019

Through rain and mud, they ran on to the end!

Even though there was sunshine over Shropshire in the morning by the time the train pulled into Euston, the cold wind swirling around London was threatening dampness.

From a list of a possible 15 runners I was then looking at nine registered entrants for The OSH Team attending this exceptional event.

My journey continued to Putney Bridge, where I had to wait for the No.85 Bus, but was met by Huntsmen Freddie Huxley-Fielding (R. 12-17) on his first visit to an OSH event and Oscar Dickins (R. 11-16) who was here to support while nursing an injury.



The wind and rain battered the top deck of the bus as it rocked on down to Roehampton Vale where we alighted to walk the short distance to The Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields Pavilion.

We were early, and as team manager I hoped to get all the registrations checked and vest numbers ready before photos, warm-up and the start at 2.30pm.

It was very exciting to have more Huntsmen arrive. Cal Winwood (I. 09-11) and Ed Mallett (S. 08-13) had both run in Shrewsbury the week before, and Ed is so fit he had already competed in a run earlier that morning! Tom Hughes (Ch. 13-18) arrived who also ran last week and was



looking keen. Will Manley (PH. 13-18) came to support me and Oscar, all disappointed at not being able to run this good 5-mile cross-country course. Returning again to The Thames Hare & Hounds 66th Alumni Race was Huntswoman Liv Papaioannou (EDH. 14-16), with extra support from Greg (who wasn't put off last year!), Kris Blake (S. 09-11) who always achieves a good result, Anthony Hickson (I. 48-53) who is well known to TH&H and The OSH alike, and Michael Johnson (S. 55-60) who can also boast the "Shrewsbury & Roehampton" double.



At this moment one team member texted to say he was stuck in London's Saturday Christmas traffic and couldn't make it. However, we still had an impressive team of eight! Then after several visits to the organisers gazebo and club house, I discovered that the registration and vest numbers could not be found. The rain was getting heavier and the team were disappearing to warm-up.

At 2.25pm there was a panic as a long queue formed for people to get their numbers. I managed to get ours and quickly handed them out with safety pins but only just in time for the start which was a long line-out in the next field at 2.45 pm and by then it was very wet and getting darker!



The hooter sounded out and the charge of nearly 300 runners, all trying to get through the first right hand farm gate, was a sight to see. I could already see that Ed, Freddie, Kris and Cal were near the front of the pack, as they went forward to disappear into the woods of Wimbledon Common where they fought to get a good path through the mud and water before rising onto the top track and beside the golf course. Will and I went to shout encouragement to our team at a downhill part of the course near the last mile and were so pleased to see Freddie come through in the top ten, quickly followed by Kris, Cal, & Ed. A big shout went up from me and Will when we saw Tom come past, who had obviously kept up with his training and was within the top 100.



In the corner of the playing fields, where runners emerged from the woods to see their final destination through the darkness of that wet afternoon, we noticed Liv charging through the mud, being the first female alumni competitor to come through to the finish. What a great success!



By now an extra supporter had fought through the bad weather and traffic to see Salopians cross the line, The Salopian Club President, Nicholas Barber. With good boots and large umbrella Nicholas cheered Michael Johnson as he ran into the funnel steaming with effort.



Many of us tried to withstand the conditions as we waited for our last man home, Anthony. I did walk some of the route to try to look out for him, but in the end Anthony appeared out of the dusk with a broad smile ready for a cup of tea. I don't think he has ever given up in all his many years of running and today was no exception!

It was then time to try to get out of the rain and we dispersed into the night, satisfied that there had been a good OSH Team this day, who, even without official results, had achieved what appeared to be a significant improvement in placings this year.

When I got home and checked the website for results, I found that there had been some problems with the "system", not helped by me! First, The TH&H organisers said that there had been a problem with timings and some positions. Second, some runners had been wearing the wrong vest numbers. I immediately realised that at the last minute before the start, in a wet panic, I had given six of our team the wrong numbers. Straightaway, I sent the organisers a corrected list of names with the vest numbers that they were wearing and the placings and timings that I had. I received a receipt for this information, but as I write this I am still waiting to see the corrected results finalised.

Until that happens, I have the following information:

There were 259 finishers of the race. There were alumni from 36 Schools and 16 guest runners. 1st place went to William Ryle-Hodges of Eton in 26 mins and 50 seconds (which was his same time as last year).

10th - our best man, Freddie Fielding in 29:15.

14th - Kris Blake in 29:42. (who bettered his time by over two minutes and 30 places!).

18th - Cal Winwood in 30:04.

- 19th - Ed Mallett in 30:08.
- 99th - Tom Hughes in 34:50.
- 118th - Liv Papaioannou in 35:38. (who was 156th last year in 38:09).
- 231st - Michael Johnson in 45:20
- 259th - Anthony Hickson in approximately 1hr 20.

Our placings should have pushed our team position in The Open Race up to 2nd place. The first four count and we should be given 63 points which is only three points behind the winners, Rochester.

Even without confirmation, you can see that there is a huge improvement in Shrewsbury's OSH Team results and I for one am very proud of our team for running with such determination. If we continue to attract more members to compete then we could win the race which would astound everyone!

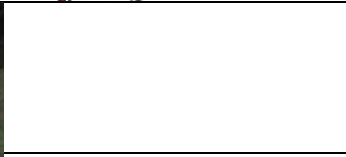
All the photos are on our OSH Facebook page and some on the Twitter page.

Peter Birch. (DB 66-71 & Huntsman) OSH Chairman.



Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL





Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Friday 11 January 2019

This week, Netball.



In my youth (not long ago), I never missed a BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards show. These days I am still keen to watch it but there are other television hogs in my house who sometimes steal the remote and turn on to *Bake Off* or *Danger Mouse*. This year the children were watching a DVD somewhere and we had a couple of old friends to supper. When I say old friends, I had known them a long time; I am not commenting on their age – although they are in fact quite old.

You might be thinking that having people to supper meant there was no chance of the TV being switched on. But this friend of mine, who we shall henceforth refer to as 'Tim', for that is his name, being an avid Brighton and Hove Albion fan is a connoisseur of great football. I sensed an opportunity to 'leave it on in the background' so that we could watch the clips of the World Cup when 'Football nearly came home'.

Once we sat down to a fine lentil broth or something like that (my friends are vegetarian, as is my wife), the conversation ranged in the intellectual and academic way that many of you would expect in the Bell household. I was not totally conversant, however, as I could see the TV from my position, as could my friend 'Tim'. Having put the world to rights by sorting Brexit and developing our plan for World Peace, 'Tim' and I headed for the 'comfy' chairs to chill and chat further over all 'manner of things'.

When it came to the Greatest Sporting Moment of the Year, I was convinced that it would be the England Netball team because I watched the final of the Commonwealth Games final against Australia, and it truly was a Great Sporting Moment when The Vitality Roses won it with a goal in the last few seconds of the match. It was then not a huge surprise to see them win the Sports Team of the Year award too.



I have noticed that netball is more widely available to watch on TV, although sadly I don't seem to have the time to watch it regularly. I have been inspired to focus on netball as the first Team of the week this term – indeed this year – not least because the 1st VII are representing Shropshire in the Midlands competition later this month (27th Jan), having qualified by reaching the final of the County Tournament last term.

I sped down to the netball courts to watch the finest Salopian netballers being put through their paces by the expert coaches we have here at Shrewsbury, who are hoping to develop the next Ama Agbeze (England Netball Captain).

I disturbed Mrs Kelly, who was busy planning her tactics for the season.



She told me that there were not as many girls at the practice as usual because the Fifth Form are all doing trial exams. She was very happy with the numbers doing netball this term and thinks



that the squad will have good strength in depth. “The squad will have good strength in depth,” she told me.

Mrs Bradburne is also very excited by our strength in depth and is looking forward to some big block fixtures against Moreton Hall, Bromsgrove and Christ’s Brecon. “I love a good block fixture,” she proclaimed. Mrs Bradburne is also happy with her coaching team once again this year. There is the inspirational and very popular Karen Hall, who told me that she too is pleased with the numbers of girls playing netball and that she thinks we have a strong unit this year. And there is also Amy Nicholls, who is here for a year before she goes off to train to become a fully-fledged teacher. Amy played for the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff Metropolitan University and had trials for Wales, so she has plenty of pedigree when it comes to showing the girls how to play the game. She is particularly adept in the rain.

Mrs Bradburne is delighted with all her coaches, as it means that she can give the girls the two-to-one coaching that she feels really benefits the players.



Amy Harris has always loved netball and finds it an exhilarating and exciting game. Despite dabbling on the river last year, she has returned to netball this year as she was missing it too much. “I really missed my netball last year,” she confessed. Meanwhile Mia Keliher was frustrated when I met her, as she was waiting to come on. Mia is a very calm and sensitive young lady, but such is her passion for playing netball she told me that she might have to go and rip someone’s bib off to take their place on the court. Such was her growing aggression, I felt it was in the world’s interests if Mia came on and I suggested to Mrs Bradburne that Amy Harris might like to come off for some specialised coaching to help her catch up for her year away from the sport. Mrs Bradburne clearly appreciated my in-depth analysis of the game and acted accordingly.

“I want to develop my game and having two coaches working on my techniques at the same time is really helping my development,” Amy admitted.

Sadly, when Mia did come on she slipped over in a tussle for the ball and had to have a dressing applied to her leg. She was not fazed by this in the slightest. “It’s netball and I laugh in the face of pain” she explained. Privately I added aggression and bravery to the many attributes that netball players need to have.



Amelie Davies is reputedly a talented goal-shooter and attacker. “It’s my job to score the goals,” she told me. Amelie is looking forward to a successful season and is by nature an optimist. “I think we can win every game,” she said. What Amelie really enjoys about the game is the satisfaction she gets from scoring a goal. She finds it difficult not to smile when she is on the court, such is her enjoyment of netball.





The junior teams are also shaping up well, although it is early days. Sara Williams and Katie Bird are keen to see their teams triumph and they admit to loving the coaching. “I truly feel like I am flying when I am coaching,” Mrs Bird chirped. Camilla Lawson likes netball. “I like netball. It makes me smile,” she announced with a big smile.



I caught up with under-15 players Tabitha Winkley, Georgie Cooper, Eleanor Keulemans and Issie Urquhart, all of whom like the fast-paced nature of the game as well as the mental and physical challenges it brings. Issie enjoys the aggressive nature of the being a defender and feels that growling like a bear puts her opponents off and brings her in touch with her wild side. All four of them admit to enjoying watch it on TV with their fathers, who are all big fans.

As am I! Let's hear it for the netballers!

GJFB



School of the Year for Performing Arts 'Highly Commended' Award

Friday 11 January 2019

We are delighted to have been named as one of the top schools in the Independent School of the Year awards, receiving recognition for continued excellence in the realm of the Performing Arts.



Out of over 200 schools considered for the awards, the judges noted that Shrewsbury “stood out as a key player in the industry due to the depth and breadth of your offering” and praised our outstanding work in drama, music and dance.

The Performing Arts have long been a valued gem within Shrewsbury School’s treasure chest with a proud tradition dating back to its earliest days. Indeed, the School’s very first Headmaster Thomas Ashton was passionate about the Arts, producing (and even acting in) numerous Whitsuntide school plays from 1560 onwards.

Theatre, music and dance remain an exciting and invigorating area of School life with a flourishing reputation under the dynamic leadership of Director of Drama Dr Helen Brown and Director of Music John Moore. Last summer the cast and crew of *The Drowned Bride* received rave reviews for their home-grown musical version of Daphne du Maurier’s novel *Rebecca*, continuing a 25-year association with the Edinburgh Fringe.



Last term's highlights in the Performing Arts included the outstanding Senior School production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the Junior Play *Under Milk Wood*, two sell-out St Cecilia concerts and an historic first music tour to Hong Kong.





Some of the highlights to look forward to this term include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, (7th - 9th February) [Choral Evensong in Chester Cathedral](#) (27th February) and a [Gala Concert in London at the Cadogan Hall](#) (10th March), as well as several House plays.

This award recognises the considerable achievements of our pupils, and is a fitting tribute to the boundless energy, enthusiasm and expertise of our passionate and talented staff. Bravo!

Peter Middleton, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular)



Team Bronze at the National Knole Run

Monday 14 January 2019

The boys' and girls' teams of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt were in tremendous form in one of the biggest races in the cross-country calendar on Saturday 12th January.



The boys' A team were looking to get back on the podium after a disappointing outing last year, and having been set a target of all six scorers in the top 40 positions, they achieved it admirably.

Sam Western (S) placed 7th with a terrific run, Charlie Ockleston (O) 16th, Tom Jackson (R) 26th, Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) 30th, Rider Hartley (Ch) 33rd and Sam Watts (Ch) 37th gave us a points score of 149. This was a massive 135 points lower than last year, and was enough to earn the bronze medal, behind Cooper Company and Coburn School in second with 130 points, and Judd dominating the race with an astonishingly low score of 72.



The boys' B team also did brilliantly, placing second-highest B team and 11th overall, defeating lots of other schools' A teams. Particular congratulations are due to Third Formers Ben W (R) in 62nd and Will S (R) in 64th for an incredibly strong debut performance.

The girls fought hard to earn their 6th place overall out of 14 teams, and managed in doing so to beat their points score from last year for the first four finishers. Lillian Wilcox (EDH) ran very strongly indeed to place 21st, ahead of Alessandra Ardissino (M) in 28th. Sophia Dixon (MSH) placed 37th, just ahead of Anna Cowan (MSH) in 40th. Felicity Hayward (EDH) managed to improve on last year's run by knocking over two minutes off her time, placing 57th (last year 85th) and Izzy Anwyl (M) completed the team in 71st.



Congratulations to everyone who raced on what was a great day for the Hunt.

Mr Hanworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt



Impressive start to the new rugby season

Monday 14 January 2019

The rugby season started in earnest on Saturday 12th January with a block fixture versus Birkenhead School.

The **1st XV** set off out of the blocks flying. In the first 15 minutes of the game, the forwards attacked through effective pod work, offering plenty of ball to our electric backline to enable some impressive tries. The first from Felix Kenyon-Smith (S) came from a destructive Bilal Khan (I) run down the right-hand wing, with a second added by Harry Remnant (Ch) after fluid play down the left.

The Birkenhead team were being run ragged, and when Remnant added another to move the score to 17-0 it looked as though this was going to be an easy run out. However, Shrewsbury somewhat took their foot off the pedal, and as Birkenhead started to focus on their large forward pack, they grew in confidence and began to apply pressure. With the penalty count rising, Shrewsbury found themselves under pressure by the end of the first half, and a strong driving maul from Birkenhead put the score at 17-5 by half time.

After the break, Shrewsbury continued to make mistakes, with handling errors ruining a number of try-scoring opportunities, which kept Birkenhead in the game. Another Birkenhead score, and at 17-10 everything was to play for going into the last 15 minutes of the game. Still the handling errors continued, and it wasn't until the forwards decided to pick and drive that we were able to contain the opposition pack, and Tom Plaut (S) scooted over from short range to finish off the match.

Even in the face of missed opportunities, a final score of 24-10 was still a good win against a spirited defensive display from Birkenhead, who had worked hard to contain the Shrewsbury backline. Man of the Match was Mark Pangin (SH), with another dogged display from a player who never stops running.

On the first run out for the **2nd XV** it was a very strong showing. The forwards dominated up front with powerful counter-rucking and play through the middle of the park. The first try was put over by Igor Sizov (I) on his debut! Our back line was explosive, with Frank Mansell (PH) coordinating the waves of attack effectively, making it impossible for the opposition to contain. A 55 – 5 win was a strong start to the season, which bodes well for the rest of term.

The **U15s** were up against a very strong side, with a physical pack. It took them a while to get back into playing, which is always tough against opponents who have already played a term's rugby. By half-time the side were 26-5 down, but as Shrewsbury started to learn from the match, they were able to put together more effective phase play. Coming out of the blocks in the second half, Shrewsbury cut better lines and developed more cohesion, scoring another two tries to bring parity to the second half. With a final score line of 19-48, the players showed excellent attitude, and this will no doubt lead to greater success as they move through the term. Tries from Louis Graham (Rt), Sam Crossley (Ch) & Judah Wainwright (O), with Oli Clark add two conversions.

This was the U14s' very first fixture. The **U14As** found it hard going in the first half, playing against physically larger opposition who already had a term under their belt. Despite valiant defence, we gave up too many turn-overs in the first half from which Birkenhead were able to



run in five tries and add two conversions. However, when we protected the ball and didn't give up turn-overs we showed we could match Birkenhead in most areas.

The second half was very different story. Shrewsbury thwarted most Birkenhead attacks with some great defence and dramatically reduced the number of turn-overs. Even when Birkenhead did get past Shrewsbury's first line of defence a try saving tackle from William T playing at 15 kept the match very tight. Some great pressure from the Shrewsbury side, midway through the second half, resulted in a series of Birkenhead errors with John Anthony L-L (O) going over for our first score – and earn the man-of-the-match award. A very encouraging second half display with the team captained by William G (Rt) & 'Pack Leader' George S D (O).

The **U14Bs** kicked off their season with a fantastic 50-5 win over Birkenhead, where they showed incredible skill, courage, and team work. Shrewsbury dominated the first half as Birkenhead struggled to get the ball out of their 22m for the majority of the first 25 minutes. Two first half tries a piece from forwards Ed S (Rt) and Bill H (Rt) set the tone of the match. In the second half Shrewsbury grew in confidence and began to pass the ball more with the coming more into the game. Archie B (R) at number 10, Johnny F (Ch) at full-back, and Daniel C (I) on the wing each ran over well worked tries. A further three tries from Bill H capped off an incredible individual performance from the number 8. A great start to the season, much potential for the season ahead.



WATSON Dr William Humphreys (‘Tiger’)

Tuesday 15 January 2019

WATSON Dr William Humphreys (‘Tiger’) MBE, MC, Légion d’Honneur, died peacefully on 29th December 2018 aged 97 years.

WATSON Dr William Humphreys (‘Tiger’) MBE, MC, Légion d’Honneur, died peacefully on 29th December 2018 aged 97 years, six weeks after the death of his beloved wife of 68 years, Wyn.

Last surviving commando of the raid on St Nazaire in 1942.

Over fifty years of dedicated medical service in Britain and overseas. Greatly loved for his compassion, integrity and cheerfulness.

He will be missed by his four children and nine grandchildren.

Service at The Alington Hall, Shrewsbury SY3 7BA at 4pm on Saturday 26th January 2019. No flowers by request please but donations to Oxfam, the Severn Hospice and The Stroke Association. Enquires to Clive Pugh Funeral Directors 01743 244644





Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Thursday 17 January 2019

This week, the Hunt.

After their tremendous performance in the Knole Run at Sevenoaks last weekend (see [Mr Haworth's glowing report](#)), it seemed sensible to have a chat with the members of the Shrewsbury School Hunt (a.k.a. the cross-country running team).

I was told to report to the Stott Pavilion by the Astro at 2pm sharp and was encouraged by Mr Griffiths to “come out for a run”. I therefore dutifully donned my high-vis running mac and slipped into my nice new trainers, ready to endure a painful afternoon of exercise. I sensed it might be painful as I have enjoyed an excellent Christmas season and have a little more ballast to carry round at present! Mr Haworth, the Teacher in Charge of the Hunt, has also purchased some new running shoes, but that is about all we have in common when it comes to running; he is swift, lean, spritely, young, keen and fast.



I soon became aware of the importance of the clock for the Hunt. Miss Witcombe was quick to notice that one or two athletes had dawdled on the way to the Pavilion and Mr David apologised for being on the phone, refuting rumours that he had been having seconds of syrup sponge in Kingsland Hall. I had sensibly gone for a small bowl of soup, having enjoyed a significant breakfast in an effort to build up enough energy to ensure completion of the 9km course along the banks of the Reabrook.

Once everyone had arrived, there was a significant amount of warming up to be done before we embarked on the first leg of what I hoped would be a leisurely run. The inspirational Mr

Haworth said a few words of praise concerning the fine efforts of the club at Sevenoaks but was also channelling this arsenal of athletes on the challenge of the Coventry Relays on Wednesday 6th February.



The Knole Team

The idea of going on a leisurely run with the likes of Sam Western, Charlie Ockleston and the rest of the Shrewsbury A team (who finished third at the weekend) seemed unlikely. The B team finished 11th comfortably ahead of several school's first teams (including Charterhouse and Eton to name but two). The girls finished 6th, with Lilian Wilcox in 21st place, and it was not long before I was admiring the soles of a large number of trainers as they flew off into the distance.

I made an error in deciding at the last minute to leave my large camera behind in the pavilion. This action led to me losing valuable seconds and I was already having to run faster than I am used to in order to catch up the back markers. Eventually the athletic avalanche of talent stopped for an "all-up" after about a mile and I was able to catch up. At this point we all stood round in a large circle and played games such as who can get their knees highest in the air from a standing start.



I felt it was time to show everyone how good I am at the floss, but I sensed there was not universal approval. I was even more disappointed to discover that the “all-up” was not half way through the course as I had imagined, but about a fifth of the way.

We started again running swiftly around the edge of the golf course. I discovered that by running straight down the fairway I could enhance my position in the field and was soon to be found leading from the front; soaring like an eagle, or at least a large birdie!



I figured this might inspire the athletes behind me to yet greater athletic heights, and certainly no one was under par! By the time we had reached the next “all-up”, I had allowed some of the faster runners to pass me as I did not want to damage anyone’s confidence. I was quite surprised to find Archie C, Sam W and Will S behind me at this stage. Sam finished 62nd and Will 64th in the Knole Run and that is impressive as Third Formers do not usually get selected for the teams. I gave them a few tips, and it was good to see them react positively by running hard and well ahead of me, utilising the knowledge I had imparted.



Ben and Archie

This was of course because I had chosen to drop my pace to have a chat with Morgan Smith, who is preparing for the London Half-Marathon and is therefore looking to build her endurance rather than her speed. Morgan has a special reason for running in the event. In her own words: “At the age of 12 I was diagnosed with cancer. During a long, hard, yet successful battle, I saw first-hand the amazing work of charities in supporting children like myself. I have decided to run my first ever half-marathon in London for Well Child, a charity that provides the necessary support and care to enable seriously ill children to live in the comfort of their own homes, rather than in hospital.” Morgan has raised over £1,300 so far and I know she would appreciate any further donations. You can find her donation page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Morgan-Smith3>

Morgan runs three to four times a week and is feeling really good. She was a bit worried that she might find the Hunt a bit intimidating, but she enthused about how welcome she has felt and how much fun she has had since she joined up. “I would recommend it to anyone, even you Mr Bell,” she told me. Morgan continued to chat away about the philosophy of running and other weighty subjects until I realised that we were becoming a little detached from the main body of runners.

Miss Witcombe was still looking after us, as she likes to look after the back-markers and was very concerned I might have come to steal her role. “Please do not think you can steal my role,” she



told me. I realised I would have to increase my pace, which was going to be tricky as I had put a lot of my energy into my burst for the front on the golf course. I did manage to catch up with Damian Jelev and asked him why he enjoyed running. He told me that “the pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow.” He then ran away before I could ask him anything else. Ed Ford-Johnson was not sure he did love running and Cyrus Cropper informed me he did not feel pain. Arthur Hope-Barton felt he was unable to articulate how he felt about running, or is that running!

At this point I was caught up by Miss Witcombe, who generously allowed me to finish alongside her. There were few people in the Pavilion when I completed my exertions, but I did find Sam Western and Charlie Ockleston warming down or considering hiding behind some poles to avoid an inquisition.



Charlie as Huntsman (captain of running) is excited at the prospect of going to Denmark in a few weeks' time to blow a hunting horn at the start of the World Cross-Country Championships. He will start the race in the same way that each Shrewsbury race starts, and we are all quite excited at the spotlight shining on the historic nature of the first running club in the world. Watch this space. He informed me that he enjoys running as he likes the feeling of the wind blowing through his hair. He imagined that I used to enjoy that too. Sam W did not make any hurtful comments to me but was impressed that I had made it back from the run alive! He is hoping to improve on his 7th place in the Knole Run next year.

I would like to thank the Hunt for bearing with me. It is clear that everything in the Hunt is running very smoothly! This is in no small way down to Ian Haworth and his team of helpers. Ian is clearly very fit and was hardly sweating at the end of the run, which was a little galling!



Charlie Oakley and Ollie Chipperton were also looking good after their 'brief jog'. One day I hope to look like them, but for now I am running down to the tapas bar to re-energise!



GJFB



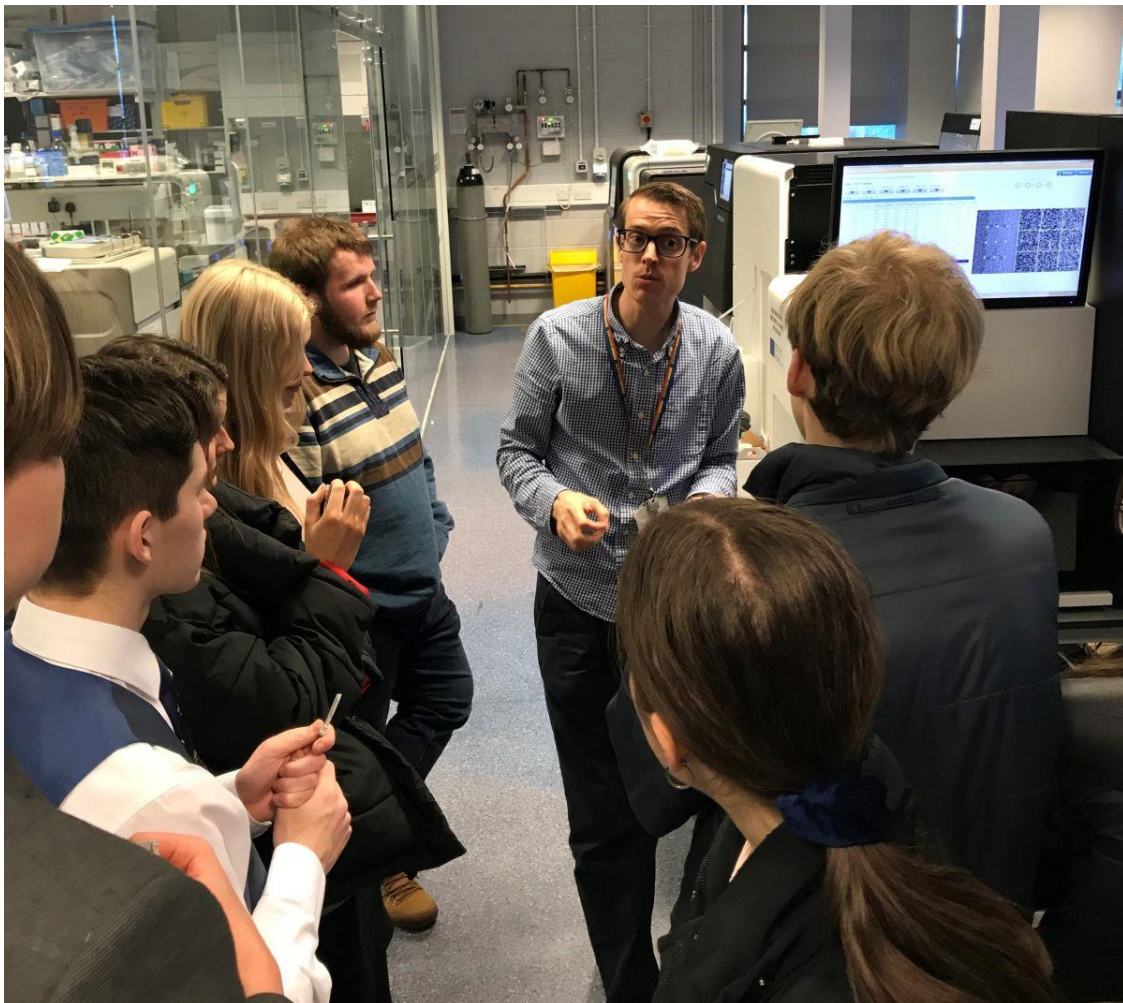
Lower Sixth Biologists at Liverpool University

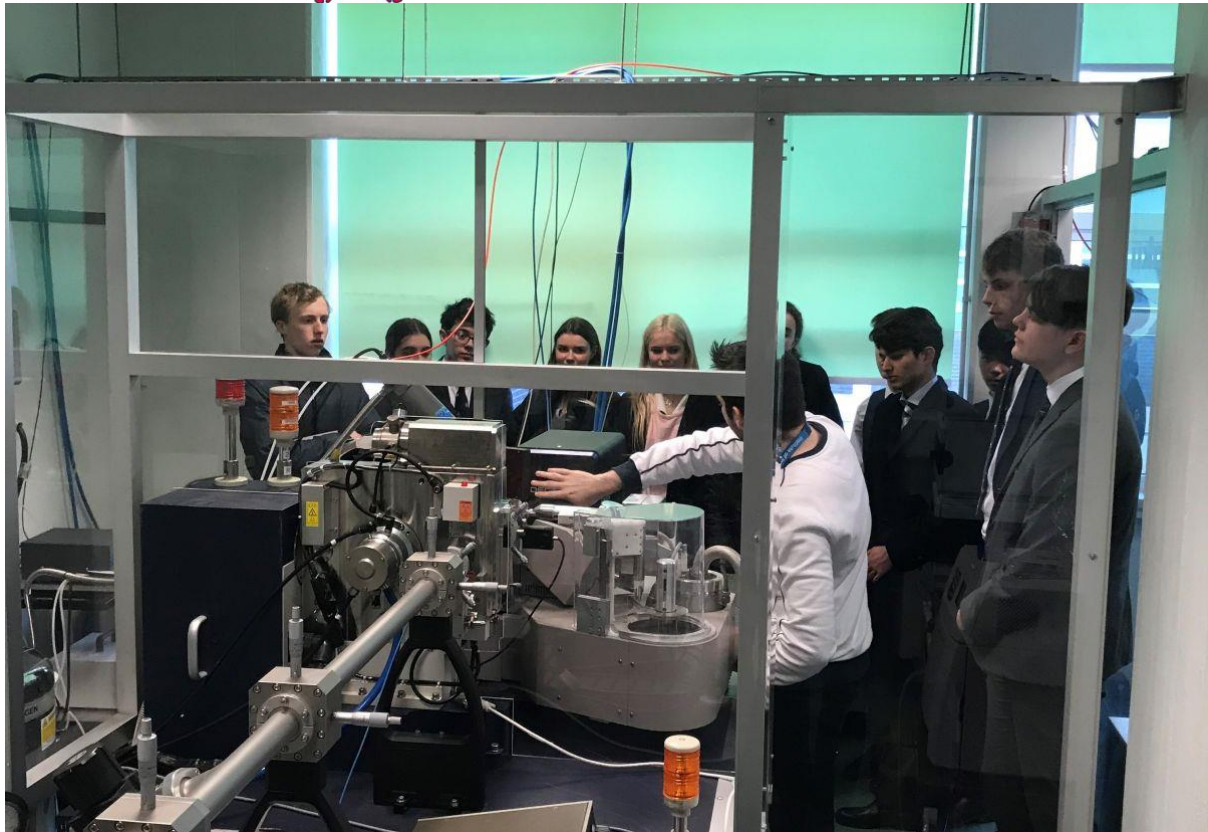
Friday 18 January 2019

On 9th January, 52 Lower Sixth biologists spent a fascinating day in the Department of Life Sciences at Liverpool University.

The experience began with talks from members of the Department about the wide-ranging research opportunities and equipment available. We were educated on a broad spread of subjects from using microscopes to take 5-dimensional images (the 4th dimension is colour and the 5th time) and real-time videos of neurones firing in nematode worms, to the philosophy of science in context and the importance of accurate scientific reporting.

After lunch we were treated to a tour of the University's facilities and were allowed to stand surprisingly close to machines with a multi-million-pound price tag, including NMR, DNA-sequencing and X-ray crystallography facilities. A unique feature of Liverpool is that they have invested in procuring all the hardware and technology in one hub, and this produces some fascinating cross-discipline and integrative work.





The day was an eye-opening experience for many of the students, particularly those considering a scientific career. To quote what they wrote about the day:

“The best part of the trip, in my opinion, was the observation of protein crystals at the X-ray crystallography section; that was truly fascinating.”

“The opportunity to see some of the equipment I may end up using at university was invaluable”

“It was interesting to see how many of the lecturers were not biologists originally, but had become ones through physics or chemistry, showing how integrated the subject can be.”



“Gene sequencing really captured my interest and it was amazing to learn the progress that has occurred in this field of science in around 20 years, reducing the cost by nearly 10,000x and the time taken from nearly ten years to just under a day.”

Emma Micklenwright



Richard Hillary Essay Medal Competition

Friday 18 January 2019

The Richard Hillary Essay Medal competition provides an opportunity for Sixth Formers to spend two hours pitting their wits against a one-word unseen essay title.

The event was inaugurated in 2013, and is modelled on the historic competition undertaken to select Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford.

This year's single word was 'Challenge' and it was one that over 50 Salopians chose to take up. Pens twitched in feverish haste on a Friday night in the depths of January. This year the essays will be marked by Graham Hoyland, author and mountaineer, who visited the School during the Michaelmas Term to deliver a lecture on Everest. Results will be reported before the end of term and the Medal itself will be presented on Speech Day.



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.





Netball: A great start to the new season

Friday 18 January 2019

A block fixture against Moreton Hall on Wednesday got the Netball season off to a flying start, with strong performances from all our teams.

1st VII

The 1st VII started strongly with some good attacking moves from Jetty Russell (G) and Amelie Davies (MSH) in the circle and we were 6-1 up after five minutes. Moreton then changed their tactical play and we found it more difficult to get the ball into the circle and create shooting opportunities and at the end of the first quarter they had narrowed our lead to 9-5. The second quarter was low scoring from both teams, but some outstanding defensive play from both Katie Oswald (MSH) and Lizzie Ware (MSH) gave us a 12-6 lead at the half time whistle.

We began the second half of the match with some excellent court play and extended our lead to 19-10. Then the long Christmas break took its toll and the quality of our passing suffered in the last five minutes, allowing Moreton back into the game. However, we held on to our lead and the match finished 23-16. A well-deserved win.



2nd VII

A solid performance for the first game of the season for the 2nd VII. A fantastic first quarter gave us an 8-1 lead after 12 minutes with some excellent shooting from Charlotte Roberts (MSH). We had a poor second quarter, as we changed positions around a little, which changed

the dynamics too much and we found it harder to get the ball to the shooters. In the third quarter, Shrewsbury started passing more accurately again, with Ella Windle (G) commanding play down the court and thus we extended our lead to 17-7. Some excellent defensive play from Gemma Kershaw (M) and Phoebe Morris (EDH) supported by Saffron Milner (M) limited Moreton's scoring opportunities and the game finished 26-11. A great start to the season.



U15A

The first quarter saw Shrewsbury in the lead with 7 goals to 1, thanks to Annabel Cox (EDH) and Isobel Hatton (MSH). Moreton Hall changed tactics in the second quarter and tightened their defence, but with excellent centre court play shown by Captain Nell Ware (MSH) and Kate Brunskill (MSH), the U15s stayed ahead 14-3. The third quarter saw both teams work extremely hard and both defensive and attacking plays were strong, but Shrewsbury were still ahead with the score of 20-7. Hester Lockett (M), Isabell Shannon (G) and Phoebe Watkins (MSH) did a fantastic job in defence with countless intercepts in the circle and always available for rebounds. Tabitha Winkley (G) and Georgina Cooper (G) displayed terrific attacking play in the centre court also. The final score saw the team win 30-10. Player of the Match was Annabel Cox.

U15B

The U15B team played strongly against their Moreton Hall opponents, leading in every quarter of the match. Well-polished shooting skills from Lottie Waterhouse (EDH), Poppy Stephens (MSH) and Annabel Southern (MSH) towards the end of the match, strong centre attack from Ella Biggs (M) and Faye Monk (MSH) and excellent defence by Eve Llewellyn (G) meant that Shrewsbury recorded a narrow, but well-deserved victory. The final score was 7-5.



U14A

The 14As had a really competitive game against Moreton. We took the lead early in the first quarter, but Moreton were able to apply pressure and keep themselves in it, so at half time we were 4-3 up. Shrewsbury had more of the play than their opponents and extended their lead to 5-3 quickly into the third quarter. A few errors allowed Moreton to get back into the game and a last-minute goal from them meant it finished all square, 7-7. A solid performance, with areas to work on for their next match.

U14B

Our girls dominated throughout the majority of the game, thanks to some slick passing and good use of defenders. Una Noor H-S (M) did us proud, playing three quarters as centre, ensuring the ball made it down to the goal area on numerous occasions. Some fantastic defence ensured that Moreton were never in possession of the ball for long and Anastasiia R (MSH) scored three beautiful goals, accompanied by a goal from Sophia U (EDH). Both Harriet B (MSH) and Kate A (EDH) made superb use of their positions of wing attack; both of them aided centre in ensuring that the shooters had ample opportunity to attempt a goal. Had it not been for Moreton's strong goalkeeper (who was later nominated as the players' player) I'm sure the score would have been very different. Some great work all round, with lovely leading from captain Annabel; it was a pleasure umpiring the game.



RSSH win Team Bronze at the National Knole Run

Friday 18 January 2019

The boys' and girls' teams of the Royal Shrewsbury School Hunt were in tremendous form in one of the biggest races in the cross-country calendar on Saturday 12th January.



On Saturday we took two boys' teams and one girls' team down to Sevenoaks for the Knole Run, one of the biggest races in the cross-country calendar. The Friday night coach down was full of nerves, but the luxury of having a relaxing morning to prepare quietly in the glamorous surroundings of Clacket Lane Services worked wonders for team spirits!

This is a race that we had failed to win for over 40 years – until 2016, when we finally managed it by a margin of a single point. The following year we successfully defended the trophy, but last year we struggled, with a number of injuries and other problems, eventually placing fourth. The girls, meanwhile, managed their highest-ever placing last year with fifth. The signs were good that this year we might have more success among the boys. The training in the Michaelmas Term allowed them to build up their fitness gradually, and we had no injuries to report as the team reconvened after the holidays for our pre-season training camp in the southern Shropshire Hills.

Conditions were perfect as we inspected the course two hours before the off. Temperatures were remarkably mild for mid-January, there was only the faintest of breezes, and the going was firm. It would undoubtedly be a quick race.



The girls were without their fastest runner, Francesca Harris, due to injury, but there was still a sense of quiet confidence and determination among this team. They got away well, and quickly Lillian Wilcox (EDH) established herself in a strong position. Alessandra Ardissino (M) was not much further back, just ahead of Sophia Dixon and Anna Cowan (both MSH) who were working together. Huntswoman Felicity Hayward (EDH) ploughed on in the middle of the pack, a little way ahead of our sixth runner, Izzy Anwyl (M).



The girls seem to have got their pacing right, as they picked up one or two places in the second half of the race as others began to tire. As the 5km course reached its climax past Knole House and down to the finish, Shrewsbury were in strong positions: Lillian ran very strongly indeed to place 22nd, ahead of Alessandra in 28th. Sophia placed 37th, having just stretched ahead of Anna in 40th. Felicity managed to improve on last year's run by knocking over two minutes off her time, placing 57th (last year 85th) and Izzy Anwyl completed the team in 71st. The girls fought hard to earn their 6th place overall out of 14 teams, and managed in doing so to beat their points score from last year for the first four finishers.

For the boys, discussion of tactics had been a key part of the preparation for this race, having got it wrong last year by going out too strongly and paying the price late on over this gruelling 9.3km course. The plan was simply conceived, but difficult to execute: hold back in the first half of the race, allowing people to go off ahead, and rely on our fitness to make positions back in the second half.

The A team were set a target of all six scorers to place in the top 40 positions, which would certainly be challenging – only the very best teams can boast runners this high up the order across their whole team. However, there is a real depth to this squad this year, and while we didn't have anyone who we thought had a realistic chance of winning the race, we did feel that our strength was in the quality of our lower counters.



Tom Jackson (R) led the chase early on, getting dragged away from his game plan into a more aggressive move high up the field. Sam W (S) held back, as did Huntsman Charlie Ockleston (O), who was looking to make the most of his superb stamina in the later stages. As the team mounted the first hill of the second lap, 5km into the race, our plan started to bear fruit – places were being made up as other runners started to flag.

The confidence this gave us over the next few kilometres was clear, especially as they swept down the long valley floor with only a couple of kilometres to go. They were still pressing, still making up ground, still overtaking. It was clear to the many spectators that the Judd School had sewn up the team victory – impressively, they managed to place four runners inside the top ten – but we were in amongst the other top teams, and as our best runners rounded the final bend and into the home straight, we knew it would be close.

Further down the field, our B team managed to show off the depth that the Hunt currently enjoys – almost all of our second eight managed to place in the top half of the field, and more than half of them placed in the top hundred.

Sam W (*pictured right*) was still making up ground ahead of him when he crossed the line in a fantastic 7th place, a superb achievement from a runner determined to put last year's disappointments behind him. Charlie Ockleston came home in 16th, and Tom Jackson in 26th, having recovered from overdoing it in the first part of the race. Oscar Hamilton-Russell (R) came in 30th, which is particularly noteworthy given that he's still only in the Fifth Form. Rider Hartley (Ch) – probably the RSSH runner who has shown the most improvement of all in the last twelve months – ran in 33rd, ahead





of fellow Churchillian Sam Watts in 37th, who completed the team score of 149. This was a massive 135 points lower than last year, and was enough to earn them the bronze medal, behind Cooper Company and Coburn School in second with 130 points, and Judd dominating the race with an astonishingly low score of 72. Orlando Williams (Rt) and Paddy Barlow (R) came through in 42nd and 49th respectively, meaning our entire first eight finished in the top fifty – quite an achievement!



Orlando Williams and Rider Hartley

The boys' B team also did brilliantly, placing second-highest B team and 11th overall, defeating lots of other schools' A teams. Particular congratulations are due to 3rd formers Ben W (R) in 62nd and Will S (R) in 64th for an incredibly strong debut performance. Harrison Cutler came through in 75th in a strong run, while Matthew Thevathasan (PH) impressed in 79th, another who has made huge progress over the past year. Milo Herbert (R) finished 85th, ahead of Ted Williams (R – 112th), Arthur Bramwell (R – 134th) and Jonny Snell (Ch – 155th).

Congratulations to everyone who raced on what was a great day for the Hunt. With so many younger runners placing so highly, the future is clearly very bright for us. We've got another opportunity to show our strength in early February at the prestigious King Henry VIII Relays in Coventry. On the strength of Saturday's performance, we're well placed to be in amongst the very top teams.

Ian Haworth

Teacher in Charge of the Hunt



Third Form Geographers win second place in Worldwide Quiz Regionals

Friday 18 January 2019

After a couple of years' absence, Shrewsbury School returned in style to the Geography Worldwide Quiz, an annual national competition sponsored by the Geographical Association, Field Studies Council and Ordnance Survey.



Six local schools gathered at Moreton Hall on Wednesday 16th January to compete for the Shropshire regional title. Shrewsbury School was well represented, fielding two very strong Third Form teams: Orlando B, Hubert R, Eva H, Sapna C, Harry H and Morgan M did their year group proud.

After a difficult first round, Harry, Morgan and Sapna (*pictured below*) were in second place, securing them a spot in the final round of four.



Another strong performance in the final ensured the team finished second. A great effort from a talented group!

Frazer Matthews-Bird



Shrewsbury SparkPoint - 'The Luck of the Draw'

Monday 21 January 2019

The 13th edition of SparkPoint for this academic year considers how the concepts of luck, fortune and fate have impacted on societal development.

Please click [here](#) to open Shrewsbury SparkPoint 'The Luck of the Draw' as a pdf.

SPARKPOINT 2019
SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Welcome

It being issue 13, I thought it was only sensible to tackle the peculiar worlds of luck, chance and fate. There are moments at which things just seem to go right for no particular reason – and also times at which it seems that circumstances are conspiring against us. The human compulsion to look for patterns and traits in these situations has produced some extraordinary behaviour over the centuries.

Happenstance

When you appeared it was as if magnets cleared the air. I had never seen that smile before or your hair, flying silver. Someone waving goodbye, she was silver, too. Of course you didn't see me. I called softly so you could choose not to answer—then called again. You turned in the light, your eyes seeking your name.

Rita Dove

POEM OF THE WEEK

fatidical
adjective
Having the ability to foretell the future – specifically in a negative fashion.

WORD OF THE WEEK

The story goes that Paul McCartney dreamed of the melody of this hit song in its entirety and was delighted when he woke up to discover that Yesterday was in fact an original creation.

MUSIC OF THE WEEK

THE BEATLES
Yesterday

15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

READING THE FUTURE

The I Ching Book of Changes has been a fundamental part of Chinese culture for centuries – perhaps even for Millennia. Using a combination of symbolic interpretation and emotional intuition, this is a truly fascinating and unique system of divination – perhaps providing the inspiration for Lyra's Alethrometer in Pullman's *Northern Lights*. Click the link to find out more.

CONFOUNDED FATE

Not many people could argue to have had a worse run in with fate than Oedipus. Having received bad news from the Delphic oracle before Oedipus was even born, his father tried to put measures in place to allow his son to escape his fate. Sophocles relates the tragic consequences of this action superbly well in his tragedy *Oedipus the King*. Click the link to read an extract.

HOW LUCKY YOU ARE

Dr Seuss, a core feature of American children's literature, uses clever rhyming and accessible language not only to inculcate skills of reading and writing, but also to explore more subtle philosophical themes. Click the link to listen to a (very amusing) reading of this particular book, which reminds us that though we may be feeling down, things really aren't all that bad.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK

Mysterious, anonymous street artist Banksy chooses his locations for installations well. The ability of the owner to sell this work allowed the survival of a youth club in Liverpool. The most recent recipient of a work, however has been least lucky!



A January weekend of blues

Monday 21 January 2019

The fives team had their first School block fixtures this weekend, playing at home to Eton and Harrow.

Saturday saw 13 pairs coming from Eton to play what turned out to be some fine, very closely contested matches.

In the **U14s** and **U15s** alone we saw three of the matches going to five games over 2 ½ hours of play. Particularly exciting was the first pair in both these age groups with wins for them both: Digby Taylor West and Harry Cooke losing their first two and coming through to win magnificently in the fifth; and James C and Alex C holding onto their two-game lead to win after losing their third and fourth games.

Our **U16s** have only had one practice session since trials so were not match-sharp. Both pairs lost, but hopefully having competitive games kick-started their season.

Our **Seniors** lost 3-1, the win coming at 4th pair. 2nd and 3rd pairs were both in the contest though still making errors so not staying in rallies long enough. The first pair match was the last of the day to finish. Will & Dan found their stride after a long first game which they lost 12-4. They won a close second game (which lasted around 40 minutes) 13-10 to level the match 1-1. When they stormed the third it seemed momentum was with them but Eton replied strongly to win in 5, the whole match having taken 3 ½ hours. For Dan and Will, playing our second match of the season, that is nonetheless a very positive and promising result.

Total result: won 4, lost 9.





On Sunday, we traded the light blue of Eton for the dark blue of **Harrow**, who drove from their Hill without the City to our City on a Hill with nine pairs.

Our sizeable **Senior squad** meant that rotation was possible: after his epic Saturday fixture Dan Humes had a rest; rumour has it even Will put in some fresh batteries to restore full twinkle to his toes. James Hinwood stepped in, flush from 10th place in the National U23 fencing on Saturday; together they won the 1st pair match 3-0. Having fought back from 3-10 down in game 1, at no stage did they either look back or troubled.

Tom Castling and Marcus van Wyk, reunited after Saturday's shock splitting of the Siamese pair, proved their quality with a 3-0 win at 2nd. Joe Kynaston & Ben Hulme lost at third pair in a fast-paced game, though they showed promise.

Finn Sansom and Guy Gowar played at **U16**: their first outing of the term. Though they lost, they scored well in all three games and know they can be competitive if they get enough court time.

Our **U15s** were reinforced by the return of Rory MacDonald-O'Brien from golfing duties; back to full strength, they swept Harrow before them. Rory, with Digby Taylor-West, barrelling through the opposition again, despite threatening to lose the third game after a strong start. Rumours that their motivation dropped when a shop tea for 12-0 slipped from their grasp remain unconfirmed.

Dom Zaza and Harry Cooke had a slip in game 2, but at 1-1 they remembered they were playing fives, picked up their level and claimed a 3-1 win after two hours.

Pair 3 saw Jago Ainslie and Nick Argyle reunite. The Teacher-in-Charge thought they weren't playing well, having watched the one point they conceded in game 1. Their result was a strong victory, leaving the U15 result 3-0 in Shrewsbury's favour.

At **U14**, James C was as undaunted at following up Saturday's five-setter as the Senior Captain: James' digits, too, were comparable to Orion's belt on a clear, moonless night. He and Jacky C won 3-0 against a Harrow pair who played at prep school, Shrewsbury playing accurately and with impressive control.

At pair 2, Sam A and Dan C completed the Salopian selection and played well and cheerfully, nonetheless losing to Harrow's beginner pair 0-3.

Total result: won 6, lost 3.

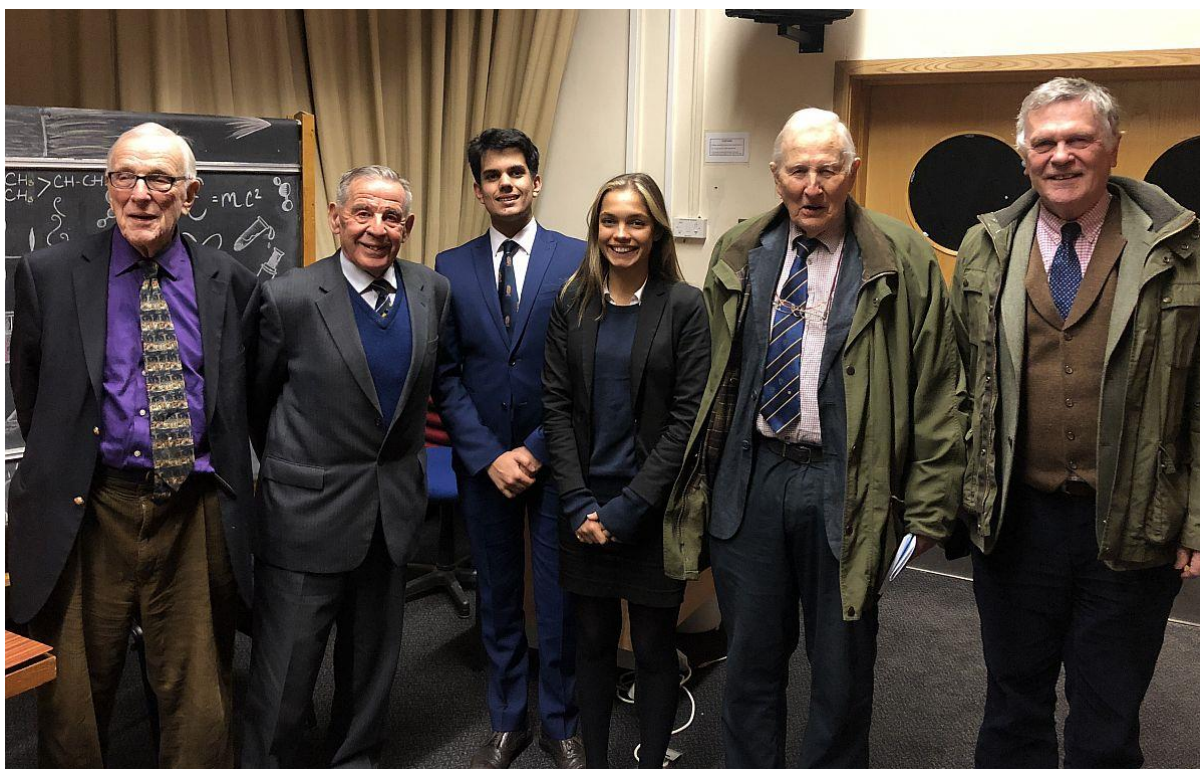
Seb Cooley

Teacher in Charge of Fives

The Bastille Society welcomes back its Founding Fathers

Monday 21 January 2019

On Friday 18th January, the Bastille Society had the great pleasure of welcoming its Founders, Michael Hart and Laurence Le Quesne, both of whom have recently celebrated their 90th birthdays.



*L-R: Laurence Le Quesne, Dr David Gee, Ebrahim Jamshid, Libby Hedges, Michael Hart, Robin Brooke-Smith
(School Archivist & Taylor Librarian)*

They travelled back to their old stamping-ground to share a thought-provoking lecture under the title of 'Living Through War: Nazi Opposition and the Turning Points of 1941'.

The two former Shrewsbury School Heads of History provided eye-opening thinking points from throughout the Second World War, maintaining a focus on keeping perspective when looking at history, moving away from our Eurocentric vantage point.

The stripped-back, highly engaging lecture approach featuring some audience participation was a pleasure for all, and we are extremely grateful to both renowned historians for travelling up to Shrewsbury. It was also a great moment for Ebrahim Jamshid and I, as Co-Presidents of the Bastille Society, to be joined by so many former Bastille Society members, including those who had mentored the likes of Richard Ingram and Willie Rushton, sharing honest thoughts of the 'what ifs' of the 1940s.

Libby Hedges (G UVI)

Annual Epiphany Service

Monday 21 January 2019

A magnificent programme of choral music

The annual Epiphany Service in early January is fast becoming one of the most memorable events of the Salopian Club calendar, and this year it attracted a Salopian choir and congregation totalling 100. Led by the Rev Gavin Williams (Staff 93-02), it featured a magnificent programme of choral music, organised by Richard Eteson (G 89-93) and conducted by Patrick Craig (Ch 82-87), interspersed with readings by a number of prominent Salopians.



Salopians of all vintages mingled at the end of the service before retiring for more spiritual refreshment to the Fine Line pub across the courtyard. Many congratulations to Peter Fanning and his team for a thoroughly uplifting evening, achieved with minimal rehearsal time



An action-packed start to the Fives season

Tuesday 22 January 2019

Our Fives team enjoyed a busy weekend of block fixtures, hosting Eton on Saturday and Harrow the following day. And on Wednesday eight pairs travelled to Eton for the EFA Girls' Fives Festival.

On both days there were some fine, very closely contested matches – with some matches taking over 2½ hours!

The two stand-out games at U14 and U15 were the 1st pairs: Digby Taylor-West (I) and Harry Cooke (PH) came from 0-2 down to win, magnificently, in the 5th; James C (SH) and Alex C (SH) held on to their 2-0 lead, after losing the 3rd & 4th, to win.

At senior level, Will Sissions (Rt) & Dan Humes (I) were up against the pair that won the national title when at U16s. In a game where momentum ebbed and flowed, with some excellent Fives played, Eton were the victors in 5 sets.



A full report on the weekend can be read here: [A January Weekend of Blues.](#)

A total of 36 pairs from six schools took part in the EFA Girls' Fives Festival at Eton College on Wednesday 23rd January – the largest number to date for this event, which is now in its fifth year.

Shrewsbury provided eight pairs, comprising girls from Third Form to Lower Sixth.

The festival has no outright winners but aims to give all girls plenty of court time against players of equal ability. After an initial group round of mixed ability, the pairs then play pairs with similar records. The latter rounds are therefore more closely matched.

- 1st Pair Lauren Taylor & Ashleigh Pegge - Played 9 won 9 (100% win-rate)
- 2nd Pair Hetta Harris & Karina Ho - Played 5 Won 4 Drew 1 (80% win-rate)
- 3rd Pair Charlotte Russell & Tommy Curtis - Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1 (83% win-rate)
- 4th Pair Annabel Parsons & Lotty Waterhouse - Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1 (83% win-rate)
- 5th Pair Scarlett Gibson & Jemima Dee - Played 7 Won 6 Lost 1 (86% win-rate)
- 6th Pair Faye Monk & Poppy Stephens - Played 4 Won 2 Lost 2 (50% win-rate)
- 7th Pair Una Hunte-Singh & Kate Ekaterina - Played 5 Won 1 (20% win-rate)
- 8th Pair Sophia Urquhart & Elsa Waterhouse - Played 5 Won 2 Lost 3 (40% win-rate)

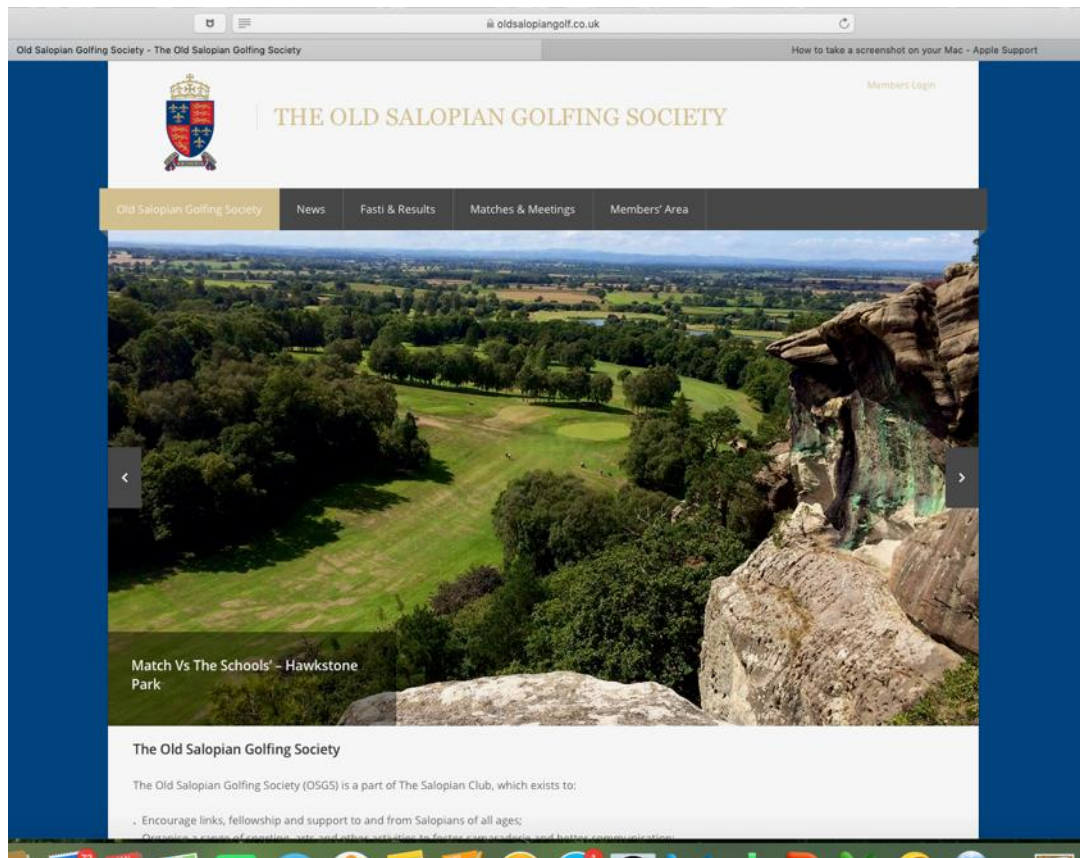


Golfing goes live!

Tuesday 22 January 2019

The Old Salopian Golfing Society has gone live with its new website this week!

All members of the OSGS have been sent an email giving them access to our new website - <http://oldsalopianguolf.co.uk>



Our first two fixtures of the Golf Season - Spring Meeting (South) at Denham GC and Spring Meeting (North) at Royal Liverpool GC are live for booking on-line now.

This new website which has been bought with the some financial assistance from The Salopian Club should enable all OSGS Members to play all our fixtures and significantly reduces the burden on the Hon Secretary plus it makes the OSGS a modern digital golf society.

I encourage all Salopians to look at the link below to find out about us - if you want to join - follow the links on the website

<http://oldsalopianguolf.co.uk>

Charles Hill

Honorary Secretary - Old Salopian Golfing Society

CharlesGCHill@hotmail.com

Mobile 07939597488

Senior Debating Final

Wednesday 23 January 2019

Congratulations to School House, who triumphed in this year's Senior House Debating competition.



Koby Ferdinand-Okpala, Piers Merison and Ebrahim Jamshid performed strongly throughout the group stages and built momentum towards last week's final, when they competed against Severn Hill in front of a packed audience in the Maidment Auditorium.

The motion contested was 'This House Would Abolish Private Education', and School House shone through with their eloquent, composed proposition arguments.

The Severn Hill team of Tommy Price, Chad Usher and Tom Plaut fought back with enthused and well-constructed arguments and a hearty dose of persuasive rhetoric.

The summaries were then delivered, with Ebrahim Jamshid particularly in fine form, and the Head Master and judging panel went away to consult their array of notes before deciding in favour of School House.

Many congratulations to the victorious team - and to all those who took part in the competition last term. Special thanks to Mr Harrison for organising the event so diligently and to the range of staff judges, without whom the competition simply could not go ahead.

Harry Mackridge

'Coffee Concert' is a musical feast

Wednesday 23 January 2019

This is the tenth year that the Music Scholars of Shrewsbury School have performed as part of the popular series of Saturday morning 'Coffee Concerts' at Emmanuel Church in Didsbury, near Manchester. As ever, the audience were highly appreciative.



Matthew Poon, Almaz Razif and Athena Yu performing Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio

"It is always a pleasure to welcome the Music Scholars from Shrewsbury School," Bryan Fox said in his review of the concert. "After an early breakfast and an hour and a half coach trip, 17 performers arrived 'bright-eyed and bushy-tailed', ready to present a highly varied and entertaining programme on the tenth anniversary of their first visit to Didsbury.

"From Bach to Bruch, from Mozart to Fitkin, they performed solos, duos, trios and quartets with a level of skill and musicality that spoke of impressive preparation, particularly as they had only recently returned from their Christmas holidays. The whole programme was warmly received by a highly appreciative audience.



Matthew Poon performing the final movement of Bruch's Violin Concerto that he will be playing in Cadogan Hall on 10th March

“The only slight sadness was that this was the last occasion when we would enjoy the company of John Moore, Shrewsbury's Director of Music. He will be retiring at the end of the year, and moving on to new opportunities, accompanied by the sincere and enduring thanks of countless musicians, young and old, the special Salopian community and so many audience members who have enjoyed the fruits of their impressive achievements over the years. *Vale.*”



Charlotte Hancock, Henri Cramsie, Reuben Denison and William Hope performing 'Quatour' by Jean-Michel Damase



Joyce Li performing Enescu's 'Cantabile et Presto'

Shrewsbury

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL



Football: 1st XI win through to County Cup final

Thursday 24 January 2019

Congratulations to the 1st XI, who won a thrilling match away against Oswestry School on Wednesday to reach the County Cup final for the second time in three years.

Congratulations, too, to the U16s, who have reached the semi-finals of their County Cup with a 3-0 win against Thomas Adams School.

Severn Hill launch the new House Play Season

Thursday 24 January 2019

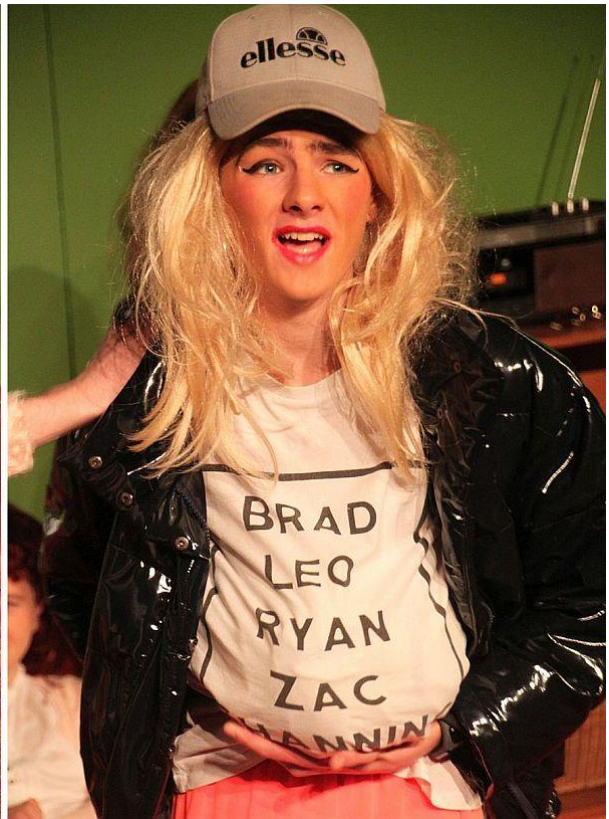
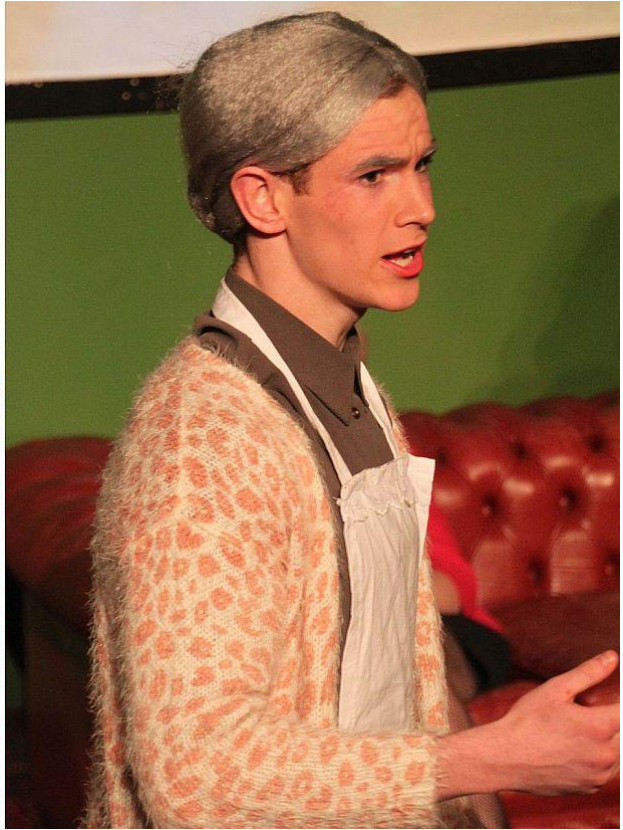
Michael Snelgrove's 1980 farce 'Hidden Meanings', performed by the Gentlemen of Severn Hill, gets the House Play Season off to a rollicking start. Review by Director of Drama Helen Brown.



The premise of *Hidden Meanings* is fundamentally preposterous: a middle-aged Sherlock Holmes obsessive (Jasper Mitchell) murders his accountant, dresses him as Moriarty and hides him in a cupboard. Unfortunately for him, his fantasy unravels as it emerges that he was not the only one with the motivation to kill the hapless Mr Meaning.

Mitchell gives a confident and entertaining performance as Rodney, capering round the stage in greatcoat and deerstalker. He is ably supported by Billy Watkinson as the laconic George, his Watson substitute, who provides the foil to all the chaos that ensues.

This is an old-school farce of the silliest kind and the cast are clearly all having a whale of a time, particularly those – Felix Kenyon-Smith, Harvey Shaw, Sam Western, Felix Robson and Tom Plaut, who get to don mini-skirts, lipstick and fishnets. The sight of the 1st XV captain in full drag is not one that can be easily forgotten.





The trio of incompetent policemen, led by Aarav Bhatia, also provide some comic highlights, with their perfectly synchronised slapstick and love of light opera.



There are some clever moments of direction from Sam Browne-Swinburne; I particularly enjoyed the use of projection in the opening scene, which echoes Holmes' filmic heritage – as well as showcasing some beautiful Shropshire countryside!

This year is the first that the Headmaster will be awarding the Charles Rankin Cup. This award, kindly endowed by Nick Rankin (OS) in memory of his brother, will be presented to the best House Play of the year. The element of competition is clearly inspiring the housemasters to great heights: we look forward to seeing what Churchill's will bring!

HRB

Singing Prizes 2019

Friday 25 January 2019

Thanks and congratulations to all 45 pupils who took part in the Singing Competition on Sunday 25th January all for an extremely enjoyable, entertaining and impressive afternoon of music.

"Every one of the singers in the competition was at the top of their game and performed beautifully," said Head of Vocal Studies Kathryn Turpin. "I was thrilled for them all – and the adjudicators were warm in their praise for the impressive standards and musicianship they achieved."

The adjudicators were David Cowan (OS), Head of Music at Opera North, and Geraldine Cassidy, soprano and Senior Lecturer in Classical Singing at Leeds College of Music.

They awarded prizes to the following:

Senior

1st - Dom Sullivan

2nd - Ben Lloyd

3rd - Saffron Milner

Highly Commended - Ayesha Mitchell, Phoebe Morris, Stephanie Worthington, Abi Watkinson,

Commended - Ed Bayliss, Dan Davies, Emily Hartland, Theo Jarvis, Mary Lees, Tianci Wang

Intermediate

1st - Tabitha Winkley

=2nd - Kate W

=2nd - Francesca Baynes

3rd - Annabel T

Highly Commended - Dominic Inglis-Jones, Reuben Lindsay-Bowen, Nathan Mielczarek, Orlando Williams

Commended - Grace Anderson, Lizzie Edwards, Ed Hart, Ella Inglis-Jones, Harry Webster, Branton Zhao

Novice

1st - Alex C

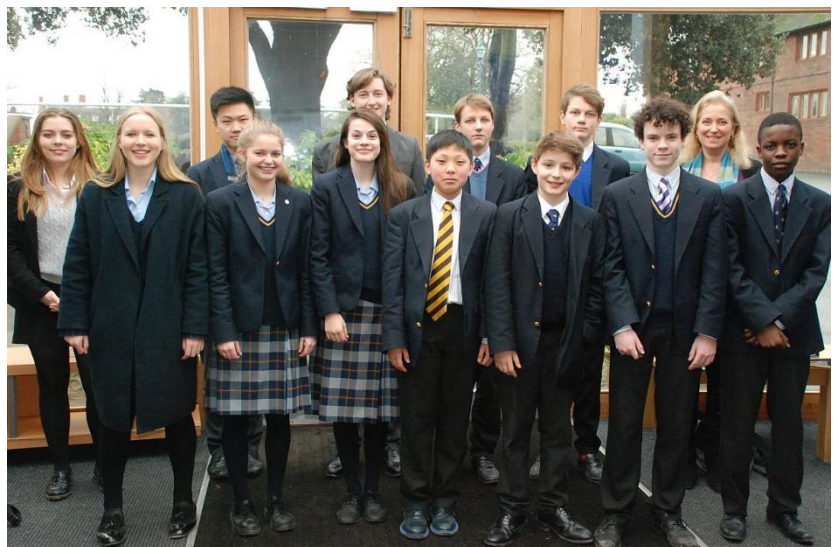
2nd - Ryan M

Male entertainment prize -

Dom Sullivan

Female entertainment prize -

Tabitha Winkley





Top 10 Co-Educational Boarding School Award

Friday 25 January 2019

Shrewsbury has been named by Best Schools as a Top 10 Co-Educational Boarding School based on our 2018 A Level results.

Deputy Head (Academic), Maurice Walters, was delighted by the news: “We aim to give our pupils very high aspirations from the outset, and this award is a testament not only to their talent and ability, but to the sheer level of energy and enthusiasm they have poured in to their studies. The most important thing for us is that they enjoy a vigorous and broad learning experience and that the grades offer them the opportunity to pursue their passions at a much higher level.”

The **Best Schools Independent School League Tables** are compiled each year from the exam results of students in UK private schools and colleges. Their rankings are based on the percentage of A Level entries awarded A* and A grades as well as the percentage of Pre-U grades from D1-M1.



J15 'friendly' v Radley College

Friday 25 January 2019

The second weekend of the Lent Term saw the RSSBC J15 squad visit Oxfordshire for a Sunday of 'friendly' racing with our fierce rivals Radley College.



The morning session gave the boys from RSSBC time to practise their skills and complete some much-needed mileage on the River Thames.

In the afternoon session, the boys put rivalries aside to combine squads and boated four VIII's containing both Salopians and Radleians. This experience challenged 'social norms' and made for an exciting afternoon of racing.



The boys first raced in a time trial over 1500 metres. Incredibly, just 4 seconds separated the fastest and slowest VIII's. This led to some very close side-by-side racing in the semi-finals, which culminated in hotly contested 'A' and 'B' finals. The Salopians in the winning boat were Finnley Parr, Hugo Davies, Henry Lynskey and Gleb Petukhov.

All the boys enjoyed the experience and we look forward to racing Radley again in the near future.

Nick Lams



Shrewsbury SparkPoint - The Days of our Lives'

Monday 28 January 2019

This week's edition looks at how the days of the week encode a range of strange cultural ideas...

Click [here](#) to open Shrewsbury SparkPoint 'The Days of Our Lives' as a pdf.

SPARKPOINT 2019

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Welcome

This weekend is a rather peculiar one as it really begins on Sunday and ends on Monday. On account of this peculiarity, this issue of SparkPoint looks at where the traditions of naming days come from and how ideas and traditions have influenced the way we organise our lives. The rhythm of the week, for example, is a phenomenally important aspect of the way humans go about their existence.

Monday's Child

Monday's child is fair of face
 Tuesday's child is full of grace
 Wednesday's child is full of woe
 Thursday's child has far to go
 Friday's child is loving and giving
 Saturday's child works hard for his living
 And the child that is born on the Sabbath day
 Is bonny and blithe, and good and gay.

Traditional (First Recorded 1838)

POEM OF THE WEEK

mneme

noun

The ability of an organism or substance to retain memories of past experiences and to transmit them to future generations.

WORD OF THE WEEK

15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

THOR'S DAY

Thursday is a strange combination of reverence for Thor and the Roman God Jupiter. With the Art department moving forward a graphic novel project, it seemed appropriate to take a look at the way Thor has been reimagined as a superhero through the artistic genius of Stan Lee (who recently died). Click the link to see an interview about the way Thor came into being.

MAN FRIDAY

This extraordinary character features in the wonderful, apocalyptic novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe. The story follows a castaway who spends twenty-eight years living on a deserted island. Late on in that time he rescues a man from Cannibals. Given that they cannot communicate, Robinson names him 'Friday' after the day of their meeting. Click to read the extract.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

Written by musical genius Stephen Sondheim! this extraordinary show explores the world of Georges Seurat's painting 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'. The composer attempts to use the words and the music to evoke the artist's pointillist style. Click the link to watch an excerpt from a performance at the proms.

MUSIC OF THE WEEK

This peculiar number from the 'Boortown Ritz' was based on an appalling and senseless tragedy of a school shooting in America. The key lyric is based on the real reason offered by the perpetrator.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK

This is the painting referred to in the item above. Seurat pioneered in the technique of pointillism and this large-scale work is an icon of neo-impressionism.



Giles Bell's Team of the Week

Tuesday 29 January 2019

This week, Fencing.



With weird wild weather warnings whirling (this week I am also supporting the English Department who have been concentrating on alliteration) round the internet and the news media, I decided to pay a visit to a team that ‘play’ indoors.

I discovered that there was to be a fabulous, fiery, ferocious, feisty, fencing fight fastidiously well-organised taking place in the gym. I turned up having completed some thorough research online and I was looking forward to using some of the terms I had picked up. Would the fencers be employing a Horizontal wane-edged sword or maybe a Feather-edged blade? It was only when I turned up at the gym that world-renowned Fencing expert Heather May gently informed me I had been looking at garden fencing terms.

Heather has been running the fencing at Shrewsbury with Sarah Latcham, who is currently ‘on holiday’ having a baby. Heather was captain of her school Fencing team and is not at all competitive, believing that team spirit is the most important skill to be nurtured. “I am not at all competitive,” she told me as she tried to out-psyche her opposite number from Rugby, Rob Parsons.



After the ‘psyching-out’ was over two hours later, it was time for the match to begin. Under the auspices of being a sports journalist, I asked Rob a few searching questions about his team. I also discovered that Rob was born in the same hospital as me – and that he is something of a Brighton fan. At this point it became clear that Rob is a terrifically talented coach and a top man.

I then went to talk to one half of the dynamic duo who coach the Shrewsbury team. Andy Holding and his dad Ken have been involved with Shrewsbury fencing for over 40 years, and there is not much they can’t tell you about past and present fencers. They know every blade.

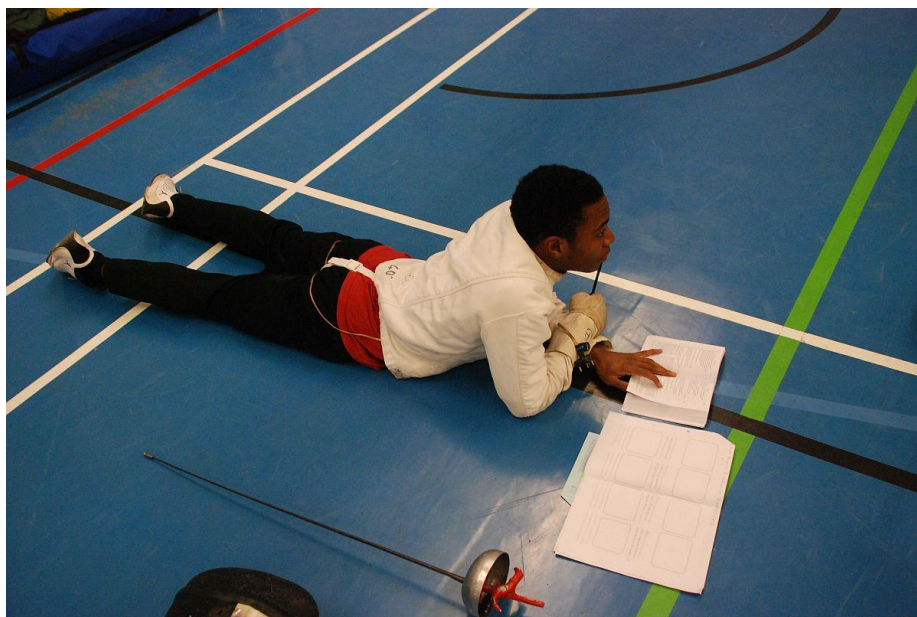


Andy told me he had put out his top team for the event, as no one was sure how good the Rugby team would be. “I am quite competitive,” Andy told me.



The team are frequently referred to as the Four Musketeers. “It can be a little awkward when we are out in town, as we have to stop for a number of selfies – especially if the TV series is on,” James ‘Athos’ Hinwood told me. James is currently ranked number 11 in the GB (Great Britain not Giles Bell) under-20s age group.

Koby is so inspired by the Alexander Dumas novels that he likes to study them between matches.





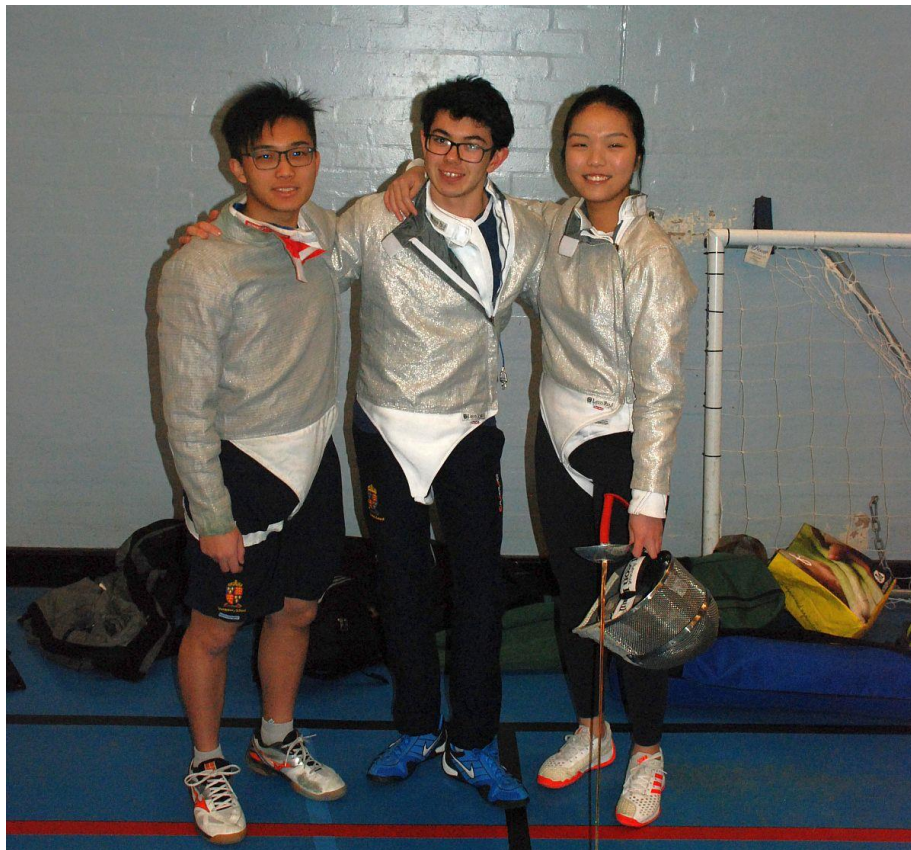
“I find that the power of Porthos invigorates me when I fence, and I have become one with the character. Without the novel beside me I think I would feel unprepared and unable to mentally focus on the challenges ahead.” I asked Koby if he identified with the description given of Porthos by the BBC concerning the TV series which is as follows: “Porthos is a great fighter, an intensely loyal friend and a man who lives life to the full.” Koby nodded his head. “When I am fencing I am Porthos,” he declared.

Jude Huffer is also keen to become a musketeer, and having just come third in the Under-18 West Midlands competition, he can be proud of what he has achieved.

The Musketeers told me that they see Jude stepping up to take the mantle from them when they leave this year. “We see Jude as a new generation of Musketeer,” they all said as one!

Jake Ludlam is another promising young fencer and he is enjoying the success he has been enjoying. “I am enjoying the success I am enjoying,” he claimed, while Oscar Mitchell is on cloud nine after winning the balloon competition that the club put on. I think it involved popping other people’s balloons. Club captain Suky OuYang told me that she was quite surprised that Oscar won, but that perhaps it had something to do with the ceremonial blessing he gave his balloon.

The girls have also been fencing with style. Suky OuYang has been fencing since she worked out that it was warmer in the gym than on the river at the start of the Fourth Form. Ken Holding told me he is confident that she will gain a medal at the British Public Schools Championships and he wishes she was British as he thinks she would be a potential medallist at a Commonwealth Games. She is a very stylish and fine handler of a sabre sword. She swiftly slashed School House fencer Andrew Chan to pieces in a training match. “I feel shredded,” said Andrew.





Fern Yan, like Suky, was originally attracted to fencing by the fact that it is an indoors sport, and Almaz Razif is another young fencer who has been attracting the attention of her coaches, especially when she finished 6th in the West Midlands Championships. Almaz explained to me that her love of fencing comes from her enjoying a good fight. “I am very competitive, like Mrs May,” she told me. She was quick to inform me that in the recent Pupil Symposium she had requested that there be more swords around the site. “I think that we should be more like Sir Philip Sidney and wear swords around the site. Any disagreements could be sorted out via a quick duel.” Almaz is yet to hear back from the Headmaster about this idea.



Scarlett Gibson is another one to watch. She began fencing when her parents suggested she join a club and is yet to find anything that she prefers.

What was clear from my visit to the fencing fraternity is they are a happy bunch. Ken thinks they are a very talented group and is delighted that he has 32 members to coach. There is a specialist coach for each blade (Foil, Sabre and Epée – you see I know!) and this is a strong Shrewsbury School sport, which is perhaps why we beat Rugby 12-0.

Fencing fast, fiercely, ferociously, fairly and frequently is at Shrewsbury to stay.

GJFB



Midlands Regional Netball Tournament

Thursday 31 January 2019

The 1st VII gave up part of their Coach Weekend to play in the Midlands Regional Netball Tournament, having qualified in November when they were runners-up at the county tournament.



The standard was always going to be high and in horrendous weather conditions we didn't get off to the best start, losing 2-11 to Bishop Vesey. After this the team were more prepared for the physical encounters that were to come and upped their game to beat St Joseph's in match 2, 6-2.

Our third game was to be our toughest of the day against previous tournament winners Bromsgrove. We battled hard in hail and wind and limited the score to 2-8; much closer than other schools in previous rounds.

Game 4 was a tense and excellent match against Higham Lane and finished in a 6-6 draw. Our best match of the day was against Wolverhampton Grammar, who we beat comfortably 7-2.

But in our final game we started to run out of steam and struggled to play to our best, losing to Hereford Sixth Form 2-8.

Won 2, drew 1, lost 3: a good performance from the team, and our best results in the Midlands tournament to date. Well done all, especially Katie Oswald (MSH) who led the team brilliantly.

*Nicola Bradburne
Head of Girls' Games*